

# ONCE UPON A TIME

by Norma Lenzen

Superintendent, Dahlgreen Golf Club

At one of the superintendents meetings earlier this year, I was approached by Randy Nelson and asked to contribute an article to the HOLE NOTES on what it is like to be a female golf course superintendent. After committing myself, I realized how difficult that would be since I do not know what it is like to be a male golf course superintendent. I like to believe that there are very few differences in the way I perform my job as compared to a male, but there is a difference in the way I am treated by others. For example, when ever anyone calls on me for their first time, they usually insist that my name is "Norman", and that I should be addressed as a "he". I also have to listen to many people say such things as, "that's no job for a lady", when they see me doing something that they apparently do not think I should be doing. I assume there are very few other superintendents with those same problems.

I also assume that most other golf course superintendents do not get too irritated when someone relieves themselves behind some tree or bush. That, however, is one of my pet peeves. I have found that the easiest way for me to remedy this problem is to go and kindly ask repeat offenders if they would like me to bring them some toilet paper. I rather suspect that there are not too many male superintendents who could get away with asking a question like that.

I really do not know of anything else that might be different if I were a male, but what I do know is that this is my fourth year as a golf course superintendent, I enjoy it very much, and I expect to spend many more years working in the same field.

P.S. If you are wondering why the title is so stupid, please think one up on your own.



# MINNESOTA'S GOLFING HERITAGE

## LONG PRAIRIE COUNTRY CLUB

by John Monson

Superintendent, Long Prairie Country Club

The Long Prairie Country Club was organized in 1926 with 22 original stockholders. Of these, W. A. Miller, E. M. Berg, Nick Mienes, I. F. Lano and C. D. Chrysler were the driving forces behind the formation of the course.

Tom Vardon, the brother of Harry Vardon, was passing through Long Prairie and "Neats" Lano arranged for his assistance in laying out the original sand greens. The property was used by the village for cows. Anyone in the village owning a cow was able to pasture it on this land. In the pasture was "Senners Slough" which provided excellent skating in the winter and good swimming in the summer. At that time all golfers had "floaters" for shooting over the slough. Many local cynics thought that golf would never last and referred to it as pasture pool. The course opened for play in 1927 and Bill Wood had the first hole-in-one on the sand greens. It was on #8 and required a shot over the slough.

Stock in the new club was sold for \$100/share with \$25 due each of four years which brought along complete family golfing privileges. The original clubhouse built in 1927 is still in use today as a refreshment stand by #6 tee. In those days the greens fee was 50 cents for nine holes and 75 cents for all day.

In 1932 several holes were redesigned and grass greens were constructed. Those same greens are in use today. Laurel Lano made the first hole-in-one on the new course on #4. The greens were cut with a push mower with Roy Cooper as the first greenskeeper. Roy loved his beer and would drink up his days wages quite often.

Because of the drought and depression the roughs were only cut once a year by a local farmer for hay. Two foot roughs were not uncommon and cracks in the ground

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large enough to swallow a golf ball were common problems during a round.

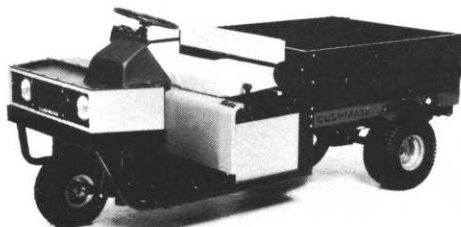
In 1941 the course went broke and was reorganized by local businessmen. One major purchase was a 1939 "A" Farmall tractor. Members secured the loan for its purchase which showed a lot of faith in the new club. That same tractor is still in use today pulling the sprayer, leaf sweeper and occasionally getting equipment out of the mud in "Senners Slough".

Perhaps the greatest change on the course took place in the fall of 1976 with the addition of an irrigation system. This was badly needed as more and more people were golfing and increased use of golf carts really put a strain on the turf. Prior to irrigation, city water was fed to tees and greens only through old boiler pipes obtained in 1932 from Minneapolis. Senners Slough again proved its value. Today we pump out of the slough for the irrigation system and also have a well which we can use to keep the slough full.

1985 saw the complete remodeling and

enlargement of the clubhouse and revamping the area around the first tee. Each year additional improvements continue to be made. Tree planting, additional ladies tees and beautification projects are always being planned.

The best thing about the Long Prairie Country Club is the support of its members and the availability of playing time. Not being in the resort center of resort traffic allows one to almost walk onto the first tee most Sunday afternoons. Our members like to feel that there are not many 9 hole courses better than ours. Perhaps it is the best kept secret in Minnesota? I would like to thank Laurel Lano for his assistance with the course history. Laurel is the last living original stockholder and still can be found most summer days pulling his clubs down #8 fairway playing 5-10 balls.



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