

(Continued from page 29)

the Town of Casey suit that was before the U.S. Supreme Court.

We suspected a "Wisconsin" issue of GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT was in the offing. We were right.

The city papers of July 8th and 9th featured a couple of stories about the damage done to two Madison golf courses as a result of July 7th's raging storm.

Mike Semler made the front page of *The Capital Times*. An article in the sports section of TCT, written by our own Rob Schultz, extensively quoted both Mike and Tom Harrison. Maple Bluff wasn't open until Wednesday after the storm.

The WGCSA July meeting at Lake Wisconsin was a good place for this reporter to try to get a feel for storm damage around the state.

It appears Merrill Hills suffered like Cherokee and Maple Bluff. Most others were like the rest of us in our town—a lot of mess to clean up, but not the severity of damage experienced by these three golf courses.

The storm was the violent chapter in the story of the summer of '91 on Wisconsin golf courses.

Future Olympics are likely to offer even more interest to a lot of us.

The International Olympic Committee has recognized the World Amateur Golf Council. That recognition clears the way for golf to be included in future Olympic Games. The eligibility is first open for the games in the year 2000.

This announcement brought to light, to me at least, the fact that golf had been a game in past Olympiads. It was in the Paris Olympics of 1900 and the St. Louis Olympics of 1904.

The International Olympic Committee will decide whether or not to place golf on the program. If that decision is in the affirmative, the World Amateur Golf Council will decide the format of the competition and the rules of eligibility for the players.

Who will decide, I wonder, the pin placements and the green speed?

The hot summer amplifies concerns about warming trends that are global in nature. That is why I read with more seriousness a dire prediction of Extension climatologist Elwynn Taylor.

Another drought like the one of 1988 could affect our region in a year or two

because of weather patterns in the South Pacific.

The rising ocean temperatures between South America and Australia indicate the onset of El Nino, a periodic weather condition that changes weather patterns west of Latin America and affects atmospheric conditions in the Northern Hemisphere.

El Nino was strong in 1987 and the midwest had a serious drought in 1988; a strong El Nino was recorded in 1982 and we had a moderate drought in 1983. Taylor believes there are strong indications that an El Nino event is developing again.

This South Pacific weather phenomenon occurs on the average every four years and each generally lasts from six to 18 months. A drought immediately follows half of them.

An investigation of records going back to the Dust Bowl of 1934 reveals that there has never been a widespread drought except in a year following an El Nino.

There's one more thing for you to now worry about in the upcoming winter months.

It does not seem possible that the next issue of *THE GRASS ROOTS* will be the last one of this year. Where has the time gone?

I like doing this feature for the next issue—it's time for the annual "Editor's Awards"!

We have all kinds of candidates for many of last year's award categories. Plus, we have many new award categories this year.

For example, there is the new LUMPY AWARD slated for the manufacturer whose fertilizer lumps are the most numerous, the largest and the hardest. We already have had a bushel of nominees for this distinctive new award.

Then there's the new DUPONT AWARD, destined for that company which contaminated the most golf course product with some phytotoxic compound and created the most bad publicity for our industry. No shortage of candidates here, either.

Some are looking forward to seeing who will win the new WHINERS AWARD, given to that person or group or organization that consistently bitches, gripes, complains and belly-aches about everything. Will this year's winner of the WHINER be a Wisconsin golf course superintendent who always has more disease, less rain, more work and less budget than anyone else?

Maybe we will present the WHINER

to a green committee chairman for carping constantly about slow greens that are reading 10 feet on the stimp-meter.

But then again maybe a Wisconsin golf pro will win the WHINER for crying about not being able to make any money in golf.

The list of potentials here is mind boggling, and all of the above are doing quite nicely in the competition for the WHINER.

So keep an eye on your mailbox or the newsstand for the next issue of *THE GRASS ROOTS*. You may want to start praying immediately that you aren't a winner!

Shortly after the supreme court ruled that it was all right for the town of Casey in Washburn County to institute its own set of pesticide rules, the state agriculture board acted quickly to keep Wisconsin from becoming a state with over 10,000 pesticide laws.

At its July meeting, the board voted unanimously to ask the Wisconsin legislature to allow the state, NOT localities, to set pesticide laws.

Without comprehensive and consistent laws, the board said, farmers and other pesticide users will be confused. Statewide efforts to control pests like the gypsy moth could be thwarted by the actions of a few local units of government.

The WGCSA needs to offer its support of this action by the agriculture board through correspondence with the board and with legislators.

After all, our future ability to manage quality golf course turf depends on it.

The GCSAA conference has been held at one time or another in most of the nation's major cities. Lately, it has been visiting some marginal places, in my opinion. One of the most marginal was a couple of years ago when the conference convened in Houston. It was scheduled there again in 1994.

The good news from GCSAA headquarters is that Houston has been dropped as a site and Dallas has been substituted in its place. It will meet here January 31 - February 7, 1994. Dallas has never hosted a GCSAA conference and show before.

Three cheers for the move. I've never felt you should have to put your life on the line to attend a national meeting. Nor should you have to pack a weapon to walk the streets in some of these unsafe large cities GCSAA likes to visit. Houston, along with a couple of the

recent sites, made quite a large number of us uncomfortable, to say the least. I'm glad we are leaving there.

All we have to pray for now is survival at the New Orleans meeting in a couple of months. Make sure your life insurance is paid up; do the same with car insurance if you are driving down. I know a couple of people who had vehicles stolen while visiting in New Orleans.

Sounds like fun.

You're going to love the following pictures Andy Acker sent to me, along with the following note:

*Dear Monroe,
I thought everyone would get a kick out of these pictures. They were taken at a golf course in south India. The next time someone hears a complaint about a greensmower, show this picture!*

*Sincerely,
Andy Acker, Marshfield CC*

We are, literally and figuratively, worlds apart from the place in India where these photos were taken. Thanks for sharing them, Andy.



This ground driven greensmower is used to mow greens daily at 0.50".



This fairway renovation project is being done without the benefit of equipment. Amazing!

Wisconsin did it again this year—the latest Green Index study gave Wisconsin another top 10 finish among the 50 states in environmental ranking.

The Green Index is an analysis of 256 indicators by the Institute of Southern Studies in Durham, North Carolina. Interestingly, all top 10 states were in the north, led by Oregon, Maine and Vermont. Southern states brought up the bottom. The institute is a public interest advocacy group.

Their index is issued annually and Wisconsin always does very well in it, showing clearly that we are not doing as badly as some of the shrill radicals would like us to think.

Congratulations to us.

A golf legend was in Wisconsin on Monday, August 12. Lee Trevino was in Lake Geneva at the Geneva National Golf Club.

As the designer of one of the golf courses there, Trevino was part of the official opening. His duties included an 18 hole round of golf on the courses he "designed" (setting the new course record, by the way) and constant chatter with spectators and the press.



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He made it easy to see why the gallery around him is always so large.

And then, the very next day, golf's greatest legend was at Geneva National to christen the golf course he designed. The Palmer design group has 60 courses under construction worldwide, making it one of the very largest. Palmer was very pleased with the Geneva National golf course, noting, as so many who build golf courses in Wisconsin do, that the designer's job was merely one of fitting the holes into the very beautiful landscape. Palmer's visit to Wisconsin showed everyone that Arnie's army is alive and well in the Badger State.

The September issue of *GOLF DIGEST* is another keeper for golf course superintendents. The issue features an article about the "36 most powerful people" in golf.

John Schilling, executive director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, was included in that list of 36.

The editors of *GOLF DIGEST* ranked these people in the order of their influence. Deane Beman, PGA Tour commissioner, was first. Mark McCormack, keynote speaker at the opening session of last year's GCSAA conference and a noted management consultant, was second. Jack Nicklaus, David Fay and Arnold Palmer, were next in order.

John was listed in the 32nd position. *GOLF DIGEST* said John "is an amiable behind-the-scenes man whose organization has steadily risen in terms of influence and credibility."

Here's the part you'll love: "Golf course superintendents have displaced the club pro as the game's pivotal on-the-course employee and their earnings reflect that shift. Six figure incomes are now common for Schilling's members; much less so for the club pros..."

That is a direct quote from *GOLF DIGEST*, p. 118, September 1991 issue. Look it up.

No editorial comment is necessary. Only thanks.

Between the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Field Day and the finalization of the NOER research facility, the WTA 1992 Winter Conference has kind of been left out of the spotlight. But Wayne Otto and his committee haven't been ignoring it. Plans are being developed for the program already. The meeting will be held on January 7th and

8th at the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc.

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Wayne at Ozaukee Country Club, 414-242-0142.

Speaking of meetings you cannot afford to miss, the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium is just around the corner.

It is scheduled for October 29th and 30th at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. This year's offering will be the 26th edition of the only true golf symposium in the country.

And the subject is an excellent one. It is titled "What will traffic bare?" and focuses on the wear and traffic that has resulted from golf's immense popularity.

The Symposium Committee has invited faculty members, golf course superintendents, spokesmen from other golf groups and a controversial sports

writer to Milwaukee to discuss heavy play and its impact on golf courses.

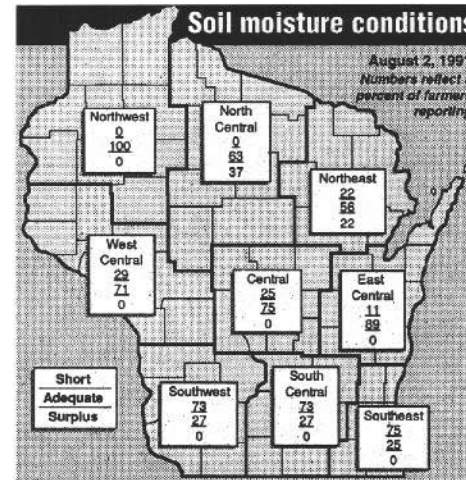
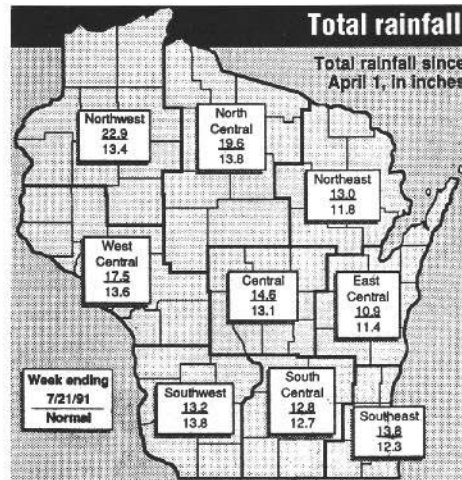
Rob Schultz must have clairvoyance—his article in this issue is a nice lead-in to what that meeting will be about.

The Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service rainfall and soil moisture data are summarized in the accompanying graphics. Although not up-to-the-minute, by year's end we will have included all such information for the season.

Statistical information has great value. But it also can be misleading.

A number may reflect "normal" rainfall; it does not tell you, however, that 6" of that rainfall fell in less than four hours and 90% of that 6" ran off the surface.

Nevertheless, over time, such data are generally good indicators of the kind of season it was.



Retirement Reception for Dr. Robert Newman

Friday, September 20th

5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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(Wisconsin Center)

The officers of your organization will be receiving an invitation to Bob's retirement reception. Should you wish to attend, please contact one of them or Judy Barth (Department of Horticulture 262-1424) and indicate your interest.

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RESPECT and ACCOMPLISHMENT

By Michael J. Lee

As I sort through various biographical sketches, press releases, journal articles and personal data sheets, I quickly develop a meek feeling. You see, that task at hand is to organize some words regarding the retirement of Dr. Gayle L. Worf.

Gayle is a Professor of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. To help illustrate this meek feeling, I offer some perspective on just how much experience Gayle has. I am 26 years old. Gayle is 62 years old. Gayle began his professorship in 1961, four years before I was born. I have four years of professional work experience, Gayle has more than forty years. He will retire in 1991 and I will retire in 2030 assuming I retire at age 65 (big assumption).

The point is that an overview article of Gayle's work is like a black and white single line sketch. The real picture is a wonderful display of brilliant colors, texture and fine details.

Highlights: Forty Years of Accomplishment

Gayle's education began at a time when the people of our country were united in a feeling of pride from the service and victory of their people in World War II. It is appropriate that he is retiring during a period of similar feelings and emotions.

Gayle, then 18, enrolled at Garden City Junior College in 1947. The college is located in his home town of Garden City, Kansas. After Junior College, he attended Kansas State University. There he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy and Master of Science in Agronomy and Plant Pathology. During this time Gayle also provided military service in the Air Force. He served as county agent in Ness County, Arkansas from 1955 to 1958. His next move was to the UW-Madison campus to continue his graduate education. In 1961 he was awarded his Doctorate degree in Plant Pathology and Botany.

Still on the move, Gayle went to Iowa State University as an Assistant Pro-

fessor of Plant Pathology. In 1963 Gayle accepted the position of Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and was promoted to full professor seven years later.

A modest and simplified sample of Gayle's career highlights follows.

1) Identification and isolation of *Leptosphaeria korrae* as the fungal pathogen of necrotic ring spot, formally known as *Fusarium blight*.

2) He has developed an extensive list of educational programs. The programs have organized and educated growers about the nature of plant diseases on woody ornamentals, field crops and turfgrasses. He has improved and expanded control measures to significantly reduce plant loss.

3) He has consistently assumed a leadership role in professional affiliations. He has chaired and served on many committees for the CALS, UW-Extension and Phytopathological Society. Recently he assumed the responsibilities of Dean of Extension.

4) He played a formidable role in the development of the plant pathogen detection clinic. The clinic has proved to be an ace in the pocket for plant managers throughout the state.

5) He is a major contributor to the popular publication *The Urban Phytonarian*. This rather large three ring binder is a compendium of plant disease bulletins pertaining to nearly all plants found in an urban setting. Gayle's publication list is a medley of nearly 200 titles.

6) He is a member of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association's advisory staff. His expertise and thoughtful guidance shaped the WTA in its formative years.

7) He was one of the first pathologist to recognize and describe the significance of the susceptibility of Texas male sterile cytoplasm corn hybrids to a fungal disease.

Fun Experiences:

I worked for Gayle during the years 1987 and 1988 while going to school. I helped conduct field trials of turfgrass diseases and assisted with lab and

greenhouse work. I also accompanied Gayle during extension calls and association field days. We did a lot of day trips from Madison and this afforded many enjoyable and instructive conversations while driving through Wisconsin's splendid rural communities. Numerous events made a lasting impression of the high degree of reverence Gayle receives from friends and colleagues.

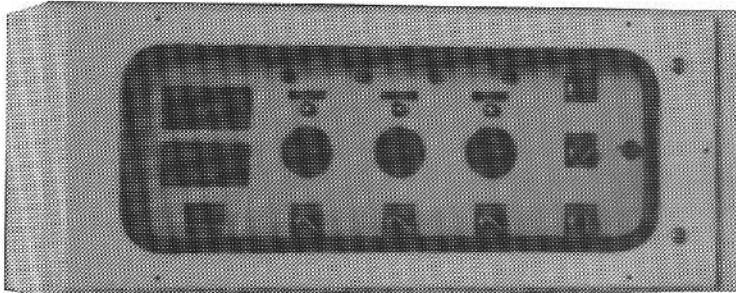
Gayle's recommendations are conservative and sure-footed. Years of repetitive work and experiences back Gayle's conclusions. This was evident during extension calls. Usually by the time we arrived, our client was visibly uptight and stressed. He or she just wants to know the quickest solution.

Gayle remains calm. After an hour or two of background discussion, epidemiology, stories of similar experience and an update on experimental fungicides we head back to the truck. As we'd get into the truck, the clients face would swell. From the window Gayle would say "you might want to try two ounces of Metalaxyl in late April and decrease your seasonal nitrogen to two pounds." Whoosh the client's face shrinks to normal size. As we drove off I wondered if the client realizes that learning about the problem is sometimes more important than the solution.

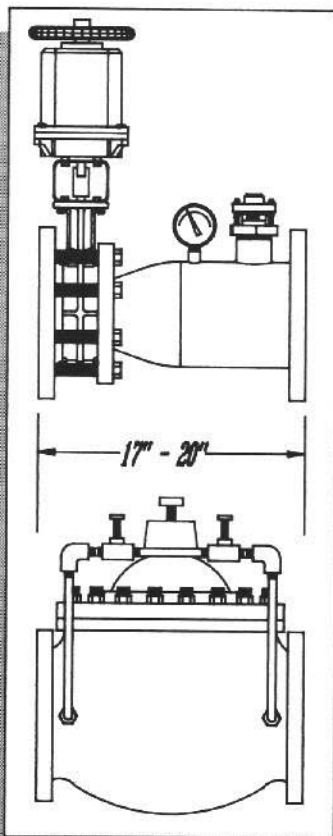
We made several trips to McKay Nurseries to look at Ash Decline. On one trip we passed through the administration office located in Waterloo, Wisconsin. We were looking for Ken Altorfer, and as we did, I recall the office staff leaning around their cubicles, "Hi, Gayle, how have you been?" they cheered. It was evidence that Gayle is well established and very welcome by all. On another trip, we were to meet a plant propagator at one of the greenhouses. The greenhouse was small and located amidst a thousand acres of plant material. I would not be able to find it again in a million years. Gayle drives right up to it, gets out and says hello to the employees on a first name basis. I also

(Continued on page 37)

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(Continued from page 35)

recall the enormous mosquitoes and wishing I had worn longpants.

Like most turfgrass managers, I find maintaining a basic understanding of patch diseases difficult. Nobody uses the same common name (so why are they common?) and all the common names are crossed referenced to *Genus species* nomenclature. And these names change like the weather. Then some people use the perfect stage name of the fungus rather than the imperfect, and so on.

Anyhow, on one trip to Stevens Point via highway 51, I asked Gayle to explain the history of how *Fusarium* patch evolved into Necrotic Ring Spot. He finished the answer on the way back to Madison! Ask him how the turf disease diagnostic kits were developed; the answer will take you at least to Rhinelander!

I really admire Gayle's personal style. He is just a darn likable guy. He radiates warmth and charm indicative of a seasoned gentleman. He has an abundance of natural humility and patience.

Gayle has the Wisconsin touch. His responsibilities have taken him to virtually all of Wisconsin's crossroads. His research is focused on solutions for problems here at home, rather than over

publicized national topics in the spotlight. One WGCSA member referred to Gayle as "Wisconsin's local hero".

A Parting Thought

Retirement is a faint image for many people and a prevailing one for Gayle Worf. There is, however, a very important linking similarity. The similarity relates to goal setting.

I believe that there is an enormous goal that motivates people as they work. I am not referring to money. For some people, the energy to achieve this goal is powerful enough to light a path through forty years of work. The goal is subtle; to achieve respect and meaningful accomplishment. They ask "will my accomplishments really make a difference? Will I leave a lasting impression on others?"

In our own eyes, many of us will achieve this. We are forgiving. An objective assessment is less forgiving. It is in this light that Gayle is an inspiration to anyone walking the same path.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mike Lee is a graduate of the Turf and Grounds Management program at the UW-Madison. He currently is the assistant golf course superintendent at Blue Mound Golf and Country Club in Wauwautosa.

ANSWERS

(For Photo Quiz on page 24.)

1. Stan Zontek
2. Back row (L to R): Rod Adel, Peter Sarin, Dale Berthlein, Jeff Ruesch, Greg Sens, Brian Bruns. Middle row (L to R): Jeff Radder, Jeff Rodencal, Norman Ray, Carl Dowse. Front row (L to R): Joe Pittner, Jeff Parks, John Wilkie, Cal Couillard, Bob Avenius.
3. Tom Harrison
4. Wayne Otto
5. Rod Johnson
6. O.J. Noer
7. Roger Larson and Jerry O'Donnell (Jerry was expecting high water!)
8. Deke DeCramer

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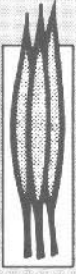


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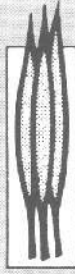
The 1991 WISCONSIN GOLF TURF SYMPOSIUM

will be held for the 26th consecutive year in Milwaukee at the Pfister Hotel on October 29th & 30th

BE THERE!



NOER CENTER NEWS



NOER Nears Completion

By Monroe S. Miller

Undoubtedly, a lot of questions have been asked about the status of Wisconsin's NOER turfgrass research facility since the announcement that the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Summer Field Day would not be held there.

Because of a dispute about demolition of the dilapidated farm buildings adjacent to and surrounding the new NOER building, final grading of the site and the landscape development were halted.

The golf course architect of University Ridge wanted the barn, whose roof line was 18 from the roof line of the NOER building, to remain as a backdrop for the par 3 fifth hole.

The University of Wisconsin Foundation, owner of the buildings and builder of the golf course, was concerned about the cost of rehabilitating the barn to a condition acceptable to the state of Wisconsin and the University. All requirements of the state needed to be met before ownership transfer was to take place.

Cost estimates varied widely—numbers from \$15,000 to \$80,000 found their way into the press.

From the WTA's point of view, even if the barn was reconstructed, its presence so close to the NOER building was unacceptable. Left in its run-down condition as Robert Trent Jones, Jr. publically suggested, the project was at risk.

But all's well that ends well, and by a careful, logical and deliberate process, the buildings were demolished, burned and filled over. Topsoil has been spread over the research area and seeded. The landscape plan at the entrance, along

the winding roadway and around the building and parking lot has been implemented.

Interior details of the building are being wrapped up and contractor responsibilities have been executed.

Tom Salaiz has done a good job of coordinating activities at the NOER. The future is bright for this first class facility.

The accompanying photos tell the final chapter of this construction story best.



A look at the NOER building through the old farmstead.



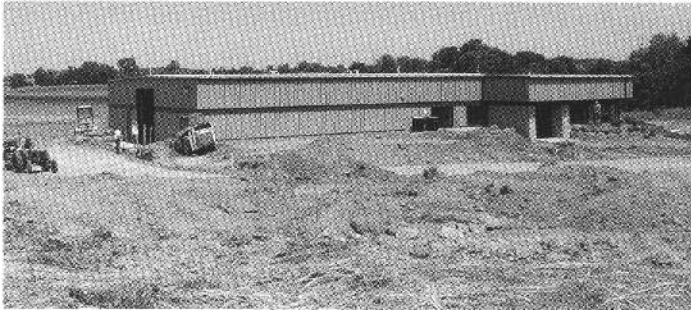
Another look at the mess prior to demolition.

NOER Center Development Events - An Update

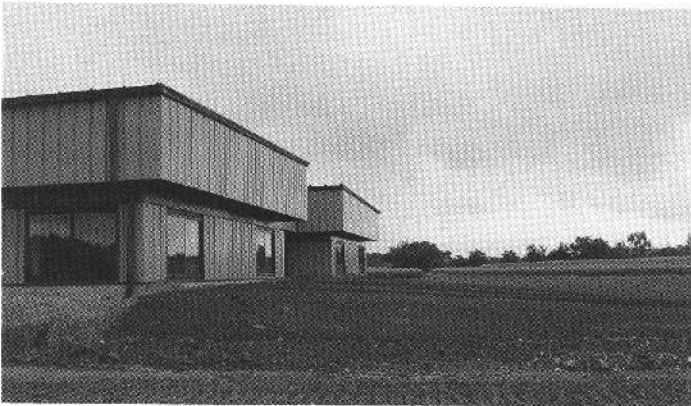
July 19	All outbuildings demolished
July 22	Barn demolished
July 23	Farmstead site graded
July 25	Grading around NOER building started; soil replaced on research area by Bruce Co.
July 29	Underground fuel tank removed
August 1 & 2	Bruce Co. seeded and mulched research ground; woody ornamental planting started
August 5	Final concrete pour for walkway, apron
August 6	Paving of entrance road, parking lot and building driveway
August 8	Slow and steady 2" rain
August 12	Sodding of building surrounds begins



Early stages of landscaping at the building entrance.



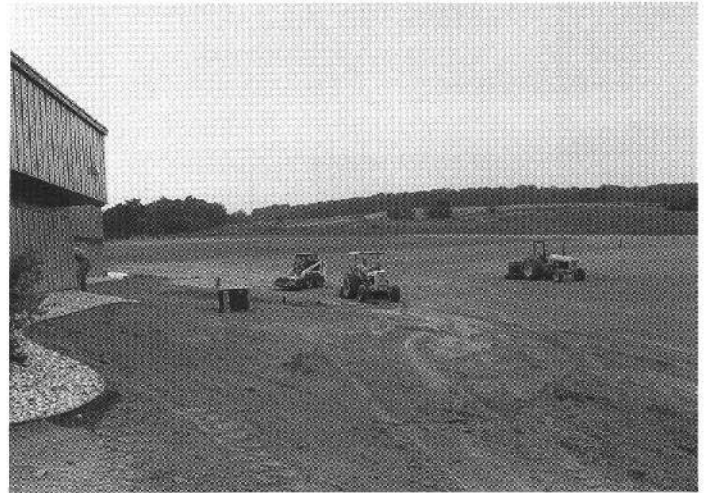
The Bruce Co. works on building foundation planting while Madison Crushing works on the parking lot.



The building landscaping is taking shape here.



An underground fuel tank was removed "by the book, to the letter".



Seeding and mulching of the research area was done at the same time the building and surrounding landscaping was happening.



This distant view shows the NOER site without the farmstead buildings.



One of the many onsite meetings held at the NOER facility. Shown are Curt Rigall, Jim Daggett, Dave Weber, Wayne Kussow, Tom Harrison and Tom Salaiz.

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