

TEARING UP TARTAN



by JOE MORIS
Superintendent
Tartan Park Golf Course

Tartan Park is a recreation area for 3M employees and their guests. The Park covers 483 acres and has multiple uses that consist of 4 lighted ballfields with participation of 120 teams, 12 tennis courts, 2 large pavilions, 1 mini pavilion, Radio Control Airplane Club, Ham Radio Club, Astronomy Club, 2 bocci ball courts, 2 Frisbee golf courses, 4 sand volleyball courts, 4 horseshoe courts, 2 football fields, a nature center, groomed snowmobile and cross-country trails and, until this winter, downhill skiing and tubing with five rope tows and 6 snow making machines. The ski hill has now been lowered by 37.5 feet for the new 18th hole which gets me to the article I intended to write.

In 1975 the problems began...rain, rain, and more rain! The creek from Lake Elmo which had been dry during my lifetime began to run. It destroyed two of our nicest holes and partially destroyed two others. The flow stopped about one year later, just long enough to allow us to rebuild four holes only to see them disappear in the "flow" again in 1978. Yes! They are still under several feet of water.

"Enough waiting for the water to recede," said 3M management. We did not want to reconstruct the old back nine anticipating some day to recover its original beauty. So, on with a complete new nine hole course and a redesign of the 17th and 18th holes of the old back nine to allow access to the Clubhouse for the new course.

We divided the contract into six schedules: 1) heavy earthmoving; 2) building greens and tees; 3) irrigation; 4) seeding and sodding; 5) pumping station; and 6) trees and shrubs. The total cost of this project is two million dollars.

The new eleven holes are going to be an exciting challenge for me. Upon completion we will have 27 acres of prairie grass and wild flowers and a new 1600 g.p.m. multi-purpose pumping station that will do the following: supply the new double row irrigation system, dewater the old back nine into five lagoons on the new course, irrigate four ballfields and the old back nine which we hope to keep partially out of the water.

Holes 1, 9 and 18 required 200,000 yards of dirt moving and 1140 feet of 36 inch sewer pipe while staying clear of an existing 24 inch gas main. These three holes greatly contributed to the cost.

Construction began during an extremely wet October, 1984. At Christmas we were 90% complete with the heavy earthmoving; in my mind ahead of schedule.

We are planning to seed during the second week of August, 1985 with play beginning early July, 1986. Did you ever make promises to your Greens Committee???

1985 and '86 are going to be busy. We are also completing a 9,375 square foot Maintenance Building and two new mini pavilions.

Our Maintenance crew consists of three full time employees, including myself, one permanent part time and ten seasonal employees. Our golf course is maintained with less than 300 work hours per week.

I am looking forward to hosting the M.G.C.S.A. soon.

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