



I could not do my job without you. Forgive me for all of those times that I yelled at you. Forget about all of those expletives. You're a key part of my turf management, Erma. Thanks again!

It was early morning August 1 that I decided to name my irrigation system. We had not had a drop of rain for at least two weeks. How could you get the job done without a good (new or old) watering system? I can always depend on Erma—at least until she spouts off again!

We all hear how important it is to have a good golf pro and a good golf course superintendent, but I need to throw in the need for a good turf equipment technician. We would not be out on the course mowing grass or raking bunkers or spraying plant protectants without the equipment running right. Stop what you are doing right now, and run up and give your turf tech a big hug. If your equipment is in good running shape around this time of the year, consider yourself in good hands.

I need to talk to the membership about Erma and T.J. During the many years of being a golf course superintendent, I have found that you tend to depend on several people and things to get the job done right. You know what I am talking about. How often have you said to yourself, "Thank God for so and so!" or "I could not run this club without that certain piece of equipment."

T.J. is another story. Sure, I throw several dollars his way; but the five months off thing will not happen. Everyone has been through those weeks of horror when nothing seems to be going right. T.J. always seems to come through in the clutch. While Erma keeps spouting off, T.J. keeps smiling and keeps running and running. Whether it's a loose belt or a dull blade or a cracked block, T.J. always gets it fixed. T.J. (Tim Johnson) is the turf tech at The Royal Fox Golf Club in St. Charles for that fine super, Ernest Corsi. In his spare time, he helps me out at my club. I often thank God for T.J. If your turf tech has the same attitude and knowledge that his guy has, consider yourself lucky.

We all, hopefully, have an Erma or a T.J. around. Our jobs are made so much easier with these important people and things. Thanks again Erma and T.J. By the way, you can stop hugging your turf tech now. People might start to talk!

One side note. Thanks to everyone for keeping the MAGCS in good running shape. It's been a long year, but I can hear "Jingle Bells" in the distance!

Ed Braunsky, CGCS
President, MAGCS

Let me first tell you about Erma. She's a good old (and I do mean old) gal. Sure, there are times that she spouts off, but for the most part, she keeps running and running and running. I often think of getting rid of old Erma, but that would cost a lot of money. Maybe Erma knows this because she always seems to get going earlier and earlier each year. Erma is so darn important to me that I always try to keep her in good shape. She keeps me in good shape, too, by allowing me to run with her from one place to another (especially in the fairways). I give her several dollars each year to keep her parts moving. I also give Erma at least five months off per year. Thanks old gal for all of those early mornings and late nights that we have spent together.

TURFTALK

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