

From one pro to another



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Editorial

David A. Meyer, Superintendent
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I would like to share with you some of the experiences I have encountered while working for Carson Pirie Scott and Company. Five years ago when I started with the company, they owned a daily fee eighteen hole golf course which they hoped to improve and expand the facilities around it. I accepted it as a challenge and a challenge it was!

Through the first 4 years improvements on the course itself included the reconstruction of 5 greens and 6 tees, which I had anticipated and completed. The other work such as landscaping of the complete complex, installation of 1800 ft. of sanitary sewer which paralleled the 10th fairway and crossed the 11th and 12th fairway and the storm sewer which crossed the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 9th fairways were not anticipated but was also completed.

Just when I thought I had everything under control, the executives of Carsons International approached me saying they were contemplating the purchase of a 36 hole course and asked for my opinion of the course.

Thinking back when I started working for Carsons their long range plans included the purchase of more golf facilities if the first one proved successful. Therefore Indian Lakes was purchased in November, 1973, and my challenges were renewed.

When ownership changes hands there are always problems. This is where public relations are very important. First is a complete inventory to see what you have and who you have to work with, secondly, gain confidence of your employees so as not to lose the valuable experience they have had working at this location. The public are a very important part of the operation and have to be informed that the purchase was made to upgrade and improve facilities. So now it is my job to keep the management and pro informed of any changes made at this time as they are the ones approached by the public.

I feel the only great major change will be in the club house accommodations.

My responsibility now is to maintain the 370 acres which includes 54 golf holes and all related facilities.

I find this entire operation advantageous as it is possible to purchase materials in larger quantities at better prices and service and also equipment purchased can be better utilized.

At this time my employees have proved very knowledgeable and dedicated. With the confidence our company has shown in me, I know there will be many more challenges to come.

Around the turn of the century the American oil industry had problems. One of them was a nuisance called gasoline, which was a by-product of kerosene production. It wasn't good for much of anything, and the oil companies had difficulty in getting rid of it. When it became apparent that the horseless carriage was here to stay, gasoline was no longer a drug on the market, and small amounts of it were sold for use in these newfangled "gas buggies."