

mowing. It'll cost more, but no one can argue the finished product. We are extremely happy with what we've seen so far. The units have performed admirably.

I feel very strongly that at our course the lightweight fairway mowers are here to stay. We will continue to monitor the performance of these units all summer. Jerry Odash has been extremely helpful and visits us frequently to check on the performance of these mowing units. At this point in time I couldn't be happier about how our fairways look. I guess I really never knew what a difference the lightweight mowers could make. But seeing is believing and many of our members have noticed the difference.



IN SEARCH OF GREENER PASTURES

by LEIF ERICKSON, CGCS
 Briarwood Golf Club
 Billings, Montana
 (former MGCSA director)

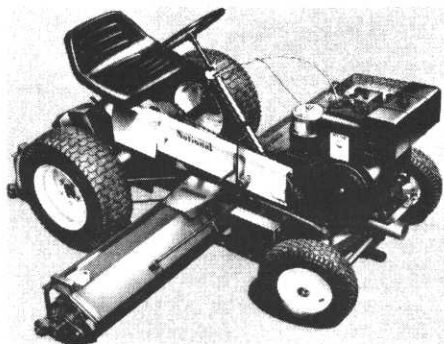
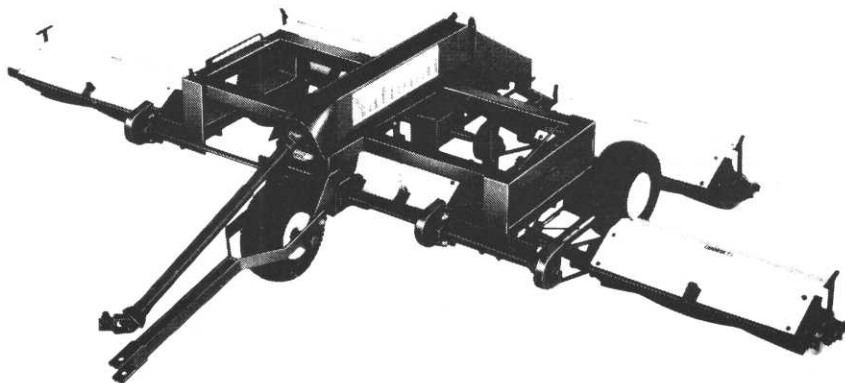
I am sure each of us has been intrigued by other pastures. It is this intrigue of opportunity that shuttles us around the country in search of greener pastures. The grass isn't always greener on the other side of the fence. When we cross a fence or two to satisfy our curiosity, we acquire a better perspective of where we have been.

I suppose Randall Nelson will put some heading on this letter, so some of you will recognize the name. But, after three years absence from your ranks, I am sure there are some youngsters I have not yet

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met.

To introduce myself, I am a native Minnesotan from Austin. I went to the University of Minnesota for Turf Management. I persevered under Dr. Donald White. I was given the opportunity to care for my home golf course. After ten years, I thought I was dead and buried at the Austin Country Club. But, I arose again and found new life in a new challenge, in a new pasture in Montana called The Briarwood. Before I end this metaphor, you should know that the pasture is still the same. There is just a new head bull.

Two of the problems in our profession are the lack of opportunities for upward mobility within our club and the stagnation of our minds, abilities and training due to conservative restraints imposed by budgets. I believe it is this unsatiated desire for challenge and recognition that drives a person to new pastures.

There is a recourse open to all Golf Course Superintendents. That is the

professional recognition and challenge available to you as a member of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association and even beyond that the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America. These organizations offer you an outlet for your professional skills, recognition among your peers, a new perception within your club, and upward mobility as an office holder of these associations. When I was elected to the MGCSA Board of Directors, I was extremely proud and gratified, that among my peers, I was judged responsible enough to hold office. This esteem promotes a new confidence, purpose, and maturity. This initial acknowledgement and recognition by my colleagues is singularly the highlight of my professional career. However circumstantial, I truly regretted leaving the Board of Directors and your fine association. It was the confidence that I had gained from the association that actually motivated my decision to accept a new challenge.

My move to Billings and The Briarwood proved to be a tremendous learning experience and tested every professional skill I possess. I joined the Wy-Mont Golf Course Superintendents Association and have recently been elected to the Board of Directors. It is a great thrill to be recognized this way. In 1985, I was selected to the Public Relations Committee of the GCSAA. I find a great fulfillment in these involvements.

Sometimes a professional change is necessary for your own well being. But, the intrigue of other pastures should not be the cause of disruption in your career and the dissatisfaction with ones self. You have great opportunities within the comraderie of your professional associations. You can realize your desire for professional recognition by becoming involved right within your own pasture. The hue of greener grass really depends on your perspective.

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