

Green Side Up!

(Editor's Note: While attending the Turfgrass Producers International Mid-Winter Conference in Orlando recently, Diana participated in a "Behind the Scenes at Disney World" tour. The tour guide told the following story of the last minute rush to lay sod prior to the grand opening. Thought it was interesting and that you might enjoy it.)

The construction pace for the grand opening of Walt Disney World was frantic to say the least. We had committed to an October 1 opening and we were determined to hit that mark.

The night before our grand opening, there were still plenty of tasks to complete. In front of the Contemporary Resort, one of the two original hotels here, there was no grass. Oh, the grass was there – it was stacked neatly on pallets in the form of sod!

Dick Nunis, our President at the time, sent out a request for assistance laying sod – all hands on deck, so to speak. People from various locations showed up to help, among them were some mid-level managers dressed in business attire.

One of those gentlemen said to Dick, "Hey, we'd like to help you out. Do you have anything



else we can do? We're not really dressed to lay sod."

Dick informed them that the task of laying sod was top priority at the moment and asked them once again for their help. Keep in mind, that Dick Nunis himself was there laying sod, dressed in business attire, jacket off & sleeves rolled up. So imagine his reaction when his request was once again rejected by the gentleman, this time stating "I don't know HOW to lay sod." So without missing a beat, Dick Nunis, in his business attire, sleeves rolled up, reached for the next piece of sod on the pallet and simply said, "It's easy fellows – GREEN SIDE UP!"