courses everywhere. "We're lowering the profile, so that when it rains, the water percolates through, and there's no standing water," says Numbers. "Even with a light rain, we're unable to rake traps. With new sand and lower profile bunkers, the rain and raking won't disturb playability."

Jordan's latest accomplishments include installing a Rain Bird Maxi System on the South Course—complete from pump house to sprinkler head.

A 35-million gallon reservoir was dug at Westfield after the devastatingly dry summer of 1988; and in 1990, holes 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9 on the South Course were remodelled to accommodate additions to the entertainment center.

A new irrigation system is planned for the North Course, and should be installed within the next year or so.

Trends—As superintendents change, so do trends in golf course maintenance, as all three men attest.

Spodnik and Numbers view plant growth regulators (PGRs) as one of green industry's major developments in recent years. "I swear by 'em," Numbers says, of PGRs on fairways.

"If you time them right," adds Spodnik, "the superintendent still has the color he wants, and there's enough growth for turf to recover, without the problems of excess growth.

"At one time, we didn't have many choices; we had growth 'retardants,' which worked for some people. (The improved) growth regulators have been great."

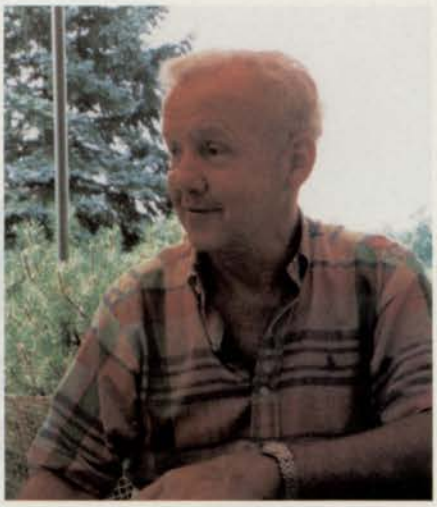
Spodnik notices what he calls the "full-cycle" of equipment trends, in which—in some cases, anyway—everything old is new again.

"The triplex greens mower was a blessing," recalls Spodnik. "When I started, we cut every green and tee with a 22-inch walk-behind mower. Now, we're going back to the walk-behind. (Supers) want them cut so close, without tracks from the machines—the 'triplex circle'—on the aprons."

They all see more interest in using out-front rotary mowers in roughs, again in pursuit of a neater cut.

Spodnik, Numbers and Jordan shoot for consistent green speed rather than tournament-like stimpmeter readings.

"We want green grass all the way around," insists Spodnik. "(Superintendents) are backing off their fertility levels and are running into moss problems, disease problems, turgrass decline problems."



Aware of the importance of community involvement, Spodnik often led lawn care seminars for local civic groups.

Spodnik plans to keep in touch with his friends at Westfield, whenever he and Mary aren't travelling.

But first, there's the matter of that putting green...

—Terry McIver

'Charting' equipment use & wear

■ Bob Rogers of Carolina Country Club, Raleigh, N.C., has his crew track every single hour equipment is used and the daily service record of each piece of equipment.

Each mower, aerator—whatever—has its own "key chart," so called because the ignition key for each piece of equipment is kept with each chart.

The chart is printed on a 28x45-inch piece of poster board. The number next to the equipment name is the manufacturer's recommended hours of use between each oil change.

When an operator uses the equipment, he fills in the date, his initials, number of hours he used it, and a check mark after he's checked the oil and greased it.

The advantage, Rogers says, is that the mechanic can see at a glance how long the equipment has been in use and how it's been cared for.

"This gets us away from the 'rainy day oil change' system," in which the job is done sporadically, usually on days when the weather keeps you indoors. "You can damage mowers, especially the smaller mowers, that way," he says.

Charts are covered with plastic to keep them clean, and notes are written in grease pencil for easy erasing.

KEY CHART

TORO 450-D	OPERATOR	TM	JR			
	DATE	8/3	8/4			
	HOURS USED	4	2			
100	OIL/GREASE	√	√			
CUSHMAN #1	OPERATOR	RH	RH			
	DATE	8/2	8/3			
	HOURS	6	4			
60	OIL/GREASE	√	√			
JACOBSEN GREENS KING	OPERATOR	LK				
	DATE	8/3				
	HOURS USED	5				
30	OIL/GREASE	√				