

Our MGCSA chapter will also be well represented at the GCSAA golf championships in Palm Desert, California on January 27 & 28. Eight of us members have entered and if we shake off enough frozen cobwebs from our clubs maybe we can bring home the team trophy.

Do not forget to pre-register for the great fishing getaway at Izaty's Lodge on January 6th. It is a good time to relax for a day and enjoy a delicious steak dinner. The board also voted to make our ex-officio walk out to his fish house to give us others first chance at the big ones.

From all of us on the board, we hope to see you in San Francisco and HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY.

### OOPS! WE'RE SORRY

On the January meeting flyer Wally Benson was listed as the host superintendent. Calvin Schmidt is the new superintendent at Izaty's Golf Club and he has been working in that capacity since May of 1985.

## *the New Dimension in seeding/spreading*



DUE TO THE CURRENT TREND OF FREQUENT SAND-TOP DRESSINGS OF GOLF COURSE GREENS, THIS UNIT HAS BECOME EXTREMELY POPULAR.

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## MINNESOTA'S GOLFING HERITAGE



### NORTHLAND COUNTRY CLUB

FIRST IN A SERIES

by W. K. Montague  
President 1936-37

The question of when golf was introduced into the United States has been a controversial one. However, the first generally recognized golf club in the United States, the so-called St. Andrews Club in Westchester, New York, was organized in 1888. In the next ten years, there were a few other clubs organized throughout the United States. According to Reidar Lund, the earliest mention of golf in Duluth was found in newspaper files of the late 1890's in which some visitors were quoted as saying that Duluth was "slightly on the 'jay' side for not having ground upon which to play this game called golf."

The first steps towards creation of a course in Duluth were taken in 1898 when several businessmen journeyed to St. Paul to inspect the Town and Country Club links in that city. They became enthusiastic about the idea and wasted no time considering sites for a course upon their return to Duluth.

Many years afterwards, Alfie Taussig loved to tell how he, D. G. Cutler, E. P. Towne and C. B. Woodruff rode their bicycles over the hill on East Superior Street and from a vantage point on a convenient hay stack, looked over the site of the first Northland golf course.

That was just ten years after the first generally recognized U. S. golf club was

established and gives some idea of the speed with which golf spread over the country.

On April 17, 1899 at a meeting in the office of E. P. Town, Northland Golf Club was organized. Articles of Incorporation were adopted and by-laws fixed dues at \$10 per year.

At the outset the organizers set the high moral tone which has always been characterized at Northland. The by-laws provided that: "No game for money shall on any account be allowed. \*\*\*\*\*. No intoxicating liquors will be provided, allowed, or paid for by the Club at any of their games or tournaments, and no profane language unbecoming to a gentleman will be tolerated on the grounds."

On April 18, one day later, the Directors held a special meeting and set an example of speed and efficiency that must be unique in golf annals. These motions were adopted: "It was moved and seconded that C. B. Woodruff be appointed a committee of one to take charge of and build a lodge for Club. Carried." "It was moved and seconded that D. G. Cutler be appointed a committee of one to arrange and procure a lease of grounds at rent not to exceed \$150.00 per year. Carried". "It was moved and seconded that E. P. Towne be appointed a committee of one to lay out the grounds and links. Carried." "No further business, meeting adj."

Except for the election of a temporary chairman, that's all there is to the minutes of that meeting. But, believe it or not, at the next meeting, six weeks later, the minutes of the Board of Directors show that: "All committees heretofore appointed reported their work completed and were discharged of their duties with thanks."

The DULUTH HERALD of May 10, 1899 contained an announcement that a permit had been issued to the Northland Golf Club to build a clubhouse to cost \$560 on the Howell estate near Lakeside.

Ward Ames, Jr. who joined the Club on September 5, 1899 has sketched the layout of the first nine hole course. The lodge was across the ravine in front of the present first tee. The first hole was laid out from that side of the ravine down

to a location near the present first green. Then the second hole played back up towards the present fifteenth. The green of the third hole, a 385 yarder, called the "Mosquito Nest", was up near the present practice tee. Apparently it was well named, for the only score card of those days that I have seen shows Herb Warren, in September of 1905, taking 15 strokes to his opponent's 11. The fourth fairway crossed the first fairway and the green was down near the present eighteenth tee. From there the fifth hole, a 300 yarder, crossed Superior Street to the present Ordean Field. Three holes in that territory led you to the ninth, another shot across Superior Street to the green (the outline of which can still be seen), just at the foot of the slope in front of the present eighteenth.

Those shots across Superior Street must have been quite an adventure. The local rules gave you another shot if your ball hit the electric wires, but if you happened to conk a passing pedestrian, I suppose that there was nothing to do but try to beat him to the club house. Even after 1912 when the course was expanded to eighteen holes, the crossing of Superior Street remained. As late as 1923 the Board considered suggestions for protecting the traveling public in the play of the two holes crossing Superior Street, but, except for posting signs, nothing seems to have been done about it. It wasn't until 1927 that the present course, all on the upper side of the street, was ready for play.

On the old eighteenth hole course the shot across the street to the green below the present eighteenth was partly blind. One day as John Mullin, then Secretary of the Oliver Mining Company, was leaving the green, a ball rolled up quite close to the pin. Thinking to give some poor player a thrill, Mullin rolled the ball into the cup. It turned out that it belonged to W. H. Olcott, President of the Oliver, and, incidentally, the man who donated the present practice green. Olcott was Mullin's rather autocratic boss. He was so thrilled over his hole-in-one and bragged so long and so loudly about it that Mullin was afraid to let him know that he was the butt of a joke. He swore to secrecy everybody there, and for years lived in fear that someone would tell his boss what had happened.