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Editorial

by Roger LaRochelle

First of all I would like to compliment Ray Gerber on the fine job he is doing on the Bull Sheet. I well know the problems with putting out this publication, and want to urge any member with material of interest to send it to Ray.

We here at Woodmar are busily involved installing an automatic irrigation system. Anyone who has been through the planning and installation knows how much forethought and follow-up work is involved and how immensely interesting the project is. I invite any member of the MAGCS to Woodmar to inspect the work and buy my lunch. We think we have one of the most workable and practical systems anywhere. The installation should be finished by mid August but will be in operation as sections are completed.

As a director of the MAGCS and a member of the educational committee, I hope to see more members at our monthly meetings. We have a good thing going this year and your participation can only make it better. In regard to the meetings, two subjects which stir up much discussion at any gathering are labor and vandalism. New labor laws are making bookkeeping more critical than ever before and the Occupational Safety and Health Act spells out specific rules concerning the way laborers are protected. There is a vast grey area of rules and regulations surrounding these laws which is caused by inconsistent interpretation and an unwillingness to accept the law. The furor at the Knollwood meeting on May 10 illustrated these points. The speaker who is a lawyer, was undecided as to what to do about the "7th day" law which requires "one day off in seven" and the audience seemed to want to make their own interpretation. Being no expert at all, I might as well offer my opinion. First, it seems clear that even if a man wants to work 7 days a week, as some of our seasonal help does, he may not. Second, if a man works until 10:00 Sunday and is told not to report until 10:00 on Monday he may be off 24 hours but the employer is not observing the intent of the law which is very important in rendering decisions in a court of law. Intent here seems to mean—a day off in seven. The draftors of the law couldn't say—a calendar day off in seven since some "days of work" occupy two calendar days, for instance shift work through midnight. The underlying motive behind labor laws such overtime after 40 hours and a day off in seven simply seems to be a way to make more jobs. If you can't afford overtime pay, you will have to hire more help and if you must have help seven days a week, again you will have to hire more help. Who is to say the decreasing unemployment is not a justified end. One thing is sure, we do need more information and discussion about these issues.

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