Pioneers in Minnesota Golf

Pictured from left to right are Jim Graham, Gordon Brinkworth, Leonard Bloomquist and Joe Rush.

Here is another classic picture of Pioneers in Minnesota Golf Course History. If I were to guess where this picture was taken, I would say that it was the inaugural or opening of North Oaks Golf Club.

Jim Graham has been discussed in the past and although he was not a golf course superintendent, his association with the industry goes back to the years of 1927-28 when the MGCSA was chartered. C.L. "Jim" Graham very generously "willed" scholarship monies to the MGCSA Scholarship Fund at his death.

Gordon Brinkworth has been referred to in the past as a "peripatetic" golf course superintendent. Peripatetic has different meanings. The use here refers to the term of "traveler" or "itinerant." Gordon's Dad was superintendent of the golf course in Banff, Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada. Gordie came down from Canada in about 1949 to take the superintendent's job at Minikahda. After the 1949-50 seasons he became the supervisor of construction of North

Oaks Golf Club. After the opening of North Oaks Gordie left to become superintendent at Olympic Hills Golf Club in Chicago.

Leonard Bloomquist became a charter member of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association while working at "The Country Club" which was later named Edina Country Club. Lennie moved to Brookview Country Club and remained until his death. He was prsident of the MGCSA in the years 1940 and then again in 1952-53.

Joe Rush was superintendent at Edina Country Club for approximately 37 years (from 1928 until 1965) and president of the MGCSA in 1941-42. Joe had the demeanor of — and could have passed for — a corporate executive. A very happy-go-lucky person, Joe's office was graced with a piano. Whether it was there for looks, storage or entertainment was never ascertained. He may have been a charter member of the MGCSA but, was not listed among the organizers of the 1927 meeting.

— *Jack Kolb*