

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Johnson
New Richmond Golf Club



The past 200 years have seen many advances made in golf. Actually the last 30 years have seen the most significant technical advances. New and improved balls, clubs made from space age materials and shoes that will knock strokes off your game. From our perspective, there have been scientific advances in seed, pesticides, irrigation and maintenance equipment. Some of us that have been around a while on golf courses used to have a job, now it's a profession. Most of these changes have been for the better.

However, no advances have been made in how the game of golf should be played — nor should there be. For the last 400 years, the challenge, the philosophy and the area upon which the game is played basically remains unchanged. It includes luck, chance, skill, reward and, of course, penalties.

Think of where the game originated. You play the ball as it lies or don't play. This is the true essence of golf, but that philosophy doesn't exist on most American courses. Today golfers expect perfect lies no matter if they are in the bunker, rough or fairway. The game wasn't created for those that think a perfect lie is necessary every time. Properly developed skills in playing the ball as it lies is what the game was intended to be. The philosophy of meticulously maintained golf courses versus the 'old' more natural courses has changed how the game is played and how our jobs (professions) are defined.

"The closer we get to perfection, the more obvious our imperfections become."

— Jim Latham

George Ostler hasn't reported any nosebleeds or oxygen deficiency from maintenance staff or golfers on the 14th tee at Hillcrest C.C. At 1,070 feet above sea level, it is the highest point in St. Paul.

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So far, the only hole-in-one to report from a superintendent this summer comes from **Pete Mogren**, on the third hole at Oak Glen. It is my understanding that he had changed the cup and tee markers on that hole. Certainly there must be a USGA ruling against such procedures!

Along those same lines, who can you think of that can hit a driver-3 iron into the cup on a 530-yard hole for a double eagle? It's **Scott 'Titanium' Turtinen**, playing at the Rancho Santa Fe Farms Course in the 92nd Trans-Mississippi Mid-Amateur Championship.

The *Editor's Corner*, is sort of a generic title and I thought if some other superintendents were writing it, there could be better names. For instance, *Murphy's Law*, *Moris' Code*, *Confessions of a Gardner*, *Greeninger and Bear It*, *Nicol's Worth*, *Austin's City Limits* (*information not useful for outstate courses*), *Femrite or Wrong*, *O'Leary This*, *Diegnau or Later*, *Pooch Fun*, *Reynolds Rap*, etc. You get the idea.

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The **MTGF's mailing list** now includes over 6,000 membership names. The Conference and Trade Show at the Minneapolis Convention Center in December could be very large in terms of numbers if all nine allied associations have a good turnout. **Fred Taylor** and **Brad Pedersen** are two of the people setting this conference up and stress the fact that there has to be good attendance for this to be successful. They suggest that each of us contact a local lawn care, city park etc., and tell them about this event. Many times personal contact makes a difference rather than a mailing which sometimes gets passed over. After previewing the list of speakers and subjects, it looks like an absolutely excellent conference with something for everyone in the turf care business. So make it a point to tell someone in the business about the MTGF/MGCSA Conference and Trade Show, Dec. 6, 7 & 8. The progress continues on the development of a Turf and Grounds Research Facility at the Rosemount Experiment Station. It may include a community center, sports field complex, technical college, and a 54-hole MGA/research golf course.

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Don't forget our October 9th outing at Chisago Lakes Golf Estates. **Dave Zimmer** promises all the leaves will be picked up and all course maintenance people will be in a good mood. Blowing irrigation and spraying just one more time is easy to think about after this past hot, humid summer.

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Thanks again to **Stan Kinkaid**, for his supply of information from around the world.

Cushman Motor Co., Inc. Increases Sales Force

Cushman Motor Company, Inc. has announced the addition of John Olson to its Turf Equipment Sales Department effective September 1, 1995. John brings several years of equipment sales experience and customer service with him to this new position. "John's level of commitment to customer service and his enthusiastic attitude are the qualities which make him a perfect match for our company," said Tim Commers, vice president, sales manager of Cushman Motor Company of Minneapolis.

Cushman Motor Company has also increased staffing within its parts and service departments in recent months in a continuing effort to maintain the highest possible level of customer satisfaction. "Because our business has grown so rapidly, it is important for us to keep expanding in an effort to adequately serve the people who have made our success possible," said Commers.