

Fabian—

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watched lovers spoon, bar room brawls, played at weddings, wakes and corporate parties. Even after he was appointed Golf Course Superintendent of Winona Country Club in 1953 (succeeding his dad) Ron worked days at the golf club and played with the band at night.

Ron has played all the "big-time clubs" in Minnesota and some better known out-of-state. Ron played the old Prom Ballroom on University Avenue in St. Paul, Schliefs Little City around the corner from my place in Inver Grove Heights, Marigold Ballroom on Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis, the Playmore in Rochester, Minn., Avalon Ballroom in La Crosse, Wis., Pine Island Pavilion, George's Ballroom in New Ulm and the list goes on including a twice a year trip to Chicago to play the Aragon Ballroom on the North Side and the Trianon on the South Side. As we all know many of these ballrooms have disappeared and Ron has been able to concentrate more on his first love — the golf course.

When Turf Supply Company was an infant and this writer was trying his luck at sales, I would arrive at Winona C.C. rather late in the afternoon (like 4:30) and would have to seek Ron at his Witoka Tavern and Dance Hall. He had bought this place in 1975. Joan, his wife, would open the bar about 3:00 p.m. and Ron would help close it at 3:00 a.m. the next morning. After about five years of working 12 hour nights and 12 hour days they sold it. Ron has been very generous in praise of his wife Joan who carried the load for most of these enterprises.

Ron's outside interests never cease to amaze one. At the time of this interview he had dropped his wife Joan off in Stillwater as she was conning the antique shops and sharpening her eye for value of furniture, jewelry, trinkets,



Pictured from right to left are grandfather Ron, son Dennis, grandson Adam and grandson Lukas.

dinnerware and all those things that go along with estate sales. You see, Joan and Ron also handle estate sales.

Ron's son, Dennis, also has been a great support. Dennis started working for his father at age 16. Ten years ago he was named Assistant Superintendent. Dennis' son, Adam, (age 23) started working for Pat Shortridge in the pro shop and upon legal age joined the grounds crew. Grandson Lukas (Dennis' son) is a two-year veteran of the grounds crew. Ron and wife Joan have been married 46 years (1952). They have five children, 12 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Ron received his 45-year plaque from the MGCSA and has 24 years as a member of the GCSAA.

CLASSIFIED ADS

GOLF COURSE G.M. WANTED

Golf Course General Manager wanted for a 9 hole course. Duties include supervision of grounds crew and clubhouse staff. Salary: \$28,000-\$35,000. Send Resume and/or letter to: SWAN LAKE COUNTRY CLUB P.O. Box 308, Pengilly, MN 55775 Telephone inquiries, ask for Dan at 218/885-1285.

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Contact: GREG SPENCER
Brookview Golf Course

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