

Five Students Receive Scholarships Through the MGCSA For 2002-2003

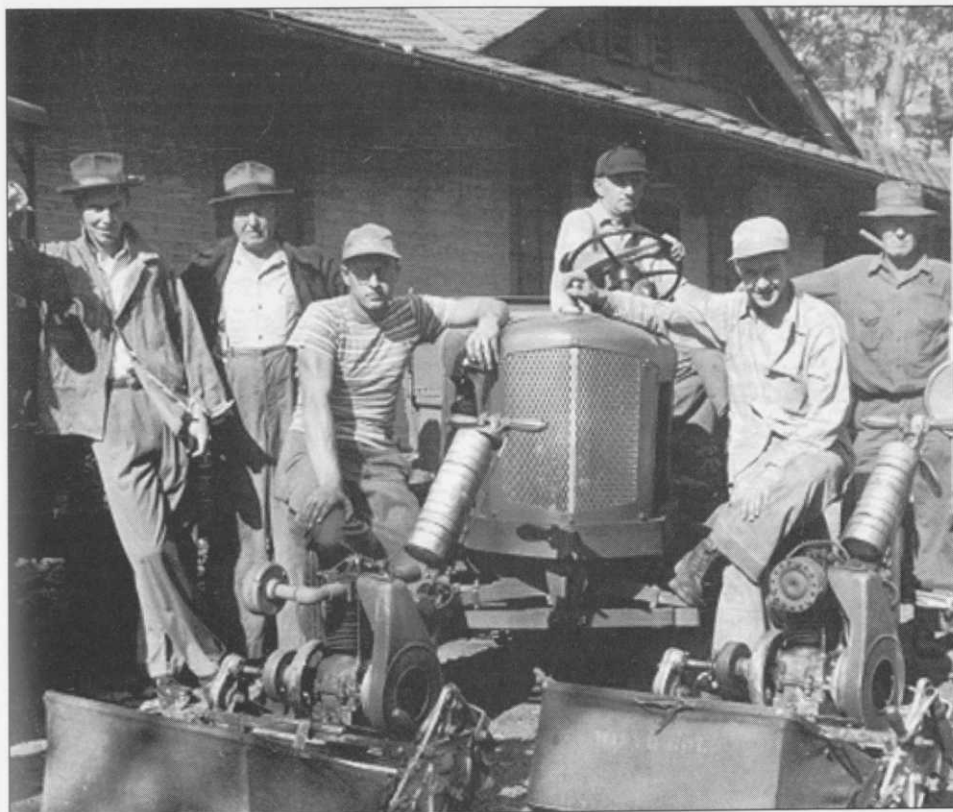
One student majoring in turf management at the University of Minnesota has been awarded a \$1,500 MGCSA scholarship for the 2002-2003 school year, two others have been awarded MGCSA Legacy Scholarships and two more are winners of the Joseph S. Garske Legacy Award.

Andrew Carlson, who is working toward a four-year degree in environmental horticulture with an emphasis on turf management, is the recipient of the \$1,500 award. A graduate of Cloquet High School, where he was elected to the National Honor Society and participated in golf, tennis, basketball and cross country, Carlson has been president of the U of M Turf Club and the school's marching band.

He has worked in golf course maintenance at Cloquet Country Club and was described by University of Minnesota Professor Donald White as "a talented, intelligent, conscientious student who gets the job done, has been an excellent president of the Student Chapter and is looked to for leadership by other turf students."

MGCSA Legacy Scholarship winners are Jonathan Glader, son of Kerry Glader, Plaisted Companies, Elk River, and Patrick Malloy, son of John Malloy, Bearpath Golf and Country Club, Eden Prairie.

Garske Award recipients are Natalie A. Lohman, daughter of Guy Lohman, Voyager Village Country Club, Danbury, Wis., a first-time winner of the award, and Brian Evenson, son of Jonah Evenson, Pelican Rapids, whose \$1,250 award a year ago was renewed.



THIS 1945 PHOTO pictures, from left, Maynard Erickson, Carl Erickson, Budd Larson, Clarence Samuelson, Todd Johnson and Ed Lien. Carl Erickson retired a year later.

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August 30, 2002

Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association
240 Minnetonka Avenue South
P.O. Box 617
Wayzata, MN. 55391-0576

Open letter to membership:

I have been a affiliate member of the MGCSA for 14 years and have always enjoyed the friendly fellowship and camaraderie of the organizations gatherings.

This past week I was fortunate to win the MGCSA Championship. A few lucky tree bounces, a couple of long putts and a fun group made for a great day.

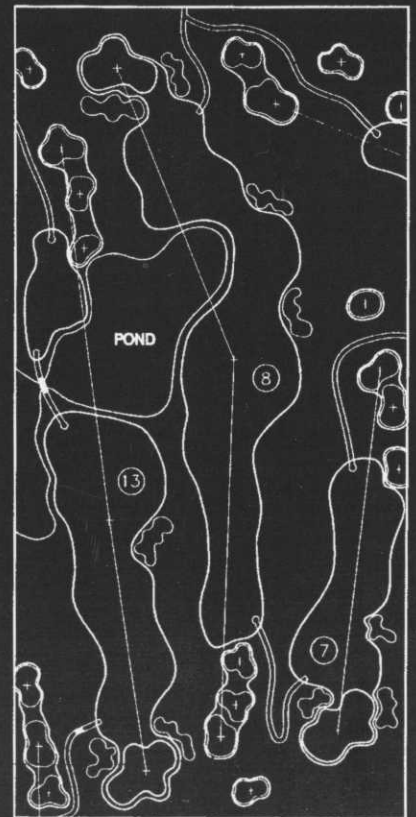
I would like to recognize the efforts made by host Tom Kientzle and the staff at the Legacy Courses @ Craguns. The golf course was in great shape and the professionalism of the golf and support staff was evident throughout the day.

Thank you,



Steve Busch

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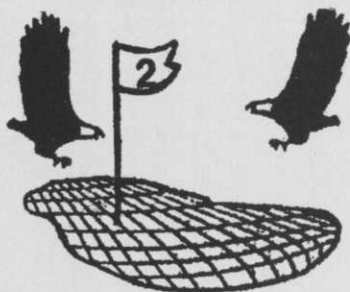
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Excerpts From Emil Picha's Autobiography

Edited by JACK KOLB

Emil Picha was born of immigrant Czeck (Czechoslovakia) immigrants who had arrived in the USA just a few years before he was born in 1899. At the age of five he remembered a tornado demolishing their Minnetonka-township home and all the farm buildings. He was schooled only through the eighth grade but was the valedictorian of his graduating class.

As a youngster he was fascinated by all things mechanical -- it was not clear how long he continued working on the family farm -- he mentions that he made a modification or an invention in regard to a "haymower" and that he worked with steam engines. (possibly steam powered tractors). He continued working as a farm hand and in road construction until his 19th year of life. At that age (19) he became manager of what he referred to as a large Dairy Farm. He continued in this line of work until the Spring of 1921 when he went to work for a club under construction called Oak Ridge Country Club. By August of that year he was in full charge of the grounds crew. The first nine holes were completed that year.

In his autobiography he states that he had good luck in "turbing the new course". Instead of standing around and watching the seed germinate Emil says he "dabbled in buying, repairing and selling Model "T" Fords." Because of the seasonal type work which lasted less than five months Emil decided to resign effective December 31, 1926. During this brief hiatus Emil realized that golf-course work was a little more sophisticated than his farm experience and decided that "greenkeeping" should be his lifetime vocation. So he signed on with the Midland Hills Golf Club on Jan. 1, 1927.

In 1930 at the age of 31 Emil married, bought a home across the street from Hamline University on Snelling Avenue in St. Paul and raised both a son and a daughter. The tenured years while at Midland Hills were rough ones. First the "Great Depression" which started in 1929 and never actually ended until after WW II. Then the War Years with its labor shortage when all young men were called into service, gas rationing placed golf clubs at the absolute bottom of priorities. This meant that all work done on the course had to be done with non-power equipment, either manual or horse drawn mowers.

Shortly before the war ended on December 31, 1944 Emil resigned from Midland Hills Golf Club and returned to Oak Ridge on January 1, 1945. Oak Ridge had completed a second or "back nine" in 1940. Emil was a charter member of what is now known as the MGCSA. He was proactive serving as president for two years and as vice president for one year. He served as chair and member of many committees.

Emil Picha rarely missed a meeting whether it was national or local in scope. He associated with those from

whom he could learn and listed many educational pioneers in his autobiography. He not only cultivated educators as his friends but felt privileged to have the opportunity to work with successful men whether they be economists, engineers, community leaders, movers and shakers. Emil also believed that he could always learn from those who worked for him. As he said to this writer one time, "listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story!"

Emil Picha--

(Continued from Page 16)

Emil had close-friends who worked there and could cast the wheels for him at a slight savings provided they had an original wheel for a pattern. Scotty McLaren was straight from Scotland and he also knew how to pinch the mighty penny, and it was his job to make a profit for Toro. Scotty suspecting Emil's proclivity to save, sensed the money saving plan and provided a wheel to Emil that was defective, such that Emil would have a batch of wheels that were not adaptable. Of course this story was told to me by Scotty and I have a feeling that somehow-or-other Emil made those wheels work.¹

In 1958 as Minneapolis Golf Club was preparing for the coming PGA tourney (1959), the club decided to upgrade their wooden "blacksmith-like" maintenance facility by tearing the wooden building down and constructing a new building of concrete and cinder block. The Golf Course Superintendents were invited to meet there in the spring of 59 as sort of a "Grand -Opening" of the new shop. Emil and myself decided we should go together -- the building was state-of-the-art for its time. It had a large gas-heated workshop area, with a large unheated area for fertilizer and equipment storage. The outstanding feature however was a large restroom with wash facilities, urinals, multiple stools and a shower stall. A shower! -- something never before seen in a Minnesota golf maintenance facility. Although the buildings I worked-out-of at Minikahda were scavenged sheds from around lake Calhoun, we did have gas-heat, running water and indoor toilet. I proclaimed to Emil that I thought it an indictment against any club that would not have water for washing and inside toilets. Emil looked me straight in the eye and said "I have an outside toilet!"

It is my understanding that when Oak Ridge built their state-of-the-art maintenance building, some years later, Emil used the out-house as a small storage shed.²

1. Reference: Scotty McLaren,

2. Reference: David Streater

Remembering Leo Feser

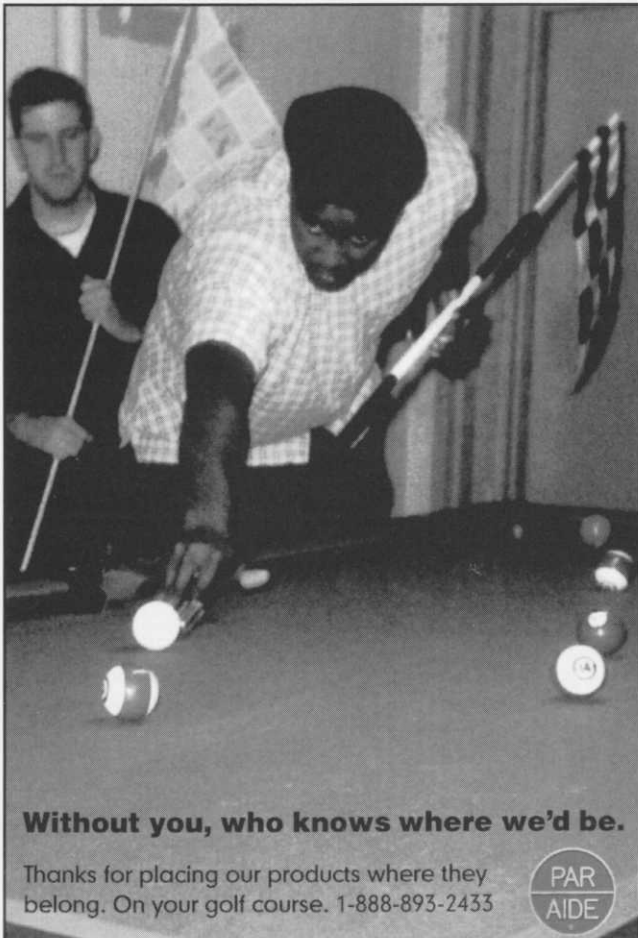
By JACK KOLB

Leo Feser was born in the village of Orono in 1899 from immigrant German parents – He contracted polio as a very young boy (age 8) and was unable to walk for much of his young life. A neighbor boy and school chum, Albert Crosby, would borrow his dad's horse and buggy to pick up his buddy Leo Feser and "cruise" the Lake Minnetonka area. Albert Crosby's family were part-of and became Washburn Crosby Company which abbreviated became WCCO or the Radio and Television WCCO. Also, they were the founders of General Mills. Leo Feser by his own strong will and therapy (by Dr. Abbot of Abbot hospital) was able to walk with the use of a cane and became quite mobile. Leo graduated from High School and

decided to take some agricultural courses at the University of Minnesota Agriculture School. This was a technical college similar to those of today majoring in agricultural courses.

In the meantime – the young lady that he (Leo) courted eventually became his wife. And she had an interesting background. Her ancestry arose from a Swiss-Southern gentleman by the name of Charles Ice who originally had settled in Kentucky. He moved to Indiana in order to join the Union forces during the Civil War. When the Civil War was at an end he moved back to Kentucky but found that he was an unpopular figure because he had fought on the "wrong side." Mr. Ice decided to move as far away from the South as it was possible

to travel. Thus, he wound up on a hilly farm adjacent to and part of what is now Woodhill Country Club. His land (Mr. Ice's) eventually was bought by and became known as Dunwoody Farms. The Ice's eldest son, also named Charles, became the village blacksmith of Wayzata and later moved his trade to Excelsior. Leo Feser in the meantime bought a small plot of land in Orono which had been platted-out for homes. Since there was a World War raging (WW I) the plots weren't selling too well and when Leo Feser would finish paying for his plot he would take options on other plots, and with money loaned by his friend Albert Crosby, eventually owned quite a large piece of real-estate in Orono.



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THE MINIKAHDA CLUB'S GROUNDSREW AS IT LOOKED BACK IN THE '70S. Some of you may recognize Dan Hanson (far left) who is the Superintendent at St. Cloud, and Mike Olson (top row on left) who is now Golden Valley Country Club's Superintendent.

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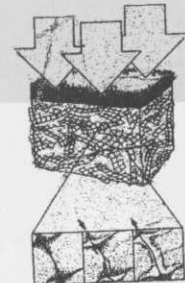
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Hall of Fame Inductee Harold Stodola Played Monumental Role in State, National Associations

In 1985, the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association established an annual golf tournament and a prestigious scholarship program bearing Harold Stodola's name.

As a young man, Harold Stodola or Stoddie as friends came to know him, began his affiliation with golf as a caddie at The Minikahda Club and Oak Ridge Country Club, where he became caddymaster, then graduating from Hopkins High School in 1921, he attended the University School of Forestry. While attending the university, he was distinguished as the 1926 intramural golf champion. His boundless energy coupled with full involvement in all areas of academia and his personal interest and concern for others earned him the title of the "Hopkins Hurricane."

Stodola left the University in 1929 to supervise the construction of the new Keller Golf Course in St. Paul, then stayed on as greenskeeper. In 1932 Stoddie moved on to Interlachen Country Club in Minneapolis.

Stodola represented Minnesota as its delegate to the National Association of Greenskeepers Convention in 1933 and again in 1937. Also, during this time he chaired every major committee and held every office, including that of president in the Minnesota Greenskeepers Association.

In 1938 Stoddie was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Greenskeepers Association of America. He became chairman of the important Editorial Committee of the Greenskeepers Report, which was the official publication of the Association.

During the trying war years, 1941-1946, Stodola served as the president of the NGAA [this was the second longest term ever served by any president]. During this time of WWII, the cry went out to disband the national association. But the Hopkins Hurricane would have none of it.



HAROLD STODOLA, right, received the Distinguished Service Award in 1977 from Richard W. Malpass, the retiring president of the GCSAA. This is the highest honor bestowed by the GCSAA. Harold became the 28th person to receive this award.

Despite the fact that no association meetings were held during the war and that the treasurer absconded with the association's funds, Stodola's hard work and perseverance kept the NGAA intact by corresponding with all the local chapters throughout the nation. In these same years, he was greenkeeper at the Firestone Country Club, the Firestone Public Golf Course and, in addition, was in charge of the Victory Gardens in Akron, Ohio.

In 1945 Stodola returned to Minnesota in order to further his personal interest in scientific farming. This farm later became Wayzata Country Club.

But he couldn't stay away from golf for long. So, in 1957, Stoddie traveled to Phoenix, Ariz. to accept the position of assistant superintendent of Paradise Valley Country Club. Following his association with Paradise, Stoddie, at the age of 65, when most people think of retiring, returned to St. Paul to accept the position of Superintendent at Mendakota Country Club, from which he retired in 1977, but only to move down the street to Somerset Country Club where he worked part-time for the rest of his years.

In his lifetime, Stoddie received many justly-deserved honors and awards. In 1944 he was voted an honorary member of the MGCSA. In 1974 Mendakota Country Club honored him with Mr. Green Thumb award and, in 1977, also held a tournament and awards banquet in his honor. That year our state association also held an honorary banquet for him.

For his outstanding leadership of the Greenskeepers Association at both the state and national level, and his valuable contributions to the association during World War II, Harold Stodola was presented the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's most coveted award, in 1977, at the Portland Oregon conference.

In 1985 Harold was again honored at the first annual Harold Stodola Golf Tournament, and the Harold Stodola Scholarship and Research Program was established in his honor.

Although Harold is no longer with us, his legacy remains. He loved the young people, and he instilled in them hope, concern for others, positive attitudes and a joy of living. He was a generous man with his time and talents, and he always was giving of himself for others. One of his favorite sayings was "Every day is a blessing. Be sure to make the most of it."

The young people loved him as we all did. And many of them are today involved in golf because of him and the example he set for them.

Sally and Bruce, though your father is no longer with us physically, his beliefs, his love and concern for others and his spirit of joy and well-being are always present.

The honor bestowed on him today is a wonderful tribute to a man who touched so many and did so much for the world of golf.

ONE CALL HANDLES IT ALL

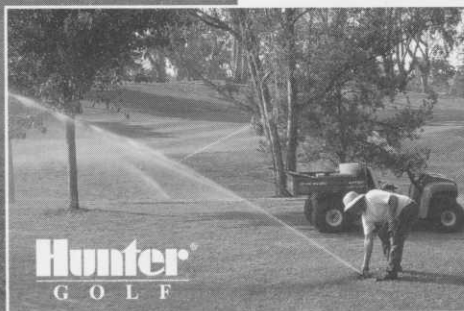
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1970s AND 1980s**

TOP ROW

Doug Mahal, Rick Traver, Dale Caldwell,
John Steiner, Dr. Don White

SECOND ROW FROM TOP

John Nylund, Joe Moris, Steve Young,
Keith Scott, Dick Grundstrom

THIRD ROW FROM TOP

John Queensland, Mike Olson, Jim Lindblad,
Jim Nicol, Leif Erickson

FOURTH ROW FROM TOP

Doug Dieter, Harold Stodola,
Carl Anderson, Jack Kolb

FRONT ROW

Dr. Jim Watson, Roger Kisch, Joe Duich,
Gary Glienke, Randy Nelson, Merle Broich,
Gerry Pirkel, Scott Austin, Dennis Hendrickson

*Minnesota Golf Course
Superintendents' Association*