

MEMBER PROFILE

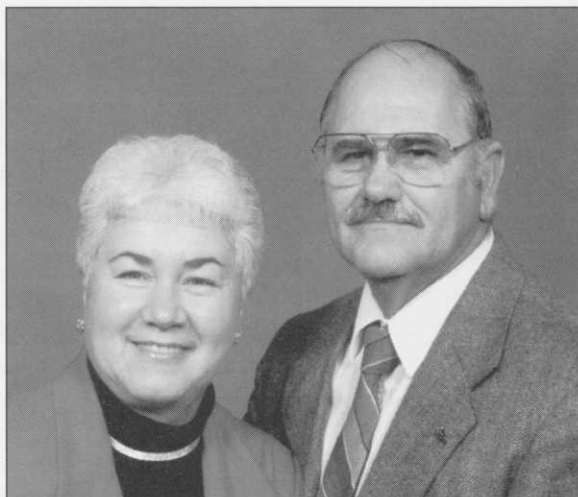
SOMERSET'S JERRY MURPHY

A Classic Superintendent

By RICK TRAVER

When the editorial committee decided to start working on Member profiles for the Hole Notes one thing that we wanted to ensure was that the profile was only one page long. This was to ensure that people would read it and that highlighted superintendents wouldn't have cause to blush. To write a one page description of the following individual however, is almost a disservice, but here is my modest attempt.

Jerry Murphy, CGCS has been a golf course superintendent for over 47 years, with 40 of those years in service to the Somerset Country Club. He is a past president of the MGCSA and served on the GCSAA Board of Directors where he represented the golf industry in the development of the ANSI B71 performance standards for maintenance equipment. In 1971, he was also one of the first seven people in the United States and Canada to become a Certified Golf Course Superintendent, and he is currently the only active Certified Golf Course Superintendent who has been certified for 30 years.



MARYLIN AND JERRY MURPHY

He attended Penn State a few years later and graduated in 1961. Early in 1963 he was asked if he would be interested in a club in St. Paul, MN, and at that time he had just completed two years of a five year agreement at Aberdeen C.C., in SD., but thought it would be worth a look. Jerry said, "I was coming to the cities to play a newly opened course called Hazeltine so it wouldn't have to be a special trip, (my handicap was 3 at the time)." Shortly thereafter, he moved his family to a home located on the club grounds and has been there since.

Jerry has been married to the same wonderful lady for 44 years (Marilyn). He has two children Marlin, the superintendent of Stillwater C.C. and Tammy of Knap, Wisconsin. From those two children, brings six grandchildren - 2 boys and 4 girls, whom he loves to take snowmobiling.

When questioned about the future of our industry Jerry feels that "the stress level of people in this industry is going up." He also feels that "we may have become our own worst enemy by providing better and better turf conditions to the point where there is little else that can be done to improve conditions." He feels that, "Unrealistic day-in, day-out conditions are now expected. With more disease becoming resistant, more chemicals being pulled from the market and more legislative controls in place, perfect conditioning will become harder to accomplish."

Jerry's hobbies include hunting, fishing and playing golf. He also loves to hike in the more wild areas, like the Grand Canyon and Wild Canyon areas. He also has served for 33 years as a part-time police officer in the city of Mendota Heights, as well as being a first responder health care provider and having given many CPR and basic first aid classes.

Jerry Murphy, CGCS is the epitome of what a classic Golf Course Superintendent should be. He has gone about his life, serving his family, community and golf course, and done it for many years. We should all feel lucky we have had a man like Jerry Murphy, CGCS as a member of our local association.

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Jerry got his start in the late 1950's at the ripe age of 13 as a caddy. He rapidly moved up the corporate ladder to caddy master, maintenance crew and after two years was the "greens keeper". "I didn't know what I was doing but I worked hard and conditioning of the course back then was simple. Cut the greens at 3/16th of an inch, try to keep grass on the tees and mow the fairways a 1 fi inch." he said.