

malignant tumor of the intestines, and I can only tell you it is really good to be here. All of the great suggestions I had to offer the group really do not seem that important now! I think the association is doing just fine, my compliments to all of you.

I am informed that the purpose of these articles by the Associate Members is to give a brief biography of the company and their personnel. I have been in the golf business all of my life in some form or another. After serving as a superintendent at several courses in the Philadelphia area, I was very fortunate to move to Woodhill Country Club in 1951. After two years at Woodhill I was offered the position of institutional salesman at Minnesota Toro. I am sure that many of you have given some thought to switching to the sales side of this business and at the time of this offer I really had to do some soul searching about such a drastic change in my life style and I am sure that any of you would have the same problem. The decision was made in favor of Minnesota Toro and I started my wanderings around Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota. This was really a new way of life and I really enjoyed being on the road but remember, I was very young back in those days. When it comes to traveling the territory now, it really is a lot of work. This may explain to many of you why you do not know me. In 1960 Tot Heffelfinger was looking for a superintendent and general manager for the golf and land development that is now Hazeltine National. I was offered the position and accepted, and now I was back on the other side of the fence. I was always very proud of Hazeltine, but I must have done a lousy job because they have practically rebuilt the course since I left there. I remained at Hazeltine until the completion of the U.S. Open in 1970 at which time I had the opportunity to become the Milorganite distributor for this area, and here I am on the supplier side of the fence again. This was the beginning of M. T. Wiley, Inc. and eventually, Landscape and Turf Co. In 1976 my son, John, joined the company with a degree in Landscape Architecture which gave us the opportunity to broaden our services to the trade. John is now very active in all phases of the company and eventually

will be your "Main Man" because I am getting tired. Boots said this is not to be a commercial for Landscape and Turf so I will end with "God bless you all as you travel thru the Green".

RESEARCH REPORT

by JERRY MURPHY

Superintendent, Somerset Country Club

We all know that the summer of 1983 will go down in history as one of the most challenging for Golf Course Superintendents in Minnesota. But for many of us with predominately poa fairways, it will also go down as one of the most frustrating.

That crazy, uncontrollable disease, which has yet to be identified, although it has been called many things, has plagued us all season. For those few lucky ones who don't know what we are talking about, let me explain. This disease yellows a round spot 6-10 inches in diameter, usually on fairways but not restricted thereto by any means. Within a few days the disease spots are dead. Where there once was turf, there now is bare dirt, not even dead grass; just dirt. This is new to most of us so pathologists and agronomists were called from the U.S.G.A. and the University. Samples were also collected and sent to several testing labs. We received conflicting reports and thus added to the frustration. Concerned and somewhat confused, a group of us met at Oak Ridge to discuss the situation. It was apparent we had a very serious problem that was not only affecting Minnesota courses but many Mid-Western states as well. It was also apparent that normal actions and reactions to the situation was not enough. We needed answers to our questions of what is it? What causes it? How do we control it? And we needed them fast! With this in mind, your Research Committee asked Dr. Ward Stienstra to head a task force which includes Dr. Joe Vargus of Michigan State, to attack this problem and come up with the answers. Ward agreed that he, Dr. Vargus and others will be studying the situation during the week of September 19. Hopefully, by the December conference a report will be in your hands helping us gear up for the season of 1984.

THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE