

Suggestions in Figuring Budgets -- by Jack Baker

In this age of highly specialized maintenance equipment it has become necessary to employ skilled technicians to keep golf course machinery in proper working order and reduce down-time to the very minimum. Skilled mechanics are not easy to come by, those with up-to-date information on electronics, hydraulics and special engine applications.

Many manufacturers are offering orientation courses, service schools and other training tools, so that maintenance personnel can be equipped with knowledge and tools and devices to do the job right. Some factories are selling special designed tools to use reducing the danger of using the wrong instrument to accomplish the desired results. Time and again we find in answering service calls that costly equipment has been obviously abused and put out of action by inexperienced mechanics.

It might be argued that such educational processes are too time-consuming and expensive to warrant sending service personnel to these schools for proper training. However to Club management it must be apparent that when equipment is out of service this is also a costly situation that could be avoided if only the maintenance man knew what he was to do with a bit of preventative-maintenance know-how.

Another important factor worth mentioning is the importance of carefully reading and understanding equipment-maintenance manuals. These are quite costly for the manufacturers to put together and too many times they are relegated to the well-known circular file rather than kept in a handy place in the shop to refer to when necessary. Many times these manuals contain valuable information in running down service problems also how to avoid them.

In closing let me make this suggestion - when you figure your next budget include an allowance for sending one or two of your service personnel to the equipment service schools provided by the distributor or the manufacturers.

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LEE MESERVY, Retired Golf Course Superintendent, writes "Hello Everyone" Since retiring pleasant memories are many, as the Mrs. and myself think of the many friends we've met in the Association. This being a pleasure I find hard to describe.

Being able to boast of good health, a location to our liking. remodeling an older home, giving care to fruit trees, berries, garden spot, shrubs and small lawn are ways some of our time is spent.

Sightseeing, fishing and visiting friends are pleasures we enjoy.

Should business or pleasure be your lot and plans bring you to Oregon a short stop at Grants Pass at the Meservy's for a coffee break and friendly chat would certainly add to our pleasure.