

THE

GREENER SIDE

Vol. 3 No. 4

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1980

Rock Spring Readies for Invitational



55 YEARS OF TRADITION AWAITS THE INVITATIONAL CONTESTANTS

Rock Spring Club is superbly situated (in West Orange, N.J.) atop 1st Mountain in the Orange Range. The magnificent panoramic view to the east extends from the southern tip of Staten Island to the George Washington Bridge; the day and night views of distant New York City are extraordinarily impressive.

To the west and in the foreground is beautiful Cable Lake, surrounded by the first two holes; in the distance are the

rolling hills of central and western New Jersey.

From its founding in 1925, Rock Spring Club has provided a wide variety of services and activities.

The well manicured 18-hole golf course (of Charles Banks design) measures 6400 yards. Its many sand traps and steep banks are strategically and fairly placed. Each hole has a special character of its own. Indeed, some members and guests alike,

have been heard to say, "You never get tired of playing Rock Spring."

The Club also boasts a large heated pool, four platform tennis courts, and four new "Har-Tru" championship tennis courts.

Under the watchful eyes of Richard Yeomans, Club Manager, Art Marks, Head Golf Professional, and Mike Hannigan, Golf Course Superintendent, the Club's facilities and activities are managed at the highest of country club standards for Rock Spring's 300-plus membership.

the GREENER SIDE

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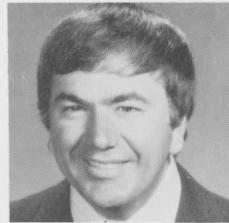
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President's Message

Jack Martin



District Realignment

Gentlemen:

The summer is now becoming past tense. I hope that you all had a good one. It's now time to continue to strengthen our Association. The new roster has been completed and you should receive it soon. The new by-laws are nearing completion. We must resolve one item, however, in order to complete the by-laws. That is the district realignment. Let's just refresh our memories on that subject.

Jim Gilligan and/or I have been around to all districts with the new proposal, and a small map of the new districts with the clubs listed will be sent to you. **The single and most important reason for a realignment is simply to strengthen the districts and increase participation.** We have worked with the district concept for about five years and now feel that it is time to update this concept. At present, it appears that all districts are active, but the recent excitement and stimulation of the past elections must be attributed to much of the activity. Prior to that, many of the districts were much less active.

The districts at this time are basically formed by county lines and number of clubs. Number of clubs does not mean member clubs. Some of the clubs are driving ranges or other nine hole establishments that will never be members. We want to use member clubs or actual people to form districts, and decrease the number of districts from eight to six. This can only strengthen the districts and increase participation. The director from the "North and South at large" will help coordinate district functions. He can also relate what has transpired at board and/or regular meetings to his districts if the district director is absent. At present we have a director who has missed the past several board meetings and all of the regular meetings, including his own district. Shouldn't that district know what is going on?

Some people have said that "since my district is not changed very much by the realignment, it does not affect me." Strengthening our Association and profession affects everyone in our business. The only argument I have heard against a change is: "Why not leave things alone?" Yet everyone wants a progressive Association; but is this progressive thinking? Everyone and everything is subject to change. I say change it as many times as necessary until we get it right. If we don't make these necessary changes, we will go gently back to sleep again.

This new realignment plan will be mailed to you soon. We will vote on it at the October meeting in order that the by-laws can be completed for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

McLoughlin Named Executive Director

James E. McLoughlin has been named Executive Director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. The announcement was made today by GCSAA President Melvin B. Lucas Jr., CGCS. McLoughlin is well known in the national golf community, having served as Executive Director of the prestigious Metropolitan Golf Association since 1966. He will begin his duties with GCSAA this September.

In making the announcement, Lucas stated, "GCSAA recognizes there are many new challenges facing the golf club industry in the 1980s and the Association's continued goal is to be a responsible contributor within this forum. The future welfare of the golf, club, and turf industries will require greater communications among all golf-related organizations in the years ahead, and, often, a common effort. Jim McLoughlin's diversified background will facilitate GCSAA's support of this concept."

McLoughlin is a graduate of Holy Cross College. He holds a law degree from Fordham University and a Master's in physics from Syracuse University. He was a high school physics teacher and coach for six years before taking over as Executive Director for the Metropolitan Golf Association in 1966.

Additionally, through the 1970s, the new GCSAA Executive Director has been asked to lead several significant research and development projects designed to serve individual golf clubs, as well as national and regional golf associations.

President Lucas added, "GCSAA is confident that the choice of Jim McLoughlin as Executive Director is one that will bring new dimension to GCSAA and the golf world. He brings extensive golf association management and administrative experience with him. He has a keen respect for our profession and this association. McLoughlin is sensitive to what needs to be done in order for the golf course superintendent to meet his responsibility to himself, his club, and his industry. His feel for the new technology of the 1980s, communications, educational program development, membership development, and fiscal management, will benefit all of us."

In accepting the position, McLoughlin stated, "It is important to recognize that the superintendent works within a challenging club environment where the game of golf is intended to be played in a very special way. Accordingly, the superintendent will be faced with new responsibility and abundant opportunity in the years ahead. It is the GCSAA's role to prepare its members for these eventualities and to support the game of golf and the industry within which it exists."

Mr. McLoughlin and his wife, Mary Ellen, have been married for 20 years. They presently live in Pleasantville, N.Y. with their three children, Laura, age 19, Jim, age 17, and Ken, age 14.

Busy Time



Mike confirming Invitational reservations.

Personal Profile

Mike Hannigan

Golf Course Superintendent

Rock Spring Club, West Orange, N.J.

Mike took over the Superintendent's responsibilities at Rock Spring in January of 1978; succeeding the late Howard Anen who served the club for 53 years. Previous to Rock Spring he was Assistant Superintendent at the Burlington C.C., Burlington, VT and Assistant Superintendent at Upper Montclair C.C. in Clifton, NJ, respectively.

Mike's roots are in the state of Maine, but thinks he has found a new home as only the fourth Superintendent in the history of Rock Spring Club.

He has an A.S. degree in Turf Management from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, University of Massachusetts and sustains memberships in the GCSAA, NJGCSA, NJTA, and the Maine Golf Course Superintendent Association.

Mike supervises a staff of five full time employees plus an additional five men during the growing months. His responsibilities include the maintenance of Rock Spring's 18-hole golf course, four platform tennis courts, four Har-Tru tennis courts, club house, pool grounds, and winter snow removal.

His efforts in trying to bring Rock Spring up to the high standards of today's golfing world have not gone unnoticed by the membership of the club, as letters and words of praise are rapidly becoming the rule rather than the exception of the club.

Another compliment to Mike is the increasing invitations to play in club events by various members which in his opinion is the perfect opportunity to publicize his professional position at Rock Spring Club.

Mike, his wife Betty and their two daughters, Erin and Meghan, reside in West Orange.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It has been two months since the Golf Course Superintendents Survey was sent out to class B and A members. Of approximately 165 members we have received 27 replies, a mere 17%

The intention of this survey was to provide a mean average of Superintendents salaries, benefits and budgets in the state of New Jersey. What we have is an average of the few Superintendents who had the time and interest to fill out a questionnaire that at the least may help improve their wage, benefits and budgets. Our Association has done much (District Concept) to improve communications among Superintendents but it is obvious that this remains a problem. The survey was one avenue to fulfill the goals of improving our golf courses and working conditions.

STEVE FINAMORE

Golf Course Superintendent
Monmouth County Park System
Hominy Hill Golf Course
Howell Golf Course
Shark River Golf Course

Life Cheaply Imitates Art

In "If I Had A Million," W.C. Fields ended his highway frustration by buying a fleet of cars to crash into offending lanecutters and similar miscreants.

Now, in Los Angeles, the Chicago Sun-Times reports, Abraham Shiefe is offering a less expensive alternative: For \$25 an hour he rents out an eight-ton, armor-plated vehicle that seats six and can cruise the freeway at 55 mph. It could be the ultimate in defensive driving.



Rock Spring's 7th to challenge Invitational field.

Dates to Remember

September 19

GCSANJ Invitational Tournament, Rock Spring Club, West Orange, N.J. Mike Hannigan, Superintendent

September 30

4th Annual Monroe Invitational, Garrison Golf Club, Garrison, N.Y. Richie Brown, Superintendent

October 7

GCSANJ Field Day, Rutgers University and Golf Course, New Brunswick, N.J.

October 9

GCSANJ Championship, Montammy C.C., Alpine, N.J., Mike Leary, Superintendent

December 5

GCSANJ Christmas Party, Shackamaxon C.C., Scotch Plains, N.J., Jack Martin, Host

Critical 90

Memorial Day, the Fourth and Labor Days, Are the duration of my critical 90 days. My actions are the golfer to appease, As I wake every morning to a new disease. The rough is green and then it's brown, And I don't have enough bodies to go around.

The golf cart tracks wilt out in threes, And today I found gypsy moths in the trees. With all the work I'm never ahead but always behind, So, please Mother Nature, this year to the course be kind.

God bless my wife, kids, and all, Because they won't see me till the Fall. I close my eyes and picture six inches of snow on the ground, Without a golfer, cart, wilt, pythium or atenius to be found.

— The Greener Side

GCSANJ Seeks Recognition

Is Our Work Unnoticed

Prior to the recent U.S. Open at Baltusrol, our State Association decided to present a plaque to Joe Flaherty recognizing his time and effort in providing the best of playing conditions for that most prestigious Event. They had hoped time would be allotted during the closing ceremonies for that presentation but met with much rebuttal from the USGA. The following two letters should give some background into these Events:

* * *

June 4, 1980

Mr. Will F. Nicholson, Jr.
President
Colorado National Bankshares, Inc.
Box 5168
Denver, Colorado 80217
Dear Mr. Nicholson:

Thank you for your prompt reply to Dr. Indyk's letter. I would just like to pass along to you how many of my profession and I feel about this situation.

I would like basically to cover your two points of "analysis and review in two areas." Although the U.S.G.A. sets the standards for the tournament, it is the Superintendent that brings the course up to meet and maintain those standards. I am sure you will agree that most courses chosen for the Open have a capable Superintendent. The level of excellence should be obtained long before the tournament. The U.S.G.A. executive committee evaluates the course long before the first ball is struck or it is not doing its job effectively.

Adverse weather conditions, mainly rain, have nothing to do with the many hours, weeks, and years the Superintendent puts into the preparation of the course. Although rain may change the playing surface on any given day or days, it cannot change what has taken years to prepare. I am sure you would also agree that the Superintendent's career is on the line with a tournament of this magnitude.

The men in our profession (Golf Course Superintendents) must have a strong love for their work in order to excel. The U.S. Open is the epitome of all major tournaments. A few minutes of recognition seems a small reward for so many years of work. I am sorry to say that our profession needs public recognition rather than peer recognition. Since the inception of television and Arnold Palmer, golf has become a major sport. The golf pro has received this recognition and deservedly so. Yet we who are responsible for the playing conditions that have changed so drastically for the better, remain basically as before, in the background.

I don't mean to sound like sour grapes or go into the history of our profession, but we are human, and recognition and reward are part of our society. It appals me to know that the U.S.G.A. will not find two or three minutes in the closing program for a man who has worked years for them; not to

mention all the other Superintendents who will never have a major tournament and would love to see one of their ranks and profession recognized.

Sincerely,
Jack Martin
President
GCSANJ

May 30, 1980

Dr. Henry W. Indyk
Executive Director
Golf Course Superintendents Association
of New Jersey
Cook College - Rutgers University
Box 231
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903
Dear Dr. Indyk:

Yesterday I received my copy of your letter of May 22, to Al Radko. Thank you for having sent it to me. Since receiving it, I have reviewed your comments with Golf House and have been read a copy of the letter in response that Al is sending to you. I do not think it necessary for me to go into any of the points other than the subject of a presentation to the Superintendent at the Awards Ceremony following the completion of play.

By electing not to make an award to the Superintendent of the course which hosts the Championship just ended, it is not the intent of the Executive Committee of the USGA to detract from the Superintendent in any manner whatsoever. We do so, because we believe very strongly that proper preparation of a Championship course is based on analysis and review in two areas. The first of these is the preparation of the course and its condition prior to the commencement of play. This preparation concerns itself with the setting up of the course as required by the USGA and then bringing the course to the appropriate standards we have established after 86 years of conducting national championships. The second is the review of conditions during the actual playing of the championship. This second review is particularly critical if there are adverse weather conditions with which the players and the superintendent and his staff must contend. Obviously, based on this second review, it is impossible to judge the level of excellence attained by a Superintendent until after completion of 72 holes of play by all of the players in the field. On the other hand, it is necessary to schedule the events at the Awards Ceremony before commencement of play on the final day. The Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association, therefore, believes it inappropriate to schedule an award to a Superintendent by scheduling that award at a time prior to when an appropriate total evaluation can be made. We believe that it is appropriate to recognize those Superintendents truly deserving such recognition at the Educational Conference of the Green Section held in conjunction with our Annual Meeting each year.

Although I have not had the privilege of seeing Baltusrol, I am told Joe Flaherty has it in superb condition and that by the opening of play on June 12, it will meet and may even surpass all the criteria we lay down for the preparation of a championship course. Also, please rest assured that if the course and its condition meets our high standards before and during play, I will duly recognize Joe and his work at the Awards Ceremony. This recognition, if made, will give strong public recognition as well as peer recognition to Joe. I trust that you would agree that praise and recognition which has been earned for work accomplished is far more important than praise and recognition which has been expected.

In closing, on behalf of all of us at the USGA, please accept my thanks for the interest you take in our events and for the great service you give to golf through your work and dedication to the work of Golf Course Superintendents. I would look forward to an opportunity to meet you at Baltusrol the week after next.

Sincerely,
Will F. Nicholson, Jr.
President
USGA

Series continued on page 5

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continued from page 4, col. 3

The following is a statement Jack Martin prepared for this publication explaining the final outcome of our Association's efforts in this matter.

* * *

I'm sure that you all realize that our profession needs more image, recognition and the like. Particularly, we can use public recognition, such as the Golf Pros get, especially during major tournaments. In the past, the man who works years to prepare a course for a major tournament may not even get his name mentioned.

Since neither the G.C.S.A.A. nor the U.S.G.A. chose to present a plaque for recognition of the Superintendent at the U.S. Open, your President and Executive Director decided to try to obtain this recognition for Joe Flaherty and our profession. We started preparation for presenting Joe with a plaque from our State Association in February. We had much correspondence with both Al Radko and Will Nicholson, the President of the U.S.G.A., to no avail. We then met with those two and the director of Golf House at Baltusrol on the Saturday during the tournament. I spoke with Mr. Nicholson as late as Sunday, the final day of the tournament. Although we were unable to present this plaque of recognition to Joe, he did receive a substantial amount of recognition not only during the tournament, but at the closing ceremonies. We can't help but feel that our efforts helped. We also feel that the G.C.S.A.A. should be doing more toward these ends. Incidentally, the G.C.S.A.A. received copies of all our correspondence in this matter. Hopefully, our efforts will be rewarded by further recognition of our profession in the future and at future major tournaments.

Jack Martin
President

* * *

As you may realize, our Association President, Jack Martin, and our Executive Director, Henry Indyk, had other verbal and written communications with both Al Radko, Green Section Director, and Will Nicholson, Jr., USGA President before the final decision was made on Saturday of the Open week. They had made the initial contact early in the year and as I am hopeful you will agree made every attempt possible to assure Joe Flaherty receive the recognition he so deserved.

It is my opinion that two major accomplishments were made by the present administration: first, their continued efforts throughout this entire matter, never being defeated or taking no for an answer; and second, the final outcome, although not being what had originally been hoped for, was improved recognition for one of our peers. Recognition we hope will grow as we as professionals will continue to grow in the future.

On behalf of the Greener Side I want to thank Jack Martin and Henry Indyk for their perseverance in this matter. Their collective pursuit to improve our professional image is one we should all stand behind.

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Moving Story

A Defensive Driving Course instructor in New Jersey reports that after he told his class that two-thirds of all traffic accidents occur within 25 miles of home, one of the drivers in the class went right out and put his house up for sale.

LAWS — A — MERCY

In addition to the well known Murphy's Law - If something can go wrong, it will - Try the following words of wisdom:

Brownworth's Law - Any time things seem to be going better, you've overlooked something.

Plumber's Law - Nothing is impossible for a man who doesn't have to do it himself.

Pinacle's Law - Once a job is fouled up, anything done to improve it makes it worse.

Crane's Law - There's no such thing as a free lunch.

Bird's Law - There's never enough time to do it right, but there's always enough time to do it over.

Dingle's Law - When somebody drops the ball, everybody else will kick it around instead of picking it up.

Finister's Law - A closed mouth gathers no feet.

Oliver's Law of Location - No matter where you go, there you are.

Lynch's Law - When the going gets tough, everyone leaves.

O'Reilly's Law of the Kitchen - Cleanliness is next to impossible.

Denniston's Law - Virtue is its own punishment.

Gold's Law - If the shoe fits, it's ugly.

Handy Guide to Modern Science - If it's green and wriggles, it's biology. If it stinks, it's chemistry. If it doesn't work, it's physics.

Conway's Law - In any organization, there will always be one person who knows what's going on. This person must be fired.

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INVITATIONAL HOSTS: Rich Yeomans, Manager; Mike Hannigan, Superintendent; Art Marks, Golf Professional.

NOT SO TURF TWISTERS

1. Who was the first nationally (GCSAA) certified superintendent in New Jersey?
2. The only Jersey Golf Course to sponsor a 1980 P.G.A. Tournament?
3. Four recipients of the N.J. Turfgrass Hall of Fame Award?
4. Section V.P. of the National P.G.A.?
5. Present N.J. P.G.A. President?
6. Winner of the 1980 State Open and Dodge Open Classic?
7. Directed Pine Valley for 53 years?
8. Ridgewood C.C. Assistant Pro some years back went on to win 11 straight P.G.A. events?
9. Managed Baltusrol through three U.S. Opens?
10. Father and son State Open winners?

The first member who successfully completes and returns this Not So Turf Twister will be the dinner guest of the "Greener Side at the Montammy meeting on October 9. Submit your completed puzzle to: Ed Walsh, Ridgewood C.C., Box 598, Ridgewood, N.J. 07451.



Perennial second place team from Bamm Hollow C.C.

CHIP SHOTS

Congratulations to the new parents . . . it's a boy for the Edgars, a girl for the Brunos and twins for the McGlynns. The Rizzios are grandparents for the first time. (I still wonder why Ellie married such an older man.)

Did anyone notice that Ang Petraglia finished with a 297 total at the recent State Open at Montclair G.C.? I guess we will all be shooting for a second place at this year's GCSANJ Championship at Montammy Country Club.

District 6 supers are all holding their heads in shame after the resounding defeat at the hand of their visiting commercial reps. The final score of 7-3 doesn't tell that the supers were never really in the contest. Only the superb pitching of Thure Ruden (pitched for both sides) kept the score as close as it was. Dennis Wagner, in defeat and Ken Kubik (The Greener Side's own), in victory, were brilliant in the field and with the sticks (or so they say). Thure was the unanimous choice for M.V.P.

District 8 met at Woodbury C.C. in May with host Superintendent, Mel Warsing. Dennis Wagner met with the group offering his sometimes exciting opinions.

In June Carl Buckholtz of Ciba-Geigy met with our group at Wildwood G.C. with hosting Superintendent, John Klosiewicz. We discussed methods of growing tobacco on our golf courses so as to qualify for spraying the new Pythium control product, Ridomil, which gives two to three weeks control. John Montane, of Buena Vista C.C., was a welcome newcomer.

We congratulate Craig Reinhardt of Pine Valley G.C. on his longest drive victories at Beckett C.C. in April and again at Picatinny Arsenal in July.

Atlantic City C.C. was in excellent condition for the Seniors Invitational in June. We congratulate host Superintendent, Doug Fraser.



Bussing Jams Traffic

Police in Bromwich, England, told workers to keep kisses short after they have been driven to work by their spouses. The long goodbyes were snarling traffic.



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OVERWATERING — A Plight of the American Golf Course

Melvin B. Lucas, Jr., CGCS

Mr. Lucas, a director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, is Head Golf Course Superintendent at the Garden City Golf Club, a position he has held since 1967. Last fall, Mr. Lucas succeeded his late father as Golf Course Superintendent at the Piping Rock Club in Locust Valley, New York. Mr. Lucas' position as the Head Superintendent at two leading golf clubs is unique in this country.

How often it is heard, from players returning from a golf sabbatical, how clubs such as Shinnecock Hills, Winged Foot, Baltusrol, and Pine Valley played so well with fast, firm greens and tightly cut fairways.

It has been my pleasure to have chatted with the men in charge of maintaining these courses, all of whom echo the same water-management theme: "Keep the golf course as dry as possible."

Through many turf organizations, associations, and university research people, findings show that grass will grow in the spring when it is ready. If man tries to push the grass in the spring this will usually result in poor golfing conditions in late July and August. During the late spring and early summer it is sound to allow a golf course, with majorities of bentgrass and bluegrass varieties, to go on the dry side. This enables the roots to go deep, thus making a plant independent. An applicable adage is that it is easy to put water on, but it is almost impossible to take it away. I know in the case of the Garden City Golf Club, the course, in 1965, used 55-plus million gallons of water. Last year's water use was 12-plus million gallons.

As a Golf Superintendent and one who has had a peripatetic golf-history heart, I have observed how membership requests can sometimes detrimentally influence the nature of a golf course, and its Golf Superintendent. Many of these wants-desires are: The greens don't hold a shot -- give them a good soaking; We want everything green and lush to impress guests; We have our own well and water is free and unlimited -- let's use it; Our course doesn't compare to the one seen during the televised tournament; Our foursome was out this morning and we noticed an area on the seventh fairway which was "burned out;" Why isn't the course being watered more -- it's dying; and, Why do they (greens crew) have to renovate during the prime time of late August and early September?

In answering these comments, I begin by noting that giving the greens "a good soaking" can sometimes lead to weed encroachment, disease, and deep, difficult-to-repair ball marks. Also when talking about the holding qualities of a green, one must consider the condition of the fairways. Simply put, you can not "pinch" the ball from a soft, lush fairway, and to pinch the ball means to give it the needed spin to hold the green.

Water may be free for some golf courses, but the cost of electricity to pump that water is not. The self proclaimed agronomist who sees, on TV, a golf course at its peak, does not view that same golf course two weeks later after the trials of big-time tournament play. Additional costs from the overuse of water come in the form of extra fertilizer, chemicals to control disease, and, naturally, mowing more often. Of course when overuse of water has finally drowned all turf out, then out come the aerifiers, thatchers, slicers, spikers and assorted other machinery to try to bring the golf course back. By adding this additional work on a greens crew which may already be overextended, much of the normal, everyday work is left to wane, thus, making the course look even worse.

The water-management program for any golf course must take stock of the different types of soil varieties which are present on the course. These vary from sandy soil, which requires heavier amounts of water, clay soil which needs little water, but which needs to be constantly kept moist; heavy, rich loam soil, which needs water but never too much at one time; and a mix of sand and rich loam that is found in many parts of this Met area, especially on the older links, and which requires only moderate watering. On most of this area's golf courses practically all types of soil varieties can be found. This means that no set program can be made for everything getting exactly the same amount of water.

Probably the major concern that must be had at most Met-area courses is not to go into August with overly wet soil. As we all know, August days are generally hot and humid, and just bloody uncomfortable for man and, yes, grass. So as to give our courses the best chance for survival, we should gear our watering efforts for these dreaded Augusts.

Should your golf course be cutting back on the amount of water being used? Let me answer this in the following fashion.

The alarming problems of conserving water just tapped us on the shoulder two years ago. We saw Monterey Peninsula and Marin County of California brought to its knees for lack of water. In the Midwest, many golf courses were cut off from water use. On Long Island, a municipality whose own water supply was polluted took over a golf club's well for city use.

With the improper management and wasteful consumption by everyone, it clearly documents the severe shortage in all areas of our nation. We all must share the burdens of water conservation for if not, we only have ourselves to blame if the water runs out.

That's Scratchitude For You

In Wellington, New Zealand, firefighter Alf Walsh revived a cat he found unconscious in a smoke-filled house with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. He also gave the animal cardiac massage and oxygen. When the feline recovered, it lashed out with its claw and slashed Walsh on the forehead.

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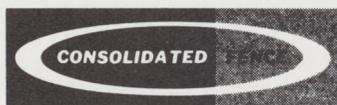
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