

For Larry

June 9, 1997. Today, we lost another one of the good guys. Larry Kamphaus was one of those rock-solid dependable guys who didn't take the easy way. He was one of those traditional gentleman who

lived his life and conducted his business with honor and ethics.

We lost a big teddy bear of a man who loved his family and his work. We lost a guy with an insatiable curiosity who loved to tinker with

everything from bulldozers to computers and who could take something apart and then put it back together and make it work like a musician that plays a song by ear.

He was humbly proud of his achievements. The only give away would be his twinkling eyes and friendly smile when he had a victory. He hid his disappointments well and played the cards that he was dealt and I like to think he won more hands than he lost. He was fiercely loyal to his employer and spent 26 years giving his full share of effort for his day's pay. He could be stubborn when he felt he was right, but he was a team player when the chips were down and the play was called.

He helped me out on more occasions than I can count when he would come over and tinker with my pump or controller or clay valve and teach me how to trouble shoot some of those mechanical and electrical problems that always mystified me. He helped me through some rough spots with words of encouragement. He helped me gain perspective and focus and priority in my

life. And while the job was always important, I learned that it wasn't always the most important thing in life.

The only way I could rile Larry was to ask him what brand of hair coloring he used. While we are both the same age, my locks turned steadily silver over the 20 years I knew him, and his stayed youthfully brown. It was a trade-off. He was taller so I opted for looking distinguished.

He loved to play golf even though his swing betrayed him on more than one occasion and his handicap kept him out of the A Flight. He worked at his game off and on, but like life he took the good with the bad. He could be a tiger in a scramble format often pulling off shots that were legendary by any standard.

Larry never stopped learning about his profession. He never stopped trying new ideas and methods. I never saw him give in to the dark side of things at least not in my presence. He always remained an optimistic person with a positive outlook on life. He was at various times my boss, my mentor and my friend.

Larry Kamphaus, CGCS, superintendent of Disney's Magnolia Golf Course died today of a massive heart attack at 3:30 am. I will miss him and the only comfort that I can find is in knowing that I am sharing that loss with a whole lot of people that he touched in his lifetime.

Keeping the "green side up" is what we get paid money for. Keeping the "sunny side up" is what earns love, friendship and respect. You can do both and make life's journey a trip everyone will remember fondly. Today, I remember Larry!

Green Side Up



Joel D. Jackson, CGCS
Editor