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As I write my last Director's Column before "going out to pasture" from the board of the MAGCS, I am proud of what the MAGCS has accomplished over the last decade. The energy and direction I see in our new board is very encouraging, and with Ed Braunsky as our new president, I am sure the upcoming year will be entertaining as well as productive. Ed could write a book with all of his witty analogies.

Many times I have heard from out-of-town superintendents that the MAGCS is an association that is like no other. Professional, progressive, organized, and involved are a few of the qualities that we as members have come to know and expect. The operations could not take place if it were not

for the unselfish efforts of many. I hope that I myself have contributed to the betterment of the MAGCS as well. (If I hadn't by now, it's a good thing I am getting the boot!)

Our association would not be at its present level if it were not for the class of the individual members themselves. The board strives to serve the needs of its membership, and it is the membership itself that pursues such high standards and involvement. Our monthly publication, *On Course*, would not be what it is today if it were not for the demands of the membership and the hard work of the Editorial Committee and Editor Fred Opperman. Congratulations to all involved. We are all proud of their accomplishments, and they should be too.

There are too many people to thank for helping me during

the past nine years that I have been a part of the MAGCS board, beginning when Mike Nass was president. Being president of the MAGCS during the "summer of '95" was quite challenging, and the 1995 Executive Board deserves special thanks: "Big Al" Fierst was always there for advice and grammatical consultations; Don Cross, who is a stickler for details; and Secretary/Treasurer Ed Braunsky. Ed worked hand in hand with new Executive Secretary George Minnis many, many hours; and together they brought the office operations, computer database, and programs to new levels. But most of all, I would like to thank the members of the MAGCS for giving me an opportunity to be a part in the constant development of our great Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Thank you to all for the memorable experience and involvement. ■

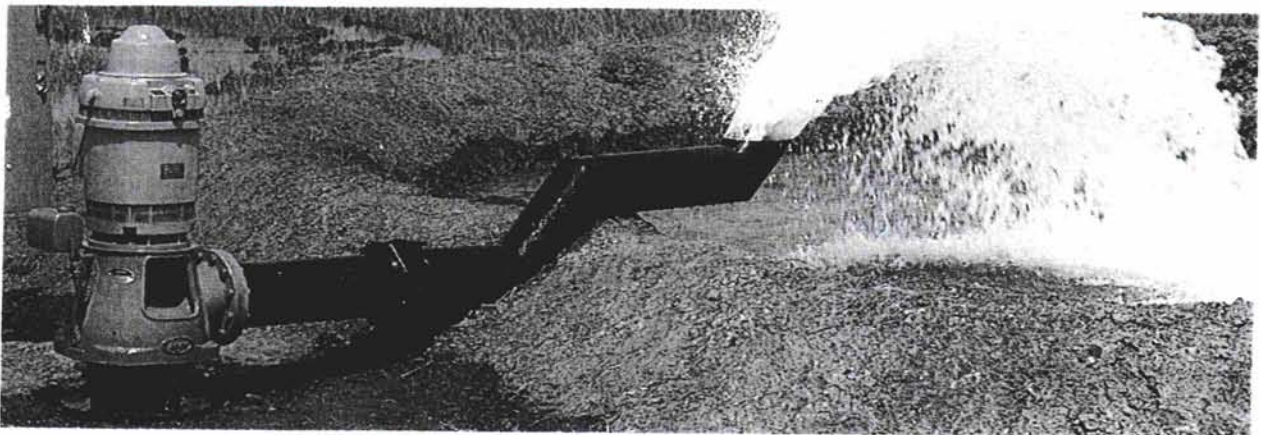
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