

HOLE NOTES

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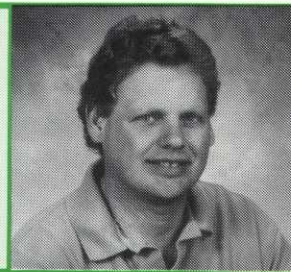
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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

A Sad Reminder



June 28, 1997 was a sad day for turf managers in Minnesota. On this day, Dan Carpentier, service manager for MTI Distributing, was killed, along with his wife Chris, in a motorcycle accident near Duluth.

Dan was a staple employee at MTI, having amassed 27 years of service there. If you needed to know anything about a Toro product, you asked Dan. If you needed to learn principles of mower operations, you learned it from Dan. Dan also served as training instructor for MTI, and was awarded numerous citations for excellence in teaching. He will be missed by many.

So, to the family, friends and associates that he and Chris leave behind, there are thoughts and prayers from all over the turf community to help in this devastating loss.

There are painful lessons and reminders that surface when a tragedy such as the Carpentiers' occur. The obvious is that we all walk a thin and narrow line between life and death every day. As we drive to work, operate equipment, recreate or simply walk down a city sidewalk, there is a potential for the catastrophic. In an instant, the unthinkable *can* happen. It reminds us to savor the time we have — to enjoy our lives, and our relationships with loved ones and friends. It reminds me to give my father a hug now and then, and to always end a telephone conversation with my wife with "I love you."

In a profession that can overload a person's ability to separate work from life, we are particularly susceptible to becoming consumed by our jobs, and losing sight of other important elements in our lives. It is nearly impossible for many of us to take a day off in the summer, and if we do, we're so preoccupied with thoughts of the golf course that we might as well be there anyway.

How do we deal with this dilemma? I can't tell you. I confess that I'm one of the worst of the worriers, and any one of a number of references will verify that fact. It is easy to say, "It's only turf." But when our livelihood depends on it, it becomes extremely difficult to accept anything less than giving 100 percent to those little grass plants, no matter what sacrifices we or our families have to make. Let's learn one final lesson from Dan: Life is short; don't lose your perspective.

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Literally hours before this issue of *Hole Notes* goes to print, I have learned of another untimely death among our ranks. Rick Lucken, assistant superintendent at Benson Golf Club, was killed in a one-vehicle accident between Benson and his home in Morris. This again tragically underscores the need to enjoy the life we are given. Our hearts go out to Rick's family and friends, and to Dave Sime and the staff at Benson Golf Club. Rick's picture appeared on Page 28 of the July issue of *Hole Notes*.

— Fred Taylor
MGCSA President

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