

DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR? (AN EDITORIAL OF SORTS)

A man once needed to conquer worry so he went to a New York library. To his astonishment the library had only twenty two books listed under the subject WORRY, but had one hundred eighty nine books listed under WORMS.

This summer, what do we as superintendents have to look forward to? All the elements at Mother Nature's disposal, and one of our own - WORRY - and oh yes maybe even worms.

...That's a bunch of hogwash, I never worry - Think I'll call the weather - RING - This is the latest weather forecast for Washington and vicinity. Hot and humid today with a high of 95, thunder storms this afternoon and tonight. Thank you for calling. CLICK - Oh God, when did we last spray the greens? Let me see, my records state Friday the 10th. That's a week ago. Boy my stomach hurts - must have been that hamburger I ate for lunch. Better check the inventory of fungicides then check the greens. I've been working a lot of hours this summer - better call the wife and tell her I won't be home for supper again - She's been getting upset lately, especially when she asked me to take the kids to the Windsor Day Nursery and they came home that evening with grass seed in the cuffs of their pants. Wonder if she would leave - Noooo, she LOVES me.

RING - Hello - When are you going to seed that wide maintenance road on number one fairway? Mr. Chairman, that maintenance road IS number one fairway - CLICK - I can't understand people - they're never happy, always criticizing me or the course for something. Boy have I got a headache - where are those aspirin? Oh that's right I gave them to John after the Club President hit him over the head with a 5 iron for not turning the tractor engine off.

KNOCK KNOCK - Who's there? Oh Hell, it's that "Satchmo Salesmn" - HI THERE, here's a great set of pots and pans for the wife - Have you seen our new liquid fertilizer? Look, Satching, I'm too busy to talk to you now - besides I might not even have a wife tomorrow - GOODBYE - They're always trying to sell you something - Think I'll put a sign out front BY APPOINTMENT ONLY - No, they'll think you don't mean them anyway - OOOH there goes that hamburger again. Can't understand why I've had this craving for milk lately - Who's that football coach who drinks all that milk? Wonder why?

HMMM, 7 o'clock already - RING - Hello - WHEN ARE YOU COMING HOME? Honey, I'll be home in one hour - If you're not home in fifteen

minutes I'LL BE GONE - CLICK - Gee, guess she really means it this time. You know something, she's right - what in the world is wrong with me? Slow down - the course is in the best condition ever. I've thought and weighed every decision I ever made, and over half were right - Even the President of the United States doesn't have that good a percentage - I've done the best job I know how, and why worry about criticism - no one ever kicks a dead dog, anyway- Even think I'll delegate more responsibility and authority to the assistant and crew.

As I walked to my car I threw the full milk carton in the trash can. Hey, my head and stomach sure feel better now.

Ed Heath, Editor

MAILBAG RESPONSE

Virgil Robinson, Superintendent of Chantilly National Golf & C.C. sent in the following reply to the editorial in the April Newsletter.

EMPLOYEE SNATCHING" or "PASSING the BUCK"

We as Golf Course Superintendents, create to a large degree the working environment of those men we employ. Therefore, if "employee snatching" quote unquote is a problem, should we be "passing the buck" or taking stock of our own personnel management techniques.

Since between 50 and 60% of our annual budgets (excluding Superintendent's salaries) go for labor payroll, I think it behooves us all to pull a little P.M. (Preventive Maintenance) on our P.M. (Personnel Management). We might have the technical knowledge to grow fine golf turf but if we can't manage the men to maintain it, we might as well have a field of turnips.

If we are creating a really good working atmosphere for our employees, barring possibly a personality conflict, I doubt very seriously that they would even entertain the idea of being snatched. How long has it been since we went to the Board at our clubs and fought to get more or better benefits for our employees? The Board will think no less of us. How long has it been since we put our full effort into getting a good raise for a deserving employee? Do we fight harder for our own raises? How long has it been since we asked an employee to try out that new piece of demonstrator equipment and then ask him for HIS opinion of it? How long has it been since we lauded an employee for a job well done? How long has it been since we really tried to help an employee overcome a personal problem or is it too