



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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I Like You, America

—Denny McCammon Steamboat Village C.C.

While shopping the other day, I found some fabric which had in its design a red apple with a bite taken out. Where the bite was supposed to be was written, "I like you, America."

I bought a piece of the fabric and hung it on my wall. It was pretty to look at, but more important, it is a wonderful reminder to me that I do like America.

When I was in junior and senior high school, American history was pioneers, cherry trees, wars, and wagon trails. But now that I am in college, I can see America is much more.

"I like you, America" is not our tall buildings and our concrete highways. It is my mother and father's house, where I was brought up and where they had the right and freedom to bring me up in their philosophy.

"I like you, America" is the church I went to, not because I had to go but because I could if I wanted to.

"I like you, America" is the police force that worked for me, and the school which was not only a place for me to go during the day but also where my parents went to vote and to share in the activities of the community.

"I like you, America" is the courthouse and the city hall — not that I went there — but because they were there looking out after American justice. I was free to do anything I chose to do as long as I didn't infringe on any of the rights of my neighbors.

"I like you, America" has nothing to do with the commentators on television who think that because they comment they are the lawmakers. It has nothing to do with Watergate or lying or any of the other forms of deception that dominate our news.

In that small yard of fabric with the shiny red apple with the bite taken out there is 200 years of work and growth. Yes, there is sadness in our history, but our sadness had as its purpose, compassion, justice, tenderness, understanding, and individual respect.

And in my shiny red apple there is a spirit that was taken directly from the Bible, that simply states that all things are possible to him that believeth in God . . . and in himself.

—Zonda Montgomery, Purdue freshman in humanities from Indianapolis, in letter to the editor, The Purdue Exponent.

Lightning

credit — Chicago Newsletter

The occurrence of rainfall brings positive charged ions from the air to the ground, leaving a surplus of electrons in the air. When the potential difference between the earth and the surrounding air builds to a certain limit, an arc is formed as the electrons move at the speed of light toward the positive charge. Ionization of air between the two areas of positive and negative charge generates the flash of light and discharge of energy called lightning.

(Continued on page 2)

President's Message

With the Bicentennial Fourth of July celebration almost upon us, I'll add my few lines in behalf of our country's two hundred years of independence. I'm sure many of us are all full up with hearing the commercialism of the advertising media but we'll only have to live through this one. I stand corrected, I just saw a full page ad last night in the Washington Star looking for suggestions on how to celebrate the Tricentennial in 2076. I haven't been a fanatic about the Bicentennial and I haven't been waving my flag at everyone I pass, I haven't even mentioned that one of my ancestors of long past was a Minuteman at Lexington. What I do have is a great feeling of thankfulness that our Maker has given this country the strength for these past two hundred years, to survive so that you and I can come to work everyday and enjoy our work and our freedom. There are those that would take away everything we have if it wasn't for a country full full of "Minutemen" who will spring into action at a Moment's notice when our freedom seems in jeopardy. I feel we all have that makeup inside and even though we might not be flag wavers and commercialism fanatics, we feel a shiver up our spine when we see our flag waving in the breeze or hear our National Anthem. Let's enjoy our Bicentennial Fourth of July celebration in any manner that we personally wish and be proud of the freedoms which we have. Happy Birthday America!

David Fairbank

Protection of Sprinkler Equipment from Lightning

Lightning, or any other form of electricity, will seek the path of least resistance in its attempt to reach the ground potential. If lightning strikes an area where both an electrical insulator and a metal object are present, both tied to the ground, the lightning will strike the metal object, since it is the path of least resistance to the ground.

A sprinkler system which uses electrically operated remote control valves will usually have a common wire tied to all valves in the system. If this wire is not grounded and lightning strikes it (with many thousands of volts) an instantaneous current will flow through all the solenoids to the control wires and eventually through the insulation to ground. This instantaneous high voltage and current will destroy any solenoid through which it passes.

It is recommended that in order to protect against destruction of all solenoids in areas susceptible to

lightning, that the common wire to the valves be grounded to any good electrical ground. This ground can be a metal water pipe, a third ground wire provided with the 115 volt service, or a steel rod driven into the ground a minimum of 6 feet. The electrical path of least resistance will then be through the water pipe (or other ground connection) and not through the solenoid. If lightning does strike a solenoid or a control wire to the solenoid, the current will pass through only that solenoid to ground. The other solenoids will therefore be protected.

Automatic controllers should have their cases grounded. Controllers which actuate pumps should use the pump switch to actuate only a pump relay. This will isolate the pump circuit from the controller and isolate any possible electrical overload in the pump circuit from acting on the controller.

The 115 volt power lines to the controller should have a lightning protection device installed in each controller between these two lines. This device will protect the input side of the controller against high voltage transients caused by lightning striking the power lines.

There are two basic types of lightning arresters presently available. The most common is the spark gap type of arrester. This is a device which has two electrodes mounted in a capsule filled with gas. When voltage reaches a predetermined maximum the gas is ionized creating a direct short between the two electrodes. With one of the electrodes connected to ground, the high voltage transient is shorted to ground, thus protecting any devices down the power lines. Spark gap type of protectors generally protect against voltage surges above 1000 volts with response times anywhere from instantaneous to one second. Some are good for only one shot and then must be replaced. Others may be reset or are good for 50 to 100 strikes.

Zener type protectors are solid state devices which can be purchased to protect against voltage surges of 6 volts

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and up. Due to the precise firing level that can be obtained from this type of device, they are excellent for protecting sensitive electronic circuitry. They will dissipate up to 1500 watts of peak pulse power or 200 amps for 1/120 second.

In summary, grounding of all common wires and insertion of lightning arresters in incoming power lines where necessary, will virtually eliminate mass damage to irrigation systems caused by lightning.



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July Mid-Atlantic Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at Andrews Air Force Base Golf Club on July 13, 1976. Virgil Robinson will be our host.

Andrews is a 36 hole layout which has evolved from a 9 hole course built by P.O.W.'s after World War II. The greens for the most part are small and improperly constructed with little or no internal drainage. In the early 70's upon advice from the U.S.G.A., the greens were aerified and topdressed very heavily to provide some sort of medium for the growth of turf. An automatic irrigation system, which I feel is one of the better systems on the East Coast, was installed in 1972. Fairways and tees are a combination of Bermuda-Ryegrass base with a little crabgrass and a lot of poa annua thrown in for decoration. Enjoy yourself, and if you play golf, greens and tees are automatically syringed at 1:30 p.m.!

The golf course will be available for play at 11:00 a.m. The greens fee is \$6.50 and carts are \$8.00. Lunch is available on a cash only basis. Lockers and towels are also available. Cocktail hour will be at 6:30 (Cash only — bar brands are 95 cents). Dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m., with a cost of \$8.50 per person.

Directions to the club: Take exit #36S off of Beltway (495). Go to fourth traffic light and turn left on Old Alex Ferry Road for 1/2 mile. Turn left onto base, clubhouse is on the left.



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"After the Job Interview"

Part I

by Angelo Cammarota,
Certified Golf Course Superintendent
Hobbitts Glen Golf Course, Columbia, Maryland

My sincere thanks to you, Mr. Chairman. I feel it is a privilege and a pleasure to be invited to speak to this fine group. It's an odd coincidence, that this is the 50th Anniversary of the G.C.S.A.A., the Club Managers Association and the Stockbridge School of Turf Management. Professor Lawrence Dickerson had the foresight to see the need of supplying qualified turf man for our industry and in having them available early in the spring, at a time that serves us best. This is not true of all schools in the Mid-Atlantic area. This probably accounts for the more than seven fine superintendents, having graduated from the Stockbridge School of Turf, who are gainfully employed in our Mid-Atlantic area. This I consider a tribute to Dr. Joseph Troll and his turf program, since we do have many graduates from our own local colleges in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia.

I can vividly recall seeing articles about Stockbridge School in the Greenskeeper's Reporter, the superintendent's magazine in the Thirties. My desire to attend your Winter Short Course was deterred by the depression years and the economy of selecting New Jersey State College, which was only 55 miles from my home.

Your Program Committee initially suggested that my topic be "Planning for the Job Interview". This subject is adequately covered in many available booklets. An excellent publication is available from the G.C.S.A.A. to all members. A new student membership is in affect at a reduced membership fee. You may write for details to 1617 St. Andrews Dr., Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

Although my topic is "After the Job Interview", I would like to first spend a few minutes on "preparing for the interview" and outline a few points that would be helpful to you, including some of those that are listed in the G.C.S.A.A. booklet, "How to Find a New Position":

1. Abide by the Code of Ethics of the G.C.S.A.A.
2. Submit a letter of application.
3. Prepare a resume. Be brief and factual. Make it neat, accurate, and relevant. Limit to one page. Items to include in resume are:
 - A. Personal Identification.
 - B. Job Objective.
 - C. Employment Record.
 - D. Education.
 - E. Personal Data.
 - F. References.

4. Preparing for interview.
 - A. Research on prospective position:
 - a. Why superintendent is leaving;
 - b. Consult with local superintendents about the position;
 - c. Consult with local G.C.S.A. secretary about the position.
 - B. Try to obtain information about the person conducting the interview.
 - C. Anticipate the questions that may be asked by him.
 - D. Have a list of questions you would want to ask:
 - a. Why previous superintendent left?
 - b. Labor available?
 - c. Amount of budget?
 - d. Size of crew?
 - e. Type of membership?
 - f. Financial status of club?
 - E. Take enough copies of your resume to leave with interviewer.
 - F. Prepare yourself psychologically. Maintain a positive mental attitude.
 - G. Expect to experience a little nervousness. It's normal.
5. During the interview.
 - A. Be punctual. Attain good posture. Relax.
 - B. Apply yourself. Maintain friendly and respectful attitude.
 - C. Use good listening techniques.
 - D. Let them do most of the talking.

- E. You may have to take the initiative:
 - a. Be self confident.
 - b. Display poise with a touch of humility.
 - c. Avoid over familiarity.
 - d. Be gracious. Pursue what is mutually rewarding.
- F. State your preference to be directly responsible to only one member of the Board of Directors.
- G. Request for a written Employment Agreement. Discuss in detail and have copies available.
- H. Discuss salary in latter part of interview. Remember fringe benefits and security. Uphold local wage scale.
- I. Make your exit as impressive as your entrance.
- J. Don'ts:
 - a. Don't interrupt.
 - b. Don't complain or disagree.
 - c. Avoid profanity, politics and religion.
 - d. Avoid criticism of club policies.
6. Appraising and evaluating your interview.
 - A. Your qualifications for the position.
 - B. Look at yourself objectively.
 - C. Were you well prepared in advance?
 - D. Did you appeal to employer's self interest?

(continued on page 6)

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E. Did you display positive mental attitude, desire, initiative, sincerity, interest, manner, poise, clarity, expression?

F. Did you express professional pride?

G. Did you leave a good impression?

7. Follow-up techniques.

A. Letter of thanks.

B. Telephone contact.

Remember that good preparation produces the best results.

Before we go into the subject of what are your responsibilities after you have secured a position, I would like to quote Waldo Emerson from his essay on self-reliance:

“No kernel of nourishing corn can come to him, except through his toil, on the plot of ground, which is given to him, to till.”

What can you expect to encounter in the first few months of your new employment as an assistant superintendent? You can expect to spend some time with the superintendent in the orientation phase of your position. This may be accomplished all in one day or a few hours for several days.

What will be your duties? What will be your area of responsibility? What records will you have to keep? What will the superintendent expect from you?

First of all, he expects loyalty, honesty and initiative. What is initiative? It is doing the task that you see needs to be done without being asked or reminded. Initiative means to be on the job a few minutes early and willing to stay a little after everyone else is gone. It means occasionally to spend some time with the superintendent to learn what his likes and dislikes are.

You are expected to cooperate fully with your superintendent. Respect his methods and desires. Always remain open-minded for suggestions. Ask your superintendent for his honest appraisal of your performance. Discuss with him any problems you may be experiencing. Respect the value of his experience in solving problems. Dismiss any thoughts of generation gaps. Be flexible. Combine the old and the new. His experience

with some of your techniques can always be compatible.

You should acquaint yourself with the budget limitations. You should help to enforce your superintendents directives in accordance with his established policies. Don't take advantage of the lenient or congenial superintendent. Don't abuse any special privileges usually given to the assistant superintendent.

Steamboat Village Country Club

May 26, 1976

Dear Craig,

Heard you were still editing the newsletter so I thought I would drop you a line to let you all know how we are getting along out here in the wild west. We had an early spring this year by comparison and were able to get on the golf course around the 25th of April. Tulips and daffodills are just now at their peak and we will be putting our annuals out about a month from now. We tried putting the petunias and the rest of the pretties out last year on the 22nd of June and on the 24th we had a killing frost that you wouldn't believe. So this year I'm not taking any chances at all on losing all my flowers to the elements.

I'm enclosing an article that was in a copy of the Purdue alum magazine a month or so ago — thought it was so good that you might use it for some filler along with my letter. The article was written by a student at Purdue and the thing that made me feel so good about it is the fact that so many people in the country seem to be going back to the flag waving patriotism that was popular several years ago. Anyway, I hope the guys out there enjoy it as much as I did.

The biggest thing that has happened here this year is the sale of the area. L.T.V. Aerospace is no longer the owner of the operation. It has been sold to a group of 7 private investors for an as yet undisclosed sum. But you can bet that a ski area, a seven story hotel, a plaza with 35 shops, a Robert Trent Jones 18 hole golf course, a tennis ranch and 1500 acres of residential and commercial land didn't come cheap. The sale will not affect our position at all and in fact it should make the job much easier in a lot of respects.

This weekend is Memorial Day and the start of a busy tourist season. The nice thing is that after Labor Day it is all over. We got through the winter with absolutely NO winter injury on the greens. We applied 3 applications of Calo-Clor before the snows hit and really had excellent results from it. We are getting places here and there that are showing some *Poa annua* and now that I need tri-calcium arsenate, you can't even find it on the black market. Oh well, some bad with the good I guess. Better wind this up. We are going to go fishing in the creek out behind the shop tonight after work — watch out trout. Hope all is well out there with everyone — best to all.

Denny

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Pumping Problems?

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- If the suction (inlet) line is limiting pump output, it won't help to increase the pump size. The suction hose of pipe should be as short and as large in diameter as possible to prevent starving the pump.
- It takes twice as much suction to draw a gallon of liquid through a 20' length of 1/2" hose as it does through a 10' length of the same diameter. But the same suction will draw 4 times as much liquid through the same length of 1" pipe.
- Air leaks can also starve the pump because the pump will tend to pull air instead of fluid whenever it can. What's more, air leaks are sometimes difficult to find because the air leaks **inward** and you can't tell it's leaking from the outside. Old hose may very well have small cracks and pinholes, so it is best not to use it.
- Always be sure joints are tight and sealed to prevent air leakage, too.
- And, of course, a collapsed or kinked suction hose will also starve a pump.
- An undersized discharge hose can also cause problems, overworking the pump and cutting its life considerably. And, of course, it will also affect nozzle performance.

Credit — "Turf Bulletin"

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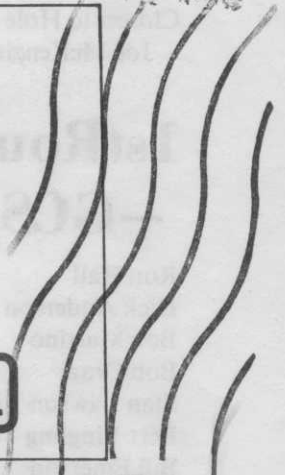


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