



EDITOR'S CORNER

FRED ANDERSON, JR.

It looks like Dale Caldwell caught the biggest fish at Mille Lacs Lake, an eight pound walleye. Rumor has it that he was seen coming out of Morrey's Fish House with a package under his arm (about the size of an 8 pound walleye). Congratulations are also in order for Dave Krupp, Mike Redmond and Lyle Olson for landing the "elusive Mille Lacs Lake Silver Sucker", a fish noted for its fighting and great leaping ability. Again guys, a great job of fishing! A great deal of thanks go out to Wally Benson and his staff for another super day of fishing, excellent meal and friendly atmosphere. I know that every one in attendance had a very enjoyable outing. Thanks also go to Dan Miller of R. L. Gould's, Richard Berscheit of P & H Warehouse Sales Co., and to Rick Frederickson of Rolling Green C.C. for their contributions of knowledge and ideas that they shared with us all in last month's newsletter.

According to the 1984 Tax Reform Act effective January 1, 1985 anyone who has a company vehicle will be responsible for recording all mileage. If you comply, you will keep your business vehicle tax benefits. If you fail to comply, the IRS will disallow all deductions and credits (i.e. no depreciation, no investment credit, no oil, gas or maintenance deductions) regardless of how legitimate your arguments may be regarding business use of the vehicle. What it amounts to is no daily mileage log - no deductions. Also this must be done to protect your club's tax depreciation. If this log is not properly maintained, besides the loss of the club's deductions, you will be issued a form 1099 or W-2 treating the value of the use of the vehicle entirely as compensation. I would suggest you contact your club's accountant for a more exact explanation of properly keeping your mileage log.

Don't forget to mark on your calendar the date March 11 for the Mini-Seminar to be held at Majestic Oaks. It sounds like a great slate of speakers will be on hand.

CHANGING TIMES

by KURT ERDMANN
SUPERINTENDENT
ROCHESTER GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Golf course maintenance forty years ago was quite different from today's demand for perfection. In 1944 I began working at Soldiers Field Municipal Golf Course in Rochester. There were three people employed for golf course maintenance. One man did the fairway mowing which also included mowing the collars with one wheel running on the greens and cutting the tees with the same mower with the tractor driving right over the tees. The second man would change the cups and come in early in the morning to water the greens and tees with the old California type sprinklers which had to be moved about four times. This left the third person to cut greens which were mowed every other day. We used a Worthington Overgreen which was a walk behind triplex. The tractor would pull the mowers that were roller driven. Obviously, triplex mowers are not anything new but rather they are much more efficient today. They are now hydraulically driven and have a much smoother and superior cut. We also had one 18" Toro pony greens mower.

In those days there weren't many pesticides used compared to the number used today. We would use milorganite to fertilize the greens, in the spring and fall a muriate of potash would be mixed in and in the summer arsenate of lead was mixed in to get rid of insects. As I think back to those days, we didn't know what poa anna was....we never had any. The probable reason for its non-existence is the use of arsenate of lead and there was as little watering done as possible. Thatch did accumulate on the greens and to combat this we used a delmonte rake which had to be pushed by hand to accumulate a two-wheel trailer load which was removed from each green in the spring. The only other pesticides used were calo clor and thiram for summer disease which was mainly brown

patch. The calo clor was also used in the late fall for snow mold. 24D was used for weeds.

We did topdress greens approximately once per month using a hand pulled topdresser. Two men would pull and one would push. The topdressing materials were mixed off season using a 1-1- 1- mix; one sand, one soil and one peat.

Tees got very little attention outside of occasional fertilizing and watering. However, the last thing we did in the fall before putting the course to bed for the winter was to go to a farm and buy rotted manure. (This is a lot like compost). It was spread on heavy by hand shoveling. The tees would be overseeded prior to spreading on the manure. The tees always seemed to be in good condition the following spring.

Today in 1985 the golf course is groomed to no end. The greens are cut daily at 3/16", 5/32" and some are even cut at 1/8". Tees are cut at our course on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 1/2". This doesn't even seem to be short enough. The fairways are cut every other day and long holes again on Saturday at 1/2". Roughs are cut at 1 1/2" on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Traps are raked with a power rake daily and are edged regularly to keep a sharp edge. During the three months of the warmer season we spray the greens for fungus on a preventative basis every 7 to 10 days. The tees and fairways are also sprayed for fungus. In the '40s we used four pesticides; today we are using dozens of pesticides...maybe far too many at the expense of the creation of many other problems. Our fairways are fertilized with three applications per season with 2 1/2 lbs. of N per 1,000. An application for tees is about 3 lbs. N per 1,000 and greens receive 5 lbs. N per 1,000 with K equal to 3/4 of N. In 1940 about half of this was used on greens and tees. The fairways received very little every other year or so.

Believe it or not, the whole golf course operating budget back then was under \$25,000 and we had quite a good golf course. Today's operating budget is reaching \$13,000 per hole plus additional funds for course improvements. This cost will continue to grow as competition increases.

In looking back, maybe it was easier forty years ago. Costs were relatively low and competition had not begun to escalate the costs of maintaining a top-notch course. The job of a maintenance crew was restricted to mostly physical labor. However, today with computerized irrigation systems, licensing requirements for pesticide control and the latest technology being utilized in equipment makes the career an exciting choice. The role of the golf course superintendent is constantly changing, giving us the opportunity to expand our minds and grow as individuals.

NEW ERA IN NEW PRAGUE

by W. SCOTT PROSHEK
BOB ADAMS
NEW PRAGUE GOLF CLUB

Fast approaching (possibly an earlier opening than usual) is my 5th year as manager and the on again, off again position of assistant superintendent. Each year has offered its own challenges, met with mixed results. Nevertheless, the learning process goes on.

Our past superintendents have been exclusively from the retired farming section. Being originally from New Prague, I've seen the course come a long way over the years. These farmers have done an excellent job providing our players with a course to be proud of. Yet not one of these former superintendents has received any formal turfgrass education nor been a member of the M.G.C.S.A.

New ideas in the turfgrass business are changing so quickly that it's time for us to change also. This past year we hired Bob Adams as superintendent and Bob and I joined the M.G.C.S.A. What we have learned through the association's monthly meetings, Mini-seminars, the recent annual conference or a simple one on one conversation has been enormously beneficial. My only regret is that I should have joined long ago.

Patience seems to be the theme Bob and I are experiencing now. Convincing members of needed changes is maintenance schedules and programs is easier said than

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