

NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY

Course Budgets Lag Far Behind Inflation

The superintendent making a salary of \$13,877 in 1968 would have to be earning \$30,536 in 1975 to keep up with inflation and merit raises. A course budget of \$89,067 in 1968 would have to be \$207,629 today under the same circumstances, according to a recent survey completed by Robert E. Siebert of Naperville Country Club in Illinois.

"We generally reminisce about the 'good old days' when a dollar was said to be worth a dollar, when quality labor was abundant, when materials were relatively low-priced, and when the golf course superintendent's standard of living was increasing," Siebert wrote recently in the newsletter of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. "Today the dollar is barely worth 30 cents, quality labor is diminishing, and materials are being priced out of the market."

Using as a base a survey of Chicago-area courses, Siebert came up with the following figures to

show the toll inflation has taken on golf course budgets. An average superintendent's salary of \$13,877 in 1968 would have to be \$21,703 today just to keep up with inflation with no merit raises. Other figures included: labor, \$51,000 in 1968, \$85,374 today; chemicals, \$3,517, \$5,887; fertilizer, \$3,600, \$6,026; equipment repairs, \$3,500, \$5,859; new equipment, \$7,700, \$12,890; and as a total for the course, \$89,067, \$147,569.

The next figures Siebert computed describe the superintendent that strives toward a five percent increase in both his standard of living and his operating budget. With these increases as added to inflation, chemicals today would cost \$8,283; fertilizer, \$8,479; equipment repairs, \$8,244; and new equipment, \$18,136.

Based on a survey of 28 Chicago-area superintendents, Siebert's figures show a present average salary of \$18,800.

Next Year's CMAA Conference To Be Held in Washington

Plans are already underway for next year's Club Managers Association of America Conference to be held Feb. 11-14 at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. It is expected the lure of the nation's capital in the bicentennial year could push conference registration past 2,000.

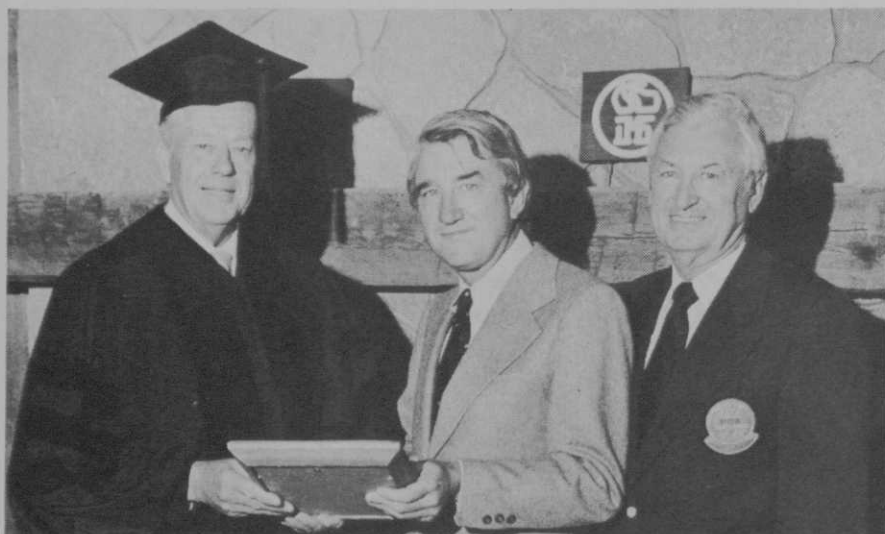
Executives of the CMAA said the organization's New Orleans conference in 1974 drew a record 1,561. If plans of the host National Capitol Chapter for an extensive children's program become a reality, that mark will probably be shattered. The annual conference registration figure includes spouses, children and representatives of allied associations and business.

General chairman of the event is Paul Burley, of the University Club of Washington. Other committee members are Norman Larsen, Georgetown Club, Washington, vice-chairman for hospitality; Donald Brimmer, Woodmont Country Club, Rockville, Md., vice-chairman for administration; Charles Smith, Chevy Chase Club, Maryland, vice-chairman for education.

Appraisalment of Golf Cars Is Withheld by Government

The Treasury Department is withholding appraisalment (setting trade value) of some electric golf cars imported from Poland pending an investigation of cars being sold in the U.S. at less than fair value. The cars have been imported by Melex U.S.A., Inc.

David Bender, a U.S. Customs Service official, told GOLFDOM his department will decide by June 14 if American manufacturers of golf cars have been injured by these imports. If it is decided American manufacturers have been injured, the International Trade Commission will conduct a three-month investigation scanning the U.S. market for golf cars. If the ITC decides the golf cars are being sold at less than fair value, a duty will be charged on all Melex golf cars brought into the country since March 14, the date of the withholding action. The ITC decision would come on or before Sept. 14.



PGA President Henry Poe (left) accepts an honorary degree in golf management from Dr. Robert Ewigleben, president of Ferris State College, Big Rapids, Mich. The ceremony took place to commemorate the joint announcement of the first PGA-certified, four-year degree in golf management and business administration to be introduced at the college this fall. PGA Executive Director Mark Cox was also on hand.