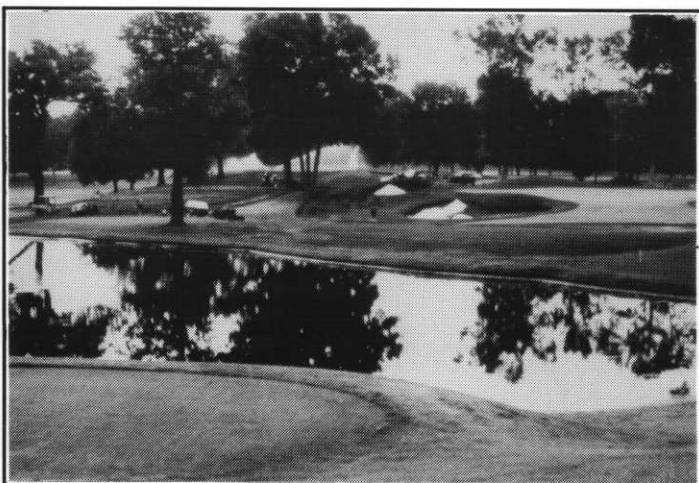


Edina Country Club Undergoes a Facelift

By Dale Wysocki

As you drive onto Edina Country Club via the maintenance access road, the first thing you notice is a lack of ball washers, flagsticks and other golf course accessories. But you see the greens, tees, fairways and rough. Yes, there is a golf course here, it's a golf course under construction. Both nines are closed. Basically there's no play. Could this be a Golf Course Superintendent's dream? The Ping putter lies dormant in the bed of the maintenance cart. Only tools of the construction trade are in there now: marking paint, marking flags and a shovel. This is a very tough way to break into the business.



Redesigning can make a golf course a very busy place.

Second year golf course superintendent Dave Simeon is getting a constructive education. Dave became the general contractor for this project, the person responsible for scheduling everything. That meant being in contact with Roger Rulewich, the designer. Mr. Rulewich formerly with Robert Trent Jones, Sr. brought a wealth of experience to the table, and this design experience should take Edina Country Club well into the next millenium. The golf course was not modified just here and there. Rather, the desing was a total re-design with the idea of giving Edina a new look.

The groups selected to do the actual work at Edina are no strangers to the golf construction business. Golf Group, Inc. did a majority of the earthmoving and green construction while Roloza Turf was the supplier of the new sod for the greens. The unique part of this year's project was that the project only lost two days due to weather delays. With the construction project going on and no play, some may think that since the golf course has been closed since July



General Contractor (Edina CC Sup't.) Dave Simeon.

22, this could mean prime time with the family, no 4:00 a.m. mornings, less all around pressure. However, new sod has to be irrigated (most often by hand), and there still is the pride of keeping Edina Country Club in top playing condition. The grounds department was "beefed up," and at times three-fourths of the staff was supporting the project to make sure that the project was finished on time.

The entire construction project began in July right after the Western Junior Open and finished according to schedule. Next year after the snows of winter have cleared, and Mother Nature awakens the earth, you will find a new golf course emerging from dormancy.



Putting finish grade on the tee.