

Women Also Sparkle in Links Maintenance

by John W. Stewart

A couple of 3-putt greens or a beautiful drive which suddenly takes off at a 90-degree angle for the great beyond are enough to make any golfer think the eyes are playing tricks.

The same is true on at least two area gold courses where women are employed in the maintenance crews. For golfers accustomed to seeing only males doing the work, it comes as a bit of a shock to discover females handling heavy equipment and doing all the other jobs associated with keeping a course in top condition.

It shocked at least one player at Hunt Valley, where Jocelyn Price is in her first season as a member of superintendent Bob Orazi's crew.

As the 19-year-old Phoenix resident explained, "Two men came up to me on the course one day and said they had a bet as to whether I was a girl or a boy. They saw me from the back, and with my hair braided I guess they couldn't tell. Then I turned around and that settled it."

Angie Cammarota, superintendent at Hobbit's Glen, has had Sally Heckendorn on his crew for three years and Sarah Zoller for two, and as he said, "It dignifies the whole operation, and they are such good workers, it keeps the rest of my crew on their toes."

Miss Price, a junior physical education major at the University of Maryland, lives about a mile from the Hunt Valley and went to Orazi for an interview.

"I had worked on our dairy farm all my life, was familiar with operating heavy equipment, and loved being close to nature," she said. "The only drawback was I didn't know a lot about golf, but that didn't seem to make any difference. Now, since being around it, I have become interested and would like to learn to play the game."

Possessed of a contagious vitality and a good humor which keeps a smile present at all times, Miss Price told Orazi she would not mind the hours or the work since she was used to both.

The hours are 45 for a six-day week, plus an occasional Sunday shift, with the day beginning at 6 A.M. That is enough to put a slight crimp in her social life, but the healthy-looking blonde explained that she just tells her dates she has to be home by 11. "Some of them don't like that," she added with a laugh.

Miss Price does all the things her male associates do — cuts greens, rakes traps, mows fairways, and runs the equipment. "I just didn't realize how much work goes into this job," she continued, "but I love it. And these are such good people to work for. They really make it a pleasure."

Orazi said that her farm and physical education background were definite pluses for hiring his first female worker.

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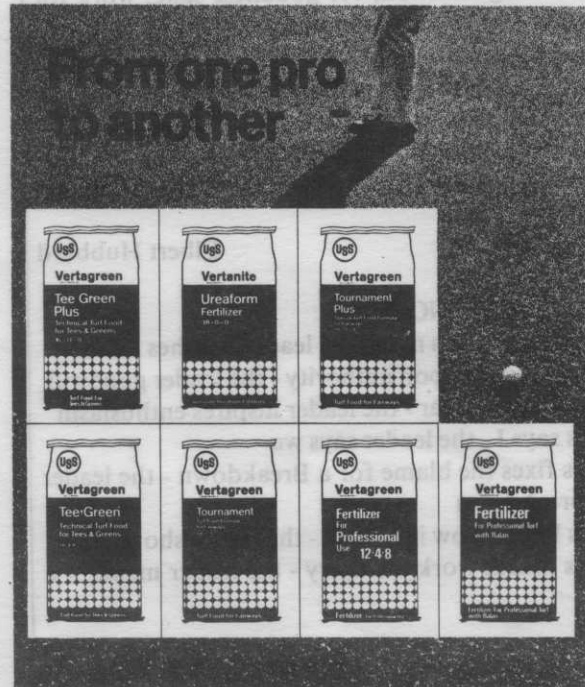


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