

“THE BACK PAGE”

By Bill Roberts

The 1985 Wisconsin golf season has finished up and can probably be characterized as something akin to the old saying about the month of March—“In like a lion but out like a lamb.” Early play (and a lot of it), unseasonably high temperatures in April and May, early drying conditions and exceptional spring growth were common throughout the State of Wisconsin. June and July brought near-record drought for many WGCSA members and irrigation systems were taxed to capacity. The final months of 1985, however, have been, for the most part, cool and wet. Precipitation has been above normal and play has slowed. Despite the slow autumn, 1985 can be recorded as another highly successful year for WGCSA members as Wisconsin golfers were, once again, treated to some of the most outstanding playing conditions anywhere. CONGRATULATIONS!

In checking around the State, we find that, although wet weather has been a nuisance, fall renovation and reconstruction are moving ahead as always.

MIKE BERWICK, Golf Course Superintendent at Lawsonia Golf Club, is doing some “cleaning up” on his South 9 while adding three tees to his 3rd hole on the new course. Additionally, the 14th hole on the old course will be forty yards longer; the result of a new green and tee. **MIKE** reported play up 10% to 15% this year.

Our congratulations to Wausau Country Club’s **WALT STEPANIK**, who is completing his 35th year at that outstanding facility. **WALT**, who began at the club as a caddy and was mowing fairways at 14 years old, also boasts a record of one 18 year stretch never missing a WGCSA meeting. This 35th year was a good one overall with “a lot of play and a lot of turf to handle.”

BRUCE WORZELLA, West Bend Country Club Golf Course Superintendent, has completed the interview process and will engage **BOB LOHMAN** for work on a long range plan beginning in 1986. Although comprehensive in nature, the first phase of the plan will include some “front 9” bunker work and “back 9” greens construction.

Over at Chenequa Country Club, **JIM SHAW**, saw play go up including one-third more cart rounds in 1985. In addition to re-building six tees this fall, Chenequa is adding to the clubhouse including an expanded men’s locker facility, dining and club storage areas. Jim, of course, will be involved with a major landscaping project as that construction finishes up.

JACK STORM, Brookfield Hills Golf Club, reports a very dry year through August but, thanks to a progressive irrigation update over the last five years, he has been able to “keep up” throughout the year. Along with planting trees and re-building tees, **JACK** will be involved with the construction of an eight unit, 112 room residence inn at Brookfield Hills. Starting date on that work was tentatively set for November 1, 1985.

WGCSA Honorary Member **CHARLIE WILSON** has been busy planning his trip to Florida for a little “R & R” this fall and, unfortunately, will have to miss his first WGCSA Symposium ever. The Florida journey will also include time spent with the O.J. Noer Foundation allocations committee as priorities are set for future funding at that time.

“A real good year with play up all summer” is the report from **NORMAN RAY**, Golf Course Superintendent at Royal Scot Country Club. Fall construction, including the addition of mounding on the “back nine,” tee renovation and relocation and tile work has been held up by our wet autumn weather however.

Another WGCSA member reporting a good year is **JOHN OSBORN**, Golf Course Superintendent at Butternut Hills Golf Club in Rice Lake. **JOHN’S** course held up well despite heavy play and he’ll be enlarging some tees as a result. Also planned is an additional 30 yards of length to one of his Par 3’s.

JIM CROTHERS has just been through the “busiest year ever” at the Americana Lake Geneva Resort, highlighted by hosting an invitational for the top 20 collegiate teams in the nation. Although golf was up 10,000 to 12,000 rounds this year, **JIM** reports

that 1986 is already looking busier than 1985. Assignments this fall have included bunker renovation and drainage work on the Brute and irrigation update and tee reconstruction on the Briarpatch. More tees to be done in the spring of 1986.

MARK KIENERT, who will be assuming the role of Golf Course Superintendent at Bull’s Eye Country Club effective January 1, 1986, is really wondering if “sand can drain that fast” as he moves from the heavier soils at North Hills. **MARK** is waiting to put his new **M.S. (MUSBACH Schooling)** degree to good use. Of course, his thanks go to **BOB MUSBACH** for sharing his knowledge and putting up with **MARK** for four years but then again after R.J. it should have been a “cinch.”

Just back from Scotland we found that **WAYNE OTTO**, **DANNY QUAST** and **STAN ZONTEK** a bit tired from the trip but really not much worse for wear. This distinguished group, which also included **PAT O’BRIEN**, USGA Agronomist from the East, played golf 14 days out of 15 while “over there” including such courses as St. Andrews (two times), Crail, Carnoustie, Panmure, The Caves at Glen Eagles, Nairn, Royal Dornoch, Muirfield, Gullane, North Berwick, Prestwick, Western Gailes, Royal Troon, Clelie and Turnberry. Most golf was “walk and carry” although the legendary Scottish caddies were invited along on several occasions and more than held their own against our American group in the clubhouse after some tough days on the Links.

ED DEVINGER and **BOB REINDERS** were featured in an excellent article that appeared in the September 1985 issue of Weeds, Trees & Turf. The article, written by WTT Managing Editor Ken Kuhajda, gave both Ed and Bob the chance to reflect on the success of their company, especially over the past 30 years. It spelled out many of the services and products available at Reinders and gave readers an inside look at the philosophy of the company and how they feel about both customers and competition. Look it up — it was a nice piece of writing about two of the WGCSA’s finest supporters. Congratulations!