

### Computers, from page 3

shopper can do very well purchasing an IBM compatible machine that basically does the same job as brand name units, but costs less. A typical 286 (type of processor) with a 40 megabyte hard drive (permanent memory) and VGA graphics (enhanced color) machine will provide excellent performance for the average superintendent. If you ever intend to use your computer as an irrigation central, ask your irrigation supplier what special equipment, like extended memory, may be necessary to run his software.

Third, be conservative. As a novice, don't buy complex, and very expensive software. Often, these software packages exceed both your pocketbook and your needs. Start with simple, cheap multipurpose software that is easy to learn and does almost every-

thing you need to do. *PFS First* is a very popular program that many superintendents use. It offers a word processor, a spreadsheet program and a small database at a reasonable cost. Once you exceed the limits of the simple software packages, then you know it's time to invest in a more complex and expensive package.

Lastly, stick with it. Many first-time computer users expect too much too soon. Stick to simple assignments that provide immediate results for your efforts. Writing letters, posting maintenance schedules, and making signs are all examples of little routines that make your job easier with the computer.

To determine if a computer is truly right for you, you really must consider the perception you wish to convey to those who evaluate you. Do you write letters and memos frequently? Do you

ever plan to modernize your irrigation control? Will your organization benefit from tracking records, or preparing a better budget?

Perhaps the real question to ask when considering a computer is: Will I be a better golf course superintendent *without* one?

### 1992 MTC Conference to honor Angelo Cammarotta

The annual conference of the Maryland Turfgrass Council, to be held in Baltimore on January 6-7, will be dedicated to Angelo Cammarotta, former president of the MAAGCS and one of the founding members of MTC.

Mr. Cammarotta, 75, retired from Hobbits Glen in 1983, after serving at a number of other clubs in the Mid-Atlantic and in New Jersey.



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Friendship of those  
we serve is the foundation  
of our progress!  
All of us at  
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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
Sincerely,  
Mel, Sean & Marge Fifer*



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