

Mike Barger:

Mr. Dade County

BY KELLY CRAGIN

The South Florida Chapter nominated Mike Barger for the 1995 FGCSA President's Award for his outstanding service to the industry over the past 30 years. Mike's passion for the superintendent's profession brought him together with now longtime friend Tom Mascaro. Mike and Tom worked together to help establish the magazine we now know as the *Florida Green*. Tom says that most of the things he and Mike did are

President's Award Winners: 1995

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Paul Frank
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"unprintable," but they had some great times promoting the profession. Mike became one of the first editors of the *Florida Green*, which helped advance his knowledge of the golf course industry.

Mike Barger began working for the Dade county Parks and Recreation Department in the 1960s. He worked on Greynolds Golf Course, which had just been completed. From there he moved to Crandon Park on Key Biscayne for two years, then was promoted to manager of Greynolds Park and Haulover Park. Mike acquired considerable exper-

tise in his beginnings with Dade County, which opened up the door for his future.

The Village of Miami Shores asked Mike to be their golf course superintendent, with an offer he couldn't refuse. After two years, he moved on to the City of Miami Beach, where he was offered the position to oversee its three courses, Bayshore GC, Normandy GC and the Beaches Par 3 GC.

Mike moved on in 1974 to become superintendent at the City of Coral Gables GC. He brought his experience to this municipality, where he developed short- and long-range plans for the Biltmore GC, the Granada GC and the parks in the city.

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With the retirement of the director of public service, Mike applied for the job which would see him to his own retirement in 1994. As the director of public service, his responsibilities included the



Mike Barger helped found The South Florida Green which grew into The Florida Green.

Waste Division, the Landscape Management Division, the Golf Course Division and the Administration Division of Public Service. He was responsible for over 100 employees with job that ranged from landscaping city streets, parks and playgrounds to maintaining the Biltmore and Granada courses.

After 20 years of service to the City of Coral Gables, Mike decided to retire. The first thing he did to ease the retirement blues was take a month's vacation in China. He presently does some consulting on the side, but Mike's main objective is just to enjoy himself. When asked about his retirement hobbies, Mike said, "Golf, of course."

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