

# What It's Like to Grow Up On a Golf Course

By Jeff Johnson  
New Richmond Golf Course

I started going to the New Richmond Golf Course with my dad, Tom Johnson, when I was three years old. I would ride around on his lap while he mowed greens. He would send me to go and carry the flag off the green so he could mow. I was so small that I wasn't strong enough to carry the flag off; I had to drag it. When he got done mowing, Dad would send me to put the flag in the cup. He would always tease me and say that it was crooked, so I would run back, take it out, and put it back in again. Dad would say, "that's better."

As I got older, I was too big to ride on his lap, so I would run along with him until he taught me how to drive a cart. He usually wouldn't let me drive it by myself though. I liked to help him change cups more than riding around on a greens mower. I could help him do more things that way. I would pull out the cup and set it in the new spot. As I got older, he would teach me how to change cups. It was only a couple of years ago that I was strong enough to do it myself.

Last year Dad taught me how to rake bunkers with the



Jeff Johnson

bunker rake. I like raking bunkers because I love the way the bunker looks when I'm done (I also like to drive machinery).

Through the years, Dad taught me how to drive pretty much every piece of machinery, even though I wasn't old enough to use them yet. I haven't learned how to mow greens even though I know how to drive the greens mower.

Other things my Dad taught me about the golf course are types of grass, diseases, minor work on machinery, a little programming on satellites and how to be kind to golfers and other workers. I really appreciate my dad teaching me all these things and making me feel like I'm a valuable employee!

This year since I'm 14, it's been different for me because I'm old enough to be on the payroll instead of working full-time for no pay.

If I wasn't working for my dad this summer, I would sure like to work for Joe Moris!

*P.S., Thanks Dad!!*

Watch your mail for more information or call Jim Vaughan (612) 924-2565 who is coordinator of this year's event . . . . . you won't want to miss this Expo!

— Brad Pedersen

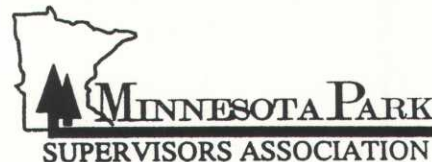
## Grounds and Facility Training And Equipment/Product Expo '94

I would like to again remind you to mark your calendar for August 3rd and 4th. These are the dates of the **Grounds and Facility Training and Equipment/Product Expo '94**. Boy! what a mouthful, but what an event!

As you probably know, this is the first major event co-sponsored by the *Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation (MTGF)* and *Minnesota Park Supervisors Association (MPSA)*. We need your participation to make this first event a success and get the MTGF off to a good start. Participation is the key word. Bring your assistants, mechanics and technicians. Consider bringing other commercial and recreational turf people from your area.

This professional gathering will include a variety of educational, training and demonstration opportunities as well as equipment and products common to parks, cemeteries, universities, public school systems, lawn care companies, turf producers, forestry departments, public works and golf courses.

The site of the Expo, Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights, is beautiful, spacious and centrally located, with easy access to major freeways (Hwy. 110 and Interstate 35E). Expo hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.



### MPSA / MTGF EXPO

#### EXHIBITOR SETUP

Tuesday, Aug. 2  
11:00 a.m. — 8:00 p.m.

#### EXPO OPEN

Wed., Aug. 3 and Thurs., Aug. 4  
9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.