

# They don't wear ponytails, either

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## Real Superintendents Part II

Despite some unpopular response (and yet because of some popular demand), here's the second edition of "real superintendents." — Monroe Miller

The first edition, code named "ear-rings," generated a lot of commentary. Some of it went like this:

1. Twice I was called a sexist.
2. One person referred to that piece as "typical Wisconsin macho."
3. Pat Norton suggested I should be jogging, like he does.
4. Rod Johnson contended my penny loafers weren't any better than the tennis shoes he wears to work.
5. Peter Salinetti informed me he had two Volvos in his garage.
6. Dennis Christopherson declared he was going to continue wearing his gold necklace. I replied that since he wasn't a superintendent, it didn't matter one way or the other.
7. Mark Kienert caught me nursing a Lite beer at the WALSAA meeting in Las Vegas and quickly called me on it.

This has gone on for months. I could add dozens of more comments. On the other hand, the original list has been reproduced any number of times in newsletters and other publications across the country. So maybe it was a wash!

Regardless, I'm expanding my list of qualifications for real golf course superintendents. I do so knowing full well I'll hear all about it all over again.

One word of advice: please find your sense of humor before reading any further.

- ◆ A real golf course superintendent doesn't get to wear his hair in a ponytail; he leaves that style to his daughters. He also knows what is usually beneath a ponytail!

- ◆ Real golf course superintendents serve real coffee in their shops; not decaf and certainly not tea. Real superintendents drink their coffee black, too.

- ◆ Real golf course superintendents fly American flags outside their shop, and they were doing so before Desert Storm



made it vogue to do so.

- ◆ Real golf course superintendents get their hair cut at a barber shop; they never get their hair styled at a beauty parlor.

- ◆ The real golf course superintendent feels very comfortable among square establishment-type people. He likes that type better than those who are "cool."

- ◆ Real superintendents are "can do" people who don't blow an artery every time something goes wrong (which is all the time on a golf course).

- ◆ A real golf course superintendent thoroughly checks his golf course personally each morning and doesn't go from the office to the range to "hit a bucket of balls," even after twenty years on the job. The superintendent who does that (or dreams of it) should have been a golf pro.

- ◆ Real Wisconsin golf course superintendents like opening day in the spring, thick steaks on the grill in summer, Packer football in the fall and lots of snow in the winter.

- ◆ A real golf course superintendent never blasts his credit cards to the max.

- ◆ A real golf course superintendent knows a goodly share of the success he's had is due to the help and support of his gorgeous wife. He only thinks of her on two occasions - day and night.

- ◆ The real superintendent knows money isn't everything. He judges people by their attitudes and values. He especially appreciates and respects hard, fair play and devotion to duty.

- ◆ Today's real golf course superintendent doesn't trust pocket calculators (or computers), old hippies or young yuppies. He doesn't want anything to do with marijuana, Amaretto and Cream or designer jeans. Madonna disgusts him, Wall Street scares him and he'd put little Jimmy Baker away forever and a day.

- ◆ For the real golf course superintendent there are only two political parties in

our country - the Republican and the leftist.

- ◆ A real golf course superintendent prefers neighbors who are neat, fussy and quiet.

- ◆ The real golf course superintendent has no time for bullying, unprincipled and ignorant salesmen. On the other hand he handsomely rewards those professional, competent and informed sales representatives who visit his office. They have his trust, his respect AND his business.

- ◆ The real golf course superintendent knows how to behave himself.

- ◆ The real golf course superintendent stands and removes his hat when the national anthem is played. If he isn't singing it, he isn't talking either. The real superintendent understands what the word *respect* means

- ◆ Real Wisconsin golf course superintendents ride Milwaukee-made Harley Davidson motorcycles, not those twinkle bikes made in Japan by Honda or Suzuki. Just ask Mike Lees.

- ◆ Real golf course superintendents in Wisconsin spend Thanksgiving vacation in the woods deer hunting.

- ◆ The real golf course superintendent is never the butt of rude jokes by the club president other officers, directors or the greens committee chairman. The real golf course superintendent is smart enough not to do anything to merit such disrespect.

- ◆ The real golf course superintendent has simple tastes - he likes the best.

- ◆ For the real golf course superintendent, Coca-Cola is the real thing. He drinks Miller High Life beer. Kellogg's Corn Flakes make for a real breakfast. He reads *Time* magazine and uses AT&T telephone service.

- ◆ Real golf course superintendents despise those little pin locator balls and flags some want on flag sticks. They consider such trivial amendments mere clutter on the golf course and won't stand for it.

- ◆ Real golf course superintendents may not wear cologne to work, but they do wear deodorant. They don't mind smelling like the shop, but they definitely do mind smelling like a sweaty locker room.

# Golfisms

*Definitions, observations, and other undeniable proof that Murphy's Law has gone Green!*

Just when you thought it was safe to read The Florida Green again! Mike Bailey is busy organizing the nuts and bolts of the new staff of the The Florida Green, so he turned this "nut" loose for another issue.

After having to rebuild a steep bunker face that was being destroyed by novice mountain climbers on our sixteenth hole, the idea for the following list was born.

- ◆ There has never been a bunker face designed steep enough that a golfer can't climb out of it on all fours (eyewitness account) Of course, we have to use a rope on a flymow to mow it!

- ◆ Shotgun start tournaments are sometime like surprise birthday parties. Everybody knows about it, except you!

- ◆ When was the last time you heard a shotgun at a shotgun start?

- ◆ Definition of a **moving target**: a golf course crew member usually engaged in mowing a green or fairway.

- ◆ Definition of an early bird: a single golfer who insists on being the first one off the tee. It is mandatory that he not be paired with more than one other person. (See gruesome two-some).

- ◆ Definition of the word, FORE: a four-letter word whispered by an early bird or a gruesome two-some as a golf ball flies toward a **moving target**.

- ◆ Definition of a gruesome two-some: two golfers who insist on establishing a new speed record for playing 18 holes on your heavy mowing day.

- ◆ When are you most likely to have a heavy rain?
  - a. On the day you are topdressing.
  - b. The night before the member-guest.
  - c. On the day of the monthly superintendent meeting.
  - d. When you need it the most.

- ◆ It is a little known fact that the rubber used in golf cart tires is attracted to the high moisture content of the soil around fairway drain basins.

- ◆ If cart paths are generally 72 inches to 96 inches wide, and a golf cart is only 48 inches wide. Why are there ruts along cart paths?

- ◆ 90 Degree Rule: Turn 90 degrees from the cart path and proceed to your ball. Turn 90 degrees and drive up the wet fairway until you see the ranger or the superintendent, then immediately turn 90 degrees and head for the cart path.

- ◆ Golfers who disregard signs requesting golf carts to be kept 30 feet away from greens and tees must have already gone metric and have converted to millimeters.

- ◆ Why is it that every wrapper from every candy bar and pack of crackers sold by the beverage cart or half-way house is destined to end up in the superintendents cart?

- ◆ Ever notice if the productivity of the crew varies inversely proportional to the personality of the beverage cart driver?

- ◆ We are an Entomological Cooperative Sanctuary. We have mosquitos, gnats, deer flies, horse flies, mole crickets and fire ants.

- ◆ If given a choice of several thousand trees, lightning will always strike the tree guarding a fairway dogleg first.

- ◆ Two of my favorite weather questions: (1) When will the frost thaw? and (2) When will the rain stop?

- ◆ Special requests from the clubhouse, reports of irrigation breaks, and other disasters usually occur on Friday afternoons after the crew has gone and after you've been on the job for eight hours.

- ◆ "Failure to plan ahead on your part does not constitute an emergency on our part" is not an acceptable answer to the greens chairman, club manager, or pro shop.

- ◆ All greens have three speeds on any given day! Too fast, too slow, and just right!

- ◆ Stimpeters need to be calibrated quarterly!

I'm sure over the years you have discovered your own set of "golfisms." Send them in and maybe we'll publish a second edition.

## Green Side Up



*Joel D. Jackson*

Joel D. Jackson, CGCS Editor