



THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

Sponsors and administrators of the Troll-Dickinson Scholarship Fund — Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

February 1990

Larry Flannery — One of a Kind

Larry Flannery says he remembers the moment. Yeah, but. Yeah, but we're talking when he was six months old.

Who remembers way back then?

"I do, I certainly do," Larry confirmed his power of recall. "All right, so I might have been seven months old. But that's when I got fitted for these (artificial hands) and this (artificial leg from the knee down). Of course, these aren't the original models."

But the original heart is intact. The 20 year old triple-amputee pumps it up every day on the job as foreman, under golf course superintendent Dick Duggan at the Concord Country Club.

"And let's not make like we're doing anyone any favors," Duggan stressed. "Larry's here because he can do the job. It doesn't matter if he has to use hooks instead of fingers. He's a very valuable member of my crew. He does anything asked of him. I wish I had ten guys like him. He's one of a kind."

Larry sounds amazing but insists he isn't.

Born without hands and one leg, Angelina Flannery's favorite son always has looked upon his as a normal condition.

"That's just the way he was from the moment he could relate to anyone," Larry's mother told. "We (Angelina and Larry's dad who happens to be another 'Larry') just treated him like the rest of our children and he responded. Sure, there was a social adjustment he had to make, but he did

that without any problem. Right now he's just the same as any boy his age—in the mainstream facing the world as best he can."

The golf course connection comes natural to Larry who never attended any special schools or took part in formal rehabilitation programs. His brother, Pat, was in the maintenance business so Larry just followed him wherever he went.

"The first job I had on a golf course was at Maynard," Larry put a tracer on his interesting life. "I was in the eighth grade at the time and Dick Duggan was the super. As I recall, he had me painting fences most of the time."

Larry left Maynard for the Club at Bedford where Pat had become the superintendent. He spent two years, learning more of the ropes in the profession and then returned to Maynard when Pat took over as head man there.

All this time Larry had to keep up with changes that affected his artificial appendants.

—Future Meeting Dates—

No March GCSANE Meeting

Mass. Turf Conf.

March 14, 15, 16

Walpole C.C. April 9

"I used to change them just like I changed shoes," Larry disclosed. "As I grew older and bigger there was a need to adjust the appendants to changes in size. Regardless, I never went to any special school or rehabilitation center to learn how to use them. I did it on my own. I was a very independent person and I still am."

Larry also kept up with his age and academic group in school all the while he was zeroing in on a future profession.

"He always went to regular school," Angelina told. "He didn't want to be treated any differently than the other kids. That's some kind of resolve. Oh, he wasn't any genius in school but he did all right. I mean, he was...he is a typical, normal young man."

Larry learned a lot about what makes the grass grow green and the accompanying tricks of the trade while working for brother Pat at Maynard, after which he decided to take the winter turf management course at Stockbridge. That was little more than a year ago.

From there he worked a couple of months at Pine Brook before rejoining Duggan at Concord where Pat had become Dick's assistant. That was last June. Since then Larry has been elevated to foreman as he continues to improve his professional position with the long-range goal of starting his own irrigation business in sight.

"That's what I have in mind, even though I enjoy the everyday work schedule of golf course maintenance," he explained. "But I have a girl friend

Continued on page 2

LARRY FLANNERY

Cont. from pg. 1

now, we're making plans and just as soon as I'm financially able to buy equipment and what not, I'm going to take that big step. I told you I was independent."

Presently, Larry concentrates on the irrigation phase of golf course maintenance at Concord under Duggan's supportive presence and the ongoing guidance of his brother.

"Pat's really been the driving force behind whatever success I've attained," Larry said. "Of course, my parents were there at the beginning. They taught me to be self-sustaining and from there I became self-sufficient. I'll never be able to repay them."

Larry, who lifts weights to keep in shape and can bench-press 380 pounds, was a March of Dimes poster boy as a youngster and now stands as the epitome of the self-made man mold as he heads for another interesting corner of his inspirational life. Absolutely, he's one of a kind. He's something special, whether he likes to hear it or not.

GERRY FINN

**PROPOSED
—NEW MEMBER—**

Joseph Eckstrom, Associate
Glen Ellen C.C.

**—Newly Certified—
Dick Duggan CGCS
Concord C.C.**

The Super Speaks Out

Welcome to the Super Speaks Out—a monthly feature which offers the golf course superintendent a forum to express his or her views on topics and issues relating to their profession.

This month's question: *Do you have so-called "walkie-talkies" at your club and, if so, what has been your experience with them as to becoming a necessary aid to your duties and projects?*



Dean Robertson, Kernwood Country Club: "Oh, you're going to love this. Yes, we have three portable phones here and I can't remember

the last time I used one. "Don't get me wrong. I can see a practical use for them—in an emergency or when you're talking about setting up an irrigation system for the season. It's just that I'm one of those guys who thinks it's easier to jump in a golf cart and do my communicating face to face.

"Maybe it's because my approach to the job is, uh, different. I'm here all the time. I mean, I get here at 6:15 or so in the morning and stay around till the guys (crew) go home. That's five days a week. Saturdays and Sundays I have a man who does the same thing.

"I realize there are superintendents who use the phones and other types to get a read on what and where their crews or individuals are up to. Me? I can account for every second of every work schedule I draw up for every member of my crew.

"Repeating, I have nothing against them, but I just don't have any use for them."

Gary Mondor, Crestview Country Club: "Funny that you brought up the walkie-talkie business. It's something I'm always talking about but never seem to get nailed down when I make my budget.

"All I can say about them is that we've considered buying them but get sidetracked from there. Maybe next year."



Mark Klimm, Bally Meade Country Club: "Originally, we bought them to keep track of the workers. That was in the construction stage of the

course. However, I find myself using them less and less.

"The biggest help they've been, in addition to setting up the irrigation schedule, is with winter plowing. We have housing developments in conjunction with the course, so the phones are helpful in this respect.

"However, I can see where they'll come in handy because we're planning to expand to 36 holes. That's when I expect to use them a lot."



Bob DiRico, Brae Burn Country Club: "I have to say that the times I use my portables (phones) are few and far between.

"But I can see where they can be utilized, especially at the start of the season when we're testing irrigation lines and have to get a read on other checkpoint operations.

"Actually, they get the most use in the pro shop when there are tournaments and communication between the starters and tournament officials is an ongoing thing.

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Paul Miller, CGCS
1 Leicester Road
Marblehead, MA 01945
Home Phone 617-631-7910
Office Phone 508-369-5704
Club Affiliation
Nashawtuc C.C.

VICE PRESIDENT

Charles T. Passios, CGCS
218 Camelback Road
Marston Mills, MA 02648
Home Phone 508-420-3210
Office Phone 508-775-5116
Club Affiliation
Hyannisport Club

SECRETARY

Stephen A. Chiavaroli, CGCS
100 Airport Drive
Worcester, MA 01602
Home Phone 508-752-0031
Office Phone 508-791-5373
Club Affiliation
Tatnuck C.C.

TREASURER

Ronald E. Milenski, CGCS
65 Rocky Pond Road
Princeton, MA 01541
Home Phone 508-464-5312
Office Phone 508-779-6911
Club Affiliation
The International

TRUSTEE

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189 Matfield Street
W. Bridgewater, MA 02379
Home Phone 508-584-6568
Office Phone 508-295-7010
Club Affiliation
Bay Pointe C.C.

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113 Cross Street
Hanover, MA 02339
Home Phone 617-826-7207
Office Phone 617-878-5836
Club Affiliation
Rockland C.C.

TRUSTEE

Robert Ruzala
69 Gelinus Drive
Chicopee, MA 01020
Home Phone 413-592-5780
Office Phone 413-256-8654
Club Affiliation
Hickory Ridge G.C.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1990
REGISTRATION: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

— MORNING —

ALTERNATE SESSION: College Room

Chairman: Mr. Bernard K. Keohan, Supervisor

Athletic Fields & Grounds, Harvard University, Allston, MA

- 9:00 **WELCOME** - Mr. Charles Mruk, Turfgrass Consultant, Cranston, RI
- 9:10 **NEW MATERIALS FOR LAWN CARE INDUSTRY** - Dr. Thomas Perkins, Manager, Technical Chemical Sales and Market Development, Dow Elanco Products, Indianapolis, IN
- 9:40 **UPDATE ON PESTICIDE REGULATIONS** - Mr. Warren Sheppard, Chief, Bureau of Plant Pest Control, Massachusetts Department of Food & Agriculture, Boston, MA
- 10:15 **MAINTENANCE OF TREES & SHRUBS** - Dr. Robert Partyka, Director of Horticulture, ChemLawn Services Corp., Columbus, OH

11:00 to 2:00 **INDUSTRIAL SHOW OPEN**
Exhibition Hall

— AFTERNOON —

Chairman: Mr. Charles Mruk

- 2:00 **RENOVATION OF HOME & INDUSTRIAL TURF SITES** - Dr. Henry W. Indyk, Department of Soils & Crops, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
- 2:30 **GRASSES ADAPTED TO ATHLETIC FIELDS & LAWNS** - Dr. Richard Hurley, Director of Research, Loft Seed, Inc., Bound Brook, NJ
- 3:10 **RENOVATION OF MUNICIPAL FIELDS & PARKS** - Mr. Francis Dorsey, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation, Nashua, NH
- 3:45 **LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES COMPLEX** - Mr. Daniel Probst, Maintenance Supervisor, Little League Baseball International, Inc., Williamsport, PA

4:30 to 6:30 **INDUSTRIAL SHOW OPEN**
Exhibition Hall

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1990

— MORNING —

GOLF COURSE SESSION - Banquet Room

Chairman: Mr. John Zak

Professor Emeritus, University of Massachusetts

PANEL - WAYS & MEANS OF OBTAINING CAPITAL OUTLAY

- 9:00 Mr. James Medeiros, CGCS, Superintendent, Golf Club of Avon, Avon, CT

- 9:20 Mr. Donald Hearn, CGCS, Superintendent, Weston Golf Club, Weston, MA
- 9:40 Mr. David Roule, Superintendent, Hartford Golf Club, West Hartford, CT
- 10:00 **BUNKER RESTORATION** - Mr. Brian Silva, Golf Course Architect, Cornish & Silva Associates, Amherst, MA
- 10:45 **SEMINAR - HERBICIDE UPDATE FOR WEED CONTROL IN TURF** - Dr. Joseph Neal, Department of Floriculture & Ornamental Horticulture, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- 12:15 **RAFFLE**

*Credit will be given toward Massachusetts recertification.



Christmas Party 1989



at the Town Lyne House!

Are Christmas Parties a Thing of the Past?

The answer seems to be yes, at least to the membership of GCSANE. The 1988 party was not held. A survey was taken at a regular meeting in 1989 to see if a majority wanted an annual party. This included a fall get-a-way, 50's dance, summer picnic, an early spring dinner dance, or Christmas party. The Christmas party won out.

Two hundred fifty invitations were sent out for the December 8th party in Lynnfield, MA. Nineteen people responded, including twelve of one hundred and seventy superintendents. The evening was enjoyed by all, but will probably be the last, due to the continued lack of participation.

Kip Tyler

PROGRAM INFORMATION

59th MASSACHUSETTS TURFGRASS CONFERENCE and 14th INDUSTRIAL SHOW

DEDICATION to KENNETH TURNER

for Outstanding Devotion and Service to the Turf Profession

March 14, 15, 16, 1990

Civic Center, Springfield, Massachusetts

(I-91; Exit 6 from South, Columbus Avenue Exit from North)

Sponsored by: Massachusetts Turf & Lawn Grass Council
Golf Course Superintendent's Association of New England
University of Massachusetts Amherst

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1990

REGISTRATION: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

9:00 to 6:30 INDUSTRIAL SHOW OPEN
Snack Bar
Exhibition Hall

— AFTERNOON —

GENERAL SESSION - Banquet Room
Chairman: Dr. Joseph Troll

1:00 WELCOME - Dr. Joseph Troll, Executive Director, Mass
Turf & Lawngrass Council

1:15 CONTROLLING NUISANCE AQUATIC WEEDS &
ALGAE - Mr. Gerald N. Smith, Aquatic Biologist, Aquatic
Control Technology, Inc., Northborough, MA

2:00 WATER CONSERVATION - Mr. Mark Loper, Vice
President, Irrigation Division, Turf Products Corp., South
Windsor, CT

2:45 Scholarship Awards

3:00 PESTICIDES IN GROUND WATER UNDER GOLF
COURSE: THEORY & CASE STUDIES - Dr. Stuart Cohen,
Chemist, Biospherice, Inc., Beltsville, MD

3:45 PESTICIDE RUN-OFF - Dr. Thomas Watschke, Department
of Agronomy, Pennsylvania State University, University Park,
PA

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1990

REGISTRATION: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

— MORNING —

GOLF COURSE SESSION - Banquet Room

Chairman: Mr. Paul F. Miller, CGCS

President, Golf Course Superintendent's Association of New England
Marblehead, MA

9:00 THE BOULDERS - Mr. Carl H. Snyder, CGCS, Golf Course
Consultant, Boulders Golf Course, Carefree, AZ

9:40 OPERATION 365 - Mr. William J. Emerson, CGCS Super-
intendent, Paradise Valley Country Club, Phoenix, AZ

10:20 DEALING WITH POORLY DRAINED GREENS - Mr.
James Snow, Northeastern Director, USGA Greens Section,
Far Hills, NJ

11:00 to 2:00 INDUSTRIAL SHOW OPEN
Exhibition Hall

— AFTERNOON —

Chairman: Mr. Ronald Milenski, CGCS
The International Golf Club, Bolton, MA

2:00 INSECT UPDATE - Dr. Patricia Vittum, Suburban Experi-
ment Station, University of Massachusetts, Waltham, MA

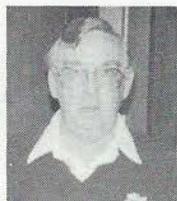
2:30 DEVELOPMENT OF CULTIVATION PROGRAMS FOR
GOLF COURSES - Dr. Robert Carrow - Department of
Agronomy, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of
Georgia, Griffin, GA

3:15 MANAGING GOLF COURSES TO MINIMIZE NITRATE
LEACHING - Dr. A. Martin Petrovic, Department of
Floriculture & Ornamental Horticulture, Cornell University,
Ithaca, NY

3:50 MAXIMIZE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FUNGICIDES-
SYNERGISM OR ANTAGONISM - Dr. Houston B. Couch,
Department of Plant Pathology & Physiology, Virginia
Polytechnic State University, Blacksburg, VA

4:30 to 6:30 INDUSTRIAL SHOW OPEN
Exhibition Hall

"We also use them for security reasons, especially when patrol groups are working the golf course and parking lots. But for every day use in regard to maintenance? Not much."



Tom Schofield,
Wellesley Country

Club: "You want to know the truth? I think we have three portable phones but don't hold me to it because we haven't counted them lately.

"I'm not trying to be smart or wise about the subject, but our location sometimes can be a drawback to using the darn things.

"There are a lot of walkie-talkies in use around our area and they seem to use the same channel. Therefore, you get a lot of people squawking through the box and it makes for another hazard for golfers. So, they can be a distraction, especially when a member or a guest is lining up a putt. Hey, there's enough noise around the golf course as it is.

"Actually, I seldom use the ones in our building other than to facilitate things when we're into putting the irrigation system together for a new season.

"And I can see where they could be a big help in an emergency. I think it's just a case of having them at the ready when they are needed. You never know when that'll be. Therefore, it's probably a good idea to have them around just in case."

GERRY FINN

IN MEMORY

Charlie Curran
Former Sales Rep. for
TRC Products

President's Message



First, I would like to thank the members of the GCSANE for electing me to represent them as President of this Association. I only hope I can carry the torch as well as Dick Zepp and those who preceded him. In the last two years Dick has been very instrumental in establishing a new dimension of unity in our Association, and I only hope with all of your support I can continue and build upon it.

One goal of mine will be the continuance of a very active turf-grass research com., with its first goal to construct a building at the U. of Mass. Turf Plots. That would provide the nucleus to conduct future research work, as well as a facility to teach students through the use of on-site turf-grass trials. This is a lofty goal, but with cooperation and hard work is very obtainable.

The environment is always of concern to all of us. We are feeling constant pressure from special interest groups concerning chemicals and water usage, as well as mounds of record keeping. Do not despair!! It is our responsibility to not only continue to educate our own employers but to encourage our fellow G.C. Supt. to get involved with our organization. Participate, bring a fellow supt. to our meetings. We are constantly trying to further our educational programs by addressing issues of concern. What a lot of people don't understand is that we G.C. Supt. have been environmentalists long before it was fashionable.

It has long been a pet peeve of mine that a few members of our Association do not show the professionalism that the majority of our membership does. Public relations has become a very large part of our jobs, yet we still have people who do not make reservations and do not adhere to dress codes. We will be a lot more aggressive with our enforcement of both, showing up to a meeting without a reservation or attending in unsuitable attire. The dress code at winter meetings is a sport jacket (preferably a tie), and golf meetings a shirt with a collar and golf type slacks. No work boots or sneakers please. Let's show some respect to our hosts.

In closing, I would like to wish everybody good luck in the upcoming year and encourage anyone who has any contribution to make for the betterment of our Association to let it be known to any Board member. It is our Association and every one of you can make a difference.

PAUL MILLER

—POSITION OPENING—

Superintendent

Amherst Golf Club, 9 Holes
Amherst, MA
Contact: Joe Troll
(413) 549-5295

Assistant Superintendent

Worcester C.C.
Send resumes to:
Michael Nagle, CGCS
51 Lincoln Avenue
Holden, MA 01520

We wish Al Singer's wife Sandra a speedy recovery from a serious illness in October. She is now recuperating at home.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN
Paul Jamrog
P. O. Box 38
Belchertown, MA 01007
Home Phone 413-323-8519
Office Phone 413-536-4195
Club Affiliation
The Orchards G.C.

GOLF CHAIRMAN
Robert DiRico, CGCS
185 Hemenway Street
Marlboro, MA 01752
Home Phone 508-485-2605
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Club Affiliation
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EDUCATIONAL CHAIRMAN
Kevin F. Osgood
62 Maple Street
Hyde Park, MA 02136
Home Phone 617-364-4859
Office Phone 617-254-0925
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Newton Comm. G.C.

NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN
Kip Tyler, CGCS
P. O. Box 671
Peabody, MA 01960
Home Phone 508-462-9272
Office Phone 508-532-2236
Club Affiliation
Salem C.C.

PAST PRESIDENT
Richard Zepp, CGCS
27 Fowler Road
Northbridge, MA 01534
Home Phone 508-234-8490
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800-243-0232, Alan Anderson

*Contributors to the Troll-Dickinson
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PEABODY, MA 01960

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KIP TYLER, CGCS
Newsletter Editor

PETER HASAK
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