

OUR HOST FOR JUNE - LEONARD WALSH, Boulder Creek G & CC

Leonard started in golf course work in 1957. He was on the construction of Riverside G & CC of Coyote. After construction, Leonard stayed on as a maintenance man. This is where he got hooked on this business. In 1959 he moved on as construction superintendent of Bay Meadows Golf Course at San Mateo. The next and last move was in 1963. Leonard took over the Boulder Creek G & CC as superintendent. Two years later he built the second nine, to make Boulder Creek and 18-hole course.

Leonard is a Class A member of GCSANC and GCSAA. He holds his Pest Control Operators License and also is a Certified Commercial Applicator.

Boulder Creek G & CC was built in 1960 as a 2100 yard, 9-hole course. The second nine was built in 1965 and measures 3500 yards for a total of 5600 yards. The irrigation on the first nine is quick couplers and automatic on the second nine. Leonard says he lost forty feet of main line that crossed the creek during this last storm and has just recently put it back together.

The front nine is tight with the fairways lined with trees. The back nine is open. The greens average 4000 sq. feet and are Poa Annua and Seaside Bent.

Leonard operates with six men and himself. The past couple of years, water has been at a premium at Boulder Creek.

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JOB SECURITY by President Robert E. Livesey, CGCS

Last month the statement was made that there is no job security in our profession. The first thing that one will say is I have, or I will have a contract with my club. This is good up to a point. But there has not been a contract made, as far as a superintendent is concerned, that is not open ended. What are we talking about? A clause that leaves the way open for the club to terminate your employment with a given amount of notice. Or the superintendent is required to do the same if he should decide to leave. The contract only stipulates what the club expects from you, what your salary will be, and what expenses will be covered. No club will get into a position with any one without having some control of the situation. Where does this leave you? All you have is a piece of paper that tells what is expected of each party who has signed it.

How can you improve your job security? You must maintain good rapport with your board and membership. Also, you must educate yourself as you go along. You will find that the same things which apply to middle management in industry also apply to the golf course superintendent. Whether your educational process is formal or informal, the

top people must be made aware that you are taking steps to better yourself and, therefore, the club.

Many say that they're too old or don't have enough time to go back to school. BALONEY! Look at the tens-of thousands of adults who are attending our junior colleges and 4 year colleges and universities. Also, there are many schools that offer excellent correspondence courses in turf management, business, management, etc. There are education seminars put on by our national association and turfgrass councils. Further, manufacturers and vendors alike sponsor such activities, both on a local and national scale.

Another way of continuing your education is by exchange of ideas, That is, sitting down with other superintendents and talking. In our Northern California area such opportunities do exist. I list three of them here.

First, we have our monthly chapter meetings. To some the program may not be of much interest. But to be able to talk to, and exchange ideas, with fellow superintendents is of great importance. This was brought out by "Doc" Babson at our annual meeting. Some members ask, "Why can't we have this or that type of program?" Have you ever thought of putting this question to your program chairman? We have two people on the board whose prime job is developing a program. Get your ideas to them. Remember, they are not mind readers.

Second, we have the annual TARP meeting. Why are there more golf professionals attending than superintendents? This is where you can get some of the exposure to your club officials you need. You can't just sit back and let things like this go by.

Finally, there is the Superintendents Institute. This program is supported by GCSANC, NCGA, and UC Davis. Attendance by Northern California superintendents has been poor. When members from other chapters are attending and have nothing but good things to say about the program, then you are missing something. Plans are in the making to start another 5 year program in 1979. Start making your plans now. Remember, you have to stay ahead of the game to have any amount of JOB SECURITY.

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THRU THE GREEN EDITOR

Stanley Burgess
288 Whitmore Avenue
Oakland, CA 94611

DEADLINE DATE FIFTEENTH OF EACH MONTH

IS THANKS STILL IN OUR VOCABULARY?

One begins to wonder whether in the automatic and computer practices of transacting business today we are overlooking common courtesy in our exchanges with our fellowmen, our suppliers, our customers. It is interesting to have been involved in several sales schools that attempt to motivate the salesman to be more professional in his technique and convincing in his presentation, yet they overlook an old basic rule, that being to thank the customer for his business. They seem to assume that "thanks" will come naturally but it is equally interesting to see how often that is being overlooked. We hope we are never guilty.

There is a growing tendency to gloss over the niceties with our associates and plunge headlong into our pitch and not show proper courtesy and concern for the one being addressed. It is just assumed what we have is so good that the customer should accept regardless, and then respect begins to deteriorate. While the "customer-is-always-right" is many times debatable, it still is no excuse for lack of courtesy and concern. Let's practice consideration and courtesy in our every-day contacts and remember "thanks" is still an important close.

JACK BAKER, H. V. CARTER CO., INC.

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MAINTENANCE OF SMALL TOOLS - - - GCSAA Fore Front March 1978

For most golf course superintendents, spring, summer and fall activities call for heavy use of the many hand and gardening tools associated with maintenance of a golf course. Now is no time to lose the use of an important tool because of improper care. Good quality tools will last many years with regular maintenance.

Many people find that wiping tools with a rag soaked in lubricating oil regularly is a good idea. For garden tools, try keeping a bucket of builder's sand mixed with lubricating oil available for quick cleaning and oiling after every use.

Wax is an excellent preservative for both wood and metal. A solution of paraffin wax dissolved in mineral spirits and kept handy in a spray bottle is an inexpensive way to keep hand tools protected.

Wooden handles can become rough and splintery. Often, a rubdown with a light grade of sand paper is all they need, but replacement handles for both gardening and hand tools are usually available.

Keep saws and other cutting tools sharpened. Remember that under heavy use, chisels and screwdrivers can also become dull and difficult to use properly.

Standard screwdrivers should have square ends and symmetrical faces;

chisels should have a 20-30 degree bevel, with no nicks in the cutting edge. Either can be sharpened on a bench grinder, but frequent touch-ups with an oilstone or file delays this major operation.

Proper storage of tools is important for maintaining them in good condition. Gardening tools should be hung, if possible, in a protected area where it is cool and dry. Most hand tools, too, can be stored on a wall or pegboard. You may find it useful to designate a spot for each tool, either with a label or by drawing an outline shape of the tool where it should be located when not in use.

Having a special place for tools not only makes them easier to find when they're needed, but makes it easier to see if any are missing. This can help cut down on tool loss through negligence or theft.

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Frank J. De Carli, President of Pen-Gro Corporation wishes us to note the name change.

Reinstate John Nunes, Nunes Turfgrass, Inc 209 892-6311
2006 Loquat Avenue
Patterson, CA 95363

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REMEMBER June 14 - Northern California Turfgrass Council Field Day

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Well, well, well guess who you have to put up with again as editor of our newsletter. That's right, Stan's back. I must say Bob is going to be a tough act to follow, but I will do my best. I am hoping for more support in the way of articles from our membership. I along with almost everybody else have been very selfish. I think we all have a lot of information we should share with our fellow superintendents and the newsletter is a great way to share it. So let's all try to get an article in to me.

While I am on the soap box let me say a few things about meeting attendance. There are 303 members in our Association, of that 172 are directly involved in the maintenance of golf courses or to put it another way--they are A, B, and D members. Of that 172 A, B, and D members we are averaging approximately 40 per meeting, which in my opinion is low. Now if our membership tried to make at least one half of the meetings each year we would have some good turnouts.

Besides getting away from the job for a day of golf there are many other advantages to attending meetings. The educational programs have been very good, you get to talk to other superintendent and suppliers you might not get to otherwise. You pick up new ideas and learn of new job

opportunities just to mention a few. So let's all get out and try to make a few more meetings. Remember IT IS your Association.

TARP Meeting - Recently I attended our regional TARP meeting at Crow Canyon CC and I must say I was very impressed. All the speakers did a great job and are to be commended. There was a great deal of interest from those in attendance. A lot of the questions and comments from the floor were from professionals and club officials which I feel is good. It shows that people other than the superintendents are interested in some of the problems we are faced with. I would like to say THANKS to Bill Davis and all others involved with putting this years program together.

I would also like to thank everyone at Crow Canyon for their hospitality. We were only able to play the front nine, but enjoyed it so much we played it twice.

El Macero Country Club, Wednesday, May 24, 1978. It has been quite some time since we have had the pleasure of having a meeting at El Macero and as always things looked good. Having decided that sleep was more important than golf, I did not get to see the golf course but I did get a chance to talk to some of the golfers and they felt the course was in great shape.

As always the hospitality at El Macero is great and I would like to personally thank Jack.

Stan

We were extremely fortunate to have had two speakers who spoke on communication. Bob Badger, Professional of El Macero told us how important it was for the superintendent to keep the professional and manager aware of operations on the course. He also pointed out the need for each of the three to support the other during discussions with members.

Duke Newton, owner of Brady-Holmes said that the superintendents position was one of a manager since in most cases he was on his own out on the course. The value of the property and equipment makes it imperative that superintendents have an experienced mechanic on the job. He warned us when going to a new club to be sure to get an understanding of the clubs policies and future plans. He should survey needs in regard to equipment and sprinkler system and get a committment from the club so he will be able to accomplish its goals. Thanks to Bob and Duke for a great program.

Clifford A. Wagoner, CGCS

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