

“Lighten Up!”

by John Gurke

“Temperatures Soaring to Record Levels” ...

“Stalled High Pressure” ...

We read these headlines on the weather page (for us early-risers, it's typically yesterday's paper), and isn't it interesting how they describe — to a tee, if you'll pardon my pun — our own dispositions during these “hot times?” Those rare opportunities to sit in an air-conditioned office for reflection and recharge are welcome, indeed. I find myself attempting, as all of us should and via any means possible, to LIGHTEN UP — to look at things with a sense of humor. My air-conditioned mind passes through stages, beginning with stage 1: The oxymoron phase. Terms come to mind such as, “Automatic irrigation,” “Summer vacation,” “Pythium control,” and “A fun game of golf.” I have to chuckle. Given a few extra moments of 64-degree splendor, stage 2 sets in: The anecdote phase. In this stage, I reflect on the many stories I've heard (and told) of strange occurrences on the golf course which, with benefit of hindsight, are truly funny.

A close personal friend of mine in the business related to me the tale of Sunday, July 5th, 1980-something, when, just hours before the final round of a relatively major PGA tour event, he arrived at work directly from a Fourth of July celebration. Feeling confident that his youthful mind was capable of carrying out his assigned responsibility of changing cups (I'm told they even paint a spot where the cup should go), he proceeded out onto the course. All went well, so thought he, until the panicked chatter of tournament officials over his radio aroused his attention. “The flag on number two is set at a forty-five degree angle!” was followed minutes later by, “There's two # ★® © % \$! holes on the seventh!” and then, “There isn't ANY hole on number nine!” My close personal friend had done the impossible, according to the PGA, and wasn't even allowed to atone for his mistakes, Definitely NOT funny on July 5th, 1980-something, but a downright hilarious mind-elixir on June 23rd, 1995.

Other stories briefly pop up, sharing the common bond of being serious problems at the time, but less serious over the long haul. From the employee who was directed to dump the load of topdressing at the twelfth green, and proceeded to dump it ON the twelfth green, to the employees who were hauled away (thankfully on a Monday) from work by the DEA; from the guy who constantly puts diesel in gas tanks and gas in diesel tanks (we all have one), to the fellow who seems to find water hazards with whatever piece of machinery he is operating: These are the things which try our ability to LIGHTEN UP.

Is there a point to all this? An underlying theme? I guess the point is that we're all human — we are, by our nature, prone to make mistakes. With this in mind, it's not only possible to learn from them, but to laugh at them. Take a few minutes, turn the a/c on, and try it — JUST LIGHTEN UP.

Credit — Verdure 7/95

Wadsworth Pumps

Sales • Service • Repair

- Watertronics • prefabricated pump stations
- Air-O-Lator • floating fountains & aerators
- Cla-Val • automatic control valves
- Crispin • air release, foot, & check valves
- water-features •

(708) 394-4490

• Arlington Heights •

**REMEMBER TO WEAR
YOUR NAME BADGES
AT OUR MEETINGS.**

Greens renovation in your future?

Make it easier on yourself and eliminate the guesswork!

Call for this brochure that takes you through three different renovation methods step by step. Call today and ask for the Greens Renovation Brochure. It's yours for the asking ... FREE!

There's
a
FREE
brochure



Lofts Seed Inc.
Bound Brook, NJ

(301) 595-1970
(800) 472-7701