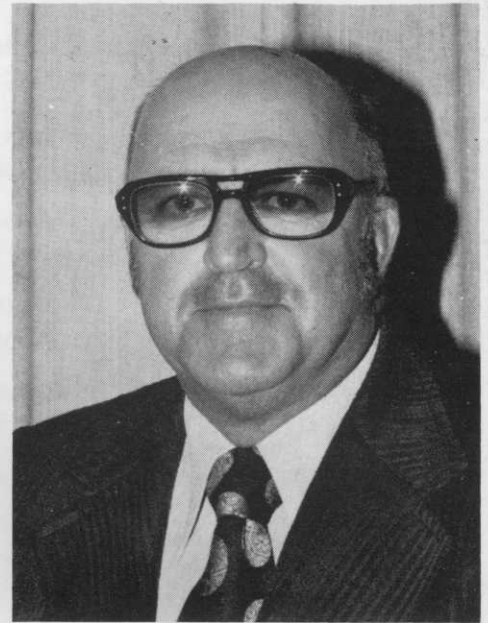


President's Message



What do we do when the well runs dry? What do we do when Mother Nature says she will not cooperate — she will not provide what we need in the quantity and quality we assume is unending?

Perhaps I am being over pessimistic, but I do not see how we can continue to demand the ultimate “wall to wall” perfection when we are so dependent on basic commodities over which we have no control.

Understand the “we” refers to the golf industry — architects, developers, builders, installers, educators, researchers, equipment and supply manufacturers and marketers, golfers of all abilities, and — of course — we, the superintendents, who ultimately are placed in the position of “guardian angel” of man’s evolution in golfing desires and nature’s reluctance to succumb to these desires.

Please do not misinterpret my thoughts. I am not condemning the occupation I enjoy and which provides my livelihood, but I do wish to point out that we can no longer be insensitive to the scarcity of vital and politically volatile ingredients which are an absolute basic necessity for survival. The recent water shortage is presently foremost in prominence and is an excellent case in point. It is possible to literally have the well run dry.

It is conceivable to design, build, supply, and maintain a challenging and enjoyable golf course and at the same time conserve energy and use of politically potent life sustaining elements. Golf courses of relatively shorter yardage, smaller greens, more limited manicured green area, and more rough area in natural growth with no supplemental cultivation produce a happy medium between our present expansive park like atmosphere and a more positive test of exacting golf. The benefits of open green areas to society are immeasurable, but requirements for existence cannot exceed the availability of sustenance.

I would like to see and, humbly predict that, the golf courses of the “1990’s” will be more discerning of nature and as such, by design and cultural maintenance practices, will place more golfing emphasis on skill. Bureaucratic regulations and environmental restraints will dictate further conservation reformation. Let’s be prepared to graciously accept the inevitable and, at the same time, vigorously oppose the ridiculous, selfish intent.

We certainly cannot be defeated by nature’s eccentricities or by over zealous preservationists, but the well must not be permitted to run dry — we all have too much at stake.

Bill Wagner