



## Best Wishes For Another Year in Wisconsin Golf

By Monroe S. Miller

Christmas Eve in our town was altogether beautiful, much like you think it should be each year. The sky was clear, the landscape was white with fresh, newly fallen snow, and for the first time since 1950 there was a full moon on December 24th. It was dark when we went to church and we were filled with a peaceful and serene feeling.

The last few days before Christmas were warm. All of the snow had melted, and the only reason some of us felt glad about that was that the ice on our golf greens pretty much melted, too. We could start with a fresh slate. After all these years, I know there are a lot of causes of turf loss in winter, but none are as sure or deadly as ice accumulation in December.

Once the snow had melted, it rained. Then an Arctic blast of cold air swept into Wisconsin, causing some travel problems and coating trees with ice. But with cold came the snow — pure, white and beautiful for Christmas.

I took it all to be a good omen for the rest of the winter, even though most of the snow melted during the week between Christmas and New Year Day.

After all, we won't have another full moon on Christmas Eve until the year 2102.

Best post-election joke I've heard: now that the election is over and he won (with 49% of the popular vote), Slick Willie Clinton figures he can start dating again!

Best bumper sticker I've seen in the past few months since the Symposium: *Arborists are tree-men-dous!*

A couple of publications caught my attention on the December newsstands. Who in Wisconsin wasn't proud to see Brett Favre on the

*Sports Illustrated* cover in mid-December? And I'd like to meet the golf course superintendent who wasn't pleased by the subscriber opinion poll reported in the January 1997 issue of *Golf Digest*. The question and answers that brought smiles was: *Who is the most important person at your club or course?* The results were:

- 48% Golf course superintendent
- 25% Club pro
- 14% Club manager
- 11% Beverage cart or halfway house person
- 1% Handicap chairman
- 1% Club champion

No editorial comments are necessary, other than to say the results (to our way of thinking) reflect the truth in the popular Zontek saying, "golf is played on grass, not on a Polo sweater or a hamburger."

Except for a brief spell right before and right after Christmas, so far the *Farmers' Almanac* is off the mark in predicting another brutally cold and unsettled winter season.

The journal's chief weather forecaster expects it to be similar to last winter, maybe not quite as bad. Even Florida and other warm weather climes are included in the cold forecast.

At least as troubling is the summer forecast — to use their word, it will be a "scorcher".

There haven't been very many Symposiums I have missed since its beginning. The early ones were held while I was still in high school. Professor Love made sure his students were in the audience during the years I was a UW-Madison student; Uncle Sam's Army deprived me of two of them during the turbulent late sixties. Otherwise, I have been

there, taking good notes and writing extensively about the meetings.

Those are the reasons I felt miserable about having to pass on the Symposium when it convened this fall. I had suggested Dr. Bruce Allison as a speaker and had made to invitation for him to speak, which only added to the frustration. But we had a fairly large project beginning on the exact day the Symposium started, and business must come first.

Unfortunately, it rained cats and dogs that day. By afternoon, nearly two inches of rain had fallen, it was still pouring and the project start up was put on hold. So I cleaned up and headed to Milwaukee with hopes of arriving in time for the WGCSA annual meeting and election.

The rain pounded all the way from Madison, the wind blew and the trip was close to risky. But if one is serious about being a good and dutiful member, sometimes you have to take a little risk, make an extra effort. After all, it is serious business we conduct at the annual meeting, and that was even more true this year when the terms of affiliation were to be discussed.

And what happened? Thirty minutes and out. For the second consecutive year.

I am amazed that such poor planning could happen again. I can accept it once — "their fault". But twice in a row? "Our fault". It appears more planning takes place for arrangements for a June or July or August golf meeting than does for our annual meeting and election.

Why wasn't the meeting reconvened somewhere else — the hallway or a suite? Somewhere. Anywhere.

But instead, there was a shrugging of shoulders and adjournment for the hospitality room.

Funny thing (or is it a sad thing?): there is a room for beer and snacks and bull feathers, but not for elections and an annual meeting.

Will 1997 be better? 🍀