

would have to go to a two row system tee to green or parcel on ten of the eighteen fairways. On the remaining eight fairways we would use existing quick coupler locations and snap Toro 670 electric sprinklers in their place. We decided to go with electric control on fairways because it would allow us the convenience of not having to make the electrical connections immediately but still utilize the sprinkler manually until we had the time.

Another problem that was undertaken the summer of 1984 was our numerous dead ends in the piping that had to be corrected. I started the fall of '84 on this and after two years have installed 1500' of pipe and eliminated about thirty of them.

I was to begin this three year project the spring of 1985 but between not enough money and more than enough rain, over 44 inches, normal here is 17, it was hard to convince my Board of Directors of the importance of this \$60,000 project. On that same note we only watered our fairways once over a ten day period in July.

In a sense I did begin the project because we got a new Vari Time 3 central with six clocks as compared to my 4 clock Vari Time II central. In 1984 we also began installing Toro 670 electric sprinklers whenever we had a sticky or leaking quick coupler on fairways.

Supposedly next spring I'll begin the project by doing the first five holes or numbers 1,5,7,8,9. Spring of '87 we'll do holes 2,3,4,10,11; Spring of '88 holes 12,13,14,15,16,17,18 & 6. I'm not done then because at that point we'll have to increase our pumping capacity from 600 gpm to 900 gpm.

To make a long drawn out process short, many people have contributed to this project which Dick Wise began in 1966, Dave worked on and I'm trying to finish. I'll be done, hopefully, by fall of 1989. Twenty-three years isn't really that long and who knows, by then maybe the weather patterns will change somewhat and turn the great white north into a tropical rain forest.



EDITOR,S CORNER

RANDY NELSON

I am sure most of our maintenance buildings are buzzing with the sounds of mowers being sharpened or other machinery being repaired. Our club officials are scrutinizing our maintenance budgets for the coming season and the new club officials are anxiously waiting to take over their new areas of responsibility. This may be the time when we as superintendents can take time away from our jobs to pursue winter interests, vacation with our families, or just sit back and think about last season's accomplishments. But I also believe this is a good time to get to know our new greens chairman, if he is new. We have the opportunity this winter to educate this individual by explaining to him our maintenance practices and goals for which we are striving. I feel we should keep our greens chairman informed about things happening in our industry by providing him with information such as: the USGA Green Section Record, or the Golf Course Management Magazine. Being a national member of GCSAA has its benefits, and one benefit I use each year is to place my new green chairman's name on my second complimentary copy of the Golf Course Management Magazine. I have this copy sent directly to his home so he can read the same material I am reading and become more knowledgeable about the turf industry. By giving him this information, I feel my greens chairman becomes more attuned to the ideas I hope to implement and accomplish at Owatonna Country Club. If you aren't already taking advantage of this benefit from GCSAA, try it.

If you were one of our members who missed the fishing outing at Mille Lac's and meeting at Izaty's Lodge on January 6th you really missed a chance to catch - a cold. Weather conditions were perfect for severe frostbite, unfortunately, not fishbite. The fishing reports that circulated around the lodge were about the

number of small perch and few small walleyes that were caught. Steve Hamelea's group probably did the best of all, catching about thirty good sized perch for the fry pan. Our guide, Jerry Anderson, reported that Mille Lac's Lake has not had two winters this bad for fishing in many, many years.

A few of us diehards did have a close encounter with an "Argo". An "Argo" is an all terrain vehicle equipped with tracks for transporting fishermen to and from their fish houses. Jerry Anderson chauffeured six of us out to our fish houses in the morning against a -40 degree windchill. My hat goes off to this gentleman who earns a living by pitting himself against some of the harshest conditions we humans can experience. He has to be out on the ice by himself reaying the cozy comforts of a fish house for the enjoyment of his clientle. It is nice to know there are individuals who enjoy not being able to thaw themselves out until July 1st. Thanks, Jerry, I had a great time.

Thanks are also in order to Calvin Schmidt

and Jerry Dubbs, our hosts for the day. The evening meal of steak and fish and all the trimmings was truly excellent. The atmosphere around the lodge at that time of year puts everyone in a relaxed state of mind. Did I say relaxed? I meant frozen. Anyway, thanks again Calvin and Jerry for being such accommodating hosts.

The board also interviewed and approved Dale Evens as a new member of our association. Dale lives in Richfield and works for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Department.

Try to stay warm everyone and I'll talk with you next month.

The 1985 MGCSA Research Report is now available for anyone interested. The report is a summary of the year's activity and research progress reports. A charge of \$2.00 per copy is needed for printing. Please contact the MGA office if interested in obtaining your copy.

The 1986 Research Committee



Our superintendent sure has a lot of time now that he uses PAR-EX fertilizer.

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