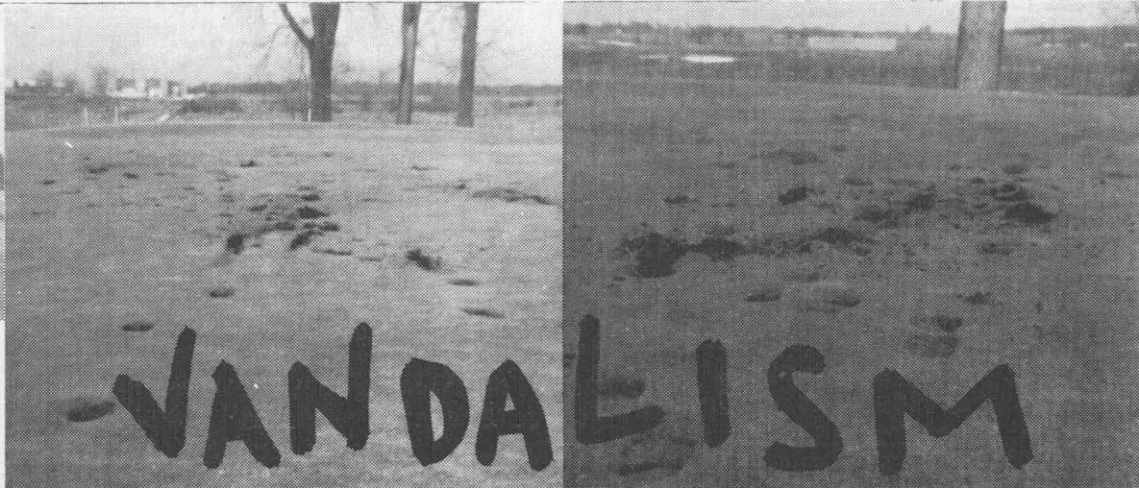




Larry Mueller
Golf Course
Superintendent
Minnesota Valley



A thing that causes a serious problem to a golf course superintendent and also a board of directors of a golf course is the damage done by vandals. The damage done by vandals upsets the work program of the superintendent and the financial budget of the board of directors as there is no way for either of the parties to contemplate these acts when making their plans and setting up a budget late in the fall for the following year.

Early this year the Minnesota Valley Country Club was hit by vandalism which caused considerable damage to their course. The eighth and eleventh greens and the seventh and eleventh tees were badly damaged by riders on horses riding over these greens and tees and the twelfth green by a rider on a motor bike. These uncalled for, ridiculous, senseless acts were apparently done in broad daylight, probably on a Sunday, a week or two before the course was open for play. These greens and tees were unplayable until April 30th, a delay of about two weeks, and then only after a considerable amount of money and 112 hours of work performed by the Golf Course Superintendent, Larry Mueller, and his staff.

As usual, the vandals left very little if any evidence that can be used to trace them, and therefore, they have not been apprehended, although every effort is being made to locate them. If found and convicted it is hoped that the court will deal with them in such a way that anyone having any idea of committing this kind of an act will give it some serious thought before creating this type of damage.

The Minikahda Club also had some damage done by vandals to their greens. However, the damage at Minikahda was done by kids with sticks or some other blunt instrument jabbing holes in the greens and scraping the turf on the greens. The damage at Minikahda was considered minor in comparison to that done at the Minnesota Valley Country Club.

The University Course also suffered damage by vandals. Large pieces of sod were cut out of #1, 10, 16 and 17 greens by the vandals and in one case the sod was cut out to spell a four letter word. The damage was done before the course opened and it was repaired by Superintendent Russ Adams and his staff so that the players did not see it and no one was offended.

The club officials and the golf course superintendents will have to sit down and try and figure out some kind of a program to combat this very expensive and damaging work by vandals. There have been several suggestions including setting up a reward-fund to be given to anyone furnishing information that would result in the arrest and conviction of the persons responsible for this kind of damage; adding to, or using one or two of the superintendent's staff to work nights and patrol the course in conjunction with their other work and furnish these people with telephones so they could contact the police rather than try to apprehend the offenders themselves as people that do this kind of a thing usually are rough and tough and could be dangerous. These, of course, are only suggestions and if anyone reading this article has any ideas as to how to cope with this problem, please contact the MGCSA office either by phone or by mail and your suggestion will be gratefully accepted and turned over to the proper parties for handling.