

was great and I'm sure that all in attendance had a great time.

In the week prior to the Whitefish trip, the Board met at Baker Park where we had a chance to check out the layout for the July picnic. I am convinced that this is going to be a real outing if the weather man cooperates. I played a few holes of golf with John Nylund, Jim Wodash and Host Superintendent Steven Young. The 9-Hole regulation course will be a good challenge for all. Put the date on your calendar and plan to attend. The format has changed somewhat so please watch for the changes. It is a family outing and Baker Park has some excellent facilities for all. MONDAY, JULY 11 is the date. See you all there.

Summer has finally arrived in southern Minnesota. Things are greening up, temperatures are rising and the weather has finally decided to cooperate with us. Let's hope that the stress of July and August won't be too severe. But so far, things really seem to be falling into shape.

We really have some interesting articles this month and more is on tap for next month. The cooperation has been super.

ASSOCIATES' CORNER

REFLECTIONS ON MY LIFE WITH A GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT.

by LINDA CALDWELL

In May 1974 I met my first golf course superintendent. Prior to that time I didn't know such people existed because I had never been on a golf course and knew absolutely nothing about the game of golf. Since then I still know very little about the game; however, I feel I understand at least a little more about this person known as a golf course superintendent.

What could a golf course superintendent possibly have to do but cut the grass, I thought. No big deal, right? Wrong! I was soon informed during a tour and golf lesson from the golf course superintendent of the various duties and responsibilities involved. It was certainly eye opening to me. What does a golf course superintendent do in the winter, I wondered. If only I had a nickel for all the times I have been asked that question. Continued on page 11

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The lingo of a golf course superintendent is something else, too. It includes much talk about bentgrass, ryegrass and blue grass, topdressing, aerating and verticutting as well as those awful occurrences know as Pythium, Aetenius and that dreaded wilt. Then there is Milorganite. I've even been made aware of what that can do. Our Springer Spaniel, Thatch, who hangs out at the golf course, tasted some of it one day and later got sick and deposited it all over our living room carpet. What a mess! Not knowing what this thick black substance was I panicked, thinking for sure Thatch was doomed. She looked so sick and pathetic lying there motionless. After a few questions to the golf course superintendent, the mystery soon unraveled. Thatch survived the Milorganite but it certainly didn't promote any growth in her intelligence.

Soon after I met this golf course superintendent I became aware that our lives would revolve around the golf season. Unlike our neighbors who would be leaving town for weekends during the summer, we would always be around to watch them drive away with their campers or other recreational vehicles pulling

their boats and motors. What a bummer! Our summer vacation usually falls on a rainy day in late October. Oh, well!

Even on a rare weekend away from the golf course thoughts of it are always foremost in the golf course superintendent's mind. Also, being in the presence of more than one golf course superintendent means that any given time the topic of conversation is guaranteed to be golf courses. What furthered my realization of the total devotion that a golf course superintendent has for his profession became evident to me when a huge cardboard box containing a portion of the 16th green appeared on our dining room table one day this past winter. Unlike most people who may have common house plants on their dining room tables, we had something unique that proved to be quite a conversation piece. After a few weeks of TLC I was informed that the green had survived the winter and so had the golf course superintendent.

I have found the weather to be an important variable which influences the

Continued on page 12



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life of the golf course superintendent. A rainy day in July is always welcomed. I even find myself occasionally wishing for rain while others are planning various outdoor summer activities. I have learned that a good rain now and then can work wonders for the golf course superintendent's mood. If he lives through the golf season he still finds himself concerned over such situations as amounts of snow cover and the possibility of snow mold during the winter.

As a close acquaintance of a golf course superintendent I feel that being a supportive listener and trying to be patient and understanding can help to ease some of the pressures on the golf course superintendent. Attempting to convince him to relax is another task I try to undertake. Even if I am not able to understand fully all of the stress involved with being a golf course superintendent, I can appreciate the hard work and resulting beauty of the golf course on a warm summer day. Although I don't regret having met this golf course superintendent, I'm sometimes very thankful that at least I have a "normal" job with "normal" hours.

WHAT A PRICE TO PAY!

We all know that the prices of various goods advance at different rates. Some will shoot ahead, while some will remain static. What would happen, though, if you took the price trend for the last five years and projected it to the next 10 years, or to the year 2001?

That is exactly what Manplan Consultants, a Chicago-based management consulting firm, has done in a recent study. Here are projected prices for various goods based on their price trends in the past 10 years (are you ready?)

	1973	1977	1987	2001
Low priced car	3,000	5,000	17,700	105,000
High priced car	6,500	12,000	55,320	471,240
Private college tuition	3,000	3,840	7,219	17,510
Average house	34,500	54,000	191,160	1,134,000
Bar of soap	.15	.35	3.01	61.12
Toothpaste	.39	.79	4.89	62.80
Rump roast (lb.)	1.49	1.49	1.64	1.89
Ground beef (lb.)	.89	1.19	2.57	7.54
Coffee (lb.)	.70	3.25	163.86	39,642
Jelly (small jar)	.25	.59	5.28	113.98
Sunday Newspaper	.30	.60	4.38	70.92



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