

MINNESOTA'S GOLFING HERITAGE

MINNEWASKA GOLF CLUB

(continuation from September HOLE NOTES)

by **Dennis Schoenfeldt**
Superintendent

The 1930's, 40's and 50's produced little as far as course improvement was concerned. The "Great Depression" took its toll, but the course held on with labor and course equipment being kept at a minimum. Not only the scarcity of money, but the drought years also were especially hard on the course. During the World War II period, labor and maintenance was provided by members contributing their time to the mowing and needed upkeep, to keep the course playable.

The 1960's provided a surge of golf course improvements. With a continuous program of golf equipment acquisition, the course has been improved over the years to where the Minnewaska Golf Course is recognized as one of the best 9-hole golf courses in central Minnesota.

1967 produced the first watering system to include fairways, with labor for installation of water lines and electrical equipment being provided by the members. While not a 100% improvement, it was a start. In 1968, using the Farm Home Administration financing, a new clubhouse was built. Also a new metal cart shed now houses 85 gas and electric carts owned by members, plus 12 course owned carts for rental income.

An additional 100 acres, west of and adjacent to the present layout, were purchased to use for an additional 9-holes in the future.

1977 saw the well and pump presenting operating problems, and along with the drought, a resulting weed growth of almost ruinous proportions. However, a new superintendent, Dennis Schoenfeldt, was hired in 1978 and this was the singular most important move our course has made. A year later, a new well was installed, and the course was reseeded. A fertilizer program was started by our new superintendent, which has continued to this date. That move has produced excellent fairways, and over the years, the root system in our greens has lengthened from 2 inches to over 5 inches, producing softer and holding turf.

Since 1930 a few trees have been planted and, starting in the 1960's, 100 Norway pines were added and at least 200 more maple, ash and pines have been planted.

1982 brought an enlarged parking lot and a completely new automatic watering system was installed on greens, tees and fairways. This, along with excellent fertilizing,

produced summer rule fairways. 1985 produced a new shelter and toilets in the 9th Tee area. Also a new driving range was constructed. New asphalt cart paths between all greens and tees were finished and to date, we have 10 new traps along with the original nine. 1987 saw a new sewer system connected to the City of Glenwood system and the purchase of 13.7 railroad acres on the north boundary was finalized. Also new 150 yard center fairway metal markers were installed on 6 holes.

The most recent improvement is a new gazebo "lookout shelter" on the second tee, made possible by a donation from the Gilman Gandrud Estate.

Our membership now totals 264 with a large flow of daily green fees. Since 1982 the club has put almost \$82,000.00 in golf maintenance equipment. Plans are now being considered to add the final nine holes.

Again, thanks to Ralph Cheeseman, past president, for his help in preparing this history of the Minnewaska Golf Club.

NEW MEMBER

We are pleased to accept these new members to our Minnesota Superintendents Association:

John E. Gunderman, Sr., Class F, Schumachers, Inc.
Jerry Aljets, Class F, E. H. Renner and Sons
Scott Benton, Class F, Sustane Corp.
Edward T. Hunter, Class F, Sustane Corp.
David Solga, Class D, Golden Valley Country Club

A DAY OFF

So you want the day off. Let's take a look at what you are asking for.

There are 365 days per year available for work. There are 52 weeks per year in which you already have two days off per week, leaving 261 days available for work. Since you spend 16 hours each day away from work, you have used up 170 days, leaving only 91 days available. You spend 30 minutes each day on coffee break. That accounts for 23 days each year, leaving only 68 days available. With a one hour lunch period each day, you have used up another 46 days, leaving only 22 days available for work. You normally spend 2 days per year on sick leave. This leaves you only 20 days available for work. We are off for 5 holidays per year, so your available work time is down to 15 days. We generously give you 14 days vacation per year, which leaves only 1 day available for work and I'll be damned if you're going to take that day off!

Shared by Gene Dales, Manning