

History of Golf Course Irrigation—

(Continued from Page 15)

Moist-O-Matic in 1962, it branched out to become one of the leaders in the irrigation market.

Since the early 1960s, Toro has been manufacturing and marketing large-radius, gear-driven, valve-in-head, pop-up sprinklers. Within the past decade, Toro introduced a fully com-

puterized irrigation system for turfgrass on golf courses and athletic fields. Toro remains the only manufacturer of turf maintenance equipment that also owns an irrigation division.

Later Years

Since the 1950s, the irrigation industry has grown primarily due to the introduction of the electrically activated valve. It allowed turf managers to efficiently irrigate for specific time periods without having to depend upon the hiring of an irrigation crew. When the transistor was developed in the 1960s, this eliminated the use of tubes in radio controlled units and resulted in more flexibility in controllers. Then in the 1970s, the central computer controller was designed. These are in common use on golf courses, parks and athletic fields.

Today, computerized water management systems are available to all turf managers. These systems may be combined with weather stations, which allow the turfgrass to be irrigated in conjunction with the evapotranspiration of the site. The use of reclaimed water and fertigation technology continue to be introduced and improved upon as a less expensive method of irrigating golf courses. Irrigation has played a major role in enabling golf course architects and superintendents to elevate the sport of golf to its current state.

(Editor's Note: Dr. Kent W. Kurtz has been a professor of turf grass science at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona for more than 30 years. This article was reprinted with permission from the the author.)

2003 MGCSA CALENDAR

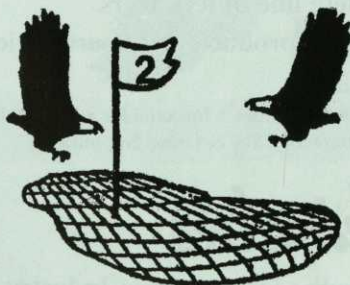
MONDAY, MAY 19
SPRING MIXER
VALLEY HIGH GOLF CLUB
HOST: JEFF NORMANDT

MONDAY, JUNE 30
SCHOLARSHIP SCRAMBLE
NEW RICHMOND GOLF CLUB
HOST: TOM JOHNSON

MONDAY, AUGUST 18
MGCSA CHAMPIONSHIP
THE LEGACY COURSES AT CRAGUN'S
HOST: MATT MCKINNON

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
STODOLA RESEARCH SCRAMBLE
OAK MARSH GOLF COURSE
HOST: ROBERT PORTER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13
FALL MIXER
LONG PRAIRIE COUNTRY CLUB
HOST: JOHN MONSON



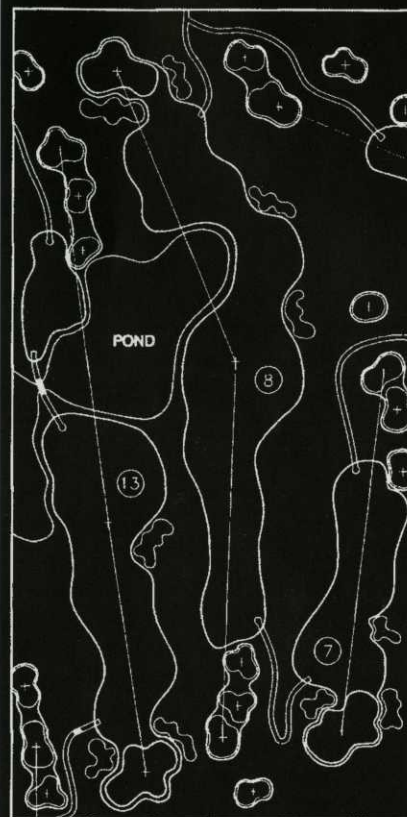
Mel Strand, CEO
35 Years Experience

Double Eagle Golf Construction

Renovation Experts
...Construct the New

17715 Jefferson St. NE ~ Ham Lake, MN 55304 (763) 434-0054

HERFORD • NORBY



GOLF COURSE
ARCHITECTURE



(952)942-0266 (952)942-0197 Fax