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HOLE NOTES, official publication of the MINNESOTA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

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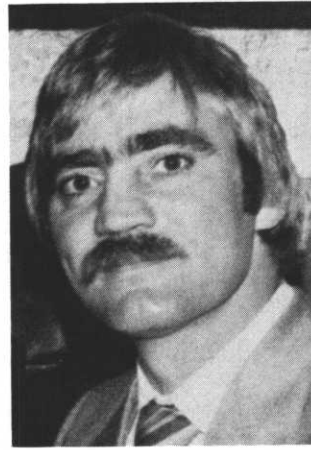
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EDITORIAL NOTE:

IN CASE YOU FIND ANY MISTAKES IN THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE REMEMBER THEY WERE PUT THERE FOR A PURPOSE. WE TRY TO OFFER SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN THIS NEWSLETTER. SOME PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MISTAKES.



**Dick DeSplinter**

**FROM THE  
PRESIDENT'S  
DESK**

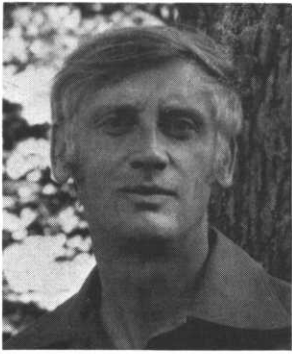
I would like to hear from the membership of this organization! We are initiating a new section for the monthly HOLE NOTES. It's called editorials from the members.

I would like to read about: Members' satisfaction or dissatisfaction with their association; members' turf maintenance programs; members' irrigation systems and practices; educational program experiences; fertility schedules for greens, tees and fairways; vandalism prevention programs; tree care, tree replacement and tree fertility programs; sand or other top dressing programs; overseeding programs on greens, tees and fairways, reconstruction programs and procedures; equipment maintenance schedules and practices; daily work schedules; golf tournament preparations; sand trap maintenance practices; aerification, thatch control and cart path maintenance programs; and I'm sure our new members and student members have something to share with other members.

I have received one article thus far for publication in our May edition of HOLE NOTES. I am prepared to reward the authors of the first ten printable editorials that reach my desk at our Annual Turf Conference. Remember as professionals and leaders in the turf industry we should have the ability to communicate, learn and share.

This is your invitation to send your editorials to Dick DeSplinter at 6567 Bluebird Dr., Maple Grove, Minn. 55369.

We have all joined this association for a reason. Let us enjoy our fellowship, share and grow for better turf.



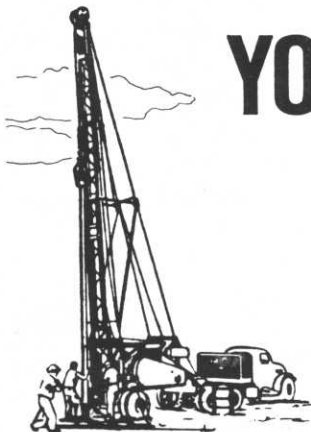
Larry Mueller

# SECRETARY'S UPDATE

Executive Committee Meeting, February 4, 1980.

- 1) Thank you letters for Honorary Memberships in the M.G.C.S.A. were received by Howard Kaerwer, Charles Wilson, Dr. George Blake, Dr. William Martin, James Watson and Fred Grau.
- 2) The early results of the Annual Conference Survey were discussed. Don Lindblad is working on an Annual Conference site.

- 3) James Lindblad will research entertainment for the Smoker (new name for Stag) at the Annual Conference.
- 4) The monthly meetings will be held when applicable at 11:00 a.m. with lunch and golf to follow. The survey favored the morning meetings.
- 5) The Industrial Public Relations Committee will consist of Dick DeSplinter, George Ostler, and Keith Scott with Associate Members Orv Robertson, Dan Evavold, Jerry Commers, Gordon Miller, Larry Vetter, Denny Munson and Jack Kolb.
- 6) The Tournament Committee is co-chaired by James Lindblad and George Jennrich. Tentative: There will be a 1:00 p.m. shotgun at both Wayzata Country Club and Woodhill Country Club with dinner at Wayzata Country Club.
- 7) Through the legislature the M.G.C.S.A. will support the University in its need for a new building.
- 8) New black and white or green with white name tags will be purchased. The cost is not to exceed \$2.00 per tag with a charge of actual cost to all existing members who wish to purchase one.
- 9) A lengthy discussion was held on the proposal for a Superintendent of the Year Award. No steps were taken to establish this award because of lack of interest.
- 10) No action was taken on the proposal by the President of the Club Managers' Association to have one joint monthly meeting with them this year.
- 11) There was a lengthy discussion on the proposal to sectionalize the National G.C.S.A.A. There was a negative feeling among the directors for such a move at this time.



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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Steve Young

Two people were accepted as members at the February Board Meeting. They were: Joseph Thein, Class F, Sauk Rapids, Minn., and Gregory Senst, Class F, Marshfield, Wisc.

QUARTER CENTURY CLUB. If you have been a member of our Association for twenty-five years you may be eligible for the Quarter Century Club. Contact Steve Young, 3425 Hamel Road, Hamel, Minn. 55340 if you qualify. Phone: 612/473-4114.

RECLASSIFICATION. Check the bylaws in the roster for classification requirements. If you are ready for a change, contact the membership chairman, Steve Young, with the data.

1980 DUES. If your 1980 MEMBERSHIP DUES are not paid, they are delinquent. Second billings have been mailed. All memberships not paid by April 1 will be dropped from the M.G.C.S.A.

COMMUNICATION. The following letter of appreciation was received from Herb Graffis and we wanted to share it with you.

"Dear Steve: Thank you and your teammates in the Minnesota GCSA again for making me an honorary member of your ancient and honorable order. My brother, Joe, and I very definitely have appreciated the honor of being counted in with you all over many years. There was a lot more pioneering in businesslike maintenance of golf courses done by the Minnesota Greenkeepers than people now realize.

Away back when Sam Clapper was getting the Toro engineering applied to golf courses, he had Charley Erickson and others doing a lot of intensive testing and that helped golf courses and golfers all over the country. Then there was the Staude outfit, as I recall, that made lugs for wheels that could make a battered and durable early Ford a golf course tractor. There was the National outfit, too, that developed a pretty damn good little mowing outfit with Ford's early job as a basis. Then Ken Goit worked out the Toro distribution plan at Minneapolis. The Milorganite tie-up of field testing and application, research and merchandise development got plenty of early action with Vic Kadish and O.J. Noer spreading out from Milwaukee to Minnesota and Illinois. Minnesota was ideal test territory because it had every soil from glacial rocks to Mississippi mud. And the weather.....everything from hotter than east of Suez to colder than a polar bear's prat. You know I have covered championships for one hell of a long time but the hottest one was up your way in 1930 when Jones won the U.S. Open of his Grand Slam. Hell, that made even the Blast Furnace Open at Tulsa when Bolt won look like a deepfreeze.

Steve, thinking back over those merry and exciting years when golf was growing up as a Big American Business, I can recall plenty of times when your M.G.C.S.A. Holy Land produced plenty of imaginative editorial ideas that have become standard operating practices and plenty of damn welcome advertising for Joe and me in Golfdom.

So now you see, Steve, and I'm sure the surviving old timers do, why this Minnesota Honorary Membership is more than one of those nice formalities to me. It is actually a refreshing, happy reminder of working with some wonderful guys in helping fellow Americans in the pursuit of happiness and in a vitally important work which I suspect too few of your colleagues and the general public appreciate. The golf course superintendent now is providing the escape and the therapy to save the poor damned stir-crazy victims of the concrete, glass, steel, asphalt and economic and social prison of these times. But anybody who was with Minnesota's superintendents or the poetically named Greenkeepers in the old days of spring when Scotty McLargen and his robust,

Continued on Page 6

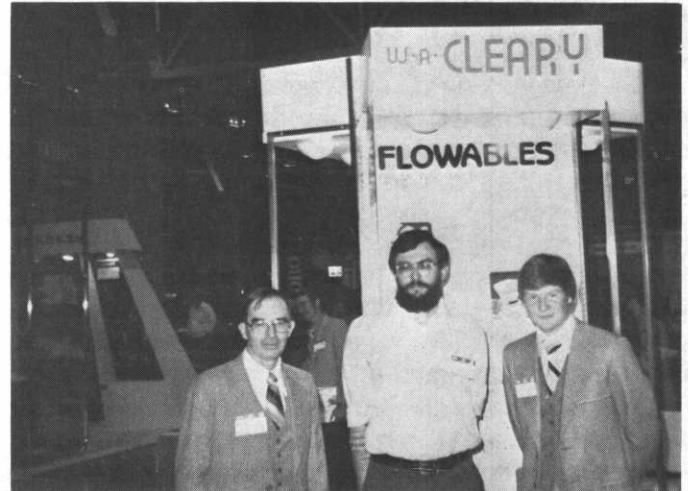
thirsty ilk drank the anti-freeze fluid as one of the popular varieties of native booze will realize why this membership and one of a companion kind from the Midwest association brings a smile, a laugh and a feeling of deep gratitude to you all. "

Sincerely,  
Herb Graffis

### More St.Louis

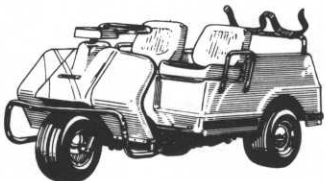


**NOW HEAR THIS.** Ted Horvath of Par Aide, left, gives explanation to Nick Dunn and Steve Young.



**CORNERED.** Jim Brown of Little Crow C.C., center, is flanked by Jack Kolb, left, and unidentified salesman, right.

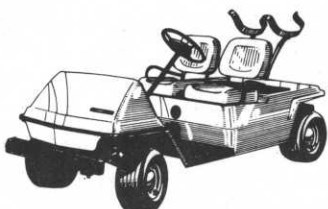
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# A VIEW FROM BOTH SIDES

By Dan L. Evavold, Minnesota Toro, Inc.



I have been asked to share with the readers of HOLE NOTES my past experience as a golf course superintendent and my present experience with a golf course supplier. Perhaps what is really being asked is if the grass is greener on the other side of the fence. Before I answer that question directly, I would like to say I have learned appreciation for both positions. Appreciation of the superintendent for knowing the unpredictability of his job, the broad scope of responsibilities, the vast amount and variety of knowledge

and updating of that knowledge needed to be successful, the amount of on-the-job time needed to be on top of things, the relatively small amount of job security, the amount of complaints that often outnumber the compliments, the struggle at budget time to secure what you know is needed but often is blinded to those with the checkbook or that it just isn't there, the long period of off-season time that can potentially tarnish the sheen of a normally well polished superintendent, and at least the search for good employees.

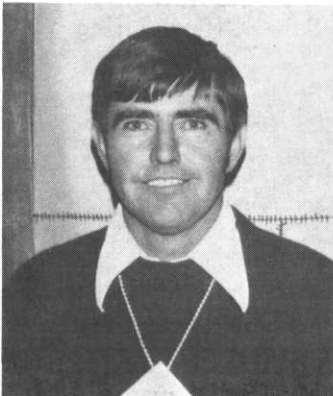
Appreciation of the supplier for knowing the unpredictability of his job, stocking parts equipment which ends up being overstocked or placing a stock order which the manufacturer can't deliver which leads to the two most cursed words in business, "BACK ORDER". Also, expanding to meet customer needs to find out too soon it was too little, the constant struggle to provide to all and still make a profit acceptable to business, having to listen to and do something about complaints that are illegitimate and treat them as legitimate and wanting to satisfy and meet the needs of all customers knowing before you start that you'll fail some where along the way.

To designate the most challenging aspects of each position thus far, I would have to say as a superintendent it's the uncontrollable weather factor and from the suppliers' side, it would have to be product availability from manufacturer and customer awareness to the lead time needed in purchase and delivery.

One might ask, why does he list only disadvantages, are there no advantages? Certainly there are and they have outweighed the disadvantages, but disadvantages have taught me to appreciate. The disadvantages I experienced in the superintendent position became advantages to me in working with the superintendents at my present job.

For me the answer is "Yes", the grass is greener because I am still involved with the golf course people and can relate to their challenges. Also, now I'm working with people and a company that I believed in before I accepted the job. That belief has since been substantiated. I am happy with what I am doing. I am experiencing new challenges, excitements and rewards generated by a market area containing 5.7 million people and their needs.

## Congratulations Carl!



When presented with his plaque at the Annual Meeting of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in St. Louis last month, Carl Johnston of the Forest Hills Golf Club in Forest Lake, Minnesota became a Certified Golf Course Superintendent. He joins a select group of Minnesota Superintendents who have passed a six hour test on every phase of golf and demonstrated their knowledge to the extent that the National Association has certified their knowledge of turf management. Carl is a former member of the Board of Directors of M.G.C.S.A. and an active participant in all its activities.

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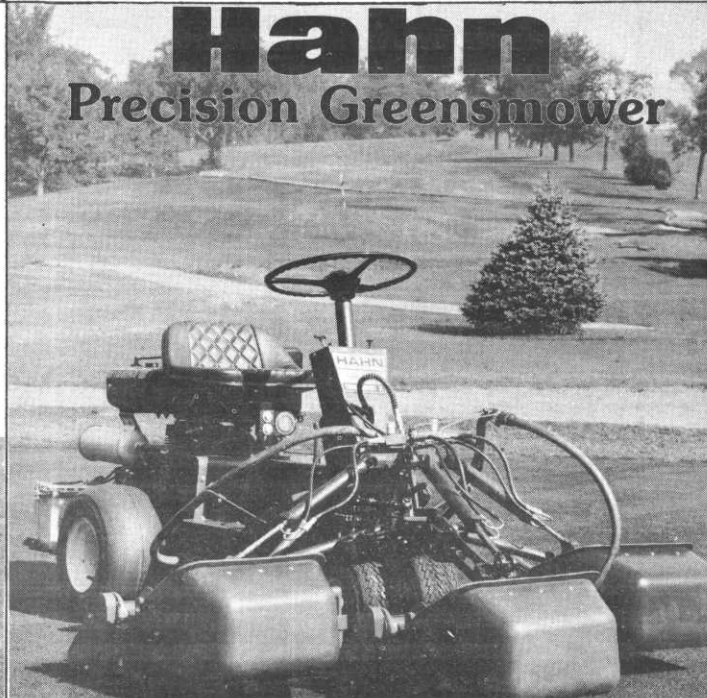
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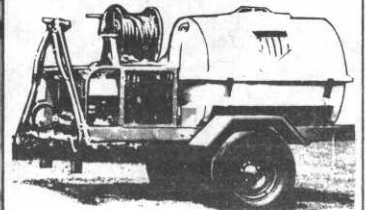
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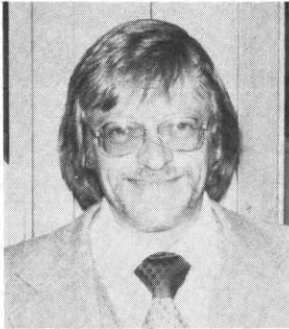
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# THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Don Lindblad, Chairman Education Committee



In starting another golf season the things that normally give us fits are shaping up to be the same. Snow, ice, water, drainage, thawing and freezing. Taking a stab at looking into the future, we as grass growers can look forward to the best spring we've had in many years.

In keeping with our theme to provide quality education in as professional a manner as possible, we can all look forward to the "Educational Meeting" or Mini-Seminar in March. The program has been carefully thought out and should be well worth the trip to Majestic Oaks.

Being chairman of the Educational Committee is proving to be very interesting to say the least. The survey that the Board of Directors sent out to you has helped make some changes in our format for the monthly meetings. Results of the survey showed that 25 approved of the monthly meetings on the present format while 44 favored a business meeting at 11:00 a.m., lunch at noon and golf at 1:00 p.m. with nothing scheduled after golf. The Arrangements Committee will try to follow this plan as much as possible this coming year.

On the question of the Stag Party, 50 voted in favor of retaining this event and 19 voted no. Therefore, the Stag Party will remain but probably will be renamed a Smoker and the entertainment will be toned down.

On the Annual Conference the members selected Plan II with 28 votes. This is the two day plan - all day Thursday, Business Meeting and Stag. All day Friday with banquet that evening. This will be the format for 1980. The site will be the Sheraton Northwest as it has been the last two years. Plan I Present Schedule got 22 votes. Plan II all day Wednesday, Business Meeting, Stag - All day Thursday, banquet, 1/2 day Friday only got six votes. Plan IV 1/2 day Wednesday Business Meeting, Stag, All day Thursday, banquet - 1/2 day Friday got 14 votes.

We had many fine comments on this questionnaire and are very happy with the fine response we got from the membership.

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