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# HOLE NOTES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA  
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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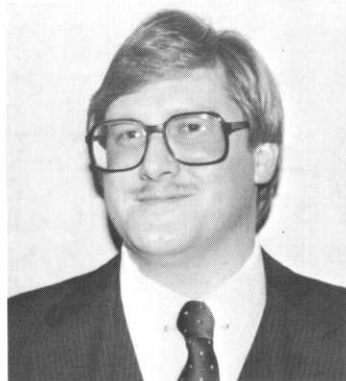
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

### KERRY GLADER

We were treated to some beautiful dry weather and a fine new golf club both undeniably hosted by Wedgewood Valley Golf Club Superintendent Dennis Hendrickson. All had a fine time and enjoyed the new facility and golf course. Many thanks to Denny and all the staff at Wedgewood Valley Golf Club.

The 1986 Conference Committee has put together a fine program of educational materials for all of us to benefit from. Registration forms have been sent out so keep an eye out for them. As well, our move to a new facility will add to our enjoyment and continue to allow the annual growth our turf conference has seen over past years. Co-Chairmen Chris Hague, Scott Hoffmann and Jim Nicol have been working overtime all year long lining up speakers and making arrangements. Many area and national turf specialists are slated with several golf course superintendents and related industry speakers on tap. With the conference site now being at the Radisson St. Paul, I hope you will offer us the benefit of your attendance. Our emphasis has been to maintain conference costs at previous year's level. With our new facility we can continue to expand into new formats as the future will require. I am sure that the downtown St. Paul area will offer our group much more enjoyment and flexibility.

A new program for this conference is being put forward. A spouse program has been suggested by many and we will be making a real effort of having this area develop. Barb Glader, my better half, has put together a program for our spouses to benefit from and enjoy. I hope you will make sure to let your special halves be involved in our profession and education. It can only help us if we allow our loved ones to be involved and enjoy this aspect of our industry.

# ROCHESTER GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB'S TREES

by JAMES D. GARDNER  
Assistant Golf Course Superintendent  
Rochester Golf and Country Club

Rochester Golf and Country Club evergreens stand sentry over A.W. Tillinghast's design and definitely amplify his 'target' golf philosophy. These tree lined fairways also give each hole a unique tranquil setting. But to the golfer this coniferous forest becomes the brunt of many an unkind word or threat. The need to develop a controllable (hook, slice) punch shot in one's arsenal is essential in keeping a somewhat sane perspective.

Contrary to many speculations, Rochester Golf and Country Club was not carved out of an existing forest, but was the foresight and unending spirit of a golf loving man - Dr. W. D. "Pop" Sheldon. Dr. Sheldon was the principle force in planning and planting the evergreen population in the late 30's. In 1926, A.W. Tillinghast designed the present day layout of 18 holes disposing of the old linkslike 9 hole course that was laid out in 1917.

The tree community prior to Sheldon's forest consisted of mostly indigenous plants and some introduced species - the native trees include the following: basswood, bitternut hickory, black walnut, green ash, cottonwood, boxelder, red elm, white oak, red oak, northern pin oak, bur oak, eastern red cedar, Kentucky coffee tree and silver maple.

The beauty of these tree-lined fairways are not without some behind the scenes agronomic problems. Limited air movement and light penetration enhance the fungal growth environment. Also, tree-turf root competition for water and nutrients occur, and are especially noticeable around tees and greens. Maintenance programs of tree thinning, wood removal and clearance pruning are performed in the winter. The majority of this work is done by hand, rope and saddle. Increased air movement and light penetration for turf, decreased

tree-root competition around tees and greens (trenched) and removal of diseased, overcrowded trees are the main objectives of this program.

The mature trees are fertilized annually in late fall by broadcasting milorganite throughout the forest floor. Specific trees with possible micronutrient deficiencies or other nutrient problems are sprayed with a liquid fertilizer using the Rotomist. Woodace briquettes are used on all the new tree replacements. All young trees are protected from mower and weed-eater blight by plastic PVC guards at the base of the trunk.

Our two biggest fungal problems in the evergreens are diplodia tip blight and white pine blister rust. Constant high humidity around the trees through irrigation contact and a constant source of inoculum from still attached third year mature cones make this an ongoing problem in the red pines and Scotch pines.

This disease has been reduced considerably by systemic fungicide applications at the candle stage (the most susceptible time) and the removal of dead wood and cones. White pine blister rust is a problem on past infected white pine trunks. Exision of these cankers have given varying results. New infections have been stopped by quickly removing infected branches before the fungus reaches the trunk. Also the removing of lower branches has helped.

Other ornamental fungicide applications are applied according to weather conditions, types of fungi, severity of disease, and intervals of occurrence. Crabapples and hawthornes are sprayed for scab and rust with Daconil and Fore respectively when leaves are at the half grown stage. Powdery mildew problems on lilacs and honeysuckle are controlled with Bayleton or Rubigan. Problem insects such as pine bark louse, white pine aphid on the white pines and leaf miner damage on our birches are controlled with soil injection of Metasystox-R2 and/or dormant oil sprays.

Many abiotic (non-infectious) problems exist in our tree community. Irrigation water raises the ph near high limestone subgrade areas, nonindigenous soil conditions for certain species (jack pine), chlorine toxicity from pool

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discharge, and the absence of natural forest mulch for moisture retention and preservation of the soil structure are some of our problems. All these adverse conditions can contribute to loss in overall vigor directly resulting in increased susceptibility to insect and fungal invasion. Some of these situations are site specific and have allowed for some site modification procedures. Annual fertilizing has helped balance some of these problems along with the planting of new hybrid species which are tolerant to these specific adverse conditions.

The Norway spruce and the European larch are by far our best evergreens for overall hardiness and tolerances.

The Dutch Elm disease control program (inspection, systemic fungicide and insecticide application, pruning and removal of infected elms, and root isolation) has not been the panacea we had hoped for. Sanitation is the single most important part of a successful control program. A major probable downfall of our program at Rochester Golf and Country Club is the constant high disease pressure

coming from infected elms in adjacent rural woodlots. The number of trees being treated with fungicidal (Arbotect 20S) injection has been reduced from all elms on the course to 40 priority elms. This prioritization takes into account their location according to golf strategy, adjacent elms, and general overall health. We have gradually lost some of our elms, but through an above average success program, time has allowed us to implement a replacement program.

Two tree nurseries have been planted. An evergreen nursery contains American arborvitae, Colorado blue spruce, Douglas fir, and Norway spruce. The deciduous tree nursery consists of river birch, Redmond lindens, Skyline honeylocust, swamp white oak, northern catalpa, Summit ash, and Souixland poplar.

Along with the two nurseries, a flowering tree shrub and perennial program has been incorporated each year. Our most limiting factor for plant material is of course, shade. Species and cultivars of hydrangeas, viburnum, amelanchier and hostas are being used in these shady

**I**n 1969 Bill Johnson of Edina Country Club bought all the Cadminate available in the Twin City area from 3 turf suppliers. This purchase, plus a small stock of his own, was enough to treat the entire fairway areas of Edina Country Club for "Dollar Spot." The cost was \$1200.00.

TURF SUPPLY COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO BILL JOHNSON FOR BEING A LIVING PIONEER IN THE INITIAL TREATMENT OF GOLF COURSE FAIRWAYS.



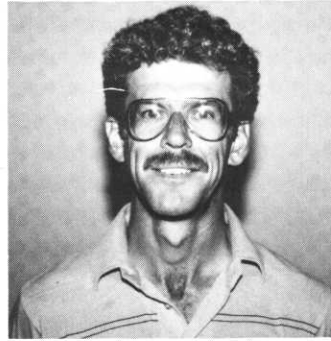
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areas. Other ornamentals have been chosen for later bloom such as Miss Kim lilac (mid-June), Japanese tree lilac (late-June), northern catalpa (late-June, early July), Peegee hydrangea (August), and Amur maackia (July). Russian olive, Canada red cherry, Japanese Whitespire birch (borer resistant), river birch, blue beech are selected for their color and textural qualities.

The members of Rochester Golf and Country Club are extremely proud of their A.W. Tillinghast course and enjoy the beauty, serenity and challenge the tree-lined fairways give the course. An active tree program will continue to provide this unique challenge to the members for many years to come.

## POSITION WANTED

Energetic graduate of Iowa State with B.S. in horticulture/turfgrass management seeking crew foreman position, leading to an assistant superintendent position. Four years experience with two years in Minneapolis. Experience in many phases of golf course operation. Write: Paul G. Johnson, 712 1/2 North Duff, Ames, IA 50010. Telephone: 515/232-6798.



## EDITOR'S CORNER

RANDY NELSON

Another golfing season is about to end once again. Although many of you are no doubt relieved to have another year under your belt so to speak, I still feel a letdown at this time of the year. I guess it is because I enjoy playing the game so much and I hate to put the clubs away for the winter. Fortunately, this winter I will be able to enjoy two golf outings to the south.

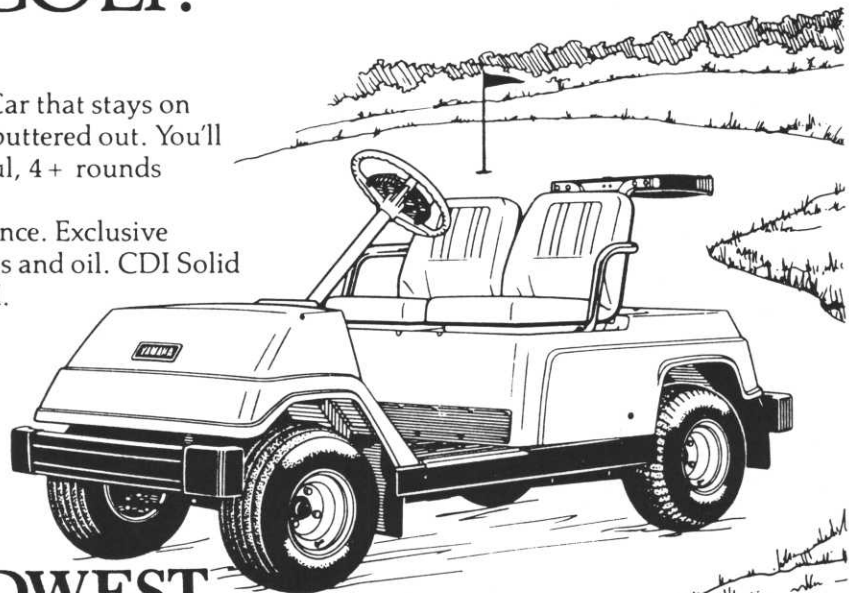
If you were unable to attend the October meeting at Wedgewood Valley Golf Course you missed the chance to see a beautiful golf course encompassed by a very exclusive housing development. The owners of these people are definitely upper

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class, and that is my opinion of the type of operation that Wedgewood Valley has attained. Even though there were hints of confusion during the construction phase of the course, I think the end product speaks for itself and is a tribute to Denny Hendrickson and the fine organization he is associated with. I can imagine the many hours of frustration which must have been conquered to complete a project of this magnitude. I think each of us in attendance at the meeting would say to you personally, well done, Denny.

Each of our MGCSA members has received the flyers concerning our annual conference at the St. Paul Radisson. You are again urged to not let the move to St. Paul deter you from attending this very educational conference. MGCSA always has a wealth of knowledge in attendance at this conference and we would like to share it with our membership. However, only by your attendance will you benefit by this information. If you haven't already filled out the housing and pre-registration forms do so today and send them to the appropriate locations.

If this issue of HOLE NOTES makes it to you before our November meeting at Greenhaven I will just say. let's hope for one more great day for golf. Think Spring!

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## Greenskeeper? Groundskeeper? Superintendent!

by W. H. BRAUNIG, JR.  
Superintendent  
Lost Spur Country Club

It seems to me we have an image problem. Not among ourselves, but with the golfing public.

The title "greenskeeper" came from THE KEEPER OF THE GREEN, a man hired to be the pro, superintendent, manager, club maker, stable man and waiter. As his image improved, his duties became teaching, club making and course care. Somewhere in the 1800's the pro-superintendent split into two separate professions. The golf professional's image improved even greater and the superintendent was left with the image and title of the greenskeeper.

That image and title was acceptable and served the "greenskeepers" for a great period of time and by no means should we think lesser of our predecessor, the greenskeeper.

Now days, however, golf has become a very fine tuned game. Professional and amateur alike have demanded better playing conditions; truer and faster greens and so on. To produce such conditions takes a greater amount of knowledge and expertise than that of the old time greenskeeper. Enter the Golf Course Superintendent.

Golf Course Superintendents are much better educated (quite often with a college degree) than the greenskeeper of the past. The Golf Course Superintendent of today is not merely a greenskeeper or a groundskeeper. His is much, much more than either of them. He is a professional in the turf grass management field. So next time someone introduces you as the greenskeeper or groundskeeper, do yourself a favor and correct him. A professional image can only help us!

I would like to thank Turf Supply for its one page "pat on the back" to superintendents in our HOLE NOTES a few months back. I have it posted in our clubhouse and the National's commercials on cable TV this summer were great to see also.

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## MINNESOTA'S GOLFING HERITAGE Prairie View G. C.

by DON GROSS  
Superintendent  
Prairie View Golf Course

Prairie View Golf Course is an 18-hole, par 71 course located 1/2 mile northwest of Worthington, Minnesota, on Highway 266. Construction began in 1981 and was completed in May of 1982. The course opened for play late in the summer of 1983. Tim Westland was course superintendent during the construction and seeding period and I became superintendent in March of 1984.

Prairie View was designed in the traditional linksland found in Scotland with an American emphasis on prairie grasses and flowers. The result is a golf course with a undulating terrain and a

creek which winds through the middle of the course through two large water detention ponds used for golf course irrigation and acting as a desiltation basin for Lake Okabena. The course is unique as there are numerous areas with natural prairie grasses and no trees. Prairie View has approximately 22 acres of prairie grass areas, 40 acres of fairway, 50 acres of rough and approximately 9 acres of water. Nineteen greens total 121,000 square feet with a pure sand base of 2 1/2 feet to 3 feet. Twenty nine tees cover approximately 176,000 square feet with a 50% sand, 50% soil mix.

Prairie grass management requires special maintenance procedures and the burning of prairie grass is without a doubt the singly most beneficial step in prairie management. Burning is generally accomplished in mid April to mid May and provides a competitive advantage for prairie species. Mowing at a height of 6" is substituted during late May if burning cannot be accomplished due to wet weather. The long range management objectives for our prairie areas are to maximize esthetic character by maintaining diverse

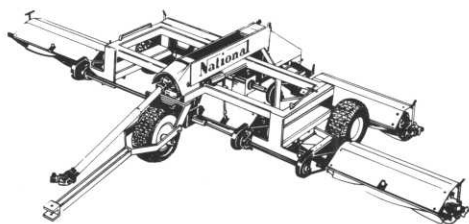
population of native plants and animals, control noxious or undesirable weeds, integrate the prairie with the cool season turfgrasses by carefully defining all mowing lines and to monitor golf play and make adjustments in the height of prairie grasses.

The prairie theme was continued by remodeling a rustic old barn for the clubhouse. The tee trash containers are old wooden whiskey barrels and the ballwashers are mounted on top of old hand water pumps. The tee benches are stained 2"x6" pine wood laid between two old iron wagon wheels. There are 4 wooden shelters on the course stained the same color as the tee benches and trim on the inside of the clubhouse. The goal is to build one shelter a year until each tee has one. The shelters will provide shade and give the golfers a place to sit as there are no trees to provide shade.

An elevated outlet on our lower reservoir was designed to allow for periodic flooding of the lower areas of the course while providing adequate overflow capacity to protect greens and tees. Volume of

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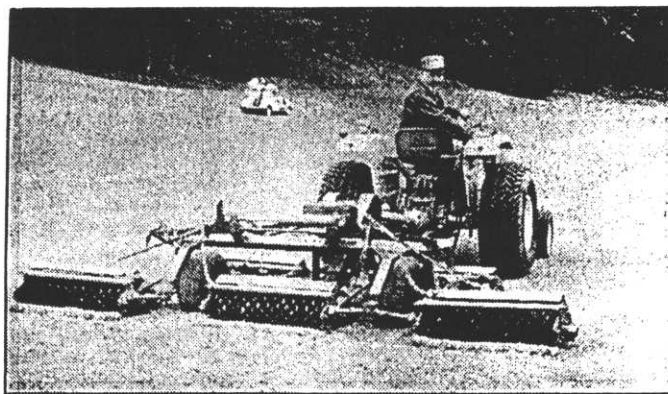
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water through the outlet control structure exceeds design and construction limits and consequently we are experiencing more flooding than was anticipated and undermining and erosion of our bridges and spillway. We are in the process of evaluating the water way system but haven't developed a solution to the problem.

Prairie View Golf Course has begun its fourth year of operation and many golfers on their vacations stop and play the course because of its Scottish Links type design. We receive many favorable comments on the design of the course. The most common complaint is when the golf ball gets into the prairie grass. This is offset by favorable comments about no leaves to contend with in the fall.

The usage and membership has continued to grow at approximately 20% for each year of operation. The long range goal is to develop the golf course usage and revenues that will eliminate the need for general fund tax dollars for support of the operation and become one of the better known public golf courses in our area.



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## GET THE MOST OUT OF CONFERENCES

Conference and trade shows, such as GCSAA's International Turfgrass Conference and Show, offer an important opportunity for you to invest a small amount of time and money for a large return. Most professionals believe that occasional opportunities to educate themselves are central to their ability to provide continuing good service to their employers. This is especially applicable to golf course superintendents, whose responsibilities are expanding rapidly.

Learning opportunities come in several forms at a meeting such as GCSAA's. There is the chance to benefit from the knowledge of experts; the more concrete learning afforded by the chance to examine new equipment and products; and the benefit derived from associating with other superintendents.

Attending intensive education sessions can make conferees feel as if they're trying to drink from a fire hose--so much is coming so fast that it's difficult to absorb anything. The best way to overcome this problem is to plan ahead. Select your program of educational sessions carefully, considering the value that each topic has for your problems and situation.

Take plenty of notes--they help you keep organized--but be sure you're not so busy writing things down that you forget to listen. If conference proceedings or recordings of the sessions are available, take advantage of them.

Trade shows offer an opportunity to observe a wide variety of equipment and supplies in a relatively short period of time. It's possible to "comparison shop" among many equipment manufacturers. Whether you have a specific need to fill or are "just looking," you will benefit from the time you spend on the exhibit hall floor.

If you own or can borrow a camera, consider taking one along to photograph items that you are interested in. Photographs of informative posters can save you time by keeping you from copying down information. Don't be hesitant to discuss your requirements with the sales representatives on the floor--they are there to inform you. They may also have descriptive brochures you can take home with you.

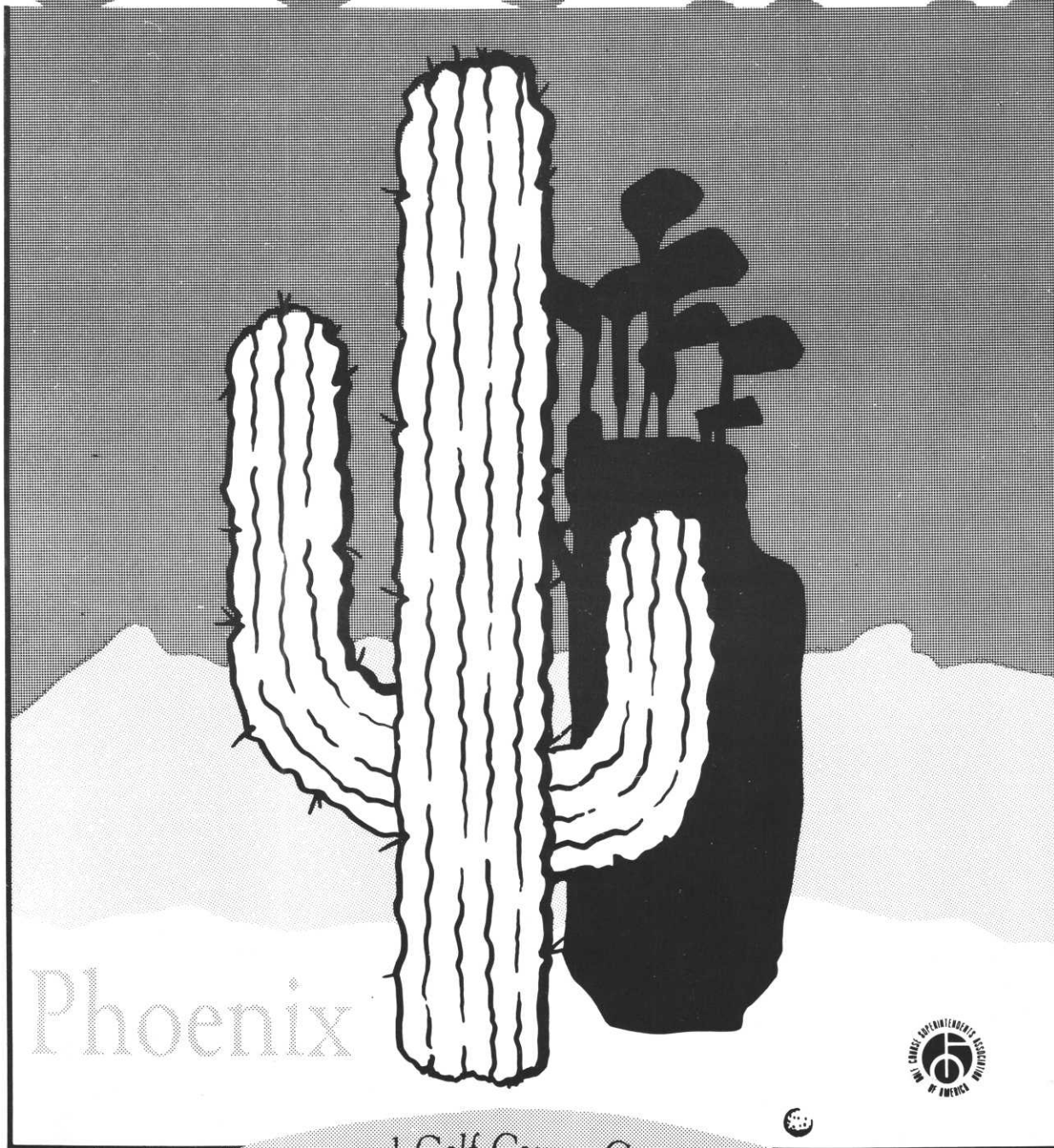
Meeting strangers at a conference need not be difficult. All you have to do is be willing to introduce yourself to those around you at a meeting or in an elevator, for example. Have a ready supply of small talk about the weather or sports ready to ease the first few minutes of conversation. There is a rapport that develops quickly in these kinds of encounters which can lead to valuable exchanges of information.

Look for the new attendee and pay special attention to him. If he feels lonely or isolated, chances are he won't return next year. If that happens, he loses and so do you.

Education, exhibits, exchanges with fellow conferees--they are three important aspects of attending a conference. Each is a valuable, and each is part of the investment you make of your time and money when you attend a conference.

CREDIT: NEWSLETTER OF NEW ENGLAND

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