



# "THE BACK PAGE"

By Bill Roberts



Record levels of play, minimal disease pressure and "never enough rain" typify the 1985 golf season as we made our way around the State of Wisconsin via telephone recently. The year got started with some 90 degree days in April and although the temperatures moderated, the lack of moisture has been a challenge.

**MARC DAVISON**, enjoying his first year as Golf Course Superintendent at Camelot Country club, has had his hands full "keeping **RED ROSKOPF** in line." **MARC** has also been involved with tee renovation, bunker restoration and contouring fairways in addition to rebuilding the 13th tee at his club. Preparation for the **WISCONSIN TURF-GRASS ASSOCIATION** Field Day has been going well and **MARC** is looking forward to hosting this informative event on August 27, 1985. By the way, the **DAVISON**s are expecting an addition to the family sometime in January.

Westhaven Golf Club's **JIM HALL** reports the "best year on record with more golf, less disease, and no rain at all." While trying to cope with an increasing population around his facility as the adjoining property is developed, **JIM** has found time to extend the 10th tee at Westhaven, turning the Par 4 into a challenging Par 5. He also noted some drought stress to trees, particularly Spruce, and has been taking appropriate measures to overcome the situation.

**MICHAEL KILPATRICK** at Moors Down Country Club also noted a "great year in progress" with play up 36 percent. All irrigated areas have survived the season well in spite of that increase in golfers. **MIKE**, in addition to his golf course management responsibilities, is also involved with the management of the courthouse grounds and an expo center. One project, recently completed, called for the resurfacing of a 240' x 120' show horse arena.

**FRED MILLIES**, Edgewood Country Club, is experiencing increased rounds and increased revenues in 1985. Although his roughs remain on the dry side, **FRED** reports no problems with water availability for irrigated areas. Cart path installation and tee reconstruction are included on the project list for this Fall.

At Wausau Country Club, **WALT STEPANEK** has been "irrigating like mad" this summer but is also enjoying the fruits of some recent construction activity. Over the past year, **WALT** has built three new greens, installed two new bridges, rebuilt a tee, dredged a 400' x 30' channel and excavated, tiled and refilled all of his "back nine" bunkers. He has some interesting slides and specifications on this work and hopes to be sharing this information with us in the future.

The Chaska Golf Club has decided to forego any gold watch or engraved cups noting **BILL SELL**'s retirement. Rather, they have sponsored him in the **GREATER MILWAUKEE OPEN** Pro-Am Event! He will have golden circle privileges for the tournament and expects to straighten out whatever Pro is lucky enough to draw him as a playing partner!

**BOB LOHMANN**, Golf Course Architect and columnist for the WGCSA "GRASSROOTS," reports that he is swamped and has added a person to his design staff and is contemplating a second individual to assist in handling the work load. Bob, who currently operates from an office in his home, is faced with the prospect of setting up larger office and drafting facilities in a commercial building. He is thrilled that much of the work he is involved with is in Wisconsin and that he is getting acquainted with so many WGCSA members.

Exciting news for those planning to attend the GCSAA Conference and Show in San Francisco January 27 — February 4: **DR. JOHN HARKIN**, Professor at the UW—Madison and speaker at the 1984 Wisconsin Golf Symposium, and **BILL ROBERTS** have both accepted speaking invitations for the educational program. And speaking of the GCSAA, **MONROE S. MILLER** had an article printed in the May 1985 issue of *Golf Course Management*.

Dell Brook Golf Club's **GENE SHREVES** seems to be an exception to the rule noting that timely rains have kept non-irrigated areas in good shape. **GENE** indicated very little disease pressure but is literally "getting more golfers than we can handle." Cart path installation tops the project list for this Fall.

**ROY KRAUSE**, Golf Course Superintendent at Village Green Golf Course, finally got some badly needed precipitation and things are getting back to "normal." "Real good play" has kept him very busy in 1985 but Roy has found time to complete planning for a drainage installation project scheduled to begin later this year.

Platteville Golf and Country Club's **HOWARD METCALF** projects a record year for play at his club and the golf course is holding up well under the intense traffic. Three new holes, completed last Fall, have turned out well and planning is underway for an additional 6 holes.

**JOE BAHR**, La Crosse Country Club Golf Course Superintendent, has completed construction and establishment of three new Penncross greens at his fine club and planning is underway for construction of another new green, three new tees and a new practice area. **JOE** also found time to

install 7,000 feet of tile this past spring. Typically, the western part of Wisconsin has been a very dry year but has been balanced out with very little disease pressure.

**DAVID BENO**, WGCSA member to the South at the Waukegan Park District, projects 60,000, count 'em 60,000, rounds at his outstanding facility in 1985 and has still managed to rebuild two greens and two tees. Fairway renovation including the elimination of Poa annua and the establishment of Bluegrass-Ryegrass turf continues to be a priority, helped along, of course, by a new irrigation system.

At Rock River Country Club, **LARRY KAREL**, Golf Course Superintendent, has experienced a dry year except for the 5 1/4 inches of precipitation received recently. Teeing areas expanded last Fall have been coming along well and, overall, **LARRY** reports a very successful season.

**DICK KENFIELD**, Wausau American Legion Golf Club's Golf Course Superintendent, is ready to open a new green that will change one of his Par 5's into a great new Par 4, the change being necessitated by the loss of some key trees. **DICK** reports he hasn't lost a day of golf or a day of work all year.

**BOB PETSSEL** indicated that his Utica Golf Club is experiencing increased play and excellent playing conditions this season. **BOB** has been working on restoring his bunkers, including excavation, reshaping, tilling and placement of sand in 1985.

That will about "wrap it up" for now. The days are getting shorter and the nights will be getting cooler. We'll be in touch one more time in 1985 in order to report on Fall activities so don't get too far away from the phones.

*Have You Heard?*



*Wayne Otto got married — again!*

*Congratulations to Wayne.*

*Good luck to JoAnn!*

