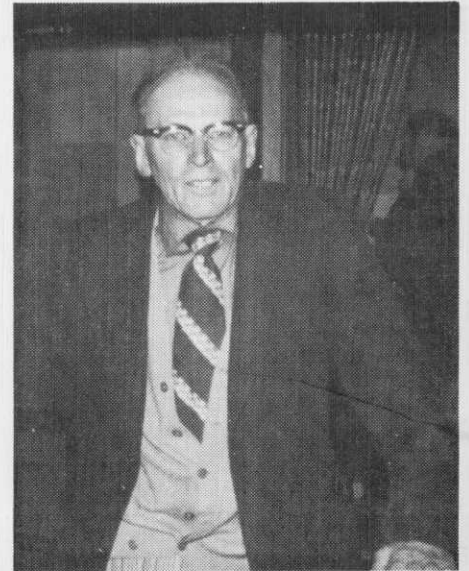


in recognition OF ONE OF THE REAL VETERANS OF THE MGCSA
SUPERINTENDENT IRV FULLER, MANKATO COUNTRY CLUB

It was the year 1932 when Irv was looking for work to fill a stopgap, due to a depression, in his line, road construction. He heard of a job at the Mankato Country Club and applied for the job and got it. It did not take him long to realize that this was the kind of work he wanted. It was out in the open air, working with nature and with people and he has been at it ever since.

Irv worked under the supervision of Del Ash the then Greenkeeper (as they were known in those days) and Del took an interest in Irv and encouraged him to stay on as he, Del, was nearing retirement age and thought Irv would be a good man to replace him. Del did retire in a couple of years and Irv worked one more year as an assistant under the Professional John MacRae and in the year 1935 Irv was named Superintendent and has been that ever since.



Irv Fuller

He quickly realized that there was much more to being a superintendent than just cutting grass and he began preparing himself to handle the job in the years to come. Some of the things he did was to attend night school in classes of mathematics at the Mankato High School; participate in seminars and workshops whenever they were available; visit other courses and superintendents to learn how they were run and how other superintendents carried out their plans; subscribed to turf magazines, read them thoroughly and studied the articles to gain any knowledge he could from them; spent many hours in the library studying books and articles on drafting and surveying. By 1936 Irv was sure that the position of Golf Course Superintendent was going to be his lifetime vocation. That was the year Harold Stodola, Superintendent at the Mendota Country Club was President of the MGCSA and Irv joined the Association and has been an active member ever since. He is proud to be the possessor of a GCSAA 25-year pin and a 30-year MGCSA Plaque.

There have been many changes in the work and responsibilities of a Golf Course Superintendent during the 42 years Irv has been in that profession. The greatest change is probably in the equipment. When he started most all



Snow removal in the 30s



Irv found time to play golf in 1931



This is how the greens were cut in 1931

of the work was done manually. Green mowers were pushed by hand and snow removal meant using a shovel. Now grass is cut by a power mower with the operator riding; snow removal and sanding is done with power equipment with the operator sitting in heated cabs.

There is so much more needed today to maintain a golf course than there was in the 30s. At that time it required only the superintendent and two men to do the job. Today it requires a large staff to keep the course in playing condition, for example, Irv has nine men, two of whom make up the night shift. Golf has become such a big business it requires much more money on upkeep. There is a constant developing program going on at all courses. There is rebuilding and re-designing of tees, greens, fairways and yes, even rough, maintaining a complete grass nursery, tree nursery, etc.

There are still some people ask the question what do the superintendents do besides cut grass. To them we say just look around and see what improvements have been made on your course. As a matter of fact the superintendent must be a man capable of keeping the course in the best playing condition; he must be a businessman, capable of hiring and getting the most out of his help; budgeting his program so as to have proper equip-

ment and material at the most economical cost to the club.

The superintendent is involved in so many areas of work that today young men going into this profession should, if possible, have a college degree particularly in Turf Management. Irv says that he is sure the older men could qualify for some of these degrees but they earned this knowledge through personal experience, hard work and dedication to their job.

Irv is very proud of the fact that several of the men that started their career at the Mankato Country Club under his supervision have gone on to successful careers on their own at other courses. These include his brother John, at Midland Hills Country Club, St. Paul; George Gibbons, Jackson Golf Club, Jackson, Minnesota; Dennis Schoenfelt, Root River Country Club, Spring Valley, Minn. Irv has stayed at the same course on which he started. During these years he has seen the facilities expand to an 18 hole course, a swimming pool added and just recently a beautiful new club house. He has always enjoyed his work; the pleasant relationship he has had with the members. In 1972 (his fortieth year) in appreciation for his fine work at the club, the members played host to Irv and his wife to a vacation to Hawaii. They had a wonderful vacation and it was greatly appreciated by Irv and his wife.

He has always tried to contribute his best efforts to the improvement of the Mankato course and is proud of its condition today. Irv has, since joining the MGCSA been a very active member, having served as its President for one year and on the Board of Directors for fifteen years. He feels the Association has done a great deal in developing the superintendents' profession and recommends that every superintendent and assistant superintendent be an active member. Superintending a golf course has given him a satisfying and fulfilling life. If the years ahead are as good as the year past he will be able to say truthfully that he certainly made no mistake in choosing this profession for a career.