

## CLIMB YOUR MT. EVEREST or Achievement vs Mount Everest

Extracted from the opening address by Dr. Maynard Miller, GCSAA

Conference, Anaheim by Norm Stewart, Palo Alto Hills Golf & C.C.

Dr. Miller was one of 18 people chosen out of 1100 applicants to be a team to climb Mt. Everest. You may think Courage was the main ingredient to be chosen as a member of the team, but the main factor for being chosen was a proven ability to keep ones cool in times of stress, and had demonstrated previously an ability to keep ones mouth shut when the going got rough. For one dissenting person in a group can lower the moral of everyone within listening ability.....That is not to say that they did not want constructive criticism or remarks, but only when they were well thought out and added to the total group project...not just shooting off their mouth.

Right now, you are at a point in your life which you can never come back to. If you have made a mistake within the past hour it cannot be retracted, but you can see what you can do to overcome the same mistake. Each of us have our own Mount Everests. Each of us must climb slowly up the mountain as Dr. Miller did. They did not reach 29,028 feet by being let out of an airplane at 20,000 feet and walk the other 9,000 ft. They had to go slowly to become acclimatized all the way. We have to become patient and go up the levels of our professional jobs level by level.

In any expedition there has to be someone in charge. There has to be organization. When you were working for someone else, they organized their golf course the way they wanted it run. Now that you are superintendents you have the opportunity to organize and run your own golf course. It may not be acceptable to others, but you have to be the person in charge, and the one responsible for all mistakes. And the one, when all things are going well who is given the acclaimed glory.

While you are going up the road of your profession, the same as the people climbing MT. Everest, you must keep yourself physically fit and mentally alert at all times. Do not overload anything along the way. Take time to organize and plan ahead. But there are accidents which can happen along the way. They put too many people on a link chainbridge and eight people fell and were seriously injured. But this was a lesson early taught in the climbing of the mountain that they did not repeat again and a lesson well learned as not to overload anything along the way.

When climbing they could often only see one camp at a time until reaching the top. As difficulties came up they took one thing at a time. The higher you go you become more selfish and think of yourself first before anything or anyone else. But they had to make a group team effort to get along. Just as when one of your fellows are sick on your crew, then you are short that person and have to devise a way that

the work can be accomplished by someone else. When accidents and death met their team members, they strove together to achieve their goal - the top of Mt. Everest. You have to take your route, and your job seriously .....but at the same time cease to take yourself too seriously so that you can be other member oriented. One thing they found out is that any-time a simple answer appears to a problem it is usually wrong. Most problems have complex answers.

They had humor along the way and tragedy. A fellow team member was killed by an avalanche; the expedition was threatened by a smallpox epidemic for their 1500 carriers and others they came in contact with along the route. A radio message could not be carried 120 miles back to the starting point of their trip because of interference and a CQ emergency message was picked up in Australia by a ham radio operator, relayed to Kamburi and to the World Health Organization in Geneva. In a single engine Swiss plane, a Swedish pilot flew in Russian vaccine. 40 people died instead of thousands. Bridges broke, ladders were not long enough to scale the ice and porters had to be sent over 100 miles away to cut trees and bring back poles to make ladders....but for humor.....Mad magazine was one of those packed by fellow scientists in Seattle, Washington as a joke and a Bikini clad balloon was blown up and the wind swept it away...They wondered what the Chinese thought of it as it landed in Tibet.

It was decided that people over 25 had the better reasoning ability to pace oneself in life. One fellow, a football player under 25, ended his climbing days forever by climbing too high, too fast and too soon.

After many hardships the summit was reached from two sides by two different teams of members. Each team had to retreat. But each team went back to conquer. These people battled winds of 150 miles per hour and had to wear oxygen masks to sleep at all times....all we ask of you is to come to meetings with a tie and jacket on....

As the last group of two men left the top of the summit one quoted from Robert Frost...."We've promises to keep and miles to go before we sleep." They lost toes and some fingers but they lived and came down. Even though the night temperatures dropped to between 30-60 below zero.

These men who climbed Mt. Everest were presented the Hubbard Medal by President Kennedy in conjunction with the National Geographic Society. This was the first time that each member of the team had been given the medal.

Dr. Miller's closing words were to the effect that on our own shoulders achievement has to rest. Through education and recognition and only through the proper use of time and use of organization can excellent means be allowed to produce excellent ends. And only that way, out of the past can be allowed to become the future. A future glowing and worthwhile. For all who climb Mt. Everest, real or imaginary, there are no conquerors, only survivors. Remember it is a long way to the top, and your summit is just as far as you wish to climb.