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By David Brandenburg, Golf Course Manager, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

Fall of 1985 was a busy time for the WGCSA, with plenty of big name visitors attending the association events. Golfer Andy North, fresh off a victory at the 1985 US Open made an appearance at the Golf Turf Symposium as luncheon speaker. He made some interesting reflections about his career and took questions from the crowd.

Ted Woehrle, Golf Course Superintendent at Oakland Hills Country Club in Detroit where North won the Open also attended. North was presented with a leather-bound, numbered, limited edition copy of "The Life of Old Tom Morris" by then WGCSA President Monroe S. Miller.

Wisconsin State Golf Association Executive Director Gene Haas was on hand to present the WSGA Wisconsin Golf Hall of Fame Award to the late O.J. Noer. The Symposium is dedicated to O.J.'s memory and he was the first non-golfer selected to the honor. (*Monroe Miller was the second non-golfer selected when inducted 20 years later in 2005*). Mr. Noer's daughter Mary Noer Van Der Burch traveled from her home in Pebble Beach, CA to accept the award. With the award, Mrs. Van Der Burch also received a color caricature of her father painted by *Grass Roots* illustrator Gene Haas.

If that was not enough excitement for one day the Noer Foundation President Tony Grasso was on hand to present its Distinguished Service Award to Jim Latham who had just retired from Milorganite after 25 years to rejoin the USGA.

The topic of the 1985 Symposium was "Grooming - The State of The Art - New Problems for New Times." Speakers were, Dr. Joe Vargas, Michigan State University with "Fairway Clipping Removal - The New Messiah." Kevin Dushane of Bloomfield Hills near Detroit talked on lightweight fairway mowing and clipping removal. Bob Randquist of Southern Hills Golf and Country Club in Tulsa shared his knowledge and experience with hand mowing putting greens.

Mr. Bruce Boegel a member of Ozaukee Country Club addressed the group on the golfers perspective of course maintenance. This was followed by Dr. John Street, Associate Turf Professor from Ohio State University. Dr. Street addressed the strategy and problems of long-term low nitrogen fertilization programs.

The first day wrapped up with Mr. William Ward, of Morris Park Country Club in South Bend. William led a discussion on the use of Roundup herbicide to con-

vert his mixed fairways to bentgrass.

PGA Tour Agronomist Billy Buchanan started the second day with a talk about the compromise between turf management and player enjoyment. He also provided tournament preparation guides from his experience with the PGA tour.

Dr. Clint Hodges, Professor of Horticulture and Plant Pathology at Iowa State University spoke on the interaction between herbicides and *Helminthosporium* leaf spot.

Jim Latham started a new role as he led the "roundup" a review of the different speakers. Members of the committee; Jim Belfield, Jim Latham, Monroe Miller, Wayne Otto, Danny Quast, Jim Spindler and Woody Voigt were thanked for providing a excellent program.



The September WGCSA Tournament Meeting was held at Brynwood Country Club and hosted by Superintendent Steve Blendell. Speaking to the group at dinner was Jim Irwin, then the voice of the Packers, Bucks and Wisconsin Badgers. Mr. Irwin spoke for some time on his then 22-year career as a broadcaster in Wisconsin sports before opening the session up to questions.

Winners of the annual tournament were Bruce Schweiger - Championship Flight, Dale Parske - A Flight and Jack Soderberg - B Flight, Ed Witkowki - Salesman Flight.



The Fourth Annual Wisconsin Turfgrass Association outing was held at Maple Bluff Country Club with WTA President Tom Harrison serving as host golf course superintendent. It was a cold day but a good time was had by all while raising money for turf research. From the pictures there seemed to be some kind of "Hat of the Day" award won by Rod Johnson after tough competition from Dan Quast, Skip Willms and Pat Norton. Roger Bell won the "Mighty Duke Jock of The Day" award. Fortunately, for readers, he was carrying the prize not wearing it.



Rod Johnson,





Mike and Carolyn Lees accept the W.G.C.S.A. Couples Classic Traveling Trophy.

38 couples attended the Diner Dance at Sentry World Golf Course in Stevens Point. Bill Roberts served as host superintendent and master of ceremony. Mike and Carolyn Lees won the coveted "Couples Classic Traveling Trophy" now called the Mr. and Mrs. Mow award. The Lees scored a 44 in the 9-hole modified alternate shot format.



The October Monthly Meeting of the WGCSA was held at Nakoma Golf Club in Madison with Randy Smith serving as host superintendent. In the golf event Roy Zehren, Pat Norton, Rod Johnson, Scott Gardener, Erv Graff and Kelly Johnson were hole event winners.

Speaking at dinner was *The Grass Roots* columnist Dr. David Cookson. Dr. Cookson pens the "A Players Perspective" and is considered a leader in amateur golf throughout the country.

Dr. Cookson felt it was time putting greens be mowed every day including Mondays. He complimented the group on their judicious use of water allowing for firm conditions and fast putting green speeds. Dry conditions are also necessary for quality bunkers and sand bunkers. As an avid golfer, Dr. Cookson thought fairway aerification was done way to often for many course's soils and that golf courses should never be closed to walking players.

Dr. Cookson finished with several comments on the relationship between the superintendent, greens chairman and Green Committee. Communication was the key then just like today. No one likes surprises especially club leaders.



Dr. Gayle L. Worf, from the University of Wisconsin Madison Department of Plant Pathology wrote a article on snow mold. After a brief history of *Typhula* (gray snow mold) and a discussion on the casual fungus for pink snow mold Dr. Worf discussed some treatment options available at the time.

The mercury products Calo-clor and Calo-gran

were widely used, as was PNCB (pentachloronitrobenzene). Success was just being found with an early fall application of Daconil 2787 (chlorothalonil) or PMA-Thiram.

In southern Wisconsin, chloroneb was performing better than PCNB when used alone or with the mercurial products. Research was being done on application timing and in two years of trials, neither the early nor right before snowfall treatments had emerged as a guaranteed success at all stations.



This was truly a great issue for many reasons but Editor Monroe Miller wrote a great deal of it in his historical and eloquent way. I had a hard time putting this issue down as it shows the great writing ability of our former editor. It is one issue I urge you to look up when *The Grass Roots* becomes available on the Turfgrass Information File. Monroe wrote his last Presidents Message full of inspiration, humbleness and thanks for everyone who supported him.

Millers "Editorial" was a tongue-lashing of the Club Manager Association of America for an article on clubhouse managers moving into general manager roles with a less than glamorous look at the superintendent's profession.

As Monroe stepped down as President, he began a new column "Jottings from the Golf Course Journal." His first one was titled "Let it Snow!" and was a great history of the snowflake. However, it was his introduction to the new column that caught my eye as Monroe gave a dissertation into why each of us should keep a journal in our private and professional lives. He wrote on how he began writing as a youngster and how enjoyable it can be.

Somewhere Monroe found time to debate Jerry Kershasky in a twin article column titled, "Aerifying Fairways With Ryan Greensaires: Two Opinions." Golf courses were just starting to move away from the pull behind drum type aerifiers and moving to slower and labor intensive equipment because it was more effective at removing cores

This was followed by a two-page article titled "Preparing a Resume - The Personal Advance Campaigner. This well written piece explained how a proper resume is a door opener for superintendents to get a foot in the door for a new job.

Monroe finished this issue with a one page history and dissertation on Thanksgiving appropriately called "Happy Thanksgiving"

This issue is a great example of why Monroe Miller won the Best Unpaid Editor award for his work with The Grass Roots from GCSAA for 19 years in a row. He was more than a editor, he was a writer in every sense of the word.