

A Couple of Sunny Days

by Gary Hearn, Oakbrook G.C.

Paradise, here I was in Central Florida as the temperatures were around 70 degrees with blue sky stretching from horizon to horizon. My vacation was just winding down and every place I had been was either cold or windy. I contacted my former employer, Bill Bonnett - originally from Kankakee Elks G.C., who now works for LESCO in the Orlando area. I haven't seen Bill or his family since the fall of 1983.

I received a hardy handshake, and he said, "welcome to paradise". After a delicious supper, we engage in a few 'war' stories, talked about a few people, and drank a few beers. The next couple of days I had weak plans on visiting Disney World and Sea World. I received an invitation from Bill to ride with him on his sales route. I accepted as we pulled out of the driveway at 4:30 in the morning — I was still shaking my head, why did I accept this offer. I can see now why Bill extended the invitation, here I was working unloading 4 pallets from one LESCO semi to Bill's semi-trailer. I just paid for room and board.

For the next 8 hours, I was riding shot-gun with a man who had the patience and desire to set me in the right direction. He took a chance and for that I will always respect and trust Bill Bonnett. The atmosphere of the day was exciting, these are the places that Bill and I visited; 1) Kansas City Royals spring training camp, 2) Grand Cypress G.C., 3) Orange Tree G.C., 4) Bay Hill G.C., and 5) Orlando C.C. I learned a great deal about southern turf grasses and each superintendent was very helpful. On the way back to Bill's house, I ponder the day events and thus, made plans for the following day. Disney World here I come — wrong, again Bill had something else planned.

We both attended the West Florida Association of Superintendents monthly meeting at the new Black Diamond G.C. located near Crystal River. As usual meetings are in the Midwest, this was different, a buffet lunch, a speaker from LESCO, then we played golf. The day was educational from the speaker's information to listening to other superintendents about their experiences in the southern territory. The whole day was great, I teamed up with 3 other guys for a scramble match and of course we lost by 10 strokes.

As I look back on these two days on visiting and talking with other superintendents, these days wouldn't have materialized unless a good friend was around. What I am trying to say, don't forget the people who got yourself in this profession or any other profession. I still send Bill and his family a Christmas card, just to say thanks.

Bill Bonnett's address: 521 Oak Crest St., Altamonte Springs, FL 32714. Give him a jingle.

"Spring Interlude"

What Magic! We watch May unfold,

As Buds and Blooms salute the retiring cold.

Even the Frost quickly disappears,

For Sunshine turns It into tears.

Tears of Joy, for all the Flowers,

That Bloom and Bless each Maytime hour.

Watching the Golf Course reflect May's beauty,

In a united magical display,

Compliments the way We perform Our duty,

In a most delightful way.

Kenneth R. Zanzig



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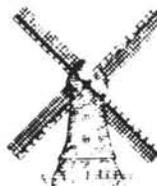
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