

soil provided by Greensairing should provide an excellent seedbed for germination.

While this program may seem to be quite labor intensive, it is not as bad as it may seem. It is started the second week of September after our Greens and Tees are completed. One-half of our fairways are done in the fall with the remainder completed the following spring. Much of the coring is done by 2-3 high school students after school so we are not tying up needed labor for this operation at the expense of other things which need to be done on the course. Seldom do we have any more than two people working on this operation at any one time.

There is a long list of agronomic advantages associated with Greensairing. However, I have listed just a few of those which I feel are of major importance:

- 1) Reduced compaction.
- 2) Thatch reduction.
- 3) Increased root system going into summer stress period.
- 4) More effective performance from fertilizer and chemicals.
- 5) More level surface (topdressing affect).
- 6) Less tearing and disruption to turf in relation to other aerifiers.

Obviously, the disadvantages of this program are one of cost. I would itemize the cost factors of this program as follows:

- 1) Labor - 350 man hours/year (based on 31 acres).
- 2) Machine repair. We have found extensive repairs to be needed following 200+ operating hours/machine.
- 3) Gypsum -- 9-10 tons (600-700#/Acre).
- 4) Penneagle Bentgrass - 450 pounds (15#/Acre).

I feel the cost of this program is well justified. It has definitely contributed to a higher quality turf which can better endure over summer stress period.

## POSITION OPEN

Mechanic, Dellwood Hills Golf Club  
Experience in turf equipment required  
Starting salary, \$13,000 - negotiable  
Sent Resume to Dan DeMars, Dellwood Hills Golf Club, Highway 96, White Bear Lake, Minn. 55110. Deadline for resumes is January 31, 1984.

## REFLECTIONS OF THE LAST SUMMER



by MARY SISSON  
IRONWOOD GOLF COURSE

"One learns to hope that Nature possesses an order that one may aspire to comprehend". Quote by C. N. Yang (1922- ).

I came across this quote during one of my physic classes and although it certainly describes the orderly fashion that one hopes to learn from physical laws, it certainly describes our yearning to understand the order of Mother Nature. But she sure threw us an unorderly summer this year. The last summer was anything but normal. For you seasoned superintendents, you've seen years come and go and know that in Minnesota you are lucky to get a normal year. But for a rookie superintendent this year at Ironwood Golf Course, I had to learn to adjust quickly to the adversities of weather, stress and limited resources.

Let me begin with limited resources, as this along with the weather contributed to stressful situations. The main problem I faced this year was adequate irrigation. The irrigation system at Ironwood consists of hoses and a sprinkler on each of the greens and tees. There is one valve per green and tee. Due to the hilly terrain of the course and an inadequate water pumping system, the coverage was spotty and inconsistent. I pumped water to the course from a holding tank which takes about twenty-four hours to fill. The pump only put out about 20 gallons per minute. Needless to say, this wasn't enough water during those stressful weeks of July and August to keep a lot

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of our turf green. We spiked often, but we were fighting a thatch layer that had built up from years of mismanagement. Plus the water applied just wasn't reaching the root zone. A new water system was definitely the answer.

Since Ironwood is a small nine-hole course, my budget of both money and labor was very limited. This made it even more frustrating for me to do my job. But as I reflect back on the year, there are some positive things that need to be mentioned. By far it was one of the best educations of practical experience I have had. I learned management skills, bargaining skills and leadership skills. We attempted to practice good cultural habits and implemented sound topdressing, fertilizing, mowing and pest control programs with our limited funds. These were some of my goals this year and I feel good that they were reached.

But we in the golf course profession know that it takes a few years to see the results of our cultural practices. And this is the one goal, at least at Ironwood, that I won't be able to

accomplish. Some of you may know that Ironwood has closed its golf course permanently. The owner for years tried to make it profitable but decidedly got fed up with it this year and wanted out. Personally I feel that the golf course had poor management over the years. Money was not put back onto the course for improvements. It was a worn out course in desperate need of renovation. But now it will return to pasture grass. The owner has other plans for it. It was a sad day for me when I left. Not only did I lose my job, but I had this unsettled feeling in myself. I just don't know if I succeeded or failed as a superintendent. I never had the chance to find out as the question can't be answered in a year. Many people in Mankato and I will miss Ironwood. It had character, beauty and was a challenge to play.

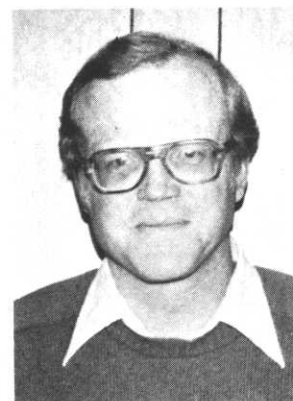
For myself, I'm back in school working toward a teaching certificate to make my degree and self more employable. My desire to raise a family is also becoming a top priority so now would be a good time to take a few years off. I hope to remain a member of this outstanding organization so that I can keep up my education of the turf grass industry. Someday I would like to come back to turf management.



**Best Wishes For  
A  
Happy Holiday Season**

**FROM  
LANDSCAPE and TURF  
Milt, Catherine and John Wiley**

## ASSOCIATES' CORNER



### THE FOUNDING OF A "UNIQUE" BUSINESS

by KENT KROMER  
KROMER CO.

The Kromer Co. was founded back on June 1, 1967 by my father and myself.

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