

## Highland Park—

(Continued from Previous Page)

to detail. They were meticulous in their follow through and were on the job regularly. And McCrossan, which was doing its first golf course job, was really thorough, too. They have an abundance of high tech equipment for shaping bunkers, tees and greens, and they really wanted to do things right. All the checks and balances on this project were very good."

### First Golf Course Job

An experienced earth-moving contractor specializing in heavy, highway and commercial projects, McCrossan was doing its first golf course project. "This was our first golf course job," says McCrossan project manager Troy Weis. "We had been interested in getting into golf course work for several years but nothing had come across our plate before this project.

"Most golf courses are privately owned and bidding is done by invitation only, so if you hadn't done golf course work in the past it was difficult to break into the business. This, being a project where there would be competitive bidding, we thought we'd give it a shot."

While McCrossan was new to golf course work, the company's extensive use of GPS equipment was not. "We have equipment installed right on our earth movers. Our dozers have small computers to show the operator just how much cut or fill is needed at each specific point on the job. We can grade without a lot of need for elevation stakes," Weis says. "Using GPS makes a job much easier and much more efficient."

Scott Greenseth, an experienced golf course shaper, participated with McCrossan in the final shaping and detailing of the golf course.

Other contractors working on the project were Premiere Irrigation, Hastings, Minn., which did irrigation and electrical work; Heikes Farms, of Lakeville, Minn., which did the seeding, sodding and erosion matting work and Morris Excavating & Drainage, Jordan, Minn., which assisted McCrossan with some of the subsurface drainage work. The new course will have a fully automatic, radio-controlled Toro irrigation system.

### Clubhouse is Landmark

While the course is being updated to a first class facility, funding needed to bring the clubhouse back into top shape has not yet been fully secured, according to Vince

Gillespie, who as manager of special services for the City of St. Paul is in charge of all four of its golf courses.

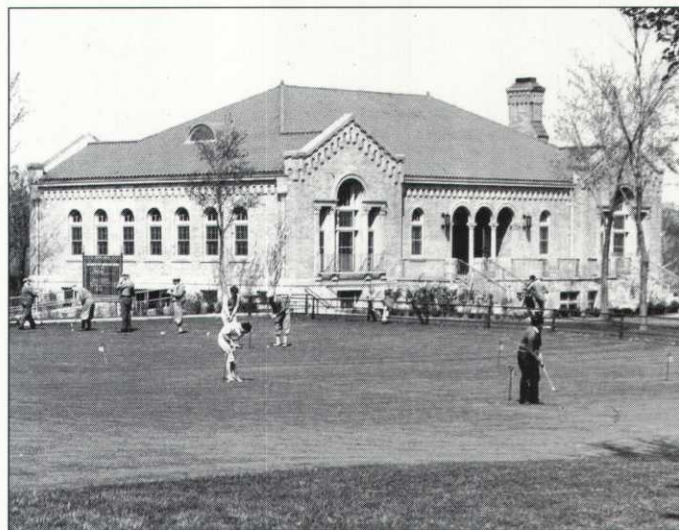
The clubhouse, an important landmark within the Highland Park community, is built of limestone and has stone columns and a red tile roof. The building, which is virtually unchanged since its original construction, is eligible for designation to the National Register of Historic Places.

"We're still hoping to find all the funding for that project," Gillespie says. The clubhouse is in need of both exterior and interior work to preserve its historical character and to make it a more useful resource for the community.

One area that could provide some of the funding for that project and for other needs, he says, is the sponsorship program that is being initiated in which 24 business sponsors are being sought to commit from \$10,000 to \$15,000 each to support special projects.

### Lifetime Memorials

In addition, the 10 ponds that were created to control ground and storm water will be sold and signed as lifetime memorials. "This can be done in memory of



someone who played or caddied on the course, or may have had some other involvement with the course or in the community," Gillespie says. "It is a way for people to build a memory for a family member." About the renovation schedule for the course, Gillespie says, "Everything is looking pretty good. We hope to be hitting off the practice range grass later in the year. The course itself probably won't be re-opened until the spring of 2005. We don't want to re-open it prematurely; we have too much of an investment in the course to risk that."

The re-opening schedule, by Oelke's determination, might be a little conservative. "With the 85-15 mix, which is a click above normal," he says, "we'll have tees and greens that will be ready to rock long before the course is scheduled to be re-opened. The performance of the turf," he says, "won't come up short."

## Snoopy Bunker

A Snoopy-shaped sand bunker is among the features of the rebuilt Highland Park National Golf Course in St. Paul that is planned to re-open in 2005.

Designed and built as a tribute to Snoopy creator Charles Schulz, the feature is located on the 15th hole and includes a pond.

"This was the home course of Charles Schulz, who had caddied and played there as a youth," Garrett Gill of the Gill Miller, Inc. golf course architectural firm, says. "So, as a tribute to him, Paul Miller of our firm came up with the idea of putting in a Snoopy bunker. This has gotten national recognition. Mrs. Schulz and the Schulz Foundation have approved the feature."

