

Off The Fringe

How Long Have You Been in the Industry?

IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME IF YOU REMEMBER
WHEN THE PALM SPRINGS DESERT WAS DESERTED

By Craig F. Zellers

You know you've been in the golf industry too long if you remember when:

■ Rollers were something your wife wore in her hair at night.



■ The golf pro actually gave lessons.

■ There were no DOGs – that is, directors of golf.

■ You were mad at the producers of the movie *Caddyshack*.

■ Microfeeding was a lousy little meal you got in the food line during the Great Depression.

■ The GCSAA "chat room" was a rented hotel at the national conference where everyone chewed the fat.

■ You and the rest of the superintendents wore brown polyester leisure suits to the annual meeting.

■ You were around to watch the contractor install asbestos or galvanized irrigation lines.

■ "Lightweight" mowers meant a mower that just couldn't handle the job.

■ You planted the seedlings that are now the 80-foot tree that is being removed from near the green.

■ "Slow release" meant that it took a long time to get out of jail.

■ Sales representatives didn't have cell phones and beepers.

■ You used to lie awake at night and wonder if the night waterman made it to work.

■ You used to lie awake at night and wonder if the night waterman was sleeping.

■ Eisenhower was "the golfing president"

■ The Palm Springs desert was deserted.

■ Growth regulator was an experimental

drug that first failed when given to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

■ You can't specifically remember when the young superintendents started calling you "sir."

■ You were the first to discover where to get the cool carrying bags at the national show.

■ You had "greenkeeper" printed on your business card.

■ Seaside bentgrass was the really hot turf for greens.

■ You remember when Payne Stewart wasn't the only one who wore knickers.

■ Horsepower was really horse-powered.

■ You thought chicken manure as a fertilizer smelled good.

■ You used to handle mercury without protective clothing.

■ You knew what mercury was.

■ You used to get quotes over the phone (where else would you get them?).

■ Shotgun tournaments were started with real shotguns.

■ "American Golf" was something that foreign tourists really looked forward to.

■ The times you told your caddy to bring you the niblick or mashie.

■ You watched Ben Hogan win at Riviera CC.

■ And lastly, you know you've been around too long if you remember being at the first superintendents' convention in Chicago. Heck, you've been around too long if you went to any of the conventions in Chicago.

Craig F. Zellers is a Toro irrigation sales representative for Turf Star Distribution. He was previously a certified superintendent for nine years.



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