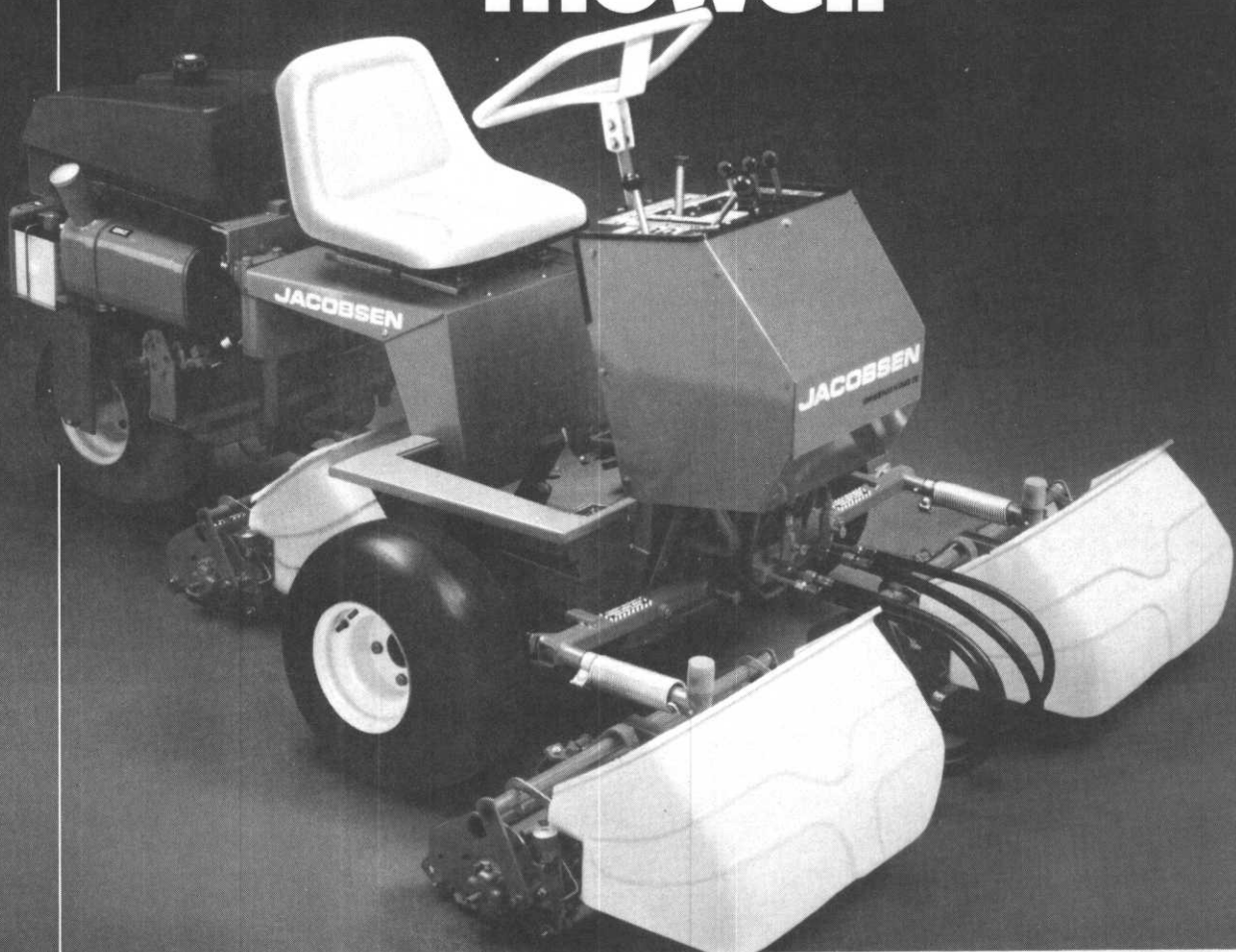


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HOLE NOTES

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GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

JOHN NYLUND

This is my final HOLE NOTES article before Don Lindblad, our new president, takes over in January. I would like to thank our departing board members. Boots Fuller who was on HOLE NOTES did a magnificent job. He got membership participation and it proved very successful. I think you will all agree the HOLE NOTES have been great in 1983. Steve Young who filled in the final year as treasurer decided not to run for election in 1984. My thanks to Steve for doing a great job. I also thank Leif Erickson for his work on the Educational Committee. Leif took a superintendent's job at a new course in Montana. My thanks to Leif and good luck in the future. I also want to thank the remaining board members who helped me during the year.

My best wishes go out to Don Lindblad for 1984. I know he will receive the same support I received.

As long as I am in a thanking mood, let me thank the most important person in a superintendent's life, providing he is married, and that is his wife. Without her understanding of the superintendent's job those long hours, emergency calls and weather worries would be too much for a normal family life. Fortunately, she does understand and miraculously works all the schedules out so that everyone is happy. It takes patience and ingenuity and most of all - love.

I wish all, especially the wives, a happy holiday season and a successful 1984. Thanks for a great year.



A POSITIVE APPROACH TO FAIRWAY COMPACTION



by DAN HANSON
MINIKAHDA CLUB

I would like to discuss a program for fairway maintenance that has given us improved fairway conditons at Minikahda. The program was started in 1980 and has continued on an annual basis.

Minikahda is 85+ years old and has not undergone any significant changes over this time period. Consequently, traffic patterns have not changed since the course was built. In the three years prior to 1980 I felt that compaction was contributing to turf loss considerably. During the summer stress periods, turf loss was almost unavoidable in some of these high traffic areas of our fairways, namely, perimeters and approaches. After detailing the dollars spent for fairway maintenance, I felt that the Greens-Airing of fairways could easily be justified and would help reduce turf loss in these critical areas.

We began our program of utilizing Greens- Aires on fairways in the spring of 1980. Since that time I feel that the results have been well worth the effort. Aside from a noticeable improvement to our turf, there are other advantages as well.

Prior to 1980 we had utilized the Ryan pull type aerifier for fairway aeration. With 3/4" tines on 8" centers I did not feel this unit could be doing much good in eleviating compaction. The number of cores and volume of soil removed with this unit is minimal. The Greens-Aire

removes almost six times the amount of soil removed by this larger unit. The 20 cu yds of soil removed per acre results in the equivalent of an 1/8" of topdressing.

Besides the difference in soil volume removed the pull type unit caused a great deal of damage in terms of turf tearing and required an extended period of time before total recovery took place.

The Greens-Aire unit is the only aerifier which will penetrate highly compacted areas to the desired depth. This unit also does no tearing, making fairway playability almost immediate.

In implementing this operation we usually utilize two and sometimes three aerifiers at a time on one fairway. The coring usually takes 8-9 hours/acre. With 31 acres of fairways this operation requires about 250-300 man hours.

Following the coring, the cores are verticut in two different directions. Starting on the perimeters where the Greens-Aires begin, verti cutting can usually be started before coring is completed.

We next apply Gypsum at the rate of 6-700#/acre. The benefits of this material as a nutrient and a soil ammendment are well worth the cost of \$30/acre. We began utilizing this material in 1981.

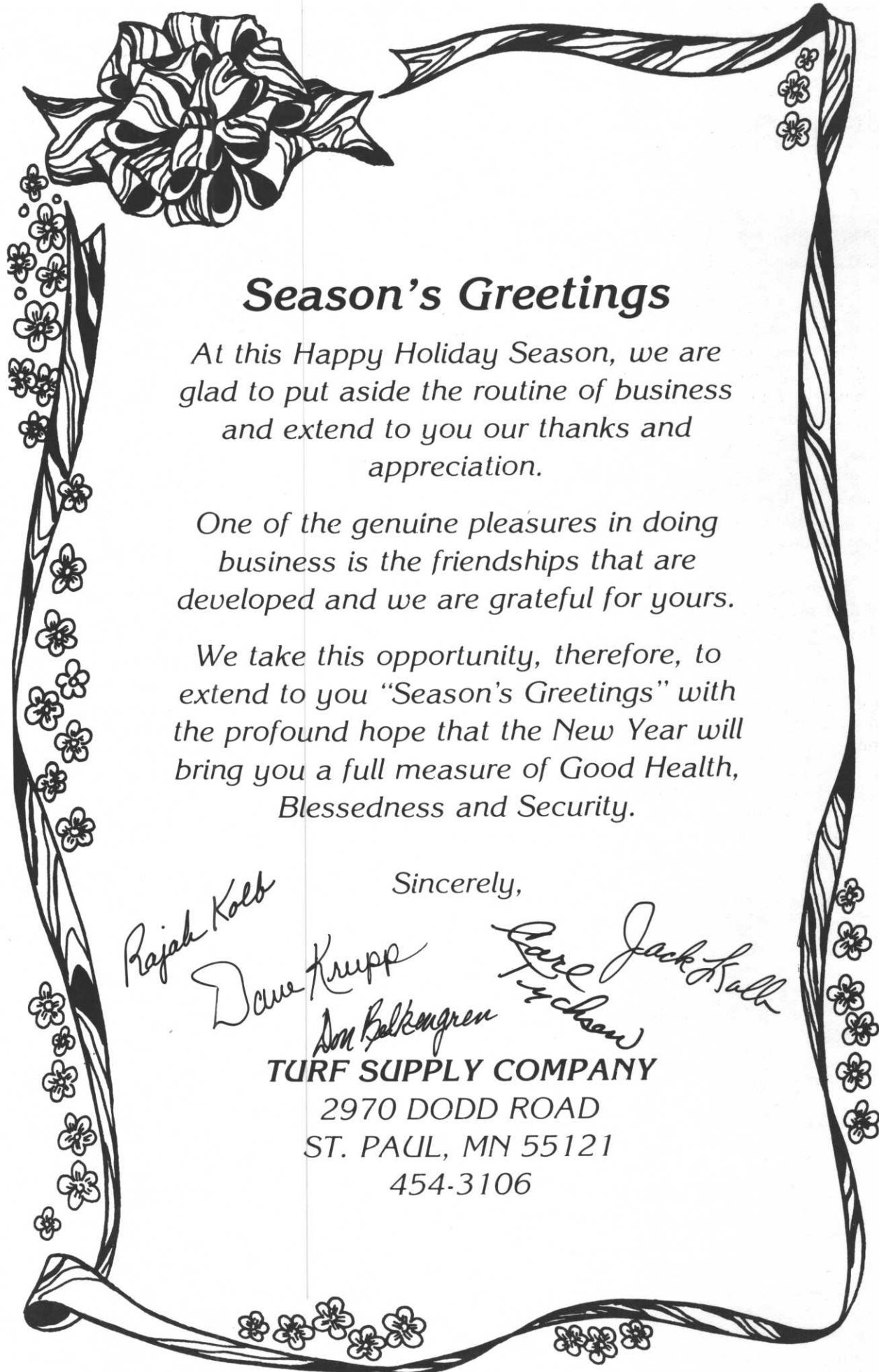
Following the application of Gypsum, we use a keystone galvanized drag to smooth the soil and gypsum into the turf and aerifier holes.

The final procedure is to use a fairway leaf blower to remove the excess thatch and tufts. These are blown off the fairway onto one side of the rough where the Toro Rako-Vac sweeper picks them up.

When the above operations are completed, it is difficult to tell that the fairway was aerified.

In 1984 in conjunction with this program we will begin overseeding our fairways with Penneagle Bentgrass at the rate of 15#/Acre. I feel that after a period of years our Bentgrass will increase considerably. The tremendous volume of

continued on Page 5



Season's Greetings

At this Happy Holiday Season, we are glad to put aside the routine of business and extend to you our thanks and appreciation.

One of the genuine pleasures in doing business is the friendships that are developed and we are grateful for yours.

We take this opportunity, therefore, to extend to you "Season's Greetings" with the profound hope that the New Year will bring you a full measure of Good Health, Blessedness and Security.

Sincerely,

Rajah Kolb

Dave Krupp

Don Balkengren

*Race Jack Kolb
Tuchan*

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soil provided by Greensairing should provide an excellent seedbed for germination.

While this program may seem to be quite labor intensive, it is not as bad as it may seem. It is started the second week of September after our Greens and Tees are completed. One-half of our fairways are done in the fall with the remainder completed the following spring. Much of the coring is done by 2-3 high school students after school so we are not tying up needed labor for this operation at the expense of other things which need to be done on the course. Seldom do we have any more than two people working on this operation at any one time.

There is a long list of agronomic advantages associated with Greensairing. However, I have listed just a few of those which I feel are of major importance:

- 1) Reduced compaction.
- 2) Thatch reduction.
- 3) Increased root system going into summer stress period.
- 4) More effective performance from fertilizer and chemicals.
- 5) More level surface (topdressing affect).
- 6) Less tearing and disruption to turf in relation to other aerifiers.

Obviously, the disadvantages of this program are one of cost. I would itemize the cost factors of this program as follows:

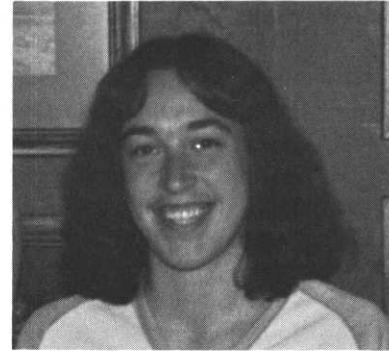
- 1) Labor - 350 man hours/year (based on 31 acres).
- 2) Machine repair. We have found extensive repairs to be needed following 200+ operating hours/machine.
- 3) Gypsum -- 9-10 tons (600-700#/Acre).
- 4) Penneagle Bentgrass - 450 pounds (15#/Acre).

I feel the cost of this program is well justified. It has definitely contributed to a higher quality turf which can better endure over summer stress period.

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REFLECTIONS OF THE LAST SUMMER



by MARY SISSON
IRONWOOD GOLF COURSE

"One learns to hope that Nature possesses an order that one may aspire to comprehend". Quote by C. N. Yang (1922-).

I came across this quote during one of my physic classes and although it certainly describes the orderly fashion that one hopes to learn from physical laws, it certainly describes our yearning to understand the order of Mother Nature. But she sure threw us an unorderly summer this year. The last summer was anything but normal. For you seasoned superintendents, you've seen years come and go and know that in Minnesota you are lucky to get a normal year. But for a rookie superintendent this year at Ironwood Golf Course, I had to learn to adjust quickly to the adversities of weather, stress and limited resources.

Let me begin with limited resources, as this along with the weather contributed to stressful situations. The main problem I faced this year was adequate irrigation. The irrigation system at Ironwood consists of hoses and a sprinkler on each of the greens and tees. There is one valve per green and tee. Due to the hilly terrain of the course and an inadequate water pumping system, the coverage was spotty and inconsistent. I pumped water to the course from a holding tank which takes about twenty-four hours to fill. The pump only put out about 20 gallons per minute. Needless to say, this wasn't enough water during those stressful weeks of July and August to keep a lot

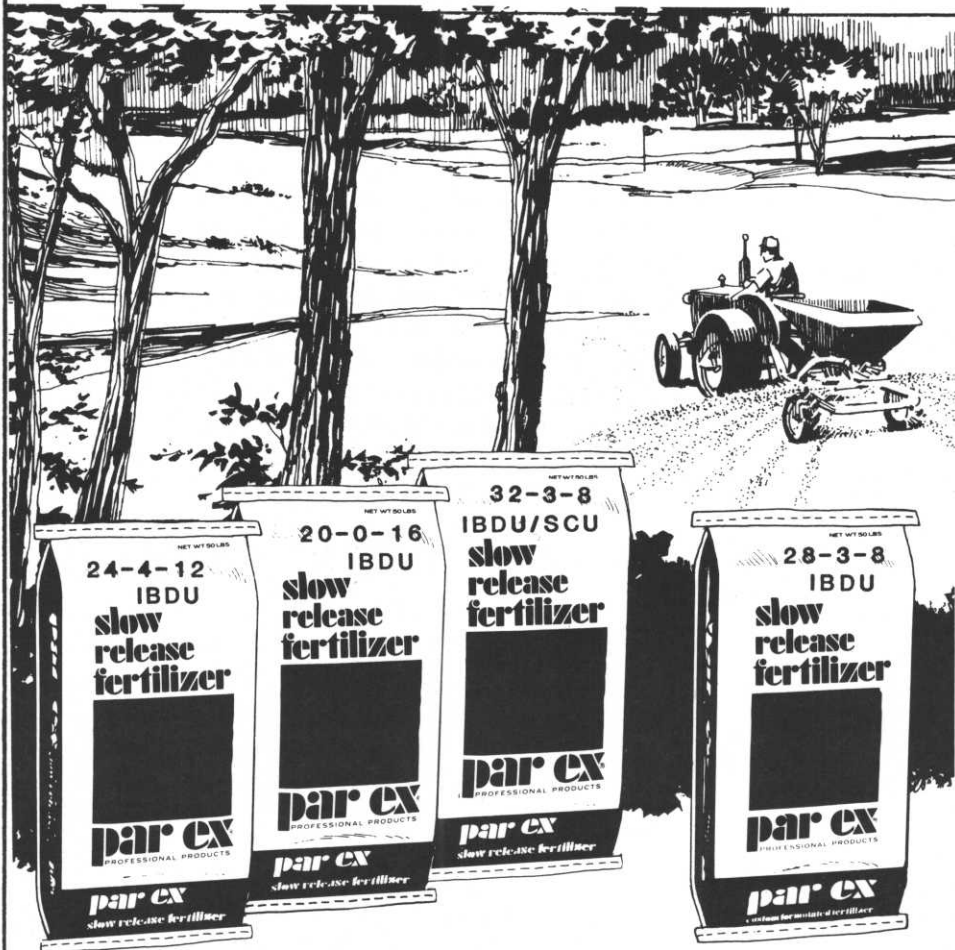
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GCSAA TRAVEL MEMORANDUM

As you know, G.C.S.A.A. has designated Sunflower Travel Agency as our official, year-round travel agency. It is important for you to understand G.C.S.A.A.'s philosophy in selecting an official travel agency versus an official airline.

Our understanding with Sunflower is that they will research and quote the lowest possible fares available to members calling on the toll-free, 800 number in making travel arrangements. Often times an individual may choose a higher fare because of restrictions, such as the number of days required to stay at a location, that go along with the discounted fares. However, Sunflower's pledge to us is that they will always, to the best of their ability, research all airlines for the lowest cost and present them to our members when they call.

There are going to be times, however, because of the new deregulated airline industry and over-night changes in airfares by the airlines, that Sunflower will not always know of every single discount that may be offered by other agencies and sometimes even other airlines. Also, when Sunflower quotes a certain price it very well may have been the lowest



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price on that day and then a week later someone will find that somebody has discounted that fare even lower than Sunflower's quote. When this happens, of course, our members who have already purchased their tickets can become upset thinking Sunflower did not sell them the lowest fare. If this happens call Sunflower on the toll-free number and give them the details of the new fare which is lower than what they purchased and ticketed for from Sunflower. Sunflower is ready, willing and able to make a new ticket and sell it at the lower rate, but first they have to be called and told that there is a lower rate available. We want to make sure that member is accommodated and satisfied by having a new ticket issued by Sunflower.

The important thing to remember is always call Sunflower on the toll-free number whenever there are questions. Sunflower is your travel agency and I believe you will find them very cooperative in answering questions.



of our turf green. We spiked often, but we were fighting a thatch layer that had built up from years of mismanagement. Plus the water applied just wasn't reaching the root zone. A new water system was definitely the answer.

Since Ironwood is a small nine-hole course, my budget of both money and labor was very limited. This made it even more frustrating for me to do my job. But as I reflect back on the year, there are some positive things that need to be mentioned. By far it was one of the best educations of practical experience I have had. I learned management skills, bargaining skills and leadership skills. We attempted to practice good cultural habits and implemented sound topdressing, fertilizing, mowing and pest control programs with our limited funds. These were some of my goals this year and I feel good that they were reached.

But we in the golf course profession know that it takes a few years to see the results of our cultural practices. And this is the one goal, at least at Ironwood, that I won't be able to

accomplish. Some of you may know that Ironwood has closed its golf course permanently. The owner for years tried to make it profitable but decidedly got fed up with it this year and wanted out. Personally I feel that the golf course had poor management over the years. Money was not put back onto the course for improvements. It was a worn out course in desperate need of renovation. But now it will return to pasture grass. The owner has other plans for it. It was a sad day for me when I left. Not only did I lose my job, but I had this unsettled feeling in myself. I just don't know if I succeeded or failed as a superintendent. I never had the chance to find out as the question can't be answered in a year. Many people in Mankato and I will miss Ironwood. It had character, beauty and was a challenge to play.

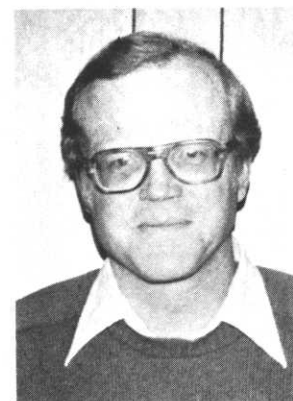
For myself, I'm back in school working toward a teaching certificate to make my degree and self more employable. My desire to raise a family is also becoming a top priority so now would be a good time to take a few years off. I hope to remain a member of this outstanding organization so that I can keep up my education of the turf grass industry. Someday I would like to come back to turf management.



**Best Wishes For
A
Happy Holiday Season**

**FROM
LANDSCAPE and TURF
Milt, Catherine and John Wiley**

ASSOCIATES' CORNER



THE FOUNDING OF A "UNIQUE" BUSINESS

by KENT KROMER
KROMER CO.

The Kromer Co. was founded back on June 1, 1967 by my father and myself.

continued on Page 8

My father, a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering, started designing and manufacturing a full line of spray equipment in 1947. He later expanded his manufacturing operations to include fork lift truck and front end loaders. The front end loader was the predecessor to the Ford Loader. He sold his manufacturing business to Erickson Company in 1963. He stayed on as Vice President for four years after which he sold his stock in the company and retired from company operations.

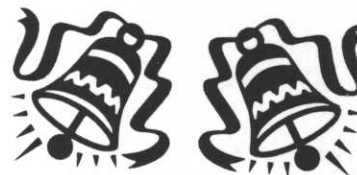
About this same time I was ready to make a change in my vocation. I had been working for First National Bank as a mid-level supervisor in charge of 60 people.

The first line of equipment we handled was the Yazoo riding rotary mower. From there we branched out to handle a full line of Turf Equipment. Now we are distributors for such name brands as Roseman, Howard, Heckendorn mowers; Myers, Broyhill sprayers; Turf Vac Vacuums and utility vehicles; Yanmar and

Holder Tractors, etc.

The reason I call it a "unique" business is because we are also a manufacturer as well as a distributor. We manufacture the Kromer Vibrator Tree Balling Machine for nursery use. We have been selling this world wide. Along with this we distribute several lines of nursery equipment.

The Kromers along with the rest of their employees are very happy to have been associated with such a viable organization as the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association. We would also like to express our thanks for the business that has been placed with us through the golf course superintendents.



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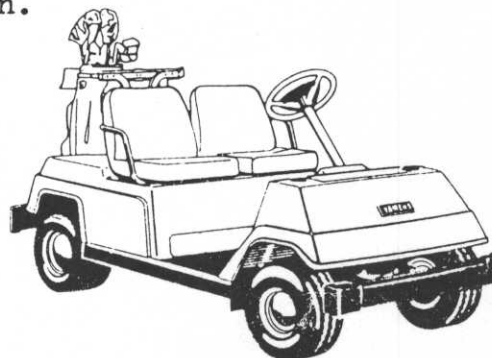
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EDITOR'S CORNER



by BOOTS FULLER
EDITORIAL CHAIRMAN M.G.C.S.A.

By now the state conference is behind us. The national conference in Las Vegas is ahead of us. Also by now everyone is aware that this is my final article as Editor of the HOLE NOTES. It was with great concern and consideration that I decided some months ago to resign from the Board of Directors, thereby choosing to forego the final year of my second term of office on this Board.

Decisions like this are never easy. However, my professional goals have changed considerably and my personal life has undergone tremendous change. With both these thoughts in mind, it was my final decision to make my exit at this time.

Our association has considerable talent in it. There are many potential leaders in this association. The secret is how to root them out. I know that we are unquestionably the "cream of the crop" in turf management in Minnesota. We are more educated, more talented and more experienced than ever before. Even the board candidates who were not elected probably could serve just as well with honor and distinction.

I feel that our board has all capable people on it. It was truly a privilege and an honor to serve with all the people I've been associated with over the past three years. I'm sure that the continued success of this organization is in capable hands.

This past season has been an experience for all of us. Never before have we felt such a need to be a part of this organization. We lose things from time

to time and gain other things from time to time. The hope is that we can all hang together when the going really gets tough as it did this past season.

This is why I feel so confident about being a part of this association. I hope all of us will get behind the new leadership of our association, support it and contribute to it. With that attitude, nothing but good can come.

I wish you all the very best. Thanks for all the cooperation and help. It was greatly appreciated. Hope to see many of you in Las Vegas.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This report was inadvertently omitted from the November issue of HOLE NOTES.

NEW MEMBERS: Jade Wegner, Class BII, Cimarron Golf, Lake Elmo, Minn.; Kurt Johnson, Class D, Woodhill C.C.; Wayne Brock, Class F, Brock-White Co.; Mark Kubes, Class F, Howe, Inc.

REINSTATEMENT: Michael Hoffman, Class BII, Dwan G.C.; Cliff Reynolds, Class A, Lake City C.C.

CLASS CHANGE: John Sheedy, Class BII from D, Loon Lake G.C.; Glen Lentner, Class B from BII, Rich Acres G.C.; Steve Schumacher, Class A from BII, Hastings C.C.

Kerry Glader
Membership Chairman

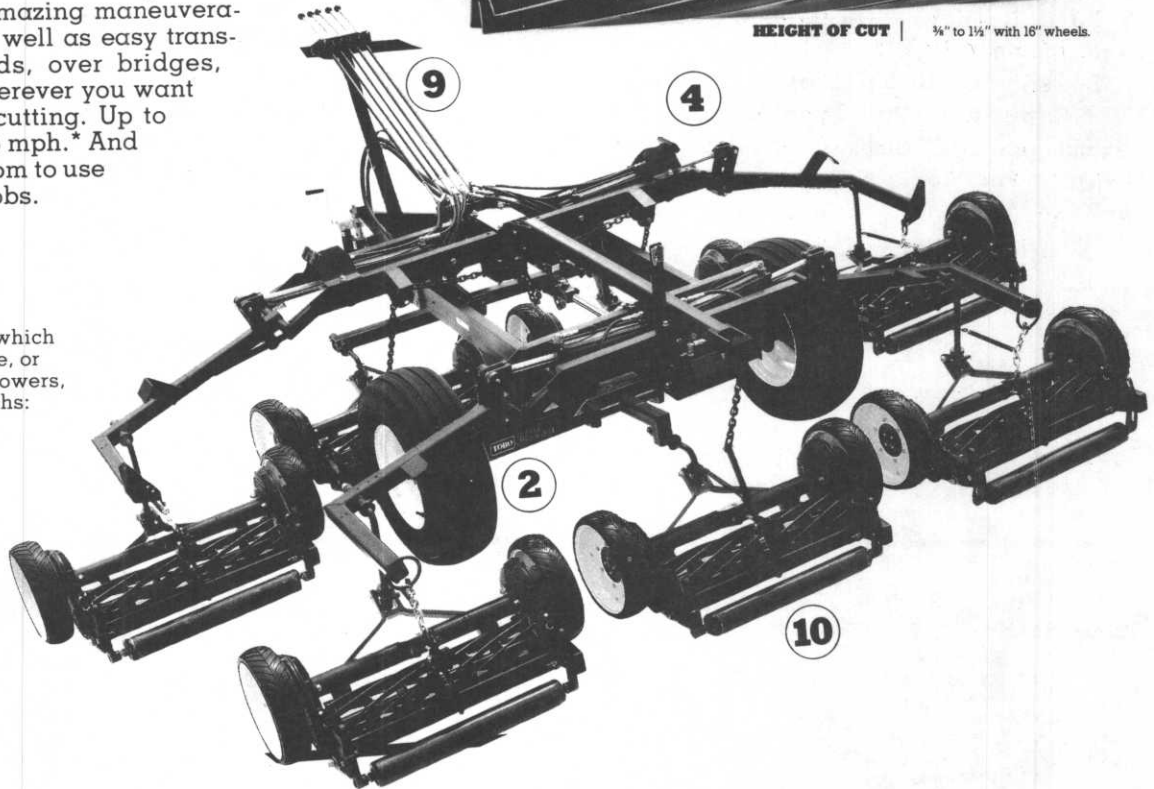
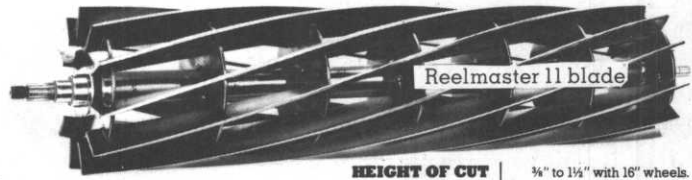
THANKS LONG LAKE FORD



Happy Hosts. Thanks to (left to right) Jim Cox, Gerry Shaughnessy, Milt Hanson, Mary McCarty and Greg Shaughnessy of Long Lake Ford for a delightful cocktail hour.

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