



The Panel (left to right) Ed Walsh, Crawford Rainwater, Danny Quast, Joe Luigs, David Green, and Eli Budd.

Keep the Course Properly Marked

by **CRAWFORD RAINWATER**
Green Chairman, Pensacola Country Club, Florida

THE INVITATION to share a few ideas with you is gratefully appreciated. The introduction was most flattering, but probably a shorter introduction might have said, "He was weaned on a Coca-Cola bottle and teathed on a golf ball." Golf has been great to me. It has permitted me to travel widely — as a competitor and as an official. It has permitted me to rub elbows with some of the greatest people in the world. It has taught me the true meaning of competition and sportsmanship. Today, after 60 years as a golfer, I find great satisfaction in assisting with raising funds for turf research and serving as a Rules official.

Our time is limited and there is so much I would like to share with you, but the format dictates that my remarks be brief.

I play over and officiate at a wide variety of courses each year, some of the very finest, well known, and highly

rated, but I seldom find a course that is kept properly marked. In my judgment, you, as a golf course superintendent, must also be a golfer. It is impos-

Crawford Rainwater



sible to understand the wishes and needs of your players unless you are thoroughly familiar with the game. An excellent agronomist cannot fully appreciate, for example, the height of cut, improperly raked bunkers, infrequently moved tee markers, dirty ball washers and towels, or poor choice of hole locations if he is not a golfer. Admittedly, most of you are golfers, but a few excellent grass growers remain who need to understand better the needs and desires of their players.

As chairman of a green committee, I play at least once a month with the golf course superintendent and other members of the committee. You probably won't play your best golf, but you will communicate; you will see things that need attention that you have never noticed before.

Assuming that you play golf, how many of you really have a firsthand knowledge of the Rules of Golf? Frankly,

you cannot properly perform your profession without a thorough knowledge of the Rules. I believe the golf course superintendent must assume responsibility for keeping the course properly marked. Certainly he must cooperate and communicate with the professional at his club, but the final responsibility for marking the course rests with the superintendent.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE to discuss a golf course or your profession without knowing the Rules. For example, Definitions in the Rules of Golf teach us the proper word is "bunker," not "trap"; "flagstick," not "pin"; "hole placement," not "pin placement"; "four-ball match," not "foursome." None of us agrees fully with the Definitions, but so long as they exist, I feel it is your and my responsibility to use the correct words, both in our conversation and on all printed matter.

As I travel around, sometimes getting prepared for a championship, I am amazed at how few courses keep their boundaries properly marked at all times. Yes, I know from experience that this can be a tremendous task, for I have

driven or set in concrete over 10 miles of stakes on more than one golf course. It is exasperating to arrive at a championship site and find little or no definition of the out-of-bounds. It is frustrating as a player or competitor not to be able to determine out-of-bounds. This kind of indecision delays play.

Personally, I prefer to use properly spaced white PVC pipe set in concrete for boundary stakes, but the pipes are broken from time to time and we must be constantly alert and make necessary additions. Note that I suggest setting out-of-bounds markers in concrete, because under the Rules of Golf they may not be moved.

At Pensacola Country Club, water hazards and lateral water hazards are marked regularly with yellow and red paint. Maintaining these lines is considered as important as raking the bunkers or mowing the greens. Admittedly there is some expense, but what a joy it is to play a course when you know the status and limits of each water or lateral water hazard. Seldom do I find water hazards marked on golf courses on a constant basis. What is the situation at your course?

What Am I, Chopped Liver?

by **DANNY H. QUAST**

CGCS, Milwaukee Country Club, Wisconsin

IHAVE BEEN fortunate over my 20 years as a superintendent in my dealings with green committee chairmen. This has not only been true in the past, but is true now. From the time I first came to Milwaukee Country Club through 1983, Jack Allis served as green committee chairman. He grew up as a member; his father, Louis Allis, was a charter member of the club. Mr. Allis exemplifies the qualities needed for a chairman. They are: a keen interest in new development, the ability to ask questions, excellent sense of business, decisiveness, and the ability to listen well. He has a great love of the golf course and of golf. He spent a lot of time with Hal Kuehl, the current chairman, and this excellent tradition of concern is bound to continue.

For a golf course to be considered excellent, someone must want it to be.

Danny H. Quast



When I was superintendent at Springfield Country Club, in Springfield, Ohio, Don Six was chairman of golf. He told me at the onset that the only way Springfield Country Club could be a top golf course was by *both* of us wanting it to be. He was right.

It is not easy for a green committee chairman, because he gets pressure from all sides, and there are so many intangibles in turfgrass management. There are no absolutes about diseases, dry weather, wet weather, or constantly changing employees. The golf course can't be put on a fixed budget. Both the superintendent and chairman must look to the future, and by doing so, they will not only save the character of the club but also improve on it.

By taking the long-range view, money can be saved. I feel that this is exemplified by our tree program. At the time I was