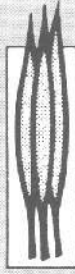


NOER CENTER NEWS



NOER Nears Completion

By Monroe S. Miller

Undoubtedly, a lot of questions have been asked about the status of Wisconsin's NOER turfgrass research facility since the announcement that the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Summer Field Day would not be held there.

Because of a dispute about demolition of the dilapidated farm buildings adjacent to and surrounding the new NOER building, final grading of the site and the landscape development were halted.

The golf course architect of University Ridge wanted the barn, whose roof line was 18 from the roof line of the NOER building, to remain as a backdrop for the par 3 fifth hole.

The University of Wisconsin Foundation, owner of the buildings and builder of the golf course, was concerned about the cost of rehabilitating the barn to a condition acceptable to the state of Wisconsin and the University. All requirements of the state needed to be met before ownership transfer was to take place.

Cost estimates varied widely—numbers from \$15,000 to \$80,000 found their way into the press.

From the WTA's point of view, even if the barn was reconstructed, its presence so close to the NOER building was unacceptable. Left in its run-down condition as Robert Trent Jones, Jr. publically suggested, the project was at risk.

But all's well that ends well, and by a careful, logical and deliberate process, the buildings were demolished, burned and filled over. Topsoil has been spread over the research area and seeded. The landscape plan at the entrance, along

the winding roadway and around the building and parking lot has been implemented.

Interior details of the building are being wrapped up and contractor responsibilities have been executed.

Tom Salaiz has done a good job of coordinating activities at the NOER. The future is bright for this first class facility.

The accompanying photos tell the final chapter of this construction story best.



A look at the NOER building through the old farmstead.



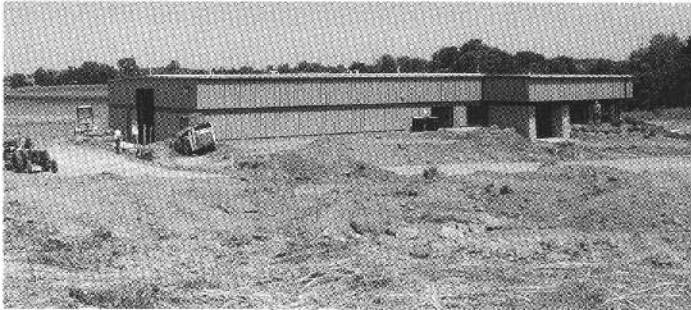
Another look at the mess prior to demolition.

NOER Center Development Events - An Update

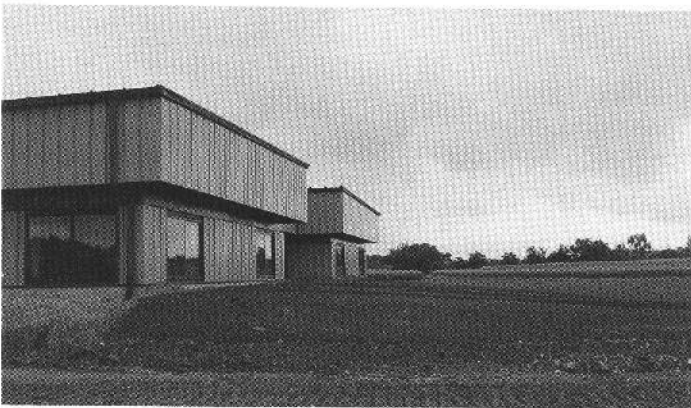
July 19	All outbuildings demolished
July 22	Barn demolished
July 23	Farmstead site graded
July 25	Grading around NOER building started; soil replaced on research area by Bruce Co.
July 29	Underground fuel tank removed
August 1 & 2	Bruce Co. seeded and mulched research ground; woody ornamental planting started
August 5	Final concrete pour for walkway, apron
August 6	Paving of entrance road, parking lot and building driveway
August 8	Slow and steady 2" rain
August 12	Sodding of building surrounds begins



Early stages of landscaping at the building entrance.



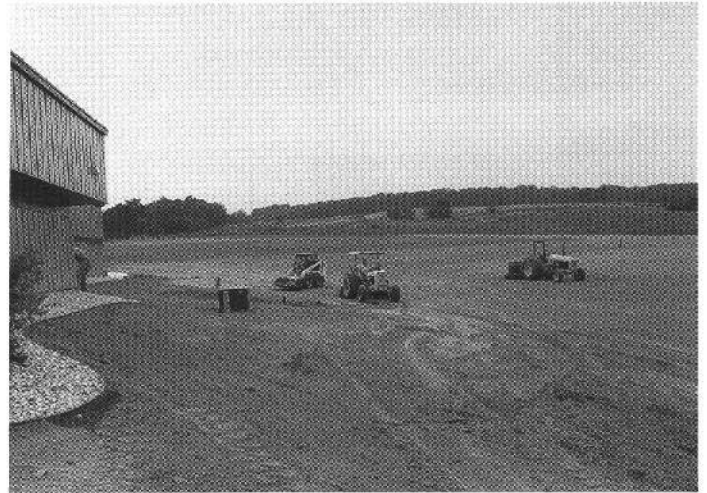
The Bruce Co. works on building foundation planting while Madison Crushing works on the parking lot.



The building landscaping is taking shape here.



An underground fuel tank was removed "by the book, to the letter".



Seeding and mulching of the research area was done at the same time the building and surrounding landscaping was happening.



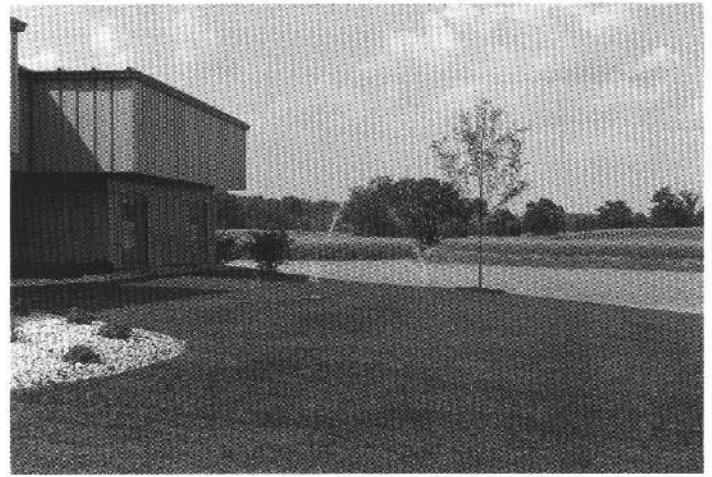
This distant view shows the NOER site without the farmstead buildings.



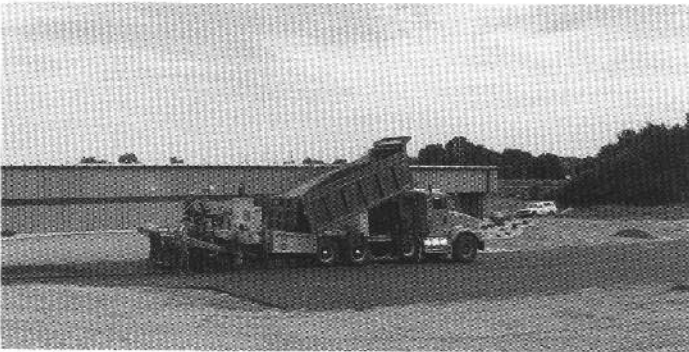
One of the many onsite meetings held at the NOER facility. Shown are Curt Rigalli, Jim Daggett, Dave Weber, Wayne Kussow, Tom Harrison and Tom Salaiz.



Stone wall construction and compaction of gravel base for the shop apron are taking place here on the west end of the building.



Tom Salaiz will have his hands full keeping thousands of yards of sod alive until it is firmly rooted.



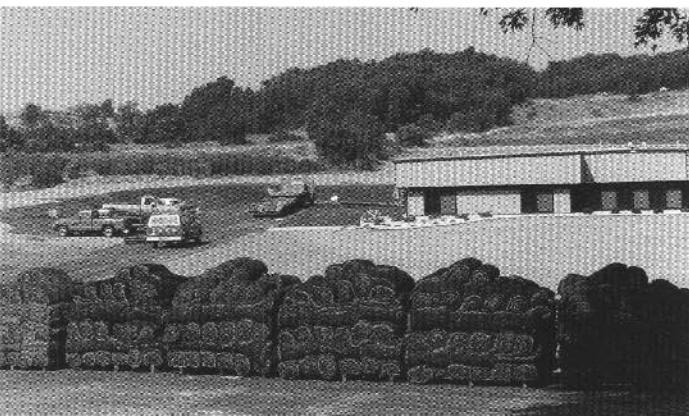
The finish layer of asphalt for the entry road and parking lot is being dragged down here.



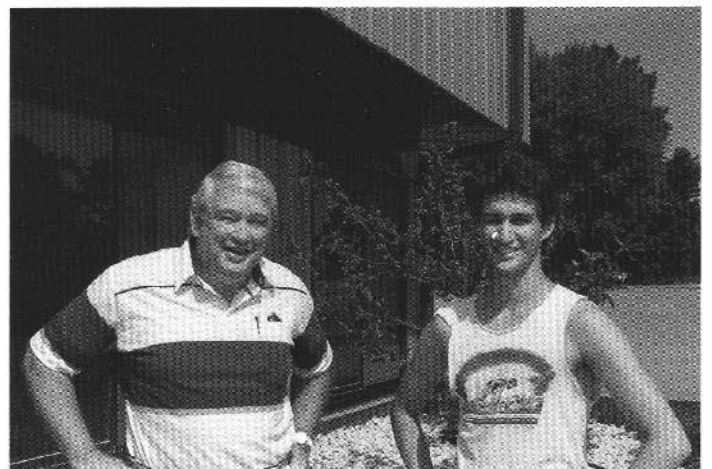
The front entrance, looking east to where the old buildings once stood.



Black silt loam soil was spread over the fill where the old buildings were only days previous.



All of the sod for the landscaping of the NOER facility was donated by the Wisconsin Sod Producers Association.



WTA Director Curt Larson couldn't stand the suspense, so he drove to Madison for a tour of the NOER facility. Tom Salaiz was his guide.