

Editor's Corner

By Steve Shumansky
Perham Lakeside Country Club

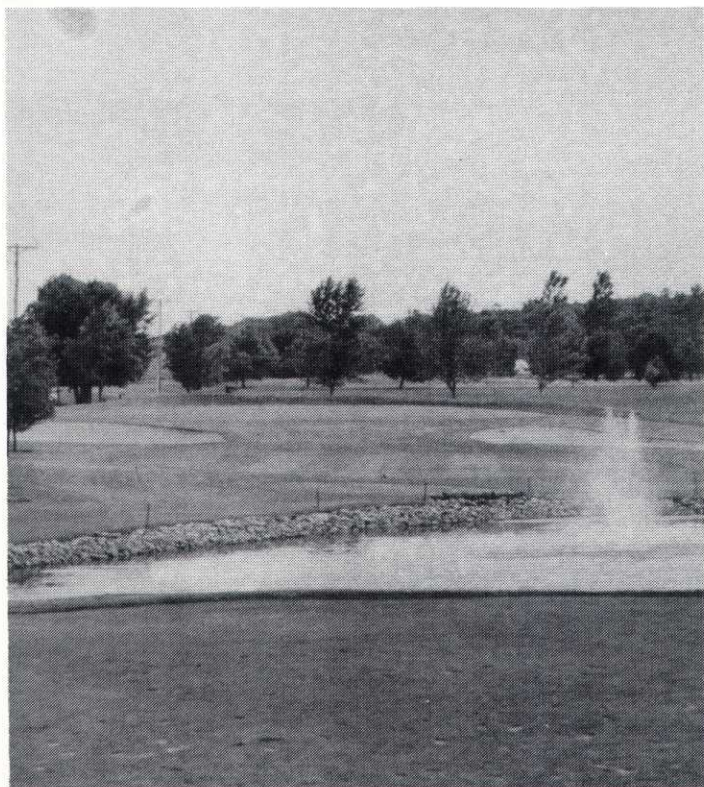


FROM INCEPTION....

The birth of a new course is something, short of, the birth of a child!!

However you want to look at it, history is being made. I have never had a child, but the older a course is, the more history there is to it. And with all the newer courses being built, history is being made. What will these courses see in the next 50 years? Will some of them even be there in the next 75 years?? I wanted to write something this past spring about the passing of a course, which isn't something that happens every day: "Rich Acres."

But I didn't have the time, or I guess make the time to see how the people involved felt about what was going on. What were the feelings of the people that cared for it and how did they feel when it closed? Well, I have been caught up in the birth of one that I feel will have a long and prosperous life, and I have had contact with many in the last few



The 6th hole at Rich Spring Golf Course, site of this year's MGCSA Scholarship Scramble on June 21 in Cold Spring.

years that will, as we all hope, will be there forever!! With every project we do, from building a tee, or adding a bunker, or something as simple as planting a tree, we're making history. It's going to be there for a long time!!! Think of it this way, it'll never be in any history books, but the reflections of the decisions we make today will reflect on people for years to come. The decisions we make today reflect on the future. I invite you all to come play Perham, and enjoy what we have created here.

THE BEAUTY OF IT ALL.....

By now our staff has been groomed to perfection and our courses look like a postcard.

The pride we all take has somehow rubbed off, and our staff, is doing us proud. All the mowing lines are as straight as an arrow; one could snap a chalk line on. The shrubs are trimmed to a tee, the tree bases are trimmed and all the annuals are in place for our guests to enjoy. All the vibrant colors our annuals present bring beauty to the eye and somehow ease the stress in everyone's life. Isn't that a big part of what we do? Yes, we are in the beauty department! Sure, we all maintain golf courses and make them playable, but with today's standards, there is more to it than just having quick greens. The beauty of it all is.....We as turf managers set the stage. The scrutiny will always be there, but when we come to work in the morning and watch the sun come up and turn our staff loose, we create beauty!!

I know from all the years I have been in this business, I still enjoy coming to work and love being a part of making someone's day enjoyable. Sure it seems as if the same duties are done day after day, but think of Joe Blow, who gets to golf once a week, or once a month. It is up to us to make his experience the most enjoyable experience we can. But at the same time, **WHAT IS YOUR GOLF COURSE??** In a weird sense, it's your back yard. I had one of my employees a few years ago write on my irrigation map, "Steve's Back Yard". I have never erased that.... I just can't.... simply because it is true. Don't look at my home lawn and judge me, look at my course and pass judgment. It all comes down to what we are all about. Making the game of golf the most enjoyable experience our members and guests can possibly have. I personally get pleasure when golfers play my course and like their experience. Either they talk to one of my staff members or myself and say how nice things were. I expect them to say it's nice, but when my staff members come in and say someone complimented them, that means even more to me than if they told me directly. I guess it hits home to my staff and they can take that much more pride in what they do than me telling them they're doing a good job. It always helps when your staff has contact with the golfers, they hear it first hand, and I guarantee it makes them feel good. As I stated, we are in the beauty department. Please take pride in what you do, it shows!!!! With that, I'll close.....

I hope you and your course are in good health, and smile, whenever you can.....

--Steve Shumansky
Editor