

KEEPING PACE WITH INCREASING GOLF ACTIVITY

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AS one travels over the country and plays on the many fine golf courses, both old and new, that exist today, one finds them, with very few exceptions, well groomed. Moreover, most have clubhouses that are decorated and furnished with all the modern conveniences necessary for present day operations. However, one is often surprised to find that adequate maintenance buildings are not provided. No thought has been given, or provision made, for the suitable storage of equipment and materials. In many cases they are left to the mercy of the elements. Where such a condition exists it should be corrected and not neglected, as the maintenance yard is the starting point and focus of all golf course upkeep.

The constant increase in the number of rounds played per year, especially by women and juniors, results in the game being played from early morning until late evening. Tees, fairways and greens are in constant use and get very little rest. This creates a serious and growing problem for the golf course superintendent. He is confronted with the question of how to get his routine work accomplished, and not interfere too much with play. Players are sometimes unreasonably critical when workmen get in their way, yet, mowing, watering, and the raking of sand traps, along with the constant upkeep of all playing areas, must be performed if the course is to be kept in a satisfactory playing condition.

This all means that the successful superintendent must be a diplomat, a good organizer, and a first class manager of the operations he supervises. The more efficiently he and his staff operate, the more enjoyable the game will be for his members; the faster players can get round, and the more golfers the course can accommodate in peak playing hours.

Constant increase in play means more wear and tear on golf turf, and consequent-

ly greater maintenance requirements and costs, plus the need for additional labor and equipment. To meet this ever-changing picture it is necessary that we be able to retire to "off-the-course" jobs on the side lines during periods of heavy play.

If we are to get our maintenance work out of the way sooner and faster, so that we do not interfere with play to any great extent, more operating equipment will be needed, an extra tractor or so, along with additional mowing units for tees, rough, fairways, and greens.

As automotive equipment is added, additional housing facilities will be required. No ordinary shed or farm barn will suffice; a sizable enclosed maintenance yard is needed. It must be paved with a hard surface and have sufficient buildings to house and store all needed equipment and supplies. The principal building should be a large heated and lighted workshop for the repairing and overhauling of machinery and equipment. This repair shop should contain a work bench, storage cabinets with bins for repair parts, a lathe and grinder for sharpening mowers and tools, an air compressor, a spray tank and gun for painting. Besides this there should be all necessary tools such as a drill press, electric drill, etc.

Other necessary facilities include a small room for the storage of chemicals, herbicides and fungicides, an office for the golf course superintendent, toilet facilities, wash

TURF MANAGEMENT

The book "Turf Management," sponsored by the United States Golf Association and edited by Prof. H. B. Musser, is a complete and authoritative guide in the practical development of golf-course turfs.

This 354-page volume is available through the USGA, 40 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y., the USGA Green Section Regional Offices, the McGraw-Hill Book Co., 350 West 42nd Street, New York 36, N. Y., or local bookstores. The cost is \$7.

room, and locker space for all employees. Other needed buildings are: (1) a large shed enclosed on three sides for the storage of dry topsoil; (2) a similar structure for the accommodation of power equipment, tractors and trucks, when not in use. One of these two buildings should also contain a room for the storage of hose, shovels, picks, etc.

The Army Navy Country Club, Arlington, Virginia has followed the above men-

tioned program the last few years to good advantage. The plan has paid dividends. The club's officials have cooperated with Rear Admiral John S. Phillips, Retired, (Chairman of the Army Navy Golf Committee), in bringing the various planned projects to fulfillment.

All new construction has been done with the thought of eliminating manual labor as far as possible and replacing it with power operated machines.

GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE COSTS

According to Clubs in Town & Country, 1956-57, published by Harris, Kerr, Forster & Co., golf course maintenance costs for 50 clubs having a total of 1,017 holes, exceeded the 1955-56 costs by 3.9%, golf fees and admissions improved by 6.1%, and net golf expenses increased by 3.0%. On a per-hole basis, the current year's maintenance costs averaged \$2,474 and net golf expenses, \$1,904. Since 1951-52 golf course maintenance costs per hole have risen without interruption and the 1956-57 average exceeded 1951-52 by 33%.

	<i>Geographical Divisions</i>				
	<i>Over-All Average</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Mid-West</i>	<i>Far West</i>
<i>Average Cost Per Hole—1956-57:</i>					
Salaries and Wages	\$1,649	\$1,700	\$1,475	\$1,508	\$2,105
Course Supplies and Contracts.....	374	376	381	393	305
Repairs to Equipment, Course Buildings, Etc.	211	231	211	207	140
All Other Expenses	240	180	246	238	477
Total Golf Course Maintenance..	\$2,474	\$2,487	\$2,313	\$2,346	\$3,027
Add Golf Shop, Caddy and Com- mittee Expenses	158	220	45	158	99
Total Golf Expenses	\$2,632	\$2,707	\$2,358	\$2,504	\$3,126
Less Golf Fees and Admissions.....	728	848	504	472	1,290
Net Golf Expense	\$1,904	\$1,859	\$1,854	\$2,032	\$1,836
<i>Percentage Variations—1956-57 Based on 1955-56:</i>					
Salaries and Wages	+ 3.5%	+ 2.6%	+ 6.7%	+ 2.6%	+ 3.8%
Course Supplies and Contracts	+ 4.2	+ 4.7	+ 1.6	+ 5.1	+ 3.7
Repairs to Equipment, Course Buildings, Etc.	+ 6.0	+ 3.6	+ 11.6	+ 7.3	+ 6.1
All Other Expenses	+ 5.3	+ 1.7	0	+ 14.4	+ 4.8
Total Golf Course Maintenance..	+ 3.9%	+ 2.9%	+ 5.5%	+ 4.5%	+ 4.1%
Golf Shop, Caddy and Committee Expenses	+ 2.6	+ 2.3	0	+ 4.6	+ 4.2
Total Golf Expenses	+ 3.9%	+ 2.9%	+ 5.4%	+ 4.5%	+ 4.1%
Golf Fees and Admissions	+ 6.1	+ 5.7	+ 2.4	+ 10.3	+ 5.1
Net Golf Expense	+ 3.0%	+ 1.6%	+ 6.2%	+ 3.3%	+ 3.3%