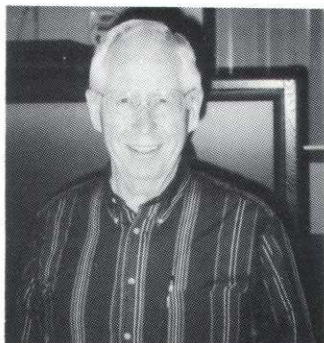


A REPORT OF RETIREMENT

By Allen L. Gerdin
MGCSA - Life Member



My involvement with the turf industry began in 1960 with the responsibility of introducing a line of fertilizers to the golf courses of the Upper Midwest. This led to joining the sales staff at the former R.L. Gould Company, and eventually North Star Turf, Inc. A plaque hanging on my office wall states that my membership in the MGCSA began January 1, 1966. Semi-retirement has been my privilege for the past two plus years. Working with and for a professional group of people involved in the turf industry has been a very rewarding experience.

Retirement (though not 100%) is perhaps keeping me busier than before. During the past 19 years, I have been involved with Rotary International Youth Exchange. On July 1, 1994, I became the chairperson of the Rotary Youth Exchange for two Districts of Rotary International, which includes most of Southern Minnesota and part of Western Wisconsin. We coordinate the exchange of 50-75 students annually, for a full year of study, with about 35 countries throughout the world.

In April and May of this year I led a Rotary Group Study team of four business and professional people to Sweden. This group interacted with Swedes of similar professions during a five-week period, to learn ways of improving their own skill. Our study area was in the southeastern part of Sweden.

Singing with the American Swedish Institute Male Chorus, also, keeps me involved. We practice weekly and sing at 20-30 performances a year. Some committee and board obligations in the chorus have been very fulfilling. Just recently we have 'cut' a tape and CD. This past summer we had a concert tour in Sweden during the first two weeks of June. Consequently, my trip to Sweden, for Rotary, expanded to an eight-week stay in the country of my father's birth.

Retirement is rewarding in many ways, especially in the way of a retirement gift from my daughter. She took me on a trip to Brazil during the first three weeks of this past September. We toured several parts of the country, including a fifty-mile boat cruise of the Amazon River at Manaus, plus a hike in the jungle. Also, we had the privilege of eating Piranha instead of being eaten by them.

During full-time employment many leisure activities played a distant second place in my life. In retirement there has been time to become involved on a 'seniors' golf team. Poor golfing scores of the past are slowly but gradually improving enough to create a desire to continue playing the great game.

The greatest drawback to retirement is the lack of close contact with the superintendents and crew members that I called on over the years. I have many wonderful memories of hundreds of people. Many became very special friends that I will cherish forever.

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