By Peter Blais

Okay, the Christmas Eve office party. Caught up in the holiday spirit, the green committee chairman/city manager/resort general manager walks over, throws his arm around your shoulder and says: "Bob, you've done such a grand job, we've decided to give you anything you want to maintain the course for a Christmas present. You name it. Price is no object. Take a few seconds to think it over."

Could happen.

Anyway, being a quick-thinking superintendent trained to pounce on every opportunity, you cut him off before he has a chance to begin a conversation with the next group and yell, "I WANT A "Lake," said Joe Adams, assistant superintendent at Omaha (Neb.) Country Club. "We don't have water anywhere on the course."

And there's supposedly more ground water in Nebraska than anywhere in the country. If they ever start talking about water rations here, the country is in real trouble.

"We've discussed creating a lake. It would be pretty easy to do. But our memberships are made up largely of senior citizens. They want to hear about things to make the course easier to play, not harder."

"Lake," said Joe Adams, assistant superintendent at Saginaw (Mich.) Country Club and immediate past president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

"We have a Torso single-row system. It works fine, but we really need a system that gives us more control of, capable of doing more. I'd like a double- or multi-row system. We're getting quotes and taking a serious look at how we could fit it into our budget."

Hiers said the irrigation system is 18 to 20 years old and needs replacing at the two beach courses at John's Island Golf Club in Vero Beach, Fla.

"It is obsolete and has undergone a lot of wear and tear," he said. "You can spend any amount on a system, but we're looking at roughly $1.6 million for those two courses."

"We need an irrigation system that won't be obsolete in 6-8 years," Randal Gai of Claremont Country Club.

River flooded and left several inches of silt on greens, trees and fairways.

"No more Hurricane Bobs would be my wish," Esposito said. "The lowland areas were really soaked. We lost a few greens and about 15 trees. It took three to four weeks to clean up."

Santa Claus would have to swing by the personnel office to please Randal Gai of Claremont Country Club in Oakland, Calif., and George Frye of Kiawah Island, S.C.

"Ten more employees would be nice," said Gai, whose 18-hole, private course suffered thousands of dollars damage and is still cleaning up from late October's Oakland hills fire.

"I run a nine-man crew. I see time away from something else you could be doing to improve your course."

"You also have to follow behind new people to make sure they do the job right. If they don't you can only blame yourself. They failed because you trained them poorly or didn't follow up. A lot of little mistakes can affect course quality."

"But a person who has been with you for five years needs little supervision. If a superintendent had no turnover for a year, think how much easier it would be for him to do his job. You could do so much more to improve the product rather than just maintain it."

Tom Fisher of Edinburgh USA, a Brooklyn Park, Minn., municipal facility near Minneapolis, would like another course. The 18-hole regulation and nine-hole executive facilities are full every day, he said. The 18-hole course pushes through 44,000 rounds during its seven-month season.

"The land is available in other parts of town," he said. "I think we'd do it in the near future."

"Equipment needs topped the lists..."