

The Unknown Superintendent

“Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you’re a mile away and you have their shoes.”—Unknown

The following interview was conducted with the little known but much beloved “Unknown Superintendent.” Traveling from course to course, the Unknown Superintendent imparts his wisdom on anyone who will listen and gives lessons in golf course management to stewards of clubs all over the world.

Q: Who is the most unlikely person from whom you’ve received great advice?

A: A retired Chicago policeman. He explained to me that the answer to all golf course problems is mulching mowers. That’s why golf courses always look so great. Mulch. That’s all you need to keep the grass looking great. Nothing else. I live by that.

Q: Do you have a nickname, and if so, where did it come from?

A: Chip. When I was born, mom was a short iron away from the 7th green. I suppose it could be worse. I could be called “Pitch” or “Wedge” or even worse, “Tight Lies.”

Q: What was your biggest golf course-related blunder?

A: This one time, at golf camp . . . wait I can’t tell that one. Okay, once I was convinced that golf carts could float and I told all our golfers to go ahead and drive in after any golf balls that go into the water. Oops!

Q: What was your best golf experience?

A: Blowing up that damn gopher at Bushwood Country Club. I know that Carl tried his best, but Spackler just wasn’t up to the task. Sure there was some collateral damage, but ultimate victory was mine! I still don’t know why they were so upset; the course will be back to normal—eventually (trees DO grow back you know).

Q: What was the most bizarre job you ever had?

A: I used to have a job at a paper bag factory. But I had to leave for reasons my lawyers won’t let me discuss. I did, however, receive a lifetime supply of bags. Need one?

Q: Have you ever been talked into singing at a karaoke bar?

A: Why yes. As a matter of fact, I’m a regular locally. Do you like my t-shirt? (Shows me a t-shirt reading: *“The more you drink—the better I sound.”*)

Q: What is your funniest childhood memory?

A: The time Bunny Freeman sprayed hairspray into her sink to see if there was any left and then Biff walked in with a cigarette and when he threw the butt into the sink and the hairspray flashed and accidentally lit the cat on fire, it ran around with Biff chasing it and he fell and broke his leg and when the paramedics were carrying him to the ambulance and they heard the story, they laughed so hard that they dropped him and he broke his arm too and . . . wait a minute. That’s a sad story. Never mind.

Q: Did you ever own a white suit, and were you into the disco scene?

A: A white suit? Are you serious? I’ve got SIX of them! The ladies love ‘em (especially when you’re under a black light).

If you can get a strobe light too, that’s too cool! Catch the fever baby!

Q: Did you have a C.B. radio, and if so, what was your call sign?

A: “Handle” good buddy. It’s called a “handle.” Next time you’re looking for a Smokey hiding near the chicken coop, just give a shout out to *Grass Barber*. Catch ya on the flip-flop!

Q: Can you tell us about something you did when you were younger that your mother still doesn’t know about?

A: Yes I could, but then I’d have to kill you. I can tell you, however, that it involved Twinkies and a home-made cannon.

Q: What is the most common “misconception” about you?

A: That I have no sense of humor.

