

Schools Supplying Too Many Potential Superintendents?

In the past few years there has been increasing alarm that schools may be graduating more potential golf course superintendents than the golf courses can absorb. This scare talk has reached the stage where superintendents question the scholarship aid to young men intending to get jobs on golf courses.

On that subject there is comment in *Verdure*, the newsletter of the Chicagoland Golf Course Superintendents Association. Comments the *Verdure* writer:

"Until a few years ago one had to toil for at least 15 to 20 years as an assistant before any club would consider hiring you as a superintendent. That meant you would be at least 45 years old before you got your first job as a superintendent, and that you would have only another 20 to 25 years to work before retirement. Due to the normal attrition rate a certain percentage of these club jobs came open every year giving many assistants a chance to move up the ladder.

"Several years ago however, the clubs stopped that practice and started hiring the young, college-trained men to replace their retiring superintendents. Over the span of the last 10 years or so, most of the clubs have hired these younger and most of the older men have retired. This has suddenly loaded up the superintendent ranks with younger men in the 25-to-35 age bracket and that means it will be another 30 to 40 years before they begin to retire.

"Another part of the problem lies with the educational institutions. So many colleges, junior colleges and universities have jumped on the bandwagon and have started cranking out budding young superintendents by the dozen. As a rough estimate, I would say that there are at least 200 of these hopeful young men graduated every year. Also as a rough estimate, I would say that there are more than 50 positions a year that come open due to normal attrition. This leaves about 150 young men each year who will be seeking employment on golf

courses that already have superintendents, or on brand new courses.

"Ah ha,' you say, 'this clown is afraid one of these kids is going to get his job.' To that I reply, 'Not at all. If I am doing such a poor job that my club would want to give my job to an untrained young man, then I deserve to be fired and perhaps the profession as a whole would be better off without me.' I do think it is unfair to lure young men toward jobs that don't exist. I do not think, however, that we should cut off all scholarships, and divert the money to research. Don't plug up the pipeline, just slow it down a little."



PGA/Victor national sales manager Frank Gallagher (left) recently congratulated Jim Ford as that company's salesman of the year. Ford's territory includes Arkansas, western Tennessee, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Architects Consider Women More and More in Design

Female golfers have become a force to reckon with on the golf course drawing board, according to a Minneapolis golf course architect.

"In the past, most golf courses were designed and built with little or no thought given to women," Don Herfort told GOLFDOM. "Most of the time, the course was already in play when a shorter distance was felt more desirable for women — or when the women complained. The fairway was then cut shorter on as flat an area as possible and tee markers placed to designate the ladies tee."

Herfort, a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, said such practices are changing, with more consideration being given to average golfers in

general and women in particular. "We must remember we are designing and building courses today to satisfy the greatest number of people. Too many courses are being built mainly for the low handicapper and are not fun for the average person. More pre-design and design thought should be given to the average player that supports the courses rather than to just the making of a championship course," he said.

"Since women have become a major portion of that support, I now design all of my courses with large ladies' tee which provide for short, regular and tournament ladies' distances," he said. To illustrate, Herfort drew up a scorecard for a hypothetical course — par 70 for women, par 68 for men. His courses measured 4,760 yards from the women's short tees, 5,085 from the regular tees, and 5,425 from tournament tees. Men's yardage was 5,085, 5,425 and 5,765.

"As holes are reduced in length," he said, "fairway width will generally become narrower. Let's make golf a game of accuracy rather than brute strength." He cited other advantages to yardage reduction. "Golf courses designed in such a manner can be played in 3 1/2 hours, handle 20 percent more people in a day, can be built at 20 to 30 percent less land cost, with less maintenance upkeep."

Sand Trap Requirements, How To Estimate Your Need

Ottawa Silica Co., Ottawa, Ill., has prepared a short way for a golf course superintendent to estimate his sand trap needs:

- Sand weight — 96 pounds per cubic foot.
- One ton of sand — 22 cubic feet.
- One ton of sand will cover 66 square feet at a depth of four inches or 44 square feet at a depth of six inches.
- Average sand trap will use five to eight tons of trap sand at a four-inch to six-inch depth.
- Formula to determine amount of trap sand required — length x width x depth x 96 ÷ 2,000 = tons.