

Additional Nine Holes Plus New Clubhouse Being Built at The Pines

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*For Tom Kientzle,
It Was A
Very Busy
Summer*

PAUSING on the future tee of the eighth hole on the new nine being built at The Pines is Head Superintendent Tom Kientzle, CGCS.

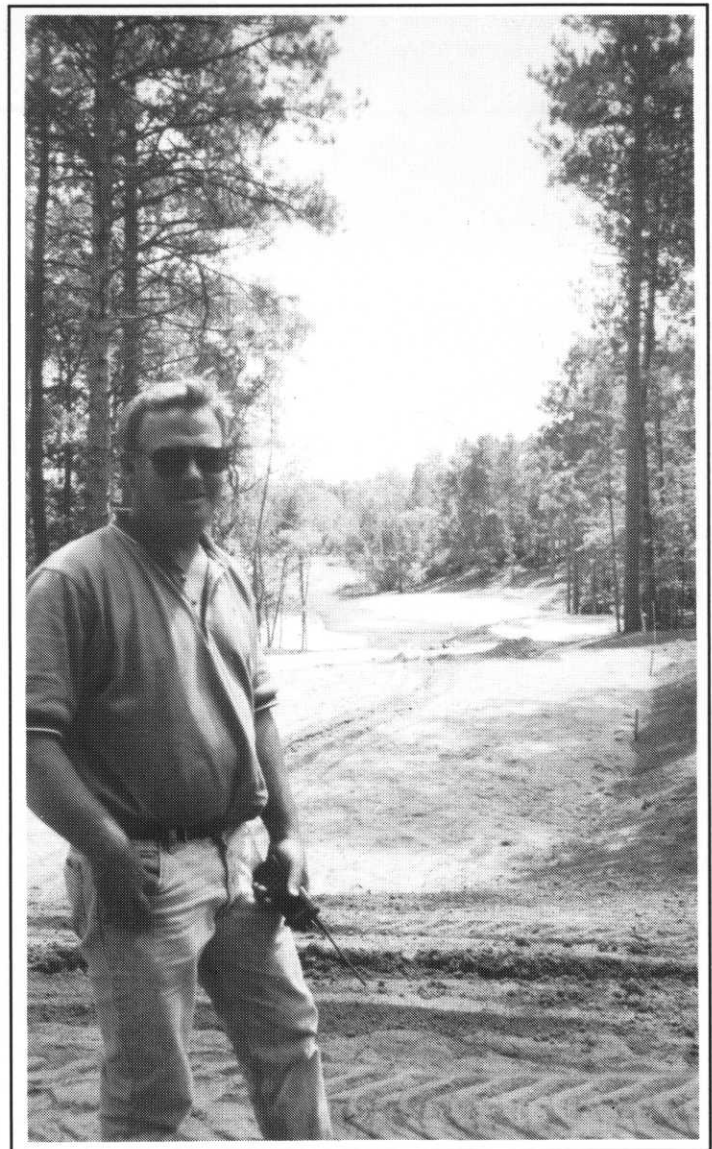
For Tom Kientzle, golf operations manager and head golf course superintendent at Grand View Lodge in Nisswa, the summer of '93 will be one he'll long remember.

Not only did he have his normal responsibilities of making certain that Grand View's 18-hole Pines and 9-hole Garden courses were in meticulous condition for resort guests, daily players, special golf tours and several tournaments, but he also was involved with:

- Construction of nine more holes at The Pines;
- Preparations for construction of a new clubhouse;
- Installation of a new, computerized irrigation system;
- Construction of a new maintenance building;
- Special preparations for various tournaments;

including the Minnesota Golf Association's statewide low net foursome competition September 7-8 at The Pines.

Fortunately, the Rains of '93, which hampered operations of virtually all golf course superintendents throughout Minnesota, proved to be more of a series of minor but frustrating delays than overly serious problems in the Gull Lake area of Central Minnesota. As a result, construction of the new Pines' nine moved ahead much as planned. In



fact by the end of August, construction was two weeks ahead of schedule.

Building of these nine additional holes had been part of a 5-year plan by the owners of Grand View Lodge, but the construction schedule was advanced two years because of the heavy demand for tee times.

Kientzle's experience with construction of the original Pines course proved most beneficial when the new nine was started.

"I was involved right from the start of the first 18 back in 1988," said Kientzle, who has been head golf course superintendent since 1981. "That experience with practically every facet of construction was most helpful. I don't want to minimize the various problems that arise with any new construction, but this time around I had a good idea of what to expect and how to handle various problems when they arose."

By mid-May virtually all clearing and grubbing was completed.

By the end of July the fairways, tees and greens were
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The Pines—

shaped.

By early August seeding of the bluegrass fairways and tees and the bent grass greens had begun.

By September 8, six greens already had been mowed.

"Next spring fine-tuning of the course will get it in shape for partial play around Memorial Day, and we should be fully operational by July 1," Kientzle said.

Architect for the new nine is Joel Goldstrand, St. Louis Park, Minn., who designed the original Pines which, in 1991, was named one of the top five new resort courses built that year in the United States. "Working with Joel also was beneficial," Kientzle said. "We both knew the way each of us approached our goals and our work."

Like the original 18, the new Pines' nine will have four sets of tees. Yardages range from 3,400 from the championship tees to 2,600 from the shortest.

"It may be hard to believe, but the manner in which the fairways weave through several attractive stands of Norway Pines, the rolling terrain, 11.9 acres of wetlands and two man-made ponds should make the new nine equally as attractive as the first 18, possibly even more," Kientzle said. "The fifth and eighth holes are particularly nice."

Construction is being done by Rardin Construction, Brainerd, and Par Four Shaping, Spicer, Minn.

Meantime, construction of an unusual, two-winged clubhouse—which features considerable use of glass to provide excellent views of a spectacular waterfall and special landscaping treatment—has been proceeding on schedule.

The 5,000 square-foot building will house a new pro shop, a bar and grill with dining space for 100 persons, a deck that will seat 40, lockers and showers for members and daily golfers, bag and cart storage and a variety of other amenities. An additional putting green also will be built.

"Considering the heavy demand for play and our con-



REVIEWING A MODEL of the new clubhouse under construction at The Pines are, from left, Kevin Cashman, head professional; Fred Boos, a part-owner of Grand View Lodge, and Tom Kientzle, golf operations manager and head superintendent.

struction of nine more holes to meet this demand at The Pines, we needed the larger pro shop and pleasant dining facilities to accommodate our clientele comfortably," said Mark Ronnei, Grand View's general manager. "Construction should be completed next April."

Initially the clubhouse will be open for breakfast, lunch and after-golf dining in the wing pointed toward the 18th green. That's where a spectacular waterfall will be the focal point of landscaping around the clubhouse.

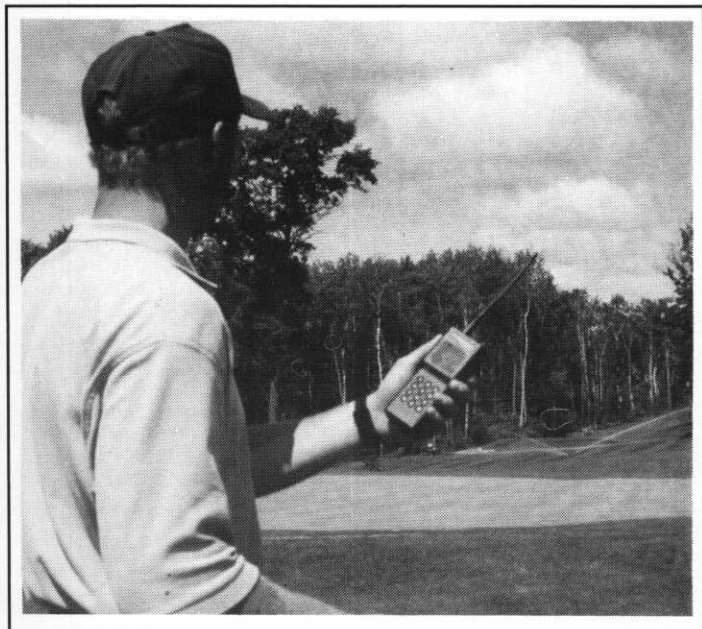
"**The waterfall, which will be lit at night**, will be surrounded by an incredibly special treatment of flowers, trees and shrubs," Kientzle said.

A circular driveway to the entrance of the clubhouse will provide easy access to both the pro shop and the dining areas as well as a bituminous parking lot.

The pro shop, located in the wing facing the current first and 10th tees, will have space for attractive displays of golf merchandise, two offices and a registration counter. Lockers, club storage and cart storage will be located on a lower level.

Meantime a new, computerized Osmac irrigation system, which works in conjunction with Motorola radios, has been installed on all 27 holes of the Pines. A new maintenance building also has been completed to house vehicles for daily operations.

Yes, indeed, it has been a busy summer for Kientzle, who is quick to point out that his 35-person crew "has performed remarkably well. One man can't do it all. It's really been a major team effort."



DEMONSTRATING how a new Osmac irrigation system works at The Pines, is Kevin Rue, assistant superintendent. Above he starts the sprinkling of water on the ninth fairway.