

NUMBERS - NUMBERS - NUMBERS - by Jack Baker, H. V. Carter Co., Oakland

Today we are besieged with numbers for so many things - area listings, zip codes, product numbers, lot numbers, license numbers, we could go on and on indefinitely - and they are even listing us primarily according to our Social Security Number with our given names of secondary importance. What is happening to individuality? We wonder sometimes if we have not been lulled into this new system of numbers for everything.

Let's not forget - if the computer slips and one digit is in the wrong spot we could be classified as "missing-in-action." We are being told that the number system is the only way to go in this age of volume and speed - yet we see so many instances where we face more and more errors simply because we forget that it still takes a human hand and finger to "start the action." The computer does not load itself - someone has to put it in motion, even if it is merely flipping a switch.

If you have read this article this far you are probably wondering what is the point we are trying to make? Actually what we are saying is that regardless of whether we are "numbers-conscious" or not it is still up to us to make the decisions and come up with the right answers. Man is still in control fortunately, though one wonders for how long? Don't lose heart - we can still utter our voice no matter how small, in determining our own destiny. Let's hang in there and be heard.

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EQUIPMENT - With the ever increasing cost of equipment replacement, how do we get the best for our dollar? Can we afford the luxury of having equipment that will do only one job? True, there are some exceptions.

How many talk to other superintendents about their equipment? How does it hold up, what are their operational and maintenance costs, is it doing the job they thought it would do?

The manufacturers of turf equipment do an excellent job. They try and build what they think is needed in the industry. Their equipment must be able to fit areas other than golf courses. They listen to the needs of not only the golf course superintendent, but the park, cemetery and school districts. It is a large and competitive market.

When you write up your specifications for that new item, keep these things in mind: Will it do the job you want it to? is your maintenance program adequate to maintain it? will the operator be able to handle it with a minimum amount of training?

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