

EDITORIAL POSTSCRIPT

By the time the editorial is published this month, I will have already left your ranks. It was after much thought and with some sadness that I made my decision. I leave with a great deal of respect for the men who are golf course superintendents. I realize that leaving the golf course is probably not the best solution for the profession, but my situation deemed a change and there was another opportunity available to me.

I wish good fortune to all of you and to the association and hope you will all continue to support your professional organizations.

My wife and I will always cherish the friendships of the MAGCS members. And best wishes for the future success of a fine association.

Sincerely,
Jerry Hanko

Editorial

by Jerry Hanko

Most of the preceding editorials have been a statement of facts, or opinions, for or against an idea or ideal. I would like to pose some questions instead. They are some that I studied over the past winter—and I found my answers.

What is your professional and financial future as a golf course superintendent? Is your salary keeping pace with the world? How long can you afford to be a superintendent?

Look at the general trend the past two years. Many of the new people hired were hired for less money than the previous superintendent was making. And as positions opened, were the offered salaries much more, if any, than what you are making now?

Did you get raises these past two years that would keep pace with the inflation rate? To gain anything a 12-15% annual raise would have been necessary.

What are the qualifications that are needed to earn your salary? You are a "turf specialist" and/or maybe an agronomist or horticulturist. And are you a plumber, an electrician, a carpenter, an equipment operator, a mechanic, a construction engineer, a public relations man, a bookkeeper, a personnel man, a payroll clerk, a weather forecaster, a plant pathologist, an entomologist, and a supervisor? How much does a plumber make? How much does an electrician make? How much does an equipment operator or truck driver make? How much is each of those people responsible for and for how many hours each day or week?

If you are seeking higher wages, would changing clubs help the situation? More than likely not—the owners and chairmen seem to keep close tabs so salaries range about the same.

In closing, I hope the questions I raised will stir some thoughts and maybe some solutions. We all know it takes experience to make a really good golf course superintendent. But as I see it, an experienced man cannot afford to be a golf course superintendent.

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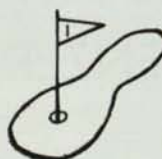
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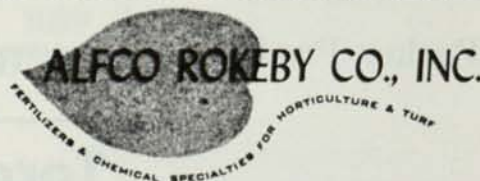
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