

News

PUBLIC COURSES

Government golf group promoted by OPRA

Following up on an idea initiated by Cincinnati Supervisor of Golf Gene Burress (see GB, June 1978, p. 6), Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Executive Director David Chuha has mailed a proposal to approximately 50 people connected with municipal and other government-operated golf courses in the state, inviting them to join the OPRA and create a new chapter devoted solely to their needs and problems.

Chuha told GOLF BUSINESS that the government golf section would be one of several "special interest" groups within the 600-member OPRA, which now has "very few" golf course members. The mailing sent out by Chuha explains the idea for the government golf section and offers a 50 percent discount on dues for

the remainder of 1978. It also proposes a meeting of government golf people at the OPRA annual convention to be held at the Columbus Sheraton Hotel November 5-8.

Burress, a member of the GOLF BUSINESS Advisory Board, said that if the Ohio group was well-received, "It could even grow into a national organization under the National Recreation and Park Association." The OPRA is affiliated with the NPRA, according to Chuha.

Government golf course managers, superintendents, professionals, and others in Ohio should contact David Chuha for further information. Write to OPRA, 33 South James Rd., Columbus, OH 43213 or call 614/231-0781.

OSHA

Court says inspectors must get warrants

In a recent five-to-three decision, the United States Supreme Court ruled that federal inspectors from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration must obtain search warrants to inspect workplaces — but also made warrants easy to get.

In actuality, OSHA inspectors must obtain warrants only if employers refuse to allow an inspection — and OSHA chief Eula Bingham has stated that federal inspectors would continue to make surprise visits to check workplaces for safety and health violations. She was quoted in the Wall Street Journal as saying that inspectors denied access "have been instructed to deal with such refusals in a courteous and responsible manner, leave the premises promptly, contact Labor Department attorneys and obtain a warrant."

Under the Supreme Court ruling, to obtain a warrant, OSHA need only show a court that a specific business had been chosen for a spot check on the basis of a general enforcement plan and wasn't being singled out for arbitrary reasons.

OSHA officials have said that the federal agency was not recommending any particular course of action for state health and safety agencies, but it is expected that most will follow the federal example.

officials, reviews of case files, and workplace visitations made with OSHA inspectors.

GOLF DEVELOPMENT

Objectives revealed at NGF meeting

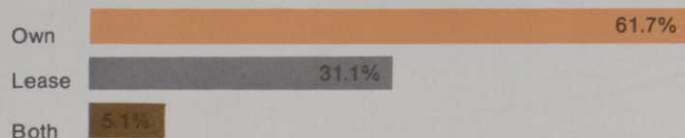
Future emphasis of National Golf Foundation programs will continue to be on player development and on development of public courses, it was reported at the NGF semiannual board meeting in May.

Dunlop's Dean Cassell, elected to a second term as president at the meeting, listed the main objectives as 1) to increase the number of golfers by 500,000, 2) to increase rounds of play at an annual rate of 5 percent, 3) to emphasize public course development and assist private clubs on request, 4) to seek a broader base of financial support in order to accomplish the first three objectives, and 5) to do as many operational studies as possible to keep a course from closing or to improve its operation.

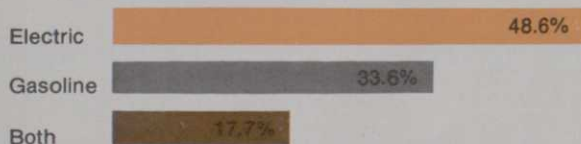
It was announced that each of the eight NGF regional directors is developing a Community Golf Profile on every city of 50,000 or more in his area, which should identify specifically where the Foundation's services and efforts should be concentrated.

GOLF CAR OPERATIONS

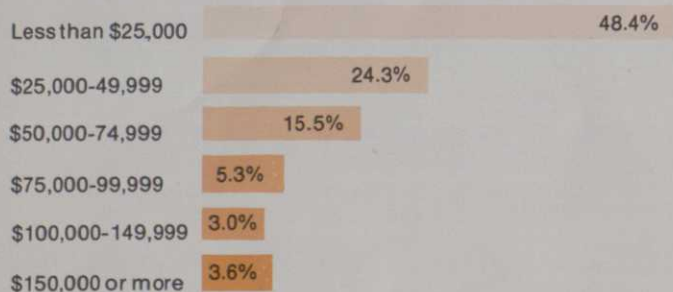
Do you own or lease your golf cars?



What type of golf cars do you have?



What is your gross rental from golf cars?



From a 1978 GOLF BUSINESS survey.

GAO says inspectors overlook hazards

Congress' investigative agency, the General Accounting Office, recently contended in a report that inspectors from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration often overlook serious safety hazards and don't do enough to be sure others are corrected. The GAO also said that the 25 state-operated, OSHA-approved health and safety programs are doing an inadequate job.

OSHA replied that many of the instances cited in the GAO report have already been addressed by new OSHA programs and policies, and that other cases were extreme examples caused by such things as "an overload of employee complaints in one area office."

The GAO based its report on interviews with OSHA and state

TURF MAINTENANCE

Winter overseeding subject of meeting

The current "state of the art" of winter overseeding in the South was the featured topic of discussion at a roundtable meeting recently sponsored in Boca Raton, Fla., by the Seed Production and Introduction Corp. (S.P.I.C.), an organization which produces and markets Pennfine perennial ryegrass nationwide. The meeting was held in cooperation with Pennsylvania State University, where Pennfine was developed. Several leading turf professionals in the Boca Raton area also attended.

"Overseeding is definitely an art," said Turfgrass consultant Dr. Max Brown. "Seed selection is probably the most vital key. Good seed must germinate quickly, resist diseases, stand up under heavy traffic, and make a smooth