

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.

continued on Page 8

My father, a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering, started designing and manufacturing a full line of spray equipment in 1947. He later expanded his manufacturing operations to include fork lift truck and front end loaders. The front end loader was the predecessor to the Ford Loader. He sold his manufacturing business to Erickson Company in 1963. He stayed on as Vice President for four years after which he sold his stock in the company and retired from company operations.

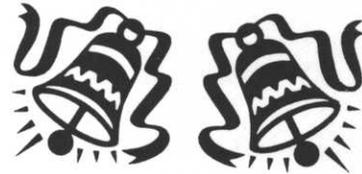
About this same time I was ready to make a change in my vocation. I had been working for First National Bank as a mid-level supervisor in charge of 60 people.

The first line of equipment we handled was the Yazoo riding rotary mower. From there we branched out to handle a full line of Turf Equipment. Now we are distributors for such name brands as Roseman, Howard, Heckendorn mowers; Myers, Broyhill sprayers; Turf Vac Vacuums and utility vehicles; Yanmar and

Holder Tractors, etc.

The reason I call it a "unique" business is because we are also a manufacturer as well as a distributor. We manufacture the Kromer Vibrator Tree Balling Machine for nursery use. We have been selling this world wide. Along with this we distribute several lines of nursery equipment.

The Kromers along with the rest of their employees are very happy to have been associated with such a viable organization as the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association. We would also like to express our thanks for the business that has been placed with us through the golf course superintendents.



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