

JERRY ANDERSON AND GENE REITER TO RETIRE

by **THOMAS H. BROWN, CGCS**
 Editor, *DAKOTA TURF PRO'SE*

Jerry Anderson, A Sioux Falls, South Dakota native, will be leaving Dakota Turf Supply Inc. this spring after serving the golf industry in South Dakota for 29 years. Dakota Turf Supply Co. originated in 1050 as a partnership. The partners were Cliff, Bea and Lonnie Anderson. It became a corporation in 1962. Jerry entered the company in 1960 and traveled as a salesman for 16 years. In 1962 he became vice-president of the corporation. In 1976 he left his sales position and moved into the office. When Lonnie passed away in 1982 he became president of the company and remained so until February 6 when the company was sold to Gary Viger and Bob Beck.

Dakota Turf received Jacobsen's Distributor of the Year awards in 1976, 1977, 1982, 1983 and 1984. They were recognized for outstanding service by Jacobsen in 1978. Cushman has awarded them sales awards for 1978 and the years 1981 through 1988. Dakota Turf has been the only turf supply company in South Dakota since 1950.

Jerry has been married to his wife Margaret for 30 years



On to the good life, (L to R) Margaret & Jerry Anderson and Irene & Gene Reiter.

and has 3 sons. Steve and Brian are employees of Dakota Turf and Travis is a student at Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls.

Jerry received an outstanding service award at the annual meeting of the South Dakota Superintendents Association in March. We thank you for your contributions to the golf industry and to golf course superintendents throughout this area.

Gene Reiter, the Dean of Golf Course Superintendents in

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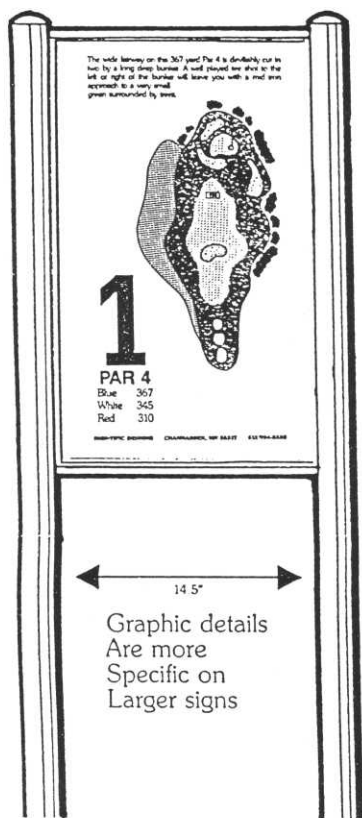
South Dakota, will retire June 16. Gene, a native of Sioux Falls, was born in 1924. His career in golf began after a three year hitch in the navy in World War II, marriage to Irene in 1947 and two years at Sioux Falls College. In 1950 Gene signed on as a crew member at Minnehaha Country Club under Charlie Stringham and Don Rodvold. In 1953 he became the assistant to Cliff Anderson who at that time was a well known and highly respected superintendent in South Dakota. Gene's education in Golf Course Maintenance grew rapidly and in 1956 he became the superintendent at Minnehaha Country Club.

Gene has helped Minnehaha to gain the reputation as the best maintained golf course in the state and one of the top clubs in the midwest for the past thirty-nine years. It has been his experience in maintenance and construction that has earned him great respect in the state and made him the one to call when a course needed help with turf or construction problems. He has helped many courses in eastern South Dakota at one time or another and really enjoyed lending a hand to superintendents and greens chairmen with dead or troubled greens. He has also been involved with the construction of many of the nine hole golf courses in the area. The first was in Parker, So. Dakota in 1963. Gene and Ed Livingston, the golf pro at Minnehaha, teamed up to build a course. Gene then became involved with the FHA when they began a program to fund golf course construction for small communities.

The courses started being built in the early sixties, one right after the other. During the years 1963 through 1972 he was involved with the design and construction of seven golf courses in eastern South Dakota. In the early seventies the government stopped this program. In 1975 he undertook a major project at Brookings, where they remodeled a existing 9 hole course and added another nine to make a championship caliber course. Five years after completion brookings hosted the SDGA Medal Play Championship and the following year the SDGA Match Play.

Gene has been a member of the Minnesota GCSA for 33 years and a member of the USGA Green Section for 30 years. He has also been a member of the Advisory Board of the Southeast Area Vo-Tech for 8 years. His most memorable year came in 1985 when he became, in March, the first President of the South Dakota Golf Course Superintendents' Association. Forming the SDGCSA was one of Gene's life long goals. In May he was elected to the South Dakota Golf Association's Golf Hall of Fame and a well deserved place in the history of golf in South Dakota.

Gene has not just been taking care of a course all these years, but is an avid golfer as well. In 1965 he was one of the top 32 qualifiers in the state Match Play Championship. After playing in many tournaments during the



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sixties his attention turned, in the seventies, to the golfers in his family. Gene has three sons and six daughters. he became one of the state's most avid fans and could be seen at golf tournaments all over the state following his sons, Bill and Jim. To this day he follows Jim, Bill, Grandson Steve and Daughter Kathy with binoculars or movie camera in hand. Kathy won the 1984 Girls' State High school Golf Championship.

Gene's life work has also had an impact on the family. Son Bill is the Superintendent at Brandon Municipal Golf course and Jim, who worked with Gene on most of the courses he built, has a landscape and sod business in Sioux Falls. Jim also has built his own 9-hole Executive Course in Brandon and hopes to open that in June of this year. Son Dan and four of Gene's daughters are involved with lawn care and landscaping in Sioux Falls.

The South Dakota Golf course Superintendents' Association at their annual meeting in March awarded Gene with the outstanding service award. Congratulations, Gene, on a long and distinguished career. You have made a great contribution to golf.

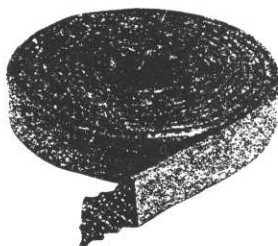
PREPARING FOR TURF STRESSES IN 1989

by **JAMES M. LATHAM, Director**
Great Lakes Region
USGA Green Section

Golf course superintendents must have more opportunities to learn than anyone in golf or in the turfgrass industry as a whole, and rightly so because there are so many facets of the game which demand their attention. In the gentler days, greens were everything as long as a golfer could drive a peg into the tee and the fairways were cut once or twice a week. Those days are gone forever and some Turf Advisory Service visits today are more involved in bunker quality than putting quality. What a fine compliment to those superintendent's turf managing abilities.

Even so, we still do not know how to grow grass without leaves. Ultra close mowing does a great job of defoliation which reduces the photosynthetic potential of the turf. It is necessary, then, to determine the minimum TRUE mowing height for the turf species and cultivar involved. Some cultivars were selected under a quarter-inch height of cut. Bench settings are the published part of the story and vary from machine to machine. The only

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