

TRAGEDY

On December 23, Springfield Golf and C.C. was the scene of a pre-holiday mishap. Patrick McCaffery, 13, of Springfield drowned while playing on the ice on a lake on club property. The boy was on ice which was not more than 3/4 of an inch thick over 10 feet of water. His body was located about 3 hours after he went under the water.

This was something that was bound to happen sooner or later at the club. The property is completely surrounded by houses and there is no fence anywhere around the perimeter making it easily accessible to every neighborhood kid who wants to cut through or to play on the grounds. It seems unfair that clubs should be held responsible for acts of trespass, but unfortunately they are. About all the club can do is to see that "No Trespassing" signs are posted and hope for the best



Patrick McCaffery, 13, of 4917 Oak Dale Ct., Springfield, drowned Tuesday afternoon when he fell through the ice while skating on a pond behind the West Springfield Golf and Country Club. Officers from the Springfield Fire Service arrived immediately for the boy's body, which was found some 10 feet from shore.

EDITORIAL

The seventies! What a great sound! Although it sounds a bit mysterious and foreboding, it sounds exciting and challenging as well. The population is faced with a myriad of problems to be solved, both as a whole and as individuals as well. The scope of these problems range from things that don't live long enough to things that live too long.

But our own field is faced with its own private set of problems. We are faced with all the old problems such as no money, no help, bad weather, and more as well as new problems like rising prices, higher budgets, fewer pesticides, and shorter workweeks (for everyone but us) and the list goes on.

We just finished our first educational conference of the year in Baltimore where we learned how to either live with or solve some of these problems and we have several more conferences scheduled in the very near future.

In this new decade opening up, there should be hundreds of changes and advancements in our profession. The ten years just past gave us so many new advancements that one could not begin to list them all. Changes and improvements in technology, actual practice, equipment, chemicals, and others are just a few.

The tools of the trade changed and so did we. When you stop and look back for a minute, ask yourself what you learned and how you changed. What did you do to better yourself personally and professionally?

Our job is becoming very refined and more demanding with every season that goes by and the man who cannot or does not conform is lost.

Forty years ago, the members of our profession changed their name from greenskeepers to superintendents. Could the time be close at hand for another name change? The term we now use somewhat seems to fall short of including all the areas we are now engaged in.

We have one of the greatest jobs in the world. We are our own boss (most of the time), we are outdoors all the time, and we can see the results of whatever we do, be that good or bad. What more can a man ask for? Material things - sure, we can always ask for them. But these mental satisfactions no money can buy.

Condition your equipment in the shop and condition your mind at the conferences.

GRAND OPENING

The membership committee of the Mid-Atlantic is now accepting applications for all classifications. Applicants sending applications will have them reviewed by the directors and published in the newsletter for approval. Anyone needing applications may be them by writing to the chairman of the membership committee.

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