

**A**s I was sitting in the Lake Omigosh Golf Club's 19th Hole and Whine Bar recently, I contemplated my life's journey as my next birthday approaches.

Contrary to popular opinion, advanced age doesn't automatically bestow knowledge or wisdom. Hence, while you can reduce ignorance through learning, you can never change being stupid.

If you didn't pay close attention to what happened in the early chapters of your history, you're likely to repeat yourself. That can be a waste of the precious time allotted to each of us. The inescapable reality is that we each make choices every day and there will be consequences based on those decisions.

We can't control everything that comes our way in life, but we sure can decide how we face the challenges and embrace the blessings. To that end, I offer all you dirt farmers, greenkeepers, superintendents and directors of grounds out there a list of observations and signs seen along the road of life:

You know you're getting older when:

- A local chapter asks you to give a presentation on the changes you've seen in the industry during your career and the first question is, "What was it like working for Old Tom Morris?"

- The state association president you work for calls you "sir."

- You get phone calls from people asking on what day during the creation did God make golf courses.

- You began your golf course maintenance career when irrigation was done by quick couplers and snap valves, and you walked the course hand raking bunkers because there were no utility vehicles or mechanical sand rakes.

- The waitress at the restaurant asks, "What will you have, DEAR?"

- Hand mowers were the only greens mowers and fairway mowers were all-ground drive units pulled by Ford tractors.

- A twitter was a bird call you heard during the early-morning rounds on a golf course.

- Green is a political statement instead

## You're Getting Older When . . .

BY JOEL JACKSON



. . . YOU REMEMBER

WHEN YOU USED

TO TOPDRESS

GREENS WITH

WHEEL BARROWS

AND SHOVELS

of the color of healthy turfgrass.

- Politicians kiss activists' behinds instead of babies' faces.

- You remember when you used to topdress greens with wheel barrows and shovels.

- Global warming became man's fault instead of the result of the forces of nature when the last survivor of the Pleistocene Ice Age died.

- A penny saved is no longer a penny earned. Instead, it's a penny leveraged and hedged.

- Shows like "The Bachelor," "Super Nanny" and "Hell's Kitchen" replace "Cheers," "Newhart" and "Mary Tyler Moore."

- People seriously begin to think they can control the forces of nature.

- A nap seems more appealing than a night out with the boys.

- You use your red and white AARP card more than your GCSAA Gold Card.

- You now need a driver and a fairway wood on most par 4 holes.

- Vowels became extinct and you don't know what U R My BFF means.

- The atlas, dictionary and encyclopedia were replaced by Google, Bing, Wikipedia and Ask.com.

- You can carry a phone, GPS map, CD player, computer, Rolodex and camera in one pocket.

- Going to the Golf Industry Show is more about seeing old friends instead of learning new things. Of course, you always learn something new in spite of yourself.

So long from Lake Omigosh where time still flies, but to some it's beginning to look like a buzzard circling overhead.

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