

The Surrounds



(that area which is adjacent to a putting green and which excludes the approach)



By Wayne G. Horman

It has been a long time since "Spreading the Breeze" filled the back page of *THE GRASS ROOTS*. I think the last one written was the January/February 1990 issue. Of course, when the author Rod Johnson became president of the Association, the column died.

Well, after many failed promises on articles for *THE GRASS ROOTS*, I decided it's time to contribute. What a better way to contribute, than to contribute with gossip!

However, I can promise you that there won't be any risque pictures of superintendents in this column. I hope that doesn't disappoint anyone. The column will include; Who is doing what? Who is going where? When it is happening?

The news from the O.J. Noer Facility is not so good. Tom Salaiz has resigned as Manager/Assistant Researcher of the Noer Center. Tom has moved to the Boise, Idaho area to marry his fiancée, Pam, on January 9, 1993. Pam is a Phd in agricultural field research, and works for American Cyanamid.

Tom's last day was December 18th. We all wish Pam and Tom congratulations on their new life together.

There is discussion going on between the northwoods group of the WGCSA and the University of Wisconsin on a northern turf research center. Word out of both areas lists a University Potato Research Center as a possible location for the turf center. This would benefit everyone, since most work with snow mold controls is limited to golf courses that have available space. Also, the pressure in the Southern portion of the state for snow mold activity is limited. The O.J. Noer Facility doesn't provide adequate winter disease results for the northern superintendents. We'll keep you informed on this one!

Just in case you haven't heard, Jeff Bahr, son of La Crosse Country Club Superintendent Joe Bahr, is the

superintendent at the new Windwood Country Club in Watertown. This is a privately owned 18 hole public golf course that hopes to open 9 holes next fall.

Another new construction project taking place is at Greenwood Hills in Wausau. Scott Thompson, a Minnesota native, took the job this past spring. He is working with the John Houdek construction company, who is building this 18 hole project.

Also completed this year was Songbird Hills in Hartland. The superintendent hired was Kim Arndt, who was an assistant under Dave Smith at Abbey Springs.

Other nine hole additions were added at Evansville CC, the City of St. Germain and Prairie du Chien CC. Prairie du Chien hired another one of Dave Smith's assistants, Steve Wasser. Todd Monge, the former superintendent at Lake Windsor GC, was hired at St. Germain. All three of these projects were designed by the Gilmore Graves Group, with Don Stipanik Jr. and Hamm Brothers, Inc. building the Evansville and St. Germain golf courses.

Wisconsin will also have two new private country clubs within the next 18 months. Green Bay CC is designed by Dick Nugent and ground has been broken by Wadsworth Construction. Wadsworth has also received the contract to build the new La Crosse CC. Some of you had a chance to tour this project during the meeting in October. The architect, Art Hill, is considered one of the top architects in the field today.

New irrigation systems are being put in at Ozaukee CC for Wayne Otto (Leibold Irrigation), and at South Hills GC for Scott Schaller (Midwest Irrigation). If you have ever done a proposal for your club, justifying the need for a new system, you know how much extra time and work goes into it. The proposal Scott Schaller did for his club was one of the most complete I've ever seen.

Mike Handrich at Racine CC has approval for a new system for 1993. T.J. Emmerich & Associates are working with Mike to decide on spec's. Brad Wagner at Janesville CC had Bob Lohman's organization design a new irrigation system. Work will begin in a new pump station this winter. Looks like another banner year for irrigation companies.

The fall brought out some vacations for a number of individuals. Rod Johnson (Pine Hills) took time off down in Florida with his family, and Carl Dowse (Reinders Irrigation) spent time in Cancun, Mexico with his wife. Carl claims he actually spent time passing out business cards to new golf course projects down there. Is that really in your territory, Carl?

Closer to home, a number of clubs are discussing building new clubhouses. There is probably no direct correlation between the new clubhouses at Butte des Morts GC and Westmoor CC. Competition anyone?

On the useful side, Westmoor CC is building a new maintenance building for Jerry Kershasky. Hopefully, for some superintendents more talk will take place on this issue.

On the business end of gossip, look for Hanley Implement to start distributing Cushman Ryan in the Southern part of Wisconsin. No word on why Wisconsin Turf isn't handling the equipment.

Recent family additions to WGCSA members are Jordan Michael, son of Dean and Margie Musbach (Timber Ridge GC in Minocqua), and Joshua Wayne, son of Wayne and Susie Horman (Scotts Proturf). With the addition of another Musbach, could this be a fourth generation golf course superintendent?

Finally, if any of you have any information to provide, personal or on the business side, please write me at 5019 Timber Lane, McFarland, WI 53558, or call at 608-838-9422. I look forward to hearing some of your hunting stories! 🌿