

Jack-Of-All-Trades, Master of None

By William Sell
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As I was preparing this paper on Jack-Of-All-Trades, I know of only one of our fellow superintendents that has been on the program at the International Turfgrass Conference, and he's an import from the Chicago area. Perhaps public relations is stressed more strenuously in our suburb to the south. Is it possible that this may be one of the reasons the superintendents have more prestige and salary in the Chicago area? I'm not sure, but it's food for thought.

I feel certain that personal rating comes under public relations. How are we rated? For example—when we attend our local meetings, do we pay our respect to our host, and his club, which grants us the privilege of holding our meetings there, by dressing in the proper attire for the dinner hour, I hope.

I have recently been told that one of the country clubs in the greater Milwaukee area, has demanded—yes, demanded—that the superintendent be dressed fitting for his position at all times. This means no work clothes, but slacks, sport shirts, blazers and etc. If more country clubs would demand this of their superintendents, it would mean much to our profession.

My compliments to the Board of Directors of the Ozaukee Country Club for making this demand of Ronnie Verhaalen.

From greenkeepers to golf course superintendents, and perhaps in the near future—Executive Director of Golfing Grounds—sounds important, doesn't it? I can't think of any other sport where so few give so much enjoyment to so many.

Maybe the golfing public is fortunate that we are jacks and not masters of all the professions and skills that have been mentioned, for if we were masters there wouldn't be any golf course superintendents.

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