

# Considering Relocating?

By **MIKE NELSON**  
*Jackpot Junction*

I've challenged myself to contribute to *Hole Notes* at least once a year and I would hope that others would do the same as the success of a publication like this depends on membership contributions.

I have recently taken a job as Superintendent for a golf course that will be built by the Lower Sioux Indian Community in Morton, Minn. We will be breaking ground mid-August and completion is expected by the summer of 2000. The piece of property we have is fantastic. We've hired Rees Jones as the golf course architect and the resources are in place for a world class golf course in Southwest Minnesota. I'm looking forward to being a part of this project but there were some important decisions that had to be faced.

There are many things to consider if you are looking at possibly relocating. Although the job opportunity may be attractive, one must consider the most important things in life before making a decision. In my case, we very recently had a baby. The changes my wife and I were going through, getting acquainted with our little one, my wife getting used to being an at-home mom, combined with the possibility of us moving and myself starting a new position was a potentially stressful situation. My wife and I had talked about the possibility but it wasn't until I had a job offer that the life changing decisions had to be confronted.

I think we would all agree that there is a nice comfort level we achieve when we've been at a location for a period of time. We value the friendships that have been developed. Possibly the move would take you farther away from family members. If you have children in school it would mean taking them out of that environment. How would they adapt to a new situation? If you are considering relocating, make sure you stand back and see past the exciting employment opportunity and really consider your family's needs and how it will affect them. I love what I do for a living as does every other superintendent I know, but be sure to look at the big picture and be prepared to deal with some stress. I'm excited about my new employment situation and I don't regret the decision we've made, but actually going through it opened my eyes as to what's important in my life and where important decisions should have their beginnings.

I have a few suggestions that may be of help to someone who is relocating. Some of these I've implemented while others I wish I would have.

**Take time off in between jobs** if possible. There are many things that require your attention at this time such

as contacting Realtors and getting your house ready to go on the market which may require some touch-up painting, carpet cleaning and general organization so your home can make good impressions on potential buyers. This is also a good time to give some of those clothes you don't wear anymore to charity groups and also provides an excellent opportunity to lose some of those gifts you've accumulated over the years. You will also be busy scouting out the area you will be moving to and looking at housing along with becoming familiar with other aspects of the area such as schools, churches, possibly job opportunities for your spouse. These scouting trips that are made should not be limited to see how much you can get done in a given day but to see if you can make fun out of the trip by having a picnic or staying in a hotel rather than trying to squeeze in everything and end up spending all your time on the road where

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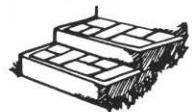


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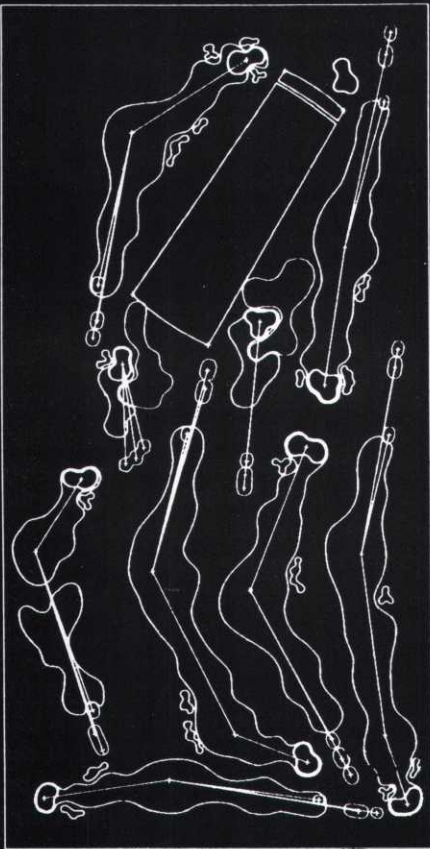
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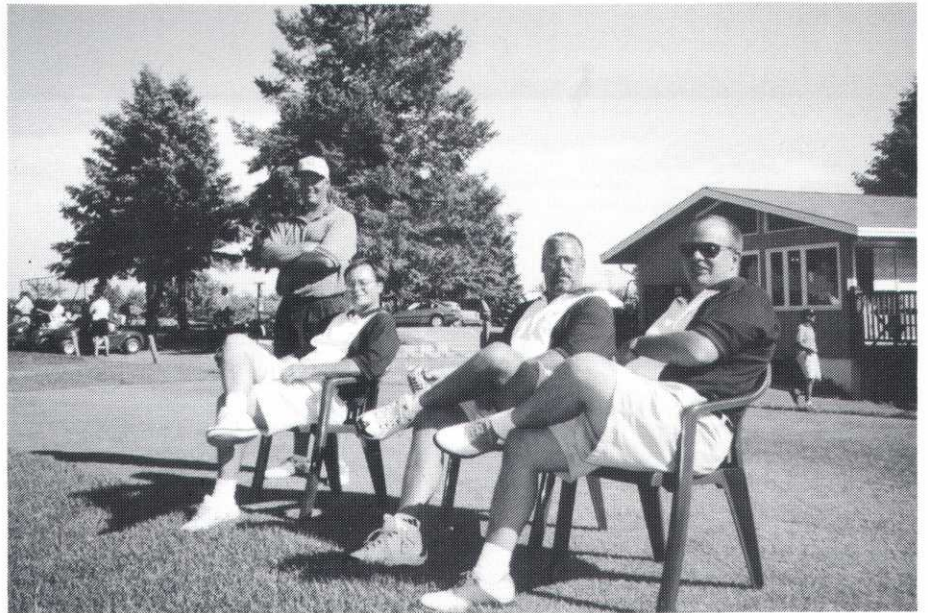
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## Relocating—

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the potential is there to become frustrated about all the uncertainties.

We found a house we liked (which took a while as the housing market in rural areas is quite different than the cities) and our offer was accepted. Now all we had to do was sell our house which according to our agent wasn't going to be too difficult as the housing market around the cities was very good. We had our house on the market for approximately three weeks and it worked out well that the couple that bought our house was able to close on it in a matter of weeks which was a great relief as I had been spending the past month commuting. The five hours a day I was spending on the road was getting old.

If you are doing all the packing yourself, try to do a little everyday and when the time comes to load the truck it won't seem so overwhelming. Before starting to pack I looked around and although we haven't accumulated that much, when it came time to load the truck it was amazing how it multiplied. There were times when I would take a box out and when I came back there were two in its place or so it seemed.

As soon as you know your new address and the date you will be moving, let the post office know along with utility companies and any other agencies or organizations you are affiliated with.

It's been a few weeks since we've moved and we're still getting settled in. Our lifestyle is somewhat getting back to normal and we've met a lot of nice people. Divot (our Australian Shepherd) has had some trouble adjusting and one morning left a few surprises in the lower level on our new carpet. (I think we'll have to find some geese for her to chase). My wife grew up in a small town so I'm the one who is dealing with culture shock. We're living just outside Redwood Falls, it has a population of 5,100 which is a good-sized town and we have all the modern conveniences — running water, indoor plumbing, a Dairy Queen not far away — but I've lived in the big city my whole life and I'm still trying to get used to looking out my windows and seeing haybines and bailers drive by within feet of my house. Just the other night I was standing outside and couldn't help but notice the incredible display of stars and it was right about then I felt that I could get used to this "country livin'."