PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



MGCSA Affiliate Sponsors Provide a Great, Well-Attended Hospitality Night in Anaheim

By James Bade

Greetings from Anaheim! With today's technology I can literally write from my hotel room and send off the column. I actually missed the deadline but they were nice enough to hold the press. And I am glad because that allows me to say wow and thanks for the wonderful Hospitality Night in Anaheim. Jeff Hartman and Dan Brown found us a great spot, the food was wonderful, the music was a nice touch and the turnout was fabulous. Thank you sponsors for your big part, the camaraderie was great to see and hear.

I am sure Johnny Miller's talk will get mixed reviews at best. But there were a couple of things that I did appreciate. Those of us working with Mother Nature have a high calling in life: to be stewards of the land. But a higher calling yet is to be there for your family. "All the success of your business life can't cover up the failures at home." And finally one of the keys to life is being honest. There is something about working with nature that keeps you honest and humble. The common bond of getting our hands dirty is what makes the people in our association fun to be around.

If your speed isn't quite right, you will miss your target. If your aim is off, obviously you miss the target as well. Now if I threw in the word "grain" you might think I was Johnny Miller commentating on NBC. However, I am actually thinking of curling. There are a lot of parallels between curling and putting. The ice can have different speeds. Some sheets curl more than others; just like putting you have to have the right speed and direction to hit your target. All this is to say what a wonderful cover on *Hole Notes* last month.

When I first saw the photo I thought Norma was curling at Woodhill or Interlachen. Then I realized it was her golf course. Thanks for the humor and courage in the light of the adverse winters we are having. It should be an interesting spring. Once again we will see just how tough our turfgrass is and or how resourceful we might have to be.

I was wondering what some of you were up to in the 20-below zero weather. At Somerset we re-inventoried our trees (all 2,170 of them), fine-tuned the irrigation computer, and I had the privilege of interviewing Somerset's retired golf pro who is 94 years young. Gordy Haberkorn first stepped onto Somerset in 1922 when he was nine years old and worked there for 55 years. He remembers the roaring '20s, the great depression and went through World War II. What a treasure it has been being around the "old timers" in our line of work. They sure have enhanced our lives.

I hope everyone noticed the back page of last months *Hole Notes*. It had a schedule of this year's upcoming events. Hopefully, you will tear it off and hang it up somewhere because we would love to see you at a few of them. Enjoy the rest of your winter.

- James

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