

# What about womanpower?

WHAT with the recent legislative ruling on equal opportunities in industry for women, and the labour shortage in our trade, one wonders if there isn't a place on the greenkeeping scene for women.

This is not quite so daft as it might sound for in North America the girls are already making an impression in this very area.

Below are one or two accounts received from that part of the world and indicate that greencraft is not strictly a male preserve.

**GLORIA:** Fox Lake C.C. Supt. Ray Schei.

Gloria, a nineteen year old high school graduate was looking for outdoor work when she was hired. She is now one of five female crew members at Fox Lake. The girls work forty hours a week including the weekend. If they work Saturday one week then they alternate and work Sunday the next week. Gloria is a full-time year-round employee. In the summer she has sprayed greens, done sodding jobs and shovelled up sand in the bunkers. During the winter she washes the equipment with a hot water pressure cleaner, and has been grinding the bedknives. This past week Gloria attended the Toro Service Clinic held at Itasca C.C. Last summer while wearing a halter neck and short shorts to work in, she was 'propositioned' by a foursome of golfers and has since changed her dress habits. Speaking of dress, during the winter, Gloria dresses up one day a week complete with lipstick, and does secretarial work, payroll, etc. in the office.

**MARY BETH:** Marriott Inn Resort. Supt. Joseph Grenko.

9 Mary Beth is a college student with a farm background. The Superintendent was attracted to her when she worked as a waitress in the clubhouse. In 1974 Mary Beth operated a nine-gang fairway unit. Joe Grenko's appraisal, 'The best damn tractor driver I've ever seen. No skidding, and no banged up trees.

She was a natural'. For the 1975 season Grenko has hired five girls — so far. They will start Monday, March 17th and work 'year-round'. Joe expects half his crew to be women. The women will be supplied with Marriott uniforms which they must wear. A seven day week prevails and Grenko expects his women to do all the mowing, plus be available for night work making artificial snow, and snow removal jobs in the winter. Grenko is convinced women labour is the direction to look, and prays his 1975 crew will provide more girls like Mary Beth.

**CLAUDETTE:** Silver Lake G.C. Supt. Dudley Smith.

Claudette is a housewife and mother desiring to supplement the family income, but the idea of outside work 'turned her on'. She is also an ecology nut. Claudette collects mushrooms, berries and asparagus while out mowing. She has a pet crow at home and talks to the squirrels and ducks on the golf course. Claudette can handle any of our mowing jobs and usually does the fungicide applications. She 'begs off' when aquatic weed killers are applied — they harm the fish — or when arsenicals are used for Poa annua control — you are killing the birds. She wears shorts when it's hot but normally it's levis and a purple sweatshirt. The girls have an extra set of clothes in case they are caught in a thundershower. This past season the girls did all the aerifying, verticcutting and cleanup chores on all the greens and tees. Claudette and the other girls steamcleaned the dirty equipment when we dismantled it this winter and they did an excellent job painting the flagpoles, ball washers and tee benches. Women are naturally neater and they don't spill paint.

The women employees at Silver Lake have only worked Spring and Fall. They report in the morning after their children are on the school bus and leave at 3.30 p.m. to resume their motherly

duties. The women do not work on weekends or on school holidays. Since I have adequate schoolboy help during the summer months, the women fill the labour shortage that exists in early Spring and again in the Autumn. Working only six hours a day fits nicely into their home schedule as well. The women eat their sandwiches at the barn with the male employees but usually they are watching their diets and settle

for an apple or a can of beer. They use the same washroom we use but lock themselves in for privacy, they also keep the 'john' much cleaner than we did.

Transcribed from the Foreground: journal of the Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents' Association.

Food for thought gentlemen:  
March isn't a bad time of year to review  
FUTURE STAFFING REQUIREMENTS.

OUR THANKS TO THE NORTHERN SECTION FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION

## WASHINGTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

/COURSE CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR

NEW 18-HOLE GOLF COURSE

WASHINGTON NEW TOWN—TYNE AND WEAR

Construction of the new golf course in Washington is due to commence in the late Spring/early Summer of 1976.

The Corporation wishes to recruit an experienced Head Greenkeeper who will be responsible for course upkeep and maintenance once the course construction is complete.

The appointment will, however, be made in the near future to allow the Greenkeeper to act as Course Construction Supervisor and Adviser during the period of course construction.

The construction will be largely undertaken by contractors although certain aspects may be carried out by in-house labour. In the latter event the person appointed will be expected to organise, direct and supervise the work of this small labour force.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced Greenkeepers for the post described.

The salary will be by negotiation.

Generous fringe benefits are available including a free life assurance scheme. Resettlement grants, lodging allowance and assistance with removal expenses are payable in approved cases. Housing accommodation for rent may be available.

Application forms are available from the Administrative Officer, Washington Development Corporation, Usworth Hall, Stephenson, District 12, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE37 3HS, (Tel: Washington 463591), and should be returned by 25th March, 1976.

**W. S. Holley,**  
General Manager.