

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW

# Ray Hall Keeps Active Carving Wood, Riding His Motorcycle

They called Ray Hall "the grass man" at Greenhaven in Anoka.

He once won a \$50 bet from an ardent Greenhaven golfer when he grew Penncross grass on a tennis ball in 37 hours.

His 33-year career in the turf industry, which started as a night waterman at Columbia Golf Course in Minneapolis in 1947, spanned a variety of jobs, including work at Columbia, Greenhaven, Bunker Hills in Coon Rapids, Minnetonka Country Club in Excelsior, Alexandria Golf Club and Terrace View in Mankato. He built his own par 3 course in Owatonna, then sold it later.

He also designed and built Hayden Hills in Champlin and a course in Mondovi, Wis.; changed sand greens into grass greens and installed a watering system in Olivia and also served as a consultant at a course in Arcadia, Wis.

Retired since 1980, Ray, now 76, resides in Owatonna with his wife, Betty, but he's not just sitting

around. When he isn't enjoying his favorite hobby of woodcarving, you often can find him on his motorcycle, which he's used to cover 16 states and plans to see more. Any time after October 1, you can probably find him heading south to such states as Texas and Florida.

Born on November 10, 1917 in Hauge, N.D., Ray joined the MGCSA in the mid-fifties, served in various positions including the office of president and also was on the national board of the Golf Course Superintendents of America.

"One of the most enjoyable aspects of my career was building, rebuilding or designing golf courses," he said, "and I always enjoyed learning more about my profession." Over a span of 18 years he took several courses at the University of Minnesota.

He also enjoyed coming up with new ideas. For example, he was the first superintendent to use burlap on greens at Greenhaven. Ray still does some consulting work, and he ad-



A woodcarving by Ray Hall.

mits he misses working on golf courses, something that was so near and dear to him for so many years. But he still retains a good sense of humor.

When asked if anything unusual has happened to him since he retired, Ray simply responded: "I got older."

But apparently he's still keeping young by carving wood and riding his

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## Ahead of the Storm —

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## Ray Hall —

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bike. In fact, this May he's scheduled to present a military wood carving to the commander of the 9th Field Artillery, his old army unit, at Fort Sill, Okla.

### Where Are They Now?

The accompanying story on Ray Hall, 76, is the first in a series of articles on retired golf course superintendents to be published in *Hole Notes*.

They will be published in the order they are received, following the mailing of a questionnaire.

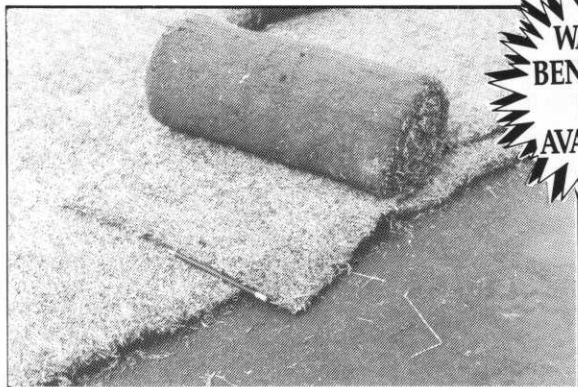
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