

Director's Column



by Joel Purpur
River Forest Country Club

By the time the November **Bull Sheet** hits the streets, the 1988 Medinah Turf Clinic will be history. Hopefully, everyone who attended benefited in some way. With the theme "Where We've Been, and Where We Think We're Going in Golf Course Management," we tried to look into the future of our profession. One subject not covered in the program was speculation into the future as to the demands of the memberships. Good conditions in some cases aren't good enough.

Even though technology and individual talents are better, too frequently, talented superintendents are losing jobs for seemingly petty reasons. Will we still see the day where many superintendents retire after long terms at one club? Unfortunately, in many cases, seasoned superintendents have had to make course changes to keep up with progressing pay scales.

Much has been said about the large number of new golf courses required to keep up with the growing demand and interest in golf, but has anyone heard of any speculations as to the future availability of quality superintendents to staff the new golf courses? The University of Illinois and others claim dwindling enrollments in turf programs. If this creates a shortage of educated superintendents in upcoming years, job security and salaries look optimistic. Today's golfers won't tolerate substandard conditions from non-professionals. Only time will tell. In the meantime, we have to get past the present, preferably enjoy it.

There's no doubt that the stress from the hot summer put negativity in the optimism of many. If we can learn to deal with the physical and mental stresses we encounter daily at the golf course, we may not burn out or get the "There's Got to Be a Better Way" attitude. Try to remember during those two tough months of heavy stress that they will be followed by 4 months of winter where vacations and snow removal are top priorities.

Last summer dealt us drought and record heat, but for the most part, superintendents in the Midwest kept great golf courses considering the conditions. If next summer is also hot and dry, hopefully, we will be better prepared to handle it. If Mother Nature gives us a normal, cooler summer, it will surely be appreciated.

As far as the future of our profession goes, if a shortage of superintendents does occur, perhaps all of us will be in the driver's seat.



In Memorium

We offer our condolences and deepest sympathy to the family of Frank Joseph Dinelli who passed away September 29th at the age of 85.

Frank was the patriarch of a large family including his wife Alice, four daughters, three sons, twenty-two grandchildren, and nineteen great-grandchildren.

All of Frank's three sons followed their dad into the "Greenkeeping" profession. Joseph is currently the superintendent of the North Shore Country Club in Glenview, James is a turfgrass consultant and Jerry who followed his father as Superintendent at Northmoor Country Club has turned his many talents to antique toy collecting and writing on the subject. Additionally, two grandsons, Danny and Jerry Jr. are learning the ropes so to speak with Joe at North Shore C.C. So the Dinelli name and tradition appears to be assured for many years to come.

Frank was born in Ladd, Illinois, in 1903. After his school years, he went to work in the coal mines in Centralia, Illinois. Soon thereafter, in 1921, Frank and Alice were married and moved to Highland Park, Illinois where he took the position of assistant Superintendent at the Northmoor Country Club. By 1929, Frank took over as the Superintendent, a position he held until his retirement in 1968, after 44 years of continuous employment by Northmoor.

The Northmoor Club gave Frank and Alice a notable retirement party at the club with his many friends and club members in attendance. The club showed its deep appreciation by granting Frank full club privileges as well as continuation of living in their home on the club grounds which they have for the past twenty years.

On a second occasion in 1978, ten years after his retirement, the club held another retirement party for Frank on his 75th birthday. A group of his Superintendent friends and club members attended where they presented Frank with a sizeable monetary reward in remembrance of his conscientious fulfillment of his responsibilities to the club over the years. Without doubt, no golf course Superintendent has ever been more loved, respected and rewarded than Frank has by the Northmoor members.

Frank was known as the "Dean" of Golf Course Superintendents in the Chicago area. He was a director of the International Golf Course Superintendents Association in 1951 and 1952. He served as president of the Midwest Golf Course Superintendents in its formative years. (continued on page 4)