



The Surrounds

By Wayne G. Horman



I sure hope you enjoyed the holiday season; it is a nice time to re-energize that battery. However, I know there are some of you out there who were a little worried over the holidays. The earlier than expected snowfalls, compounded by the windy and wet conditions in October and November, made it difficult to get the snow-mold controls applied. That is not a comfortable feeling to think about over the winter.

October is usually a good time to get fairway aerification completed. The weather cools down, play usually slows and basically, superintendents just have the time to get it done. However, after talking to Bill Knight, the parks director for Ozaukee County, there may be new hazards to deal with during October in Wisconsin.

On October 31st, Virgil Olson, an employee at Mee-Kwon Golf Course in Mequon, was aerifying the 13th fairway when he was hit by a pellet from a shotgun. A hunter decided to illegally shoot ducks on the golf course, and one of the pellets hit Olson in the neck. After going to the hospital, the physicians decided to leave the pellet in Olson's neck. He returned to work and is doing fine.

There have been a number of changes on the employment front over the last few months. Most of the positions haven't been filled at the time this article was written, but a few have.

At Stoughton CC, Dennis Dary will become the new golf course superintendent on February 1st. Dary has been the assistant at Lake Windsor CC this past year and has previously worked at Cherokee CC and Rock River CC.

Towne Country Club in Edgerton has hired James Krutilla as their new golf course superintendent. Krutilla was the superintendent at Lake Windsor the past two years. Towne CC added a new nine this past year.

There is additional news to report on James Krutilla—he got married on December 30th to Pauline Hansen.

Oscar Peterson is the new assistant at Blackhawk CC in Madison. Peterson, a UW-Madison graduate, replaces Derek VanDamme; VanDamme is going to graduate school at the UW-Madison. He will study under Professor Wayne Kussow in the Department of Soil Science.

In other news, the University Ridge GC is under new management. The Arnold Palmer Golf Management Company was selected to manage the UW-Madison golf course. Unlike the previous management company, the Palmer Management group will also be responsible for the course maintenance as well as the clubhouse and pro shop.

In late October I had the opportunity to go out to Palm Springs, California for the Scotts national meeting. The best part of the trip was having the opportunity to play golf at a couple of courses in the area.

The Marriott Desert Springs and the Mareno Valley Ranch were excellent golf courses to play. They each have a distinct Wisconsin connection. The golf professional at Desert Springs is Steve Schaller, the son of Tom Schaller, golf course superintendent at Northbrook Country Club in Luxemburg. The superintendent at Mareno Valley Ranch is Joe Wagner, who is originally from Menomonee, Wisconsin.

Mike Lyons, superintendent at Old Hickory CC in Beaver Dam, is a proud new papa. Emily Christine was born on October 4th. Sorry—we missed that in the last issue. She is Mike and Dawn's first child.

Scott Schaller, South Hills in Fond du Lac, is a dad for the third time. Scott's wife Joan gave birth to their first son, Jacob Francis Schaller, on November 15th.

Congratulations go out to the sales force of Reinders who won a trip to Australia with their spouses. The trip was sponsored by Toro to reward distributors for reaching a sales target.

The WTA is looking at raising money to help move the diagnostic clinic out to the O.J. Noer Research Facility. Some of you are familiar with the initial discussion that occurred this past spring. However, it looks like a done deal if we can raise some funds to help with the transition. The diagnostic clinic would be operated by a full time technician. Currently, it is located on the Madison campus.

Finally, congratulations go out to Mark Kienert, the new president of the WGCSA, and all the new officers. Enjoy the new year and pray for a good growing season. You deserve it! 