

# Here's What Happened In Lake City

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## 'In Two Weeks the Grass Changed From Dark Green To Light Green, Then Yellow . . . But 1991 Should Be Golf As Usual'—Cliff Reynolds, Superintendent

(Ed. Note: Following is an account of the "fertilizer foul-up" on April 27 at Lake City Country Club by Cliff Reynolds, Head Golf Course Superintendent.)

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By **CLIFF REYNOLDS**  
Head Golf Course Superintendent  
Lake City Country Club

On April 27th last spring rain was expected and it appeared to be a great time to fertilize fairways.

At 7:00 a.m. I called the Farmers Elevator Co. and arranged for a fertilizer truck to come to the course at 8:00. Everything looked good for an early start of the golfing and mowing season.

It took 45 minutes to fertilize eight fairways and the driving range. However, in the next two weeks, the grass changed from dark green to light green, then to yellow.

While the fairways were apparently dying, my Greens Chairman and myself had several meetings with the Farmers Elevator

manager. We agreed soil tests were needed. The results left us all in shock: Atrazine, Simazine, Dursban, Princep and even the sulfur coat Urea.

Although not accepting responsibility for the problem, Farmers Elevator will pay for all damages. They believe that the mix-up happened at a plant in Minneapolis where the fertilizer originated.

On June 5th the course was closed and removal of topsoil was started. Approximately 50,000 yards were removed to a depth of six inches. Activated charcoal was applied and worked into the sub-soil. Clean soil was brought in, leveled and seeded. The first seeding was with a beryllium seeder and a 70% rye/30% bluegrass mix. Near the end of August a straight bluegrass was slitseeded in. The catch was very good, and 1992 should be golf as usual.

Several years ago a retiring superintendent said, "We have the greatest job in the world, the only problem would be golfers."

I can assure you that after this year I feel a golf course without golfers is just a park after 10:00 p.m.

I would like to thank all the super's who have called and wished me good luck.

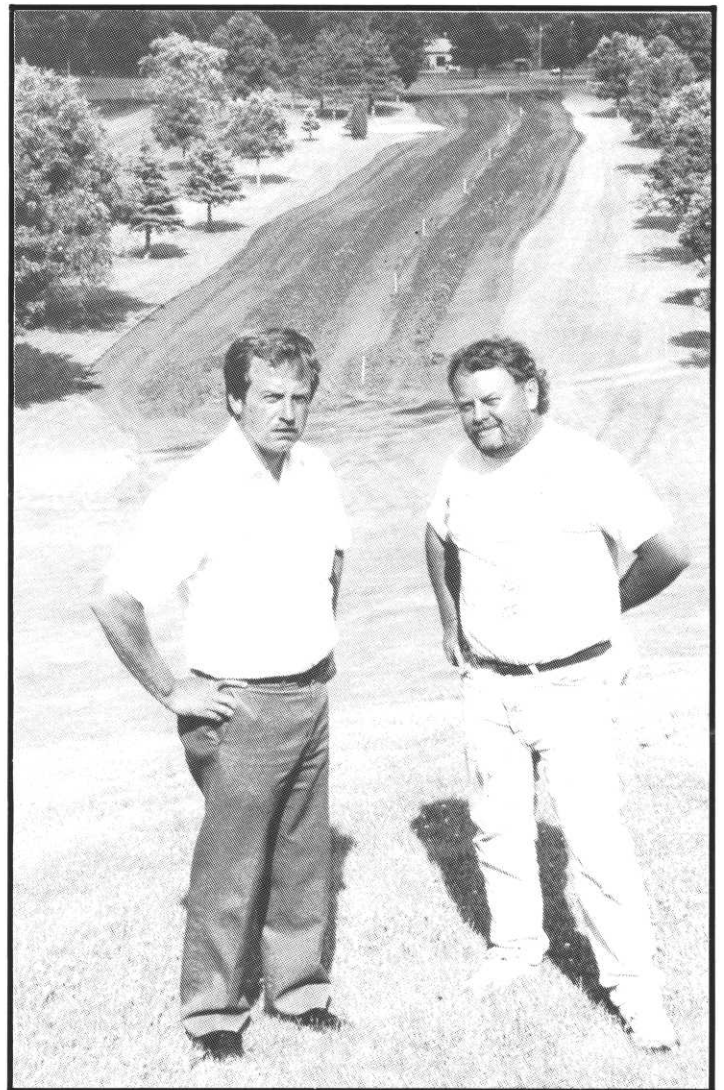
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**REVIEWING LAKE CITY'S SECOND FAIRWAY** after removal and replacement of soil are Head Golf Course Superintendent Cliff Reynolds, right, and Robert Cliff, president of Lake City Country Club.