



AN OPPORTUNITY

By Roger C. Bell



"We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations."

— Author Unknown

The above quotation has found its way to the wall by the break room at my shop. I think that it is possibly the best description that I have seen of the summer of 1988.

At least there is some comfort in the fact that golfers KNOW about the drought — the media has seen to that. I dare say that no Wisconsin superintendent needed the newspaper, radio, or television to tell him about the lack of rainfall. We've all suffered —

some to a greater extent, some to a lesser extent. To those without sufficient (or any) water, we extend our sympathy knowing that there, except for the grace of God, go any of us. To those with water, we extend our heartfelt hopes that you can keep your irrigation system patched together during these days of marathon operations.

The cultivation of fine turf remains a red-headed stepchild to the agribusiness community. Gov. Thompson exempted us from the special permits for surface water diversion. We're isolated on our golf courses — there is no state "hot-line" to deal with our stress (as if we had time to talk to a

state-sponsored shrink!)

The time has come for us to regroup and recoup our losses. We need to convince our clubs that the glass is half-full, not half-empty. They need us more than ever to bring their golf courses back to pre-drought conditions. We need to hang together through our Association to promote our profession and to support each other in such times of crises.

The quotation on my wall tells me that I am in the midst of some tremendous opportunities. That's good to know — but, personally, I am looking forward to autumn and a change in the weather.

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