

Musser International Turf Grass Foundation. Don't forget the annual conference December 4,5,6 at the Sheraton Northwest. The \$175.00 trip drawing usually done at the end of the conference will instead be drawn at the end of the business meeting.

I must apologize for my lack of creative juices this month. I have spent many hours with pen in hand and nothing flows. Sorry. See you at the annual conference.

TRANSITION AT STILLWATER

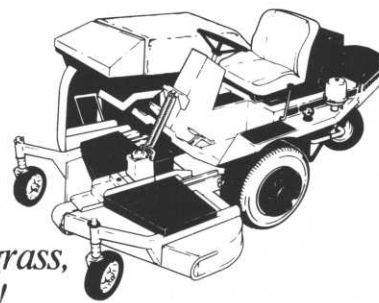
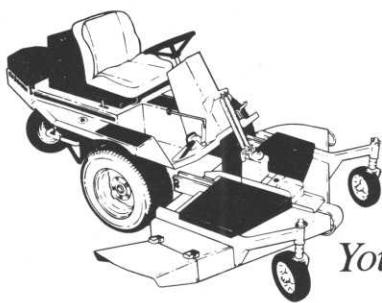
by KEVIN CLUNIS
Superintendent Stillwater Country Club

As winter draws near at Stillwater Country Club I've taken some time to reflect on this past season. My first year here started on a sad note. I replaced the greenskeeper, Lyle Cran, who had worked here for 37 years. I had worked under him during the summers I attended college in

the late 1970's. I remember him as a man who worked hard and never complained. He was hired in 1947 as greenskeeper after one year's experience working on the grounds crew. He learned over the years what worked and what did not and stuck by those values all the time. He changed very little with the times but was successful at his job for doing so. He was able to get by for years with a shoestring and baling wire to keep the machines running. He spent very little money and, thus, kept the dues of the members down. Lyle gained construction experience when Stillwater expanded from nine holes to eighteen holes in 1957. That was the same year I was born.

What really helped Lyle out the most over the years has been the help of volunteers from the club. There were many rock-picking parties right after the construction was over. Lyle never turned down a volunteer worker no matter how big or small a job. One of Lyle's earliest memories was getting enough volunteers to round up a herd of cows that settled upon the lush fairways for grazing! Another
Continued

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task using volunteers was a massive tree planting program instituted as soon as the Dutch Elm Disease was diagnosed at Stillwater Country Club. Other tasks included expansion of the maintenance building, tee construction and several painting projects.

Now that Lyle is gone, it is my turn to carry on the traditions at Stillwater Country Club that he left. As things change, many remain the same. Take for instance greens mowing. Years ago the only type of greens mower was a walker. Then they built the rider and everybody switched. Now the trend is toward going back to walkers. Stillwater's greens have always been cut by walkers and I will continue to do so as long as I am here. Lyle probably turned over in his grave when I test drove a riding greens mower this year. My philosophy is the same as Lyle's when it comes to spraying pesticides. At the first sign of disease, spray. This way you don't over spray chemicals into the environment and it keeps the costs down. I've continued to

use volunteer labor this year when the board set aside some tee and trap projects to do. The volunteers also helped on elm removal when I lost more than forty trees this year. It was nice to see the elms falling though, giving way to the younger trees that were planted ten years ago.

My main objective over the next few seasons is not to change anything but improve upon what I can. I am moving into a rigorous regular maintenance program on the course and a preventative maintenance program in the shop. I am keeping a careful watch of my budget and keep communications open with my greens chairman to inform him of all operations on the course.

Overall, I had a good season. The transition from an assistant to superintendent went smoothly. I have a good working relationship with the Board of Directors and the 415 members. As I gain more experience in the next few years, I will always keep in mind my predecessor and his ability to stay successful for many years.

See you in

San Francisco

at the

57th International
Golf Course
Conference & Show

Moscone Convention Center
January 29-February 5, 1986

