

For those of you who may go through a similar experience, for those of you who may be having problems, trials, or afflictions not necessarily of your own making with green chairmen, committee chairmen, or members in general, for those of you who may be having personal problems, what did I learn from '77 that might possibly encourage you?

First of all, make certain your priorities are in line. What is most important to you? If you do not know what is most important, look to see where your time is spent; that is a pretty good barometer of your priorities. Do you pass up vacations with the family because the course would founder without you? Do you work seven days a week even though your wife would like you to visit relatives or go to church with her? Do you not participate in your children's activities because you have to work till 6 in the evening or on Saturday mornings?

For me, I learned my priorities were totally out of kilter. Because of my total personhood, who I was as an individual was tied up in my job at that time. Because my course was going under, I was going under also, as an individual. Out of 1977 came a realignment of my priorities. For me, faith in my Creator and trusting in him became numero uno, my family second, and job, third; everything else fell below each of these. This does not mean that my job is unimportant to me, that I do not give 100%, that I do not care; it does mean that it is in perspective to other areas of my life that I consider important. I believe that because of this I am even more valuable to my employer now.

Secondly, if you are having difficulties, open up to others and share your problems with them. As you do, it is amazing, absolutely amazing, how many other people have had or are having similar problems. The more you open up and expose your inner being, your thoughts, your feelings, your hopes, your dreams, your prayers to others, they in turn feel the freedom to open up to you. That ten ton weight of "bricks" or "baggage" suddenly becomes five tons when shared with another. That problem does not necessarily go away but it does become manageable; it is brought into perspective.

In the "summer of '77" I did not do this. I kept everything within. My pride would not allow me to share my problems; I was internally imploding. Death, truly, would have been a welcome relief.

Third and lastly, I feel that the "failure" eight years ago started me on the way to becoming a "people person". Not that I have arrived in this area of my life, far from it, but I'm on the road. It behooves each one of us to take the time to listen, truly listen, to what another is saying. He may be asking or crying out for our help and yet we are not really hearing his need; he may need a kind word of encouragement, a helping hand, a thank you or a please. Are we really listening?

In summing up, I would say that personal trials, afflictions and failures throughout life are going to come our way. How we choose to handle them, what we learn from them goes a long way toward our own personal happiness, contentment, and well-being. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning".

A Highly Incredible Stimpmeter Tale

by Douglas T. Hawes

A Texas superintendent recently told me this tale as the gospel truth. He is at a first-class club where the bentgrass greens seldom drop below a Stimpmeter speed of 8 feet. A superintendent from a local public golf course came by, asked about the Stimpmeter, was told how to use it, and then took it back to try it out on his greens. A few days later, the superintendent brought the tool back with these comments: "I triple verticut those suckers, lowered the height of cut to 1/8 inch, and triple cut them so there ain't hardly any grass on them. Got the speed up from 3 to 5. Sometime, I wish you'd tell me how you all get them to 8½."

This becomes a tall tale when you find out what the second superintendent meant by 3 and 5—lengths of the Stimpmeter, or 9 and 15 feet. What makes it almost believable to me is that I had seen the greens on that golf course a few years back. I took a picture of them at that time because they had such an incredibly thin stand of bentgrass. The picture is on Page 1 of the Nov.-Dec. 1984 *Record*, with the caption: "The scale can tip both ways—some greens are too thin; some too fat." If the greens were still that thin when the superintendent speeded them up from "3 to 5," I'd almost believe the story.

New Members

David W. Young, Class F, Sales Representative, Jonathan Green & Sons, Inc.

David Stuffel, Class F, Sales Representative, Bowman's, Baltimore, MD



Guttenberg Says: "We Need Each Other"

Speaking at the May 14 meeting at Woodmont, following the Superintendent-Pro Tournament, Mark Guttenberg, professional at Penderbrook Golf Course, poked some fun at the superintendent-pro relationship. Why should they like each other, he said: "One grows grass, the other's job involves destroying it." The superintendent, he joked, tracks mud into the pro shop, always waters greens heavily on Ladies Day so the pro catches hell, and bans carts because the Farmers' Almanac says its going to rain. Still, he said, they need each other, and the best way to strengthen that bond is through communication, letting each other know their schedules and providing member feedback; through education, by which the pro learns the scientific reasons behind the superintendent's decisions; and, through respect for each other's job. For practical reasons, they complement one another. The pro is a PR man who promotes golf and who can promote the superintendent's job or make him look bad; and, the way the superintendent does his job can greatly affect the pro's revenue and, hence, his success.

A Challenge From Valley Members

Members of the Shenandoah Valley Turfgrass Association, many of whom are MAAGCS associate members, have issued a challenge to us for a golf match on June 27. We're asked to join them for a short meeting at 10 a.m. at the Shenandoah Valley Country Club in Front Royal, Va., followed by an informal lunch, and golf at 12 noon. If you'd like to participate, call Eric Linde at 703-635-3588.