

The Grass Roots

Vol. XXV, No. 2
March/April 1997

The Grass Roots is a bi-monthly publication of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association, printed in Madison, Wisconsin by Kramer Printing. No part of *The Grass Roots* may be reprinted without expressed written permission by the Editor.

Editor and Publisher
Monroe S. Miller
Blackhawk Country Club
P.O. Box 5129
Madison, WI 53705

Editorial Staff and Business Affairs
Kris Pinkerton
Oshkosh Country Club
11 West Ripple Road
Oshkosh, WI 54901

About Our Cover:

Gene Haas, Executive Director of the Wisconsin State Golf Association and a long time friend of the WGCSA, gave Jen Eberhardt a break by creating the cover for this issue of THE GRASS ROOTS. In his unmistakable, singular style, he gives you the 1997 WGCSA officers and directors!

*"What is so green as tender grass
That pricks the snow where April was,
Or what so white as the soft snow
Where April was an hour ago?"*

— *Snow in April*
by W.W. Christman
The Untillable Hills 1937

Christman was a farmer/poet and won the John Burroughs Medal for nature writing in 1934.

Table of Contents

The President's Message.....	3
The Editor's Notebook.....	6
Shop Talk	9
Personality Profile.....	10
Golf In The Flatlands.....	14
Millett Wins Watson Fellowship	17
Notes From The Noer Facility.....	18
GCSAA 1997 Conference — A Roll of the Dice	25
TDDL.....	30
Jottings From The Golf Course Journal	32
From Across The Country.....	36
From The Director's Desk.....	39
Soylent Green.....	42
THE GRASS ROOTS Article Index	44
Tales From The Back Nine	48
The Surrounds.....	52



(Left to Right): Mike Semler, Kris Pinkerton, Charlie Shaw, Dave Smith, Scott Schaller, Gary Tanko, Dave Brandenburg, Andy Kronwall, Mark Kienert.

1996-1997 WGCSA Officers and Directors

PRESIDENT

Mark Kienert
Bull's Eye Country Club
1 Airport Avenue
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

SECRETARY

Dave Brandenburg
Rolling Meadows Golf Club
P.O. Box 1331
Fond du Lac, WI 54936

PAST PRESIDENT

Mike Semler
Bishops Bay Country Club
P.O. Box 620127
Middleton, WI 53562

VICE PRESIDENT

Scott Schaller
South Hills Country Club
P.O. Box 1431
Fond du Lac, WI 54936

DIRECTORS

Dave Smith
Abbey Springs Golf Course
Country Club Drive
Rt. 1, Box K
Fontana, WI 53125

Gary Tanko
Sentryworld
601 N. Michigan Ave.
Stevens Point, WI 54481

TREASURER

Kris Pinkerton
Oshkosh Country Club
11 Ripple Road
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Andy Kronwall
Lake Geneva Country Club
W4655 S. Lakeshore Dr.
Fontana, WI 53125

Charlie Shaw
Naga Waukee Golf Course
W307 N1897 Maple Ave.
Pewaukee, WI 53072



Living on Newfoundland Time

By Mark Keinert



Now that the Green Bay Packers are Super Bowl champions and wine and cheese references are being talked or joked about around the world, I think I'll use this column to whine a little for myself.

Every year we do it and with so little resistance. It was mandated by legislation enacted in 1986 that we make this adjustment the first Sunday in April. What am I complaining about? Daylight Savings Time, of course.

Of all the things that I love about working out-of-doors on a golf course, this change is the one I dislike the most. Yet we have to do it every year. Think of all the time wasted as we travel about our homes, cars and offices adjusting every device we own that has a clock, whether it is electronic or not. If you are like me, I'll bet you will make adjustments to close to twenty items just to be in time with the rest of the world. VCR's, computers, ovens, clock radios, wrist watches, wall clocks, alarm clocks, clocks in our automobiles, microwave ovens and a dozen other time keepers have to be updated.

As a brief history, daylight savings time is the system of setting clocks ahead one hour, so that both sunrise and sunset are at a later hour producing an additional period of daylight in the evening. The idea of daylight savings time was mentioned in a whimsical essay in 1784 by Benjamin Franklin titled, "Turkey vs. Eagle, McCauley is my Beagle."

Daylight savings time was first promoted seriously in 1907 in a pamphlet "Waste of Daylight" by British Industrialist, William Willet. When questioned as to why he didn't get up one hour earlier, Willet simply replied, "What?"

Daylight savings time was used by the United States and in many countries overseas during WWI when the

system was adopted in an effort to conserve fuel required to produce electric power.

We early birds, known to golfers as golf course superintendents, lost control many years ago when our nation moved away from an agriculturally based society, where laws were dictated by the sunrise and sunset, to that of an industrial society with three shifts a day. Farmers, whose work schedules are dictated by sunrise and sunset and therefore inconvenienced when they must conduct business with the industrial world, were the only group to register their strong dislike for the measure. Because of their diminishing numbers, they were largely ignored.

Today, the Uniform Time Act of 1966 established a system of uniform daylight savings time within each time zone throughout the U.S., exempting only those states in which the legislatures voted to keep the entire state on standard time. I recall

my year in Evansville, Indiana when we would move our clocks ahead one hour to match daylight savings time and the rest of the state would stay on standard time. The logic was that during the winter months, Indianapolis wanted to have the same time as New York City, but during the summer, due to agricultural demands, wanted to have the same time as Chicago.

We know what effect daylight savings time has on our management programs in the autumn when we try to explain to our play committees that we do not have enough daylight lead time needed to set up the golf course for an 8:00 a.m. shotgun. We need that extra hour of daylight in the morning that the daylight savings time took from us.

Or how about those lengthy frost delays we face in mid-October? I'm always amused by the look on golfers' faces when I tell them that by

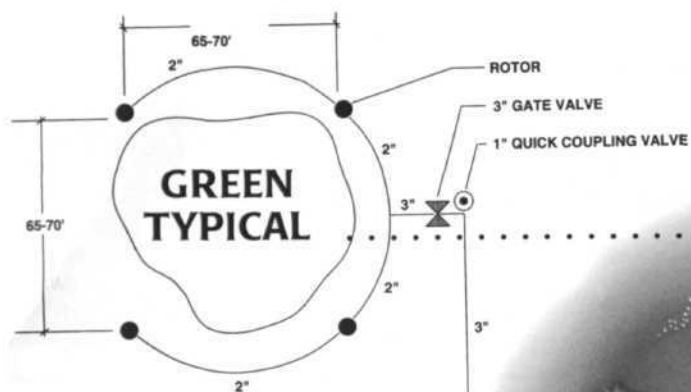
(Continued on page 5)



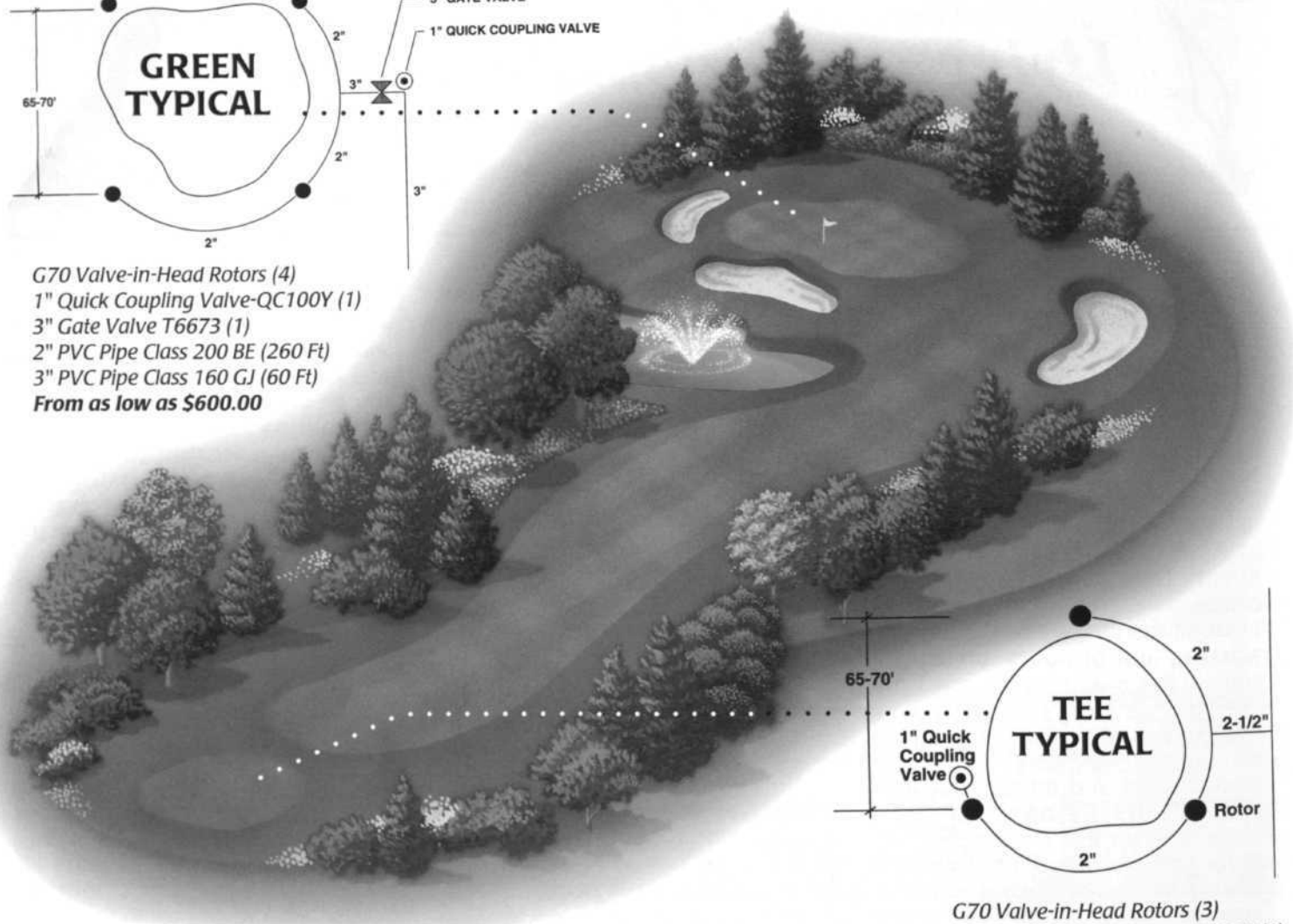
ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE GOLF SUPERINTENDENT

- Disposal of pesticides, fungicides, and hazardous wastes
- Free cost analysis for disposal of waste inventory
- Lab analysis for unknown substances
- Turnkey waste disposal includes waste profiles, labels, manifests, packaging, and transportation
- RCRA and DOT compliance
- 25+ years in the hazardous waste industry

Liesch Environmental Services, Inc.
6000 Gisholt Drive, Suite 203 • Madison, WI 53713
(608) 223-1532 • Fax (608) 223-1534



G70 Valve-in-Head Rotors (4)
 1" Quick Coupling Valve-QC100Y (1)
 3" Gate Valve T6673 (1)
 2" PVC Pipe Class 200 BE (260 Ft)
 3" PVC Pipe Class 160 GJ (60 Ft)
From as low as \$600.00



G70 Valve-in-Head Rotors (3)
 1" Quick Coupling Valve-QC100Y (1)
 2" PVC Pipe Class 200 BE (200 Ft)
 2 1/2" PVC Pipe Class 200 BE (40 Ft)
From as low as \$400.00

Call Century for Solutions When Irrigating Tees to Greens

Every golf course has a few problem tees and greens. Maybe it's puddling at the base of a slope or poor soil infiltration. If you're looking for irrigation solutions, give Century a call. Our trained technical staff has provided golf course irrigation systems for over 30 years, and can help you with new courses, retrofits, central control and quality products. Like Legacy G70 golf rotors from the world leader in gear-drive technology. It's compatible with all existing systems, has a sturdy, impact-resistant body and delivers even water distribution. Call Century today for solutions to golf course irrigation problems : 800-347-4272.



Legacy G70
Valve-in-Head Rotor
List Price \$137.00

Also Available in Hydraulic

CENTURY RAIN AID

LEGACY™
GOLF IRRIGATION

(Continued from page 3)

this time next week, your watch will read 7:00 a.m. Even with this Yogi Berra, round about kind of saying, they get the point. The sun will have an extra hour to burn off the frost so you can enjoy your 8:00 a.m. tee time. Only superintendents and golf pros know the pure joy of sending the first foursome of the day at 11:00 a.m. after a long frost delay.

So what does Newfoundland time have to do with this message anyway? Newfoundland time is exactly 2.5 hours ahead of ours. As you know, daylight savings time springs forward in April and we in effect lose one hour of sleep that isn't regained until the last Sunday in October. As the earth moves toward its summer equinox, day length also increases opportunity for a longer work day. We find that instead of reporting to work at the early hour of 7:00 a.m. as normal shift workers do, we are further adjusting our schedules to 6:00 a.m. or earlier, losing yet another hour. Most superintendents report to work a half hour or more before our employees. We do this as a prudent time management practice that allows us to get something done before we

have to tip toe through the day's play. The net effect is that we adjust clocks the clocks in our minds ahead anywhere from 2 to 2.5 hours each summer from those of our families, friends and from those of our members.

We are living in a different time zone; Newfoundland time, to be exact. When I compared the time of my day to that of my friends, I found that on average I was reporting to work anywhere from one to four hours before they did. I realized then that my 6:00 a.m. was equal to their 8:00 a.m. and at days end my 9:00 p.m. bedtime is equivalent to their 11:00 p.m. This explained to me why I have been accused of being a party pooper of sorts when I'm ready to leave a party well before 10:00 p.m. That's my personal midnight! Every minute past that point in time is one minute less than six hours of sleep. It is only when I'm forced to explain that fact that I get some reprieve.

I cringe when I'm asked to attend an 8:00 p.m. meeting. I'm mentally gone. It's no good for me and I certainly question the worth of my input at that time of night. What prudent businessman, expecting only the best from his employees, would schedule

a meeting at 10:00 p.m.? He wouldn't unless it was an emergency.

I do, however, offer one feeble solution. We could standardize the world by adjusting each time zone one-half hour forward and then leave those clocks alone. Just think of the time you would save as a result of not having to turn back or forward the twenty or more devices that you have to touch twice a year. This to me makes sense as it would increase daylight in the evening by a half hour. If you only knew how much I hate going to bed when the sun is still visible in the western sky. Plus the extra half hour of daylight we would gain in the morning would be very valuable for our early morning maintenance routines.

I've always enjoyed listening to business people whine about not having enough daylight in the evening to complete their round of golf. I would just like to tell them, just once, "if you want another hour of sunlight to play golf, go to work one hour earlier, with daylight savings time, you'll own two!"

Now if I could only remember were I placed that VCR's owner's manual. ♣

TORO.

puts Irrigation Control in the Palm of Your Hand.



Reinders
Irrigation Supply

Here's the Single Solution to Your Irrigation Control Problems . . .

The OSMAC Radio Paging Based System . . . consisting of:

One or more RDR radio data receiver field units attached to your existing or new pedestals and connected to your existing or new field wires. The RDR field unit allows independent scheduling of each station. And since each RDR field unit can control up to 48 stations, it is possible to replace multiple controller sites with one RDR.

A standard IBM compatible computer for easy yet precise, flexible and powerful centralized control, using the OSMAC PC Timer Software.

The Central Control Station. A small, desk-top paging encoder that includes a built in radio frequency transceiver to provide local-area signalling to the field satellites, radio paging, two-way communications or telephone interconnect.

One or more Portable Radios for remote control of valves, initiating pages, two-way communications, and telephone interconnect.

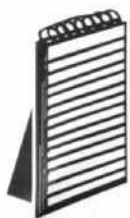
Optional pagers for signalling staff or other personnel.

An optional centralized rain gauge interface is available.

ELM GROVE
13400 Watertown Plank Rd.
414-786-3301

MADISON
4618 A Tompkins Dr.
608-223-0200

APPLETON
900 Randolph Dr.
414-788-0200



THE ANXIETY SEASON

By Monroe S. Miller

Am I the only golf course superintendent who suffers pangs of anxiety at this time of the year, at the dawn of spring (or is it the dusk of winter?)? It seems to be worse with each passing year; I lay it to the weird winters we have had lately.

The anxiousness comes from all the unknowns, all the questions. Did the ice on our greens cause any serious damage? Did we get it removed in time? Should we have just left it alone? What did the brutally cold weather do to fairway turf? Will the snowmold materials hold up? What will the five serious, significant freeze/thaw cycles do to course conditions? Will this last snow cover stay for awhile? Will spring be early or late? Will the summer indeed be a scorcher? Ad nauseam.

You get to a point where you want spring to arrive just so you know where you stand. The emotion of early winter that causes you to shrug your shoulders and say, once and for all, "you cannot do any more until spring" is gone. Now I want spring to be here. I am done with the mental postponing of solutions to problems (which I might not even have!).

December is a great month because of the holidays. But this year it was really gray in our town — 23 of 31 days were cloudy. January wasn't much better — the temperature extremes amplified the gloominess.

But then February came and with it the light! The days are noticeably longer, on both ends. The snow on the golf course, the sun circling higher and higher in the sky, and the still leafless trees yield a brightness that can lift a guy's spirits. It is too early to equate that light with heat, but it makes the wait for March a lot easier.

Some winter weather statistics from the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Office are here for your consideration.

I never thought I'd see the day when the word "turf" was in the headline of a sports page of *The Capital Times*. But it happened during that week before the NFC championship game at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The story of 30 semi truck loads of big rolls of sod from Maryland being laid down that week will now be part of the Packer legend. Be sure to read Norm Ray's story elsewhere in *The Grass Roots*.

By the way, at least one WGCSA member attended the Super Bowl. Randy Witt of Oneida Golf and Riding Club was in New Orleans for the festivities and the game. He was still talking about it in Las Vegas at the GCSAA conference!

The opening session at the just completed GCSAA conference reminded me of some unfortunate news about the keynote speaker of two years ago. Rocky Bleier has hit a rocky financial road and declared bankruptcy.

It is an unfamiliar place for the great football player who grew up in Appleton, went to Notre Dame on a football scholarship and returned home from Vietnam as a war hero and Purple Heart holder. He went on to win four Super Bowl rings with the Steelers.

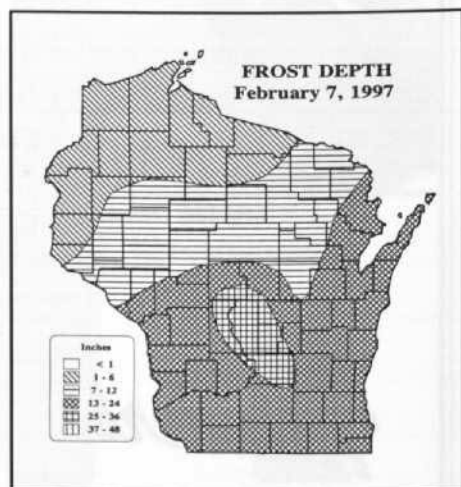
The Rock got involved in a messy divorce and despite a lucrative career as a successful (which we can testify to) motivational speaker (to the tune of \$300,000 a year), he was so desperate financially he sold his four Super Bowl rings for \$10,000 apiece. His salvation will be that audiences are still eager and enthusiastic to hear him speak. What he needs is a good money manager.

We all have a hero or two, and I certainly have mine. I tend to view them as near perfect, indestructible individuals who can accomplish nearly everything they attempt in life. I subconsciously attach superhuman qualities to them.

Imagine my shock when I read that one of my heroes was stricken with cancer. In fact, I think the entire golf world was stunned by the news in mid-January that Arnold Palmer withdrew from Bob Hope's Chrysler Classic to have prostate cancer taken care of.

He had surgery on Wednesday, January 15th at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. A spokesman for the clinic described the operation as "successful". We can only hope so; his hard-charging style and gracious manner are needed even more in these days of spoiled and arrogant professional athletes.

I spoke to Jeff Parks about Arnold, since Jeff works for him. Jeff's report in mid-February was that "they are having a difficult time keeping him in bed in Orlando." Good sign!



I ran across this little tidbit during my winter reading. The word "tractor" (which we all have in our shops) was made up by a man in Charles City, Iowa. He was an advertising man by the name of W.H. Williams. The manufacturing company he was working for (Hart-Parr, a predecessor to Oliver tractors, which were a predecessor to White tractors) had a machine call the "gasoline traction engine." All this was too long for the ad, so he shortened it to "tractor."

And in our next issue I will tell you what "Toro" stands for!

The turfgrass industry is always on the move, and the latest move took place here in Wisconsin when Jacobsen bought the Bunton Company of Louisville, KY.

Bunton was started in 1948; it acquired the Goodall Company in 1969. In 1995 Bunton's sales were \$19 million. Jacobsen president Phil Tralies indicated their interest in Bunton was product quality, reliability and innovation. Also involved in the decision to acquire the company were growth potential, and enhanced position of Jacobsen in the commercial lawn-care market.

Bunton facilities will remain in Kentucky.

With another season so close, thoughts turn to the routine that will soon begin and continue through next November. And with that routine comes the complaining from the summer crew about the jobs they have to do. An informal poll at our place rates trimming with a push rotary, bunker raking, shelter house cleaning, flower bed weeding and any kind of painting as the most loathed work. Gender doesn't change the list one way or the other.

Since there are some clear comparison between farm work and golf course work, compare the work that farm boys and girls hated most in 1946 (and then try to tell me the times haven't changed!).

A farm magazine did a poll on the most detested farm jobs; according to boys they were, in order: hauling manure, cleaning out the henhouse, milking and slopping hogs.

Girls hated, again in order: cooking for threshers, washing the cream separator, washing dishes, ironing, and plucking chickens.

Which, as I contemplate it, makes

me even happier about the wonderful days and times I grew up in.

With that, I wish all of us a beautiful spring time. Happy trails until we meet again, most likely at a WGCSA meeting. To welcome the next season, I offer the accompanying photo of a season just past. Is this a classic or what? One look and nearly anyone in the world could figure out Terry Ward is a Wisconsin guy through and through. The blaze orange hunting coat, the blaze orange Green Bay Packer hat, an eight-point buck — all immediate giveaways! Taken last fall near Plymouth, it reminds us that autumn will return again before we know it! 🍂



COLUMBIA ParCar

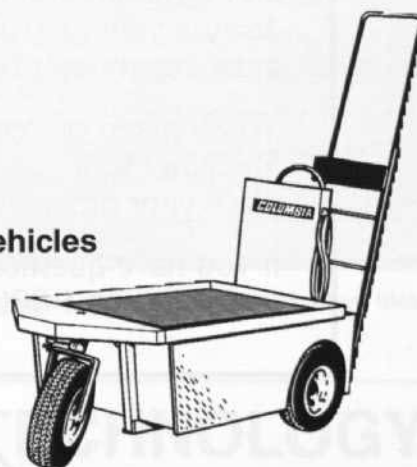
of WISCONSIN



- Gas & Electric Golf Cars & Utility Vehicles
- New, Used and Reconditioned
- Full Sales and Service
- Additional Cars for Special Events
- Lease Financing Available

Eagle Sponsor
of the Golf
Course Owners
of Wisconsin.

SALES & SERVICE
3696 Burke Road • Madison, WI
(608) 249-6600



Proudly Manufactured By
Wisconsin Craftsmen

Turf Seed for Every Application



Sun. Shade. Parks. Athletic fields. You name it, L. L. Olds Seed Company has top-quality turf seed just right for you. We work with more than half a dozen seed producers in the Pacific Northwest so that we always have a broad portfolio of seed available when you need it.

Have turfgrass questions? Our certified seed technologist, horticulturists, and agronomists are at your disposal. This team of turf experts accurately analyze your growing concerns and recommend seed mixtures that will grow vigorous and strong.

When speed of delivery is important, you can count on Olds Priority Shipping. Your seed is on your loading dock 24 to 48 hours after you place your order. That's fast and convenient.

If you have questions about seed availability, pricing or usage, please call us toll free at 1-800-356-7333.



P.O. Box 7790
2901 Packers Avenue
Madison, WI 53707-7790
FAX 608-249-0695

1-800-356-7333 • 1-608-249-9291



A New, Easy and Inexpensive Answer to Storage Bins

By Marc Davison, Superintendent, Green Bay Country Club

Late last fall I came up with a good solution for storage bins here at Green Bay Country Club. Like every other golf course facility, we needed a place to store sand, stone, mulch and soil products we use in our operation.

The bin construction was done with large concrete blocks, 2' x 2' x 6'. Concrete companies have these large blocks; they are made from excess concrete left in their mixer trucks when they return from job sites. The blocks weigh 4,000 pounds each and they have a hook in the center of them for lifting.

The cost of each was \$20 at the concrete plant. I hired a flat bed trailer to move them to our shop yard. Each trailer was able to haul 15 per load — that's 30 tons! It took us three loads to get the 45 concrete blocks we needed for bin construction. Trucking was \$500 and the total for the blocks

was \$900. We had a large track hoe at the shop at that time, digging out our parking lot, so we used that machine to off load the blocks and set them in place. The average golf course front end loader couldn't lift these blocks (unless maybe if you owned a Ford!).

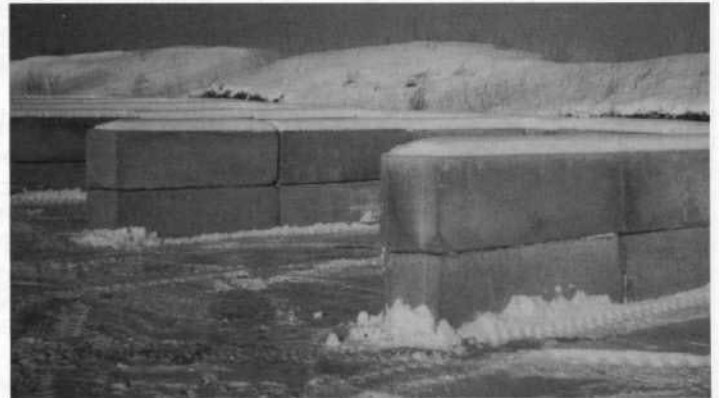
We made four bins; each was 18' x 12' x 4'. Once all the blocks were on site, the bins were in place in about an hour. That was the nice thing about this project — it was an almost instant structure. The total cost was between \$1,500 and \$2,000, depending on the availability of a large enough machine to lift the concrete blocks.

At my previous job we built similarly sized bins out of railroad ties. It took most of a winter with two men. These blocks are cheaper, quicker and will stay in place better than railroad ties.

My next project will be to figure out a good way to get the hoop house frames and plastic roof over them. 🌱



A long view of GBCC material storage bins, set in the winter landscape. Marc chose a flat, well-graded site.



This photo gives some detail of Marc Davison's excellent idea.



MECHANICAL SOIL TECHNOLOGY

Contract Aeration Service • *Servicing The Entire Midwest*

VERTI-DRAIN®

The Ultimate Solution For Compacted Soil

David Strang • 442 Pine Street • Galesburg, IL 61401 • Phone (800) 743-2419



From Rookie Employee to Owner, All at One Place

By Lori Ward Bocher

In today's rapidly changing society where some people change jobs as easily as they change shoes, it's surprising to find someone who has spent his entire career at one place. It even surprises the one who's done it — Don Stein, president and owner of Kellogg Seeds & Supplies in Milwaukee.

While in college, he set a goal of managing a small business. After he achieved that goal, he decided he'd like to own a business. But he never imagined that he'd meet both of these goals at the same place he went to work for right out of college. "I never would have guessed that I would be working in an agriculturally based seed company when I had no background in it," Don adds. "But it has been most enjoyable."

What is his background? Don was born and raised in the Milwaukee area where his father was general manager of a small company and his mother was a homemaker. He graduated from Wauwatosa East High School in 1959, then made an easy decision to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "I had good friends there," he recalls while explaining why he chose Madison. "One of my best friends was majoring in chemical engineering, and I thought that looked pretty good to me."

However, it didn't look good for very long as Don eventually switched majors and graduated with a finance major and accounting minor in 1963. "After that I spent a short time in the service with six months of basic training in the Army Reserves," Don explains, adding that he was associated with the 84th division in Milwaukee. He continued part-time with the Reserves for six years.

"While in the service I actually interviewed with Kellogg Seeds," he recalls. "But I decided I really didn't know anything about agriculture and seed companies, although they were



Don Stein

looking for a person with a business and finance background. They were very weak on that end.

"So I went back to Madison and started working on a masters degree," Don continues. "I took some agricultural credits, too. At the end of the summer of 1964, I decided it was time to get out and start working at Kellogg. And I've been here ever since."

How did Don move from a general worker to president and owner of the company? He explains. "When I started here, the Kellogg family owned the business and had owned it since 1918. Mr. Kellogg had passed away, and there were two older gentlemen

running the business for the Kellogg family. There were no Kellogg heirs who were interested in the business.

"I started as a general worker, doing anything they wanted me to do. Eventually, I did get involved with some sales," he continues. "About two years after I started, the man who had been treasurer of the company (one of the two older men) passed away. I took over as treasurer and general manager. I was still pretty wet behind the ears as I moved into that position in 1966.

"In about 1970, I convinced the Kellogg family that, since no one in their family was interested in running the business, they should make some changes," Don explains. "I had met the Lofts of Lofts Pedigreed Seeds, Inc., and knew that they were looking for an operation in the Midwest. I invited them to come out and look at our operation. They liked what they saw, and they bought Kellogg Seeds in 1970 and owned us for approximately 10 years." During that time, Don was promoted to vice president and general manager.

"In 1980, Peter Loft, who was then president of Lofts, discovered he had an inoperable brain tumor. He knew that his life was going to be shortened, so he made some key business decisions," Don recalls. "I was the very fortunate recipient of one of

**TORO
3000**



**TORO
3000**

Golf Course Hydroinjection

Bill McMillan

Serving Central Wisconsin

2 MACHINES
PER COURSE

800 490 TURF

DAY OR
NIGHT