

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Jack Kolb's Letter Reminisces About Doug Mattson

Got the form called "WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!" This is a good idea and have thought many times about the interesting personalities that have passed through the ranks of Golf Course Superintendents—some with talents that could not be contained by working on the golf courses, others who balanced two careers at the same time, and still others who have had hobbies of professional status.

One such person is a fellow by the name of Doug Mattson. Doug began working for Harold Dale on what at that time was known as Willmar Country Club. Harold Dale launched a number of Superintendents on careers during the early 1950s and early '60s. Doug began working for Harold during the 1953 and 1954 seasons. He (Doug), after high school graduation, went to Chicago and worked as a draftsman for an architectural firm. Recalling his experiences with the outdoors, he decided maybe that was a better life and in the fall of 1956 enrolled in a Turf Management program that was just beginning at Penn State University.

Doug enrolled at Penn State for the 1957-1958 seasons. During the summer months he found employment with the venerable Warren Bidwell, who was Superintendent at

Seaview Country Club at Absecon, N.J. near Atlantic City.

Then came the U.S. Army which, at the time, was busy interrupting careers and lives trying to stem the cold war with Russia. Doug served the military from 1959 until a cajoling letter to the Army from myself, then Golf Course Superintendent at Minikahda, got him an early release for the 1961 season at Minikahda. Doug had arrived at Minikahda at an important time, for later that fall we began construction of No's. 3, 6 and 8 greens in an October fourth snowstorm that left four inches of snow. The weather relented and laboring well into December the project was completed.

Golf course construction was just beginning to awaken and Doug, through Dr. Jim Watson, was recommended for the construction of a new golf course called Normandale, owned and financed by Gerald Rauenhurst, who was developing the area where I-494 and 100 intersect. This was in 1962. Doug's talent as a draftsman gave him employment with the Rauenhurst Company (now known as OPUS) during the winters.

Doug's reputation was growing. He was pursued by Minneapolis Golf Club and became its Superintendent through the 1963-1964 seasons. For whatever reason, the writer is not sure, Doug was drawn to the northern part of Minnesota (the writer thinks it was love) and after marriage the position of Superintendent at Bemidji Town and Country Club was offered him. As you know, winters are long in Bemidji and the young Superintendent needed extra pay. So he pursued a job at a local bank, (just for the winter months) to keep himself and his growing family in

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groceries, housing and clothing.

This arrangement worked out so well that Doug kept it up for six seasons. Finally Northern National Bank of Bemidji wanted him as a full-time banker. Reluctantly, he gave up the job as Superintendent and became a full-time banker. He was with Northern National for 14 years and eventually was recruited by First Federal of Bemidji and in 1993 was promoted to a position with Twin City Federal Mortgage Corp. in the Twin Cities.

The writer likes this story. It's a success story that we would all like to live. Congratulations to Doug Mattson and to the many talented Superintendents who sometimes labor in the wrong field but are so dedicated they fail to look at the field instead of the individual grass plants.

Doug may be embarrassed by this story but he did confess to missing the golf industry and would like to know how he could subscribe to *Hole Notes*. In closing it should be pointed out that Doug had done the cartoon letterhead for the first issues of *Hole Notes*. For those of you who were not around back then (about 1961) Doug's cartoon letterhead showed a passive Golf Course Superintendent, standing by a green and observing a frustrated golfer driving his putter into the turf after missing a putt.

Doug's address is 1414 Laurel Ave., Apt. L. 305, Minneapolis, MN 55403.

*Sincerely,
Jack Kolb*

P.S. I had Doug's permission to write this.

Land —

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twice the present cropland as ten billion is roughly twice the present population. On the left of the graph at a yield of 1 t/ha. people accounting for 3,000 would spare none, and for 6,000 would take more than 2.8 a negative sparing. Near the middle, a yield of 4 t/ha would spare much of the 2.8 billion ha. If farmers lifted yields to 6 t/ha on the right, they would spare a bit of today's cropland, even if each of the ten billion accounted for 6,000 calories daily.

How Much Land Can Ten Billion People Spare for Nature? was written by Paul E. Waggoner of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven. The report was published in cooperation with the Program for the Human Environment, The Rockefeller University, New York, New York. The full 64-page report, R121, is available for \$15.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling from the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), 4420 West Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50014-3447. Individual and student members of CAST may request a free copy; please include \$3.00 postage and handling.



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