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Charles G. Wilson, Research Director

The President's Message

As I sit here contemplating my first message for 1971 as your president, I would like to wish all the members and their families a happy and prosperous new year. At this time of year most of the members are getting themselves and their workshops in order so they can take off to attend the convention or take a vacation with their family. I would like to let you know what is taking place in my area.

The State of Illinois Conservation Department at the present time has 5634 acres of land. This includes 2120 acres in Starved Rock State Park, 1523 acres in Matthiessen State Park and previous purchase in 1970 of 1991 acres. They still want 1037 acres in eleven parcels of land so that Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Park will be one big state park complex.

The reason I am writing about this land purchase is that Deer Park Country Club is included. The State has said that they will acquire Deer Park CC either by negotiation or condemnation. It will be a sad day for me after twenty-six years as superintendent and ten years as a caddy to see the state park take over. The State has a fight on its hands. Will keep smiling till then.

Joe Canale



EDITORIAL

The educational committee has once again provided the members with a very interesting program. At the January meeting we were able to question Norm Kramer and Dr. Alexander on the subject of certification. There is considerable member interest witnessed by a new record attendance for a winter meeting. I have made comments in previous editorials about certification so I was particularly anxious to hear what they had to say.

For an hour and a half there was a battle for the floor and when the smoke cleared, I think our members had a much greater understanding and feeling for acceptance of the program. The speakers convinced me that they (Norm, Paul and the rest of the committee members for ? years) have thought this program out carefully. Their presentation was excellent!

I had heard of the certification effort for several years before the annual meeting at Houston and was very disappointed at the report given at this meeting. I was uncertain before, but after hearing the report, I was against certification. I don't like being compared to a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) which is, if I am not mistaken a legal distinction, nor to a CPS (Certified Professional Secretary). The fact that the Club Managers and Golf Professionals both have certification programs is important and wasn't even mentioned.

Since the annual meeting, several articles have appeared in the National magazine which answered questions about certification. Although many were answered, some remained unanswered, also, the program presented in the Superintendent was not the same as was outlined in Houston. I now think that the reason for the difference is that since Houston, Dr. Alexander has been retained to head the program. This seems to be one of the more "heads up" moves the GCSAA has made recently.

As indicated, many questions were thrown at our guests (actually Norm is a member of the Midwest) and their answers were to the point and informative. There were some questions, however, that they could not answer. Before getting to the questions, let me relate what I understand to be the program.

There are only three requirements for certification.

1. You must be actively employed as a golf superintendent.