

# Dan Murray -N- Settler's Hill

*Paul Yerkes  
LESCO, Inc.*

**D**an Murray and Settler's Hill will play host to this year's MAGCS championship in September.

The course was originally the site of a Waste Management landfill owned by the Kane County Forest Preserve. This idea of building a golf course on garbage was a first in the state of Illinois. With the help of Robert Lohmann and the Greenvisions Construction Company, Settler's Hill has set the standard for landfill golf course sites.

Dan arrived at Settler's from Kishwaukee C.C. in 1989 to finish the grow-in on the front nine and with Greenvisions build the back nine. Opening the course for play in 1990, Dan remained there as superintendent. Actually, Dan did take a five-year hiatus to work for Golf Creations and returned to Settler's Hill this year. Thank Kevin and Larry for keeping Dan's seat warm and the course alive! Dan said it feels great to be back in his old stomping grounds, and what he appreciates the most is "seeing how nice the golf course looks on Sunday morning" after a long work week.

Dan started his golf course career as a summer grunt working for Pete Mirkes Sr. at the Pheasant Run Resort during high school. After college, Dan beefed up his resume working for Art Benson Sr. and Pete Leuzinger at the St. Charles C.C. From there, Dan moved to Glen Oak C.C. to become more enriched working for Ray Gerber and Fred Opperman. With a head swollen with

*(continued on page 28)*



*The Murray's (l-r): Kyle, Kelly, Shawn, Jill and Dan.*

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**Director's Column**

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On a side note, this past weekend, I attended my twenty-year class reunion (Naperville North, 1978). Talk about bazaar! The men did not age anywhere near as well as the women did. It then occurred to me that those twenty years had passed by me very quickly, and so did many experiences and encounters along the way. I also realized that the next two decades will probably pass just as quickly. I am aware that we all have our trials and tribulations, some of us, unfortunately, more than others. But it also occurred to me in talking with former classmates how blessed I have been to have gotten into the golf course industry. I sometimes take for granted how it allows most of us the opportunity to work out of doors; the amenity of flexibility in our work day and family life; the excitement of new challenges almost daily; the ongoing

opportunity to play golf and fraternize with our good friends and fellow members during monthly, if not weekly, events and gatherings.

For these reasons, I am truly thankful, as time goes by all too quickly. We lose close friends and family, our children grow to adulthood and move on, and we sometimes do not relish the good things in our lives when given the chance. So as not to sound gloomy or corny, I wanted to extend a reminder to all of us not to get hung up on the little things that may go awry in our lives but to embrace each day with excitement and enthusiasm and the challenge to pass along a good intention or even a smile. I truly believe that if your priorities, whatever they may be, are kept in order, they will only allow us to live life to the fullest.

**Dan Murray -N- Settler's Hill G.C.**

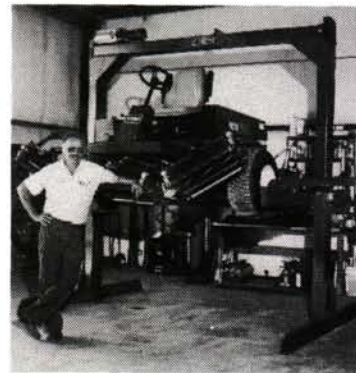
*(continued from page 8)*

knowledge, Dan nailed down his first superintendent's job at Kishwaukee C.C.

Dan's biggest accomplishment to date is his family. Married for twenty-two years to his wife Jill, they raised three children: Shaun, 18; Kelly, 16; and Kyle, 13. In the evenings these days, Dan can be found on the soccer field doing Pele impersonations with his children. In the winter, you can find him snowmobiling across the snowless cornfields of DeKalb.



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