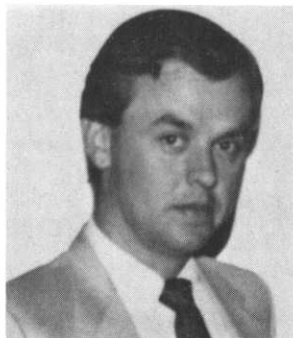


FIRST YEAR SUPERINTENDENT



by MICHAEL OLSON
GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

Now that I have one year behind me as superintendent of the Golden Valley Country Club, I look back over that year and think about all the things I have learned about golf course management.

The things in which I feel helped me the most in the transition from assistant superintendent to superintendent were the experiences and responsibilities I had as an assistant superintendent. Being given the opportunity to attend greens committee meetings, assignment of the daily operations on the golf course, attending local, regional and national conferences are a few of the things which I think helped. What I believe it all comes down to is the more you are exposed to as an assistant, the better you are going to be prepared for the superintendent's position.

The first thing I did as superintendent was to evaluate the entire property, to try and sort through everything and put the priorities in order. Once these priorities were established long hours were spent trying to accomplish them. There was so much work to be done from making the changes that I wanted to doing things that just were not done over the years for one reason or another. I think the most frustrating times were not being able to do all that I wanted to do because of too few people, not enough equipment or just not enough money. The season seemed to go by very fast and I feel fortunate to have had an easy summer for my first year of growing turfgrass.

I feel that good communication among the different people a superintendent deals with is very important. Good public relations with the membership, greens committees, management staff, grounds crew and others makes the job go much smoother. Good communication with other superintendents is also very important in solving problems which come up, loaning equipment or probably most important, getting spirits and interests renewed!

I think that on a whole my first year as a superintendent went very well. My crew and I received many favorable comments and some negative ones. We had good weather most of the growing season. We had some good luck and the most important asset for a successful season for any superintendent is a good responsible group of people working for you.

There were frustrating times and there were good times. We learned a great deal from the mistakes we made and I am very anxiously looking forward to and planning for next spring.

One of my goals for next year is going to try and host a M.G.C.S.A. monthly meeting. I know many of you haven't seen Golden Valley in many years and we would like to have you here.

ASSOCIATE'S CORNER NEW TOPDRESSING AND SAND TRAP SOURCE

by GAY-LYNNE SNYDER
MINNESOTA FRAC SAND

Thirty miles southwest of the Twin Cities, located on a 198 acre site along Highway 169 is Minnesota Frac Sand, a new supplier of silica sand.

A Division of the J. L. Shiely Company, Minnesota Frac Sand is currently in its third year of business. Plant construction began in the fall of 1980 and the summer of 1981 marked the first shipment of a premium quality silica sand to the oil servicing companies.

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Physical properties of the 520 million year old, loosely consolidated sandstone deposit are its cleanliness, purity, unique roundness and resistance to crushing which make the sand well suited for fracturing oil and gas reservoirs. The Jordan sandstone was formed on the beaches of an ancient Cambrian sea from quartz grains which were freed by the erosion of the granite in the Canadian shield. It is found only in the Hollandale embayment, a geological structure located in southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. The quartz sand was washed, sifted, sorted and resorted by repeated tides and winds over millions of years before it was protected from erosion by younger sediments.

Golf courses are one of the end users of this unique sand product. Several golf courses within a 70 mile radius use Minnesota Frac Sand - 40 and 3560 for construction and topdressing of greens and tees and also for sand traps. Due to its cleanliness and uniform medium particle size, it offers excellent drainage properties. Its light buff color also adds to beautification of the course. Texas A & M University test results on particle size, bulk density, pore space distribution, infiltration rate, moisture retention and pH are available from Minnesota Frac Sand upon request.

Today, Minnesota Frac Sand employs 20 people and can blend different grain sizes to produce materials for various diverse markets..sizes range from #8 through #140 mesh. In addition to golf courses, other markets Minnesota Frac Sand supplies silica sand for include fracturing oil and gas wells, abrasive sands, filter sands, traction sands, glass sand, foundry sand, pesticide carrier sands, masonry sand,

sand used for production of cement, airport sand and filler sand.

Minnesota Frac Sand has many end uses for its silica sand and ships products locally as well as to the west coast and central Canada by truck and rail. Products are available in bulk or bag form. New markets are continually being looked at which would benefit from this basic mineral which is low cost, inert and consistent.

WHAT IS CYLINDER GRINDING? (OR FLAT GRINDING?)

by ARNIE BODHAINE
DWAN AND HYLAND GOLF COURSES

Cylinder grinding is grinding a mower reel while it is rotating in one direction and the grinding stone is turning in the opposite direction. The cutting stone moves back and forth automatically. This machine is also available without the automatic back and forth movement. On that machine, the cutting stone is moved back and forth manually. I prefer the "automatic" because the stone keeps the back and forth movement speed exactly the same at all times. There is less chance of the stone going slower or stopping and cutting a low spot or burning the fly knife. You end up with a perfect cylinder because all fly knives are ground at the same time with the same stone to fly knife adjustment.

With a normally worn reel, less metal is removed so there is a longer reel life because all you have to do is true up the reel. The bedknife grind is quite critical. If you get a good bedknife grind, no

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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