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HOLE NOTES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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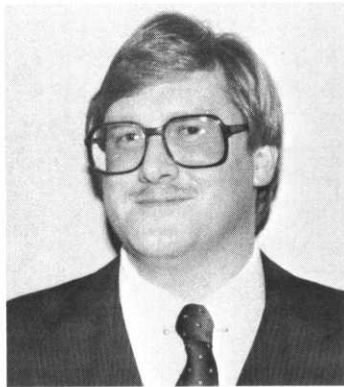
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

KERRY GLADER

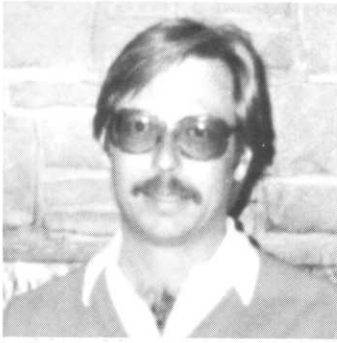
Our thanks go out to Mr. Jerry Dubbs and Mr. Cal Schmidt for the generous hospitality and superb dinner at Izaty's Lodge. About fifty members attended this major fishing excursion. The ever elusive walleye was not easily hooked on this trip. Either Mr. Caldwell had his fish bought last year, or I just plain and simply got skunked. I most certainly cannot gloat about my Presidential Perk as a certain someone did last year. I guess it must have something to do with my not having set one foot near the lake. I always thought they just jump right out of the hole into your waiting arms. Next year I'll have to call Mr. Caldwell for his offered fishing lessons.

I would like to thank Lyle Olson for his year as Association Secretary in 1985. Due to personal reasons, Lyle has resigned from the Board of Directors. Thank you Lyle and your wife, Merrie, for your help and work.

To fill the open Secretary position, Director Scott Hoffman accepted the responsibility with Dan Hanson from the Minikahda Club in Minneapolis taking the appointed director opening.

The March Mini Seminar will be conducted by the USGA this year. We all look forward to this Regional Greens Section Seminar, to be held at the Town and Country Club in St. Paul. Held in our region about every fifth year, this is an opportune time to invite your Green Chairman or Committee members. Subjects are always varied and not only turf oriented.

Brad Klein, Detroit Lakes Country Club, will be our host for the June membership meeting. Anyone wishing to make a long weekend trip is encouraged to call Brad, and he will help with the arrangements.



HOW TO AUTOMATE THE LONG AND HARD WAY

by BRAD KLEIN
Superintendent, Detroit Country Club

This article is something both awesome Fred Anderson and myself have been working on for some time now. There was one delay in October when awesome Fred and three other creatures from the south came here to play golf and prod me along on the article. Fred thought he would leave with paragraphs in hand but all he came away with was my felt tip pen budget and lots of leaves and branches down his back. So no felt tip pen budget, no article. November started my '86 budget so no excuses. I now have one blue felt tip pen to last me until November of 86.

Detroit Country Club in Detroit Lakes is a 36-Hole resort course. The facility consists of two 18-Hole golf courses. The oldest and best known of the courses is called The Pine to Palm of which this article is concerned. The second 18-Hole course is the Lakeview Executive Golf Course. The Lakeview Executive was built originally as a full championship 9-Hole course in 1969 and then added 9-Holes more in 1979. It's a Par 64 course and has fully automatic irrigation system on greens, tees and fairways.

The Pine to Palm course was built in 1933 by the WPA and was one of the first courses in the mid-west to have a "hoseless" quick coupler irrigation system. This system is still intact today but with some improvements done over the years. Originally, there was one quick coupler by every green and tee. Dick Wise became superintendent here in 1966 and justifiably so decided he needed a better way to water his greens. He began the first step in eliminating the "hoseless" system on the Pine to Palm. Over a ten year period Dick installed Toro 630 normally open sprinklers on fifteen of the

greens. These were controlled by a 4 station selector valve by every green called a greenskeeper. Dave Dodds replaced Dick in 1976 and finished the last three greens. While Dave was here the second nine was built on the Lakeview Executive Golf Course. During its construction a fully automatic system was installed with the Toro Varitime II central mounted in the superintendent's office at the maintenance building. The maintenance building is one-half mile from the executive course but the one wire that controlled the executive's satellite ran through the middle of the Pine to Palm course.

I took over in March of 1981 with one fully automatic irrigation system on the executive course and one, as the job description read, semi-automatic system on the Pine to Palm. I still don't know what semi-automatic means and that scares me.

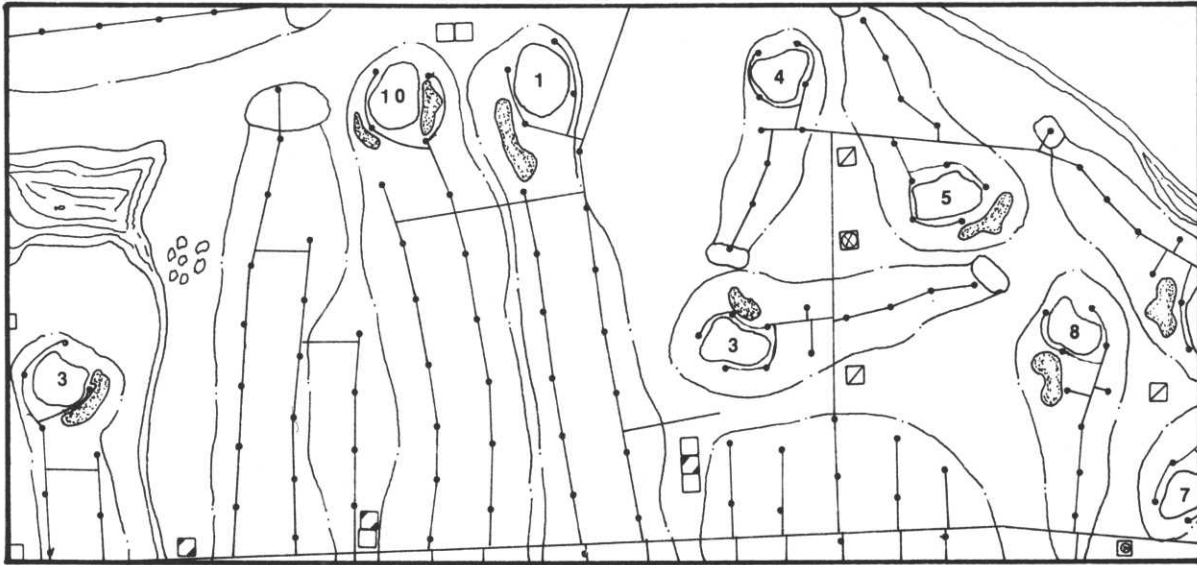
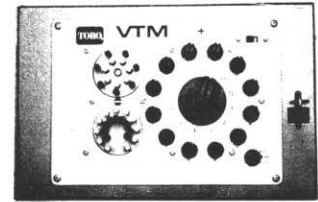
During the summer of 1982 we installed pop up sprinklers on ten remaining tees and began the first step in automating our irrigation system. During the fall of 1982 we plowed in 40,000 feet of hydraulic tubing and 8,000 feet of power and signal wires. During the spring of '83 we set our six satellites at their predetermined locations and made all hydraulic and electric connections. I spent one Saturday and Sunday morning doing this and that allowed us to go automatic Sunday night.

The beauty of this installation was that all I had to do at the central was install another central/syringe clock in it. I had already spliced into the signal wire crossing the Pine to Palm to the executive course so spring of '83 brought semi-automatic operation on the Pine to Palm course. I still had a manual pump station and quick couplers down the fairways but we were making progress. Before start up in April of 1984 we installed a new booster pump, clay valve and control panel so the pump house was fully automatic. The fairway night waterman no longer had to engage the booster pump.

During the summer of '84 we decided to try and begin automating our fairways. With MTI irrigation department we determined that our 1933 cast iron and steel pipe was sound and could be utilized. We determined to have complete coverage we



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would have to go to a two row system tee to green or parcel on ten of the eighteen fairways. On the remaining eight fairways we would use existing quick coupler locations and snap Toro 670 electric sprinklers in their place. We decided to go with electric control on fairways because it would allow us the convenience of not having to make the electrical connections immediately but still utilize the sprinkler manually until we had the time.

Another problem that was undertaken the summer of 1984 was our numerous dead ends in the piping that had to be corrected. I started the fall of '84 on this and after two years have installed 1500' of pipe and eliminated about thirty of them.

I was to begin this three year project the spring of 1985 but between not enough money and more than enough rain, over 44 inches, normal here is 17, it was hard to convince my Board of Directors of the importance of this \$60,000 project. On that same note we only watered our fairways once over a ten day period in July.

In a sense I did begin the project because we got a new Vari Time 3 central with six clocks as compared to my 4 clock Vari Time II central. In 1984 we also began installing Toro 670 electric sprinklers whenever we had a sticky or leaking quick coupler on fairways.

Supposedly next spring I'll begin the project by doing the first five holes or numbers 1,5,7,8,9. Spring of '87 we'll do holes 2,3,4,10,11; Spring of '88 holes 12,13,14,15,16,17,18 & 6. I'm not done then because at that point we'll have to increase our pumping capacity from 600 gpm to 900 gpm.

To make a long drawn out process short, many people have contributed to this project which Dick Wise began in 1966, Dave worked on and I'm trying to finish. I'll be done, hopefully, by fall of 1989. Twenty-three years isn't really that long and who knows, by then maybe the weather patterns will change somewhat and turn the great white north into a tropical rain forest.



EDITOR,S CORNER

RANDY NELSON

I am sure most of our maintenance buildings are buzzing with the sounds of mowers being sharpened or other machinery being repaired. Our club officials are scrutinizing our maintenance budgets for the coming season and the new club officials are anxiously waiting to take over their new areas of responsibility. This may be the time when we as superintendents can take time away from our jobs to pursue winter interests, vacation with our families, or just sit back and think about last season's accomplishments. But I also believe this is a good time to get to know our new greens chairman, if he is new. We have the opportunity this winter to educate this individual by explaining to him our maintenance practices and goals for which we are striving. I feel we should keep our greens chairman informed about things happening in our industry by providing him with information such as: the USGA Green Section Record, or the Golf Course Management Magazine. Being a national member of GCSAA has its benefits, and one benefit I use each year is to place my new green chairman's name on my second complimentary copy of the Golf Course Management Magazine. I have this copy sent directly to his home so he can read the same material I am reading and become more knowledgeable about the turf industry. By giving him this information, I feel my greens chairman becomes more attuned to the ideas I hope to implement and accomplish at Owatonna Country Club. If you aren't already taking advantage of this benefit from GCSAA, try it.

If you were one of our members who missed the fishing outing at Mille Lac's and meeting at Izaty's Lodge on January 6th you really missed a chance to catch - a cold. Weather conditions were perfect for severe frostbite, unfortunately, not fishbite. The fishing reports that circulated around the lodge were about the

number of small perch and few small walleyes that were caught. Steve Hamelea's group probably did the best of all, catching about thirty good sized perch for the fry pan. Our guide, Jerry Anderson, reported that Mille Lac's Lake has not had two winters this bad for fishing in many, many years.

A few of us diehards did have a close encounter with an "Argo". An "Argo" is an all terrain vehicle equipped with tracks for transporting fishermen to and from their fish houses. Jerry Anderson chauffeured six of us out to our fish houses in the morning against a -40 degree windchill. My hat goes off to this gentleman who earns a living by pitting himself against some of the harshest conditions we humans can experience. He has to be out on the ice by himself readying the cozy comforts of a fish house for the enjoyment of his clientele. It is nice to know there are individuals who enjoy not being able to thaw themselves out until July 1st. Thanks, Jerry, I had a great time.

Thanks are also in order to Calvin Schmidt

and Jerry Dubbs, our hosts for the day. The evening meal of steak and fish and all the trimmings was truly excellent. The atmosphere around the lodge at that time of year puts everyone in a relaxed state of mind. Did I say relaxed? I meant frozen. Anyway, thanks again Calvin and Jerry for being such accommodating hosts.

The board also interviewed and approved Dale Evens as a new member of our association. Dale lives in Richfield and works for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Department.

Try to stay warm everyone and I'll talk with you next month.

The 1985 MGCSA Research Report is now available for anyone interested. The report is a summary of the year's activity and research progress reports. A charge of \$2.00 per copy is needed for printing. Please contact the MGA office if interested in obtaining your copy.

The 1986 Research Committee



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NORTHLAND COUNTRY CLUB

FIRST IN A SERIES Part 2

by W. K. Montague
President 1936-37

Northland went through the usual growing pains. In September of 1899 the Treasurer reported that the "club was somewhat in debt but otherwise in a flourishing condition." Have you ever heard that

refrain before? The Officers were authorized to borrow \$1,500 and give a mortgage for security.

The first recorded Captain of the Club was W. B. Silvey whose duties were to "arrange all matches and general charge of season's play." He was succeeded by Howard T. Abbott, and following him came Ward Ames, Jr., who, incidentally copped the Club's permanent trophy in 1903 after three victories. While this was probably the first Club championship, Cavour Hartley for years had a leather medal which his father won as the first Club champion.

The upkeep of the course was a problem, handled in very much the same way similar problems were handled in Scotland 300 years ago. The financial statement of 1901 showed a bill for "expense of keeping sheep on the links \$252.32." In a pessimistic report for that year, the President complained of the condition of the course, and said: "Unless we can manage other arrangements, we will again be obliged to pasture cattle."

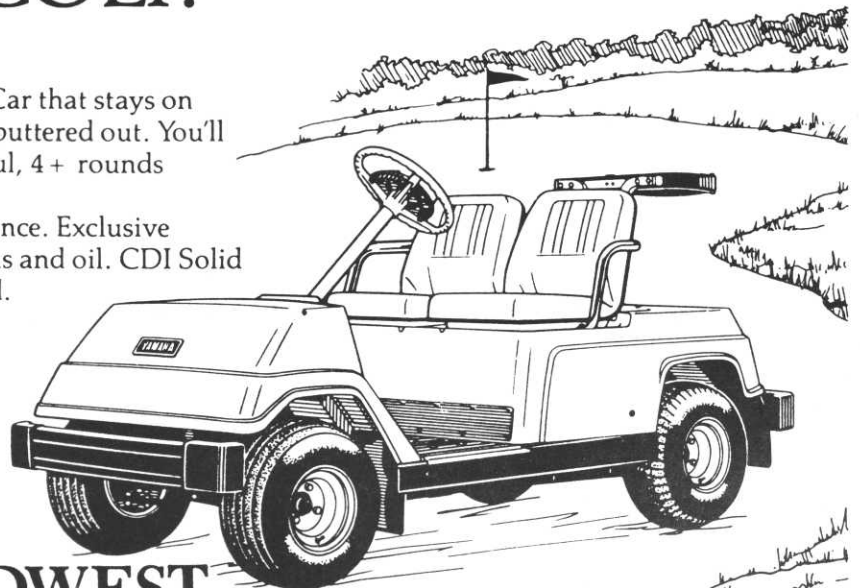
By 1902 things had improved, and the

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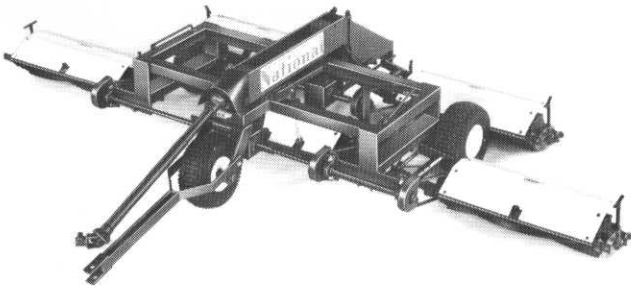
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President reported that: "In taking care of the grounds, the herd of sheep, the horse mower, and scythe work, in the ravine kept the grounds in fairly satisfactory condition."

In the late fall the caddies herded the flock of sheep down Superior Street to a West Duluth packing house.

A few more extracts from the minutes of those early days might be interesting. The controversy over the rubber cored ball hit Duluth, and a resolution of May 7, 1901 provided: "That the use of the so-called Haskell ball is prohibited by the Club in tournament matches."

The days of the gutta ball were numbered, however, and on April 14, 1902 the resolution was rescinded.

The Club voted to apply for membership in the Minnesota Golf Association in 1902 and in the U.S.G.A. and the Western Golf Association on November 4, 1903. I believe the Club has maintained its memberships quite consistently ever since that time.

As showing that the Club kept up its progress, on May 15, 1903, \$100 was appropriated to build a tennis court; on June 11, 1902, they decided to put electric lights in the Club House. In the President's report of that year, he recommended that: "water could be brought to the house and dining room and kitchen. ***the partition between the ladies' locker room and the men's old locker room taken out and a larger club room made with fireplace in the center. The ladies could use the back part of the men's locker room and a toilet built on." Sounds like a cozy arrangement!

The swimming pool was not built until 1957.

The Club really grew up in 1904. The name changed to "Northland Country Club." The old "lodge" across the ravine had been long outgrown; membership and enthusiasm had been increasing. A new Club house was in order. Instead of the simple committee-of-one procedure of 1899, with results in six weeks, the Club spent about a year, beginning early in 1903, in figuring out what to do and how to do it. The inevitable assessments were levied;

mortgages were executed, and a handsome Club House was erected on the site of the present building. The extant photographs show that it was a credit to the Club. It stood until 1918, when it burned in the disastrous Cloquet-Moose Lake forest fire which, but for a change of wind, would have burned down a lot more of Duluth. It was replaced in 1919 on the same site by the present rambling structure, originally estimated at a cost of \$115,000. In the meantime, the course itself was growing, In 1912, it had been expanded to eighteen holes, which, however, were all below the site of the present fourth tee, and made use of ground on both sides of Superior Street.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

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1985 ANNUAL RESEARCH REPORT

Where do our Research Funds go to and where have they come from? As we struggle with both of these questions each year, please keep several points in mind.

Turf research is the building block of future turf industry development. In our continued effort to develop ongoing research, we have asked for increased involvement by all of our member clubs and businesses. We have increased donations by nearly fifty percent over 1984. A record \$12,163 has been donated this year. This, we feel, is reflection of dedicated association members that have sought out their employer's aide to better the golf maintenance field. As we continue to raise funds each year, we need to see an increase in donations and donors. In 1985, there were still 40% of our private clubs, 80% of our public clubs and 30% of our business members that have not donated. An auspicious future can only result by entire commitment from our united associations and members.

As we continue to upgrade our method of research proposal acceptance and funding, we will insure ourselves beneficial results or be capable of terminating funding on un-productive projects.

The following programs were funded in 1985:

1) Dr. Joe Vargas-Michigan State University, \$2,000-for Summer Patch Modeling Research. 2) Dr. A. Douglas Brede-Oklahoma State University, \$2,000-for Poa annua-Bentgrass Competition Research. 3) Dr. Ward Steinstra-University of Minnesota, \$1,200 for Snow Mold Chemical Testing. 4) Dr. Ward Steinstra-University of Minnesota, \$900 for Pythium Microprocessor Modeling in conjunction with the Rueter-Stokes Company. 5) Dr. Don White-University of Minnesota, \$1,500 for Poa annua Stress Management Research. 6) USGA Green Section Turfgrass Research Project-\$1,000 for support of the joint USGA-GCSAA project begun in 1984. 7) Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America-\$400 for support of GCSAA funded research projects such as: Tissue Culture Research being done by Dr. William A. Torells, University of Massachusetts.

In addition, the first annual Harold Stodola Research Tournament was held on September 9, 1985 at the Hazeltine National Golf Club. The tournament, held in honor of this long time greenskeeper was a huge success. Having raised over \$3,300, this annual event will be used to support research foundations and projects on behalf of MGCSA and Harold Stodola.

All research reports and research related information is published through the association newsletter THE HOLE NOTES.

Receipts from donations were: 1982-\$6,300; 1983-\$6,240; 1984-\$8,228; 1985-\$12,163; 1985(Research Tournament)-\$3,346.

We will have a small fund reserve going into 1985. This reserve will be used to maintain an ongoing balance in our accounts so we can fund future projects on demand, instead of our past method of not knowing how much we could expect to take in on donations versus expenses.

We would like to publicly thank the following clubs and businesses for their generosity and support:

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Detroit Lakes CC	Long Prairie CC	Rum River CC
Dwan GC	Madden Resorts	Somerset CC
Eshquaguma Club	Majestic Oaks GC	Terrace View GC
Farmers Golf & HC	Manitou Ridge GC	Wayzata CC
Forest Hills GC	Mendakota CC	Wedgewood Valley GC
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Respectfully submitted,

The 1985 Research Committee

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