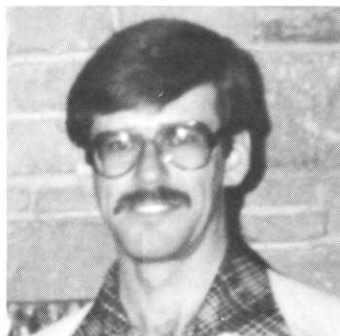


all, remember, form follows function and that your functions must be determined for your particular golf course.

Good luck in 1986 and I hope to see you out on the golf course. I'll be in the woods as usual!



## EDITOR'S CORNER

RANDY NELSON

Well, our unusually cool, wet spring has certainly reverted quickly into our usual hot, humid summer. Although the weather conditions can change dramatically, not so for our bodily metabolisms. Such drastic fluctuations in temperature and dewpoints put a strain on employee performance. Those of you fortunate enough to have air-conditioned maintenance facilities are to give your staff members a needed break from the strength draining heat. I know that when plans for a new maintenance building at my course are compiled one item which I firmly hope to include will be air-conditioning for the office and employees' breakroom. Our staff members deserve that kind of consideration during these periods of stress.

Stress was certainly the farthest thing from the minds of the 55 MGCSA members that attended the June meeting at Detroit Lakes Country Club. This meeting was the first of two that will take our MGCSA members on a northerly trek of courses that will test our golfing skills. On behalf of the members who were in attendance I would like to thank Brad Klein for allowing us to interrupt what I know was an extremely busy and profitable time at your course. Brad's course was in the same super condition that I remember he provided for the 1982 State Amateur; however, my golf game was not. I know we all enjoyed ourselves, Brad, and I hope you will extend our appreciation to your club officials.

Also at the June meeting was Dr. Clinton

Hodges from Iowa State University. Dr. Hodges' appearance was sponsored by Turf Supply Company and their fine staff which includes Jack Kolb, Dave Krupp, and Carl Tychsen. Dr. Hodges reviewed his research findings about the pythium root dysfunction problem on sand greens. He stated that this dysfunction problem is unique to greens built with 100% sand; however, as the greens mature the problem seems to correct itself. He cautions anyone building 100% sand greens with surrounding native soil collars to be aware of the dysfunction problem.

Our next meeting will bring our venturesome volume to the Violet Vulture's lair. We all know the host superintendent and awesome wonder of this course as Fred Anderson. If you still haven't guessed the location of our resident MGCSA touring 8 handicapper I won't keep you in suspense any longer. Watch for the next meeting flyer coming to you by Purple Hawk express mail.

## MINNESOTA'S GOLFING HERITAGE



## TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB

by TOM FULLER  
COURSE SUPERINTENDENT  
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY CLUB

The year was 1892 and the first round of golf in Minnesota was played at the historic Town and Country Club of St. Paul.

Actually, golf began there as an afterthought. A pioneer member, William F. Peet, conspired with a St. Paul newspaper reporter. Desperate for tid bits of news, he asked Peet for the latest Town and Country gossip. Peet suggested a story about a new game called golf which was getting some print in papers along the east coast. The reporter disliked his duties of social reporting so he contrived

a news story that the club was thinking about starting golf.

Enter George McCree, a transplanted Scot who had migrated here from Canada and was familiar with the game of golf. He had read the article and immediately offered to help Peet start the game. "I finally took McCree out to the club with my lawn mower in the back of my roadster, to help lay out the course." Using an old driver and a twenty five cent gutta percha ball, and after a couple shots McCree marked the spot with a stake. "This is the first hole." This first green is now the general vicinity of the present seven-teenth green. In this fashion the first five holes were laid out, a time before country clubs had become synonymous with the game of golf.

As the first "Country Club" in these parts, the Town and Country Club was more of a social organization, inspired by the clubs in St. Paul that were formed as a nucleus of the annual winter carnival. They had a residence on Lake Como in 1887. The club moved to its present home at the Marshall Avenue bridge on the Mississippi River in 1890. Today, this "Country Club"

is in the heart of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, but in 1890 it was the boondocks of St. Paul. Street cars carried members as far as Prior Avenue and then a horse drawn shuttle service brought them to the club. Later it became chick to bicycle from Prior to the club.

The rationale for locating on the river bluffs was an attempt to attract memberships from Minneapolis, a strategy that was moderately successful in the beginning. Later, however, many of the eligible Minneapolites joined clubs on their side of the river for the sake of convenience.

The original Town and Country Club house was designed by state capitol architect Cass Gilbert and built in the early 1890's for \$25,000. The club house became a St. Paul landmark which was torn down in 1955.

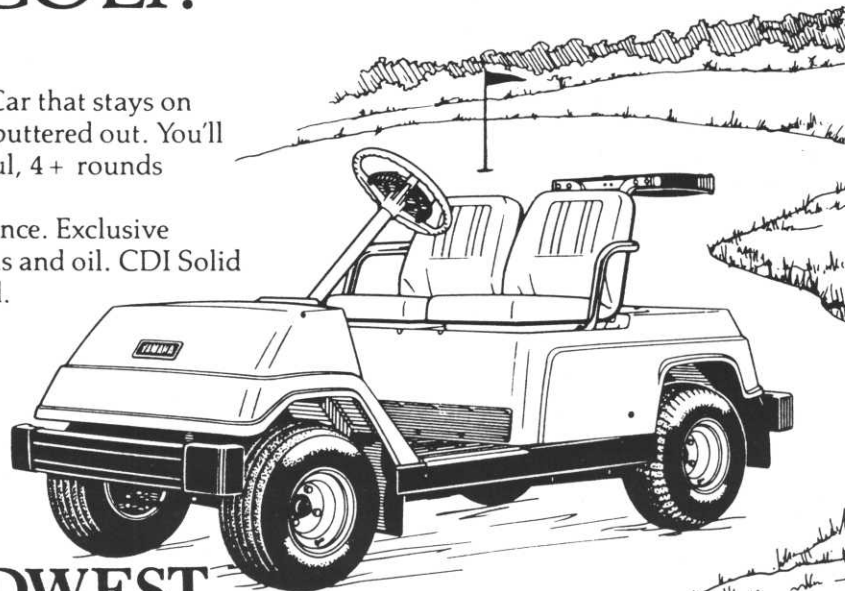
Golf didn't catch on quickly with the Town and Country members. When \$50.00 was requested from the club's treasurer, Charles Gordon, to buy a set of real golf holes and flags to replace the tomato cans and fishing poles, Gordon quite profanely refused on the grounds that golf was a

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silly game which could not possibly last.

It was a few short years later in 1895 that E. J. Frost, a well known amateur out of Chicago, was hired to lay out Town and Country's first nine holes which were partly on a neighbor's pasture and had to be shared with his cows. In 1897 in order to compete with courses out east, \$2,000 was budgeted to lay out this new course. On June 9, 1898 the new nine holes were opened for play. Also at this time the first golf pro and expert maker of clubs, Robert Fowles, was acquired from St. Andrews Golf Club and the first greenskeeper was also engaged at this time.

On July 14, 1907 after an additional \$2,000 was acquired, Town and Country was now eighteen holes long, and that year Town and Country hosted the first MGA golf championship to be played on an eighteen hole course.

The actual layout of the Town and Country course has changed very little since its beginning. Not that some major changes haven't been attempted. One member in the early goings wanted to make the first hole a dogleg around the creek that still flanks the first fairway and once led to a well stocked trout pond. He soon left to become a member of the newly organized Somerset Country Club. Some changes that were made came with the addition of a practice tee area, and the moving of the fifteenth green down over the hillside which at one time it sat on top of. One other change since then is the moving of the tenth green from its original site at the bottom of a hillside to its present home on its own hillside plateau.

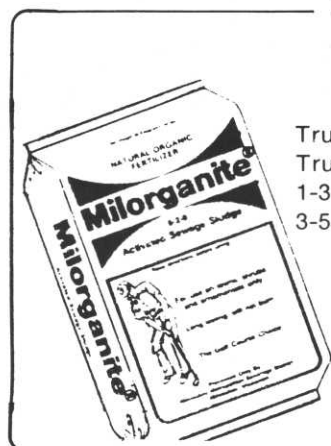
With the proper guidance of a long time or well informed member, one can see the inconsistencies in the terrain which might indicate the location of one of the original bunkers or a green may have been located. A former caddie once pointed to a place on the first hole where the creek cuts into a hill. That recalled the caddie was where the horses were led for drinking water as they groomed the fairways. As for the caddies of the past, Town and Country has been the home of the "Old Tyme Caddies Tournament" since 1932, and is still played annually. Another tournament that is still played annually at Town and Country since 1924, except the years 1942-1946 because of the war, is the "Northwest Father and Son Golf Championship." Though not officially sanctioned, but is on the MGA calendar of events and as such a state tournament. Town and Country has also been the site of the Women's Amateur in 1937 and the National Women's Amateur in 1951. Also scheduled for Town and Country was the "Walker Cup", to be played in August 1940, but was cancelled due to WWII.

The club today is second only to Shinnecock Hills near Long Island as a course on its original site. Shinnecock Hills has been bombarded by golf balls since 1891.

The club's greatest controversy, however, came in 1954 when some members wanted to transform Town and Country into a "family" club. They were eventually successful and the one time male bastion on the Mississippi is open to wives and children with golfing, swimming and tennis offered at the club facilities including a recent new clubhouse addition.

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Wrote one of the club's historians "From 1887 to 1893, the male members of the club enjoyed bowling, tennis, tobogganing, dancing, dining, tea drinking, and trap shooting. Then came golf."

Acknowledgements: Rewritten by permission from "The Compass Magazine" sponsored by Minnesota Federal Savings and Loan Association and articles written by Mr. John Pfaender, Club Historian.



## NECROLOGY - E.L. "Bud" Shaughnessy

E. L. (Bud) Shaughnessy, 62, owner of Long Lake Ford Tractor Co., and Long Lake's Man of the Year in 1985, died of cancer Thursday at Methodist Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota.

Shaughnessy was born and raised in Belle Plaine, Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota, served in World War II and worked for Prudential Insurance Co. before starting his tractor company in 1949 with his brother, G. T. Shaughnessy.

Shaughnessy lived in Mound and was known for his work with civic organizations. Last year he was named Man of the Year by the Long Lake Chamber of Commerce for his business and community contributions. He was a former president of the Minnesota-South Dakota Implement Dealers Association, a national director of the Minnesota Farm Implement Association, a long time member of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association, and a charter member of the Orono Lions Club.


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