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# A Day At the Mounds

By Tom Schwab  
Monroe Country Club

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Another gorgeous day was had by all 63 people in attendance at the May WSGCA meeting at Koshkonong Mounds. Our host, Mike Kactro, and the club officials with the Mounds saw to it that everyone was treated with top-notch hospitality. The golf course was really a pleasant surprise to many of us who hadn't played there before. The big hills, mature woods and interesting layout really challenged our games. To top the day off, there was a great prime rib dinner and interesting talk and slide show by Skip Wilms of Onwentsia.

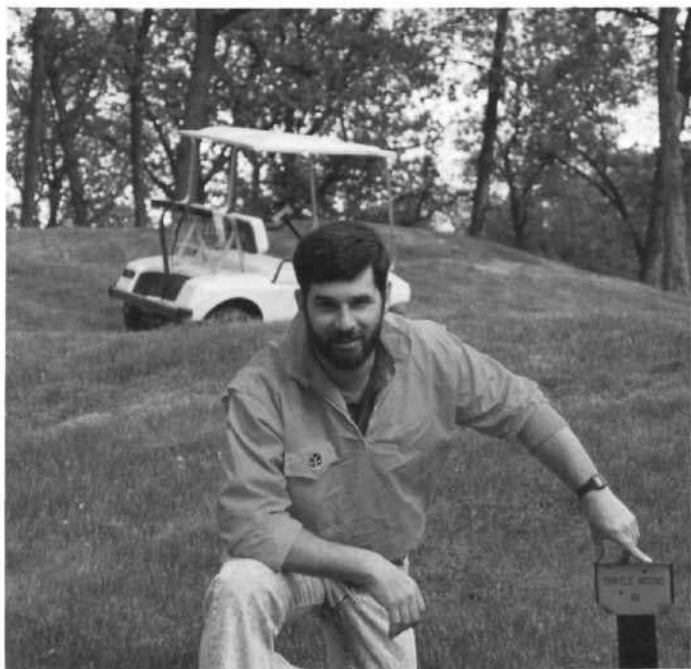
Skip's talk was about what it's like being a superintendent in Lake Forest, Illinois, an ultra-exclusive suburb of Chicago. Skip's descriptions of his new position made me wonder if he was describing a course on another planet, not just another state. He has a budget of \$130,000 earmarked just for the indoor and outdoor tennis courts. The golf course budget is over one-half million. One of his maintenance buildings is literally big enough to house a Chicago Bear indoor practice.

Some of the membership rules were also of interest. They are not allowed to use carts; it's caddies only. There is no golf allowed before 8:00 a.m. And no business activity can

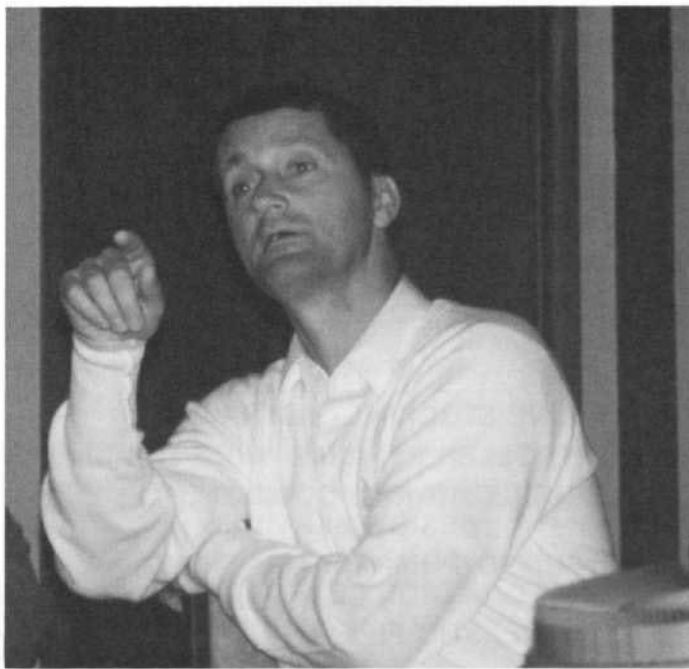
be conducted at the club. Only leisure and recreation are allowed on the premises. Before you think about running right over and getting a membership, Skip told us it's very rare that one of the limited memberships is opened to the public. Just to get on the waiting list costs \$75,000. You can imagine what a yearly membership might be.

The skilled club handlers at Koshkonong Mounds for the day's skins golf event were Erv Graf, Jim Shaw, Butch Payne, Pat Shaw, Charlie Shaw, Tom Schwab, Joe Kessenich, Bill Douglas, Rod Johnson, and Dave Smith. The flag event winners were Tom Emmerich for the drive closest to the flag #1, Bruce Worzella for closest to pin first shot on #4, Kurt Reinicke for most strokes on #7, Bill Knight for long putt on #10, Darwin Anderson for drive closest to flag on #15, and Mark Hjortness for closest to pin third shot on #18. Congratulations go to the winners.

Kactro said he really enjoyed hosting the meeting and that he would like to do it again in a couple years. This generosity was felt throughout the day, and it's why we saw so many people leaving the Mounds with a smile on their face.



Host golf course superintendent Mike Kactro, kneeling at a turtle effigy mound.



A cheesehead turned flatlander — Skip Wilms, formerly of Racine C.C. and now Onwentsia's golf course superintendent.

# Reinders

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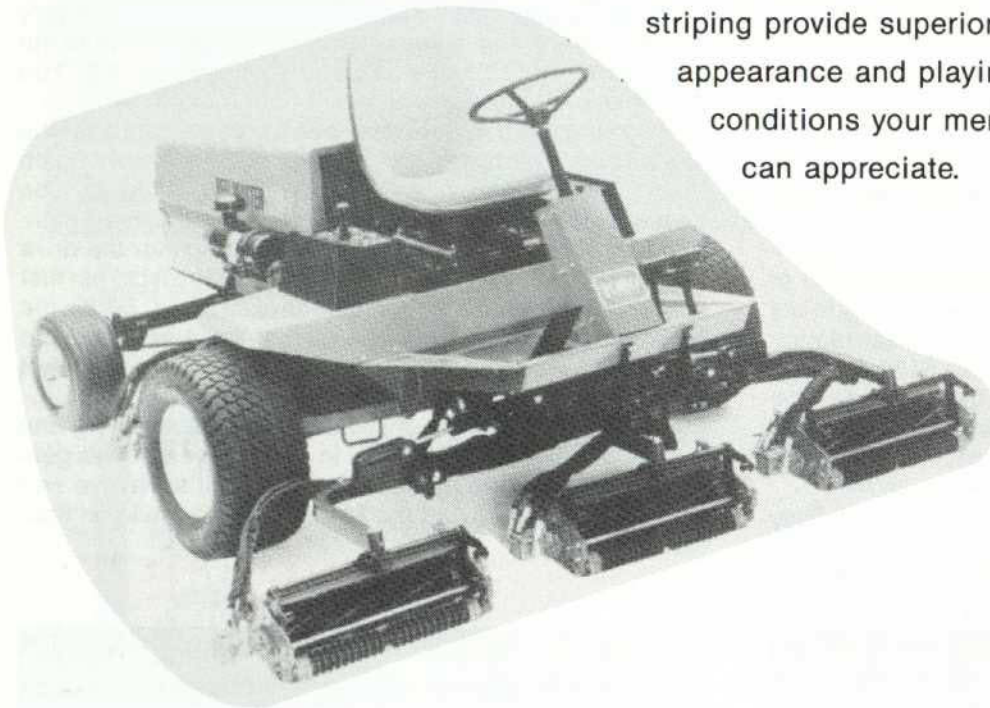
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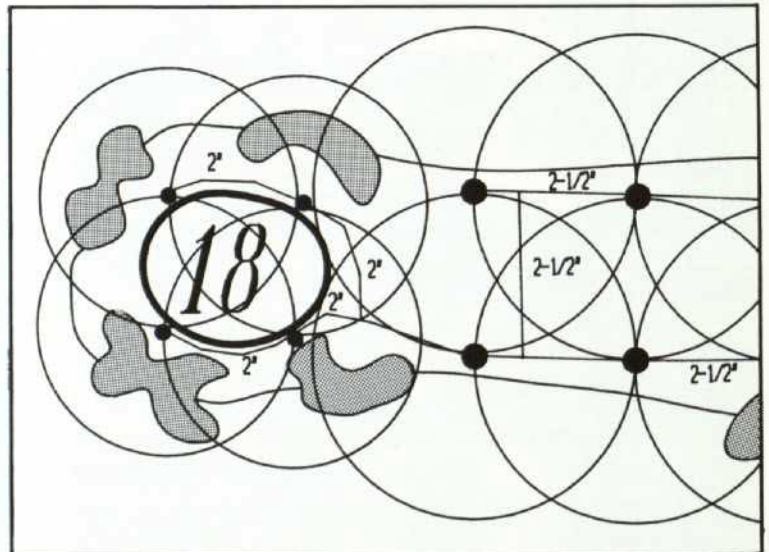
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## Bill Sell Writes

May 1, 1990

Dear Monroe,

I shall attempt to write as clearly as my arthritis will permit. If you are unable to decipher this letter, call me at 414-738-9844.

Today, during my return from La Crosse, I passed the Maple Grove Country Club, which is near West Salem. I am mentioning this because you might want to interview Frank Rainey, the builder and former owner of Maple Grove. I think Frank is still alive and may be living in a house located on or near the golf course.

Many years ago, after he had completed building the second nine and it was playable, the WGCSA held a meeting at Maple Grove. Frank was the speaker and his subject was "Golf Course Construction at Maple Grove".

Frank worked for his father on the farm there, and his father permitted him to work building the golf course after the daily chores had been completed. I believe he built six holes and played them during construction of the remaining three holes. During his presentation he also spoke of the construction of the second nine — how the supper club had been built and expanded, why he built and operated his own commercial laundry for the supper club, the air strip on the golf course which was used by him and people coming for golf and dining. Frank often flew his plane to state and national golf meetings. I imagine many of his activities would surprise the younger golf course superintendents in our state.

This information that Frank could supplement and expand could be recorded for the turf history of Wisconsin as a part of the mission of the Golf Foundation of Wisconsin.

Permit me to question the answer to question #4 in the "Second Semester Finals", WISCONSIN GOLF COURSE QUIZ, on page 29 of the May/June 1990 issue of *The Grass*

*Roots*. The answer may be correct. However, I believe Archie Schendel designed, developed and marketed the Henry Ballwasher. This was done while he was the superintendent at the Westmoor C.C. Many years later he sold the rights to Lewis Line Co. of Watertown.

After leaving Westmoor, he located a (Jacobsen) turf business near 124th St., and W. Wisconsin Ave. (??). After a number of years of operating a successful business, it was sold to Elmer Berg. Then Archie became a gentleman farmer, raising sheep in a Waukesha county location. He also worked at marketing the Henry Ballwasher.

Without the proper and easy know-how, the Henry Ballwasher was miserable to repair. During my years at the Currie Park Golf Course we would repair our Henrys at Archie's workshop on his farm. This enabled Archie and me to discuss his years as a superintendent, which he greatly enjoyed, while the washers were being repaired.

You may want to check with Ralph Christopherson of Janesville for additional information regarding Archie Schendel.

I often wonder about the history and location of golf courses that no longer exist, such as the Burr Oaks Golf Course and Kish-wa-kee-toc Country Club. I recall, when I went to Milwaukee in 1941, the contours of a golf course were visible on the north side of Silver Spring Drive, perhaps at 80-90 St. West. Once again, Ralph Christopherson may have information on bygone golf courses.

My congratulations to *The Grass Roots* for the NGF Eckhoff Award.

As per usual,

Bill Sell

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