Golf Course Builders Of America

Hold Third Annual Meeting

How the design of a golf course can affect the speed of the golfer's playing time, and the problems of building golf courses were among the topics at the 3rd annual dinner of the Golf Course Builders of America in Anaheim, Calif. Roy Goates, golf manager for the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks department spoke on golf course design and speed of play, while Ronald W. Fream, a golf course architect from Los Gatos, Calif., told of the problems of constructing foreign courses. Fream's firm, Fream/Storm Associates, has designed a number of overseas courses.

On the domestic construction front, dinner guests heard a panel titled "How to Build It", featuring contractors Robert E. Chakales of Richmond, Va., and Nick A. Siemens of Fresno, Calif. The moderator was Frank Underwood, a golf course contractor from Bowie, Texas, and the 1974 president of the Golf Course Builders of America.

Economics of golf course construction were covered by Don A. Rossi, executive director of the National Golf Foundation, Chicago. His topic was "The Golf Market."

Undercover Agents
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According to Charles Wessel, vice president of Interstate Service Corporation, a Globe Security company (AMEX), the rather recent turn-about in industry's attitude towards the undercover worker has resulted in increased protection against the mounting cost of crime, now rising above the $5 billion figure in the U.S. alone.

"A short while back," Wessel said, "an undercover agent was considered to be a spy who would 'rat' on his co-workers. He was hired as a last recourse, only in the case of an unsolved grand theft, or a very large, steady drain on the company's profits that was obviously the work of an inside thief."

"Then, likely as not," Wessel explained, "when the thief or wrong-doer was caught, he would be let off without pressing charges because of misguided judgment about company morale or concern for the man's family. This permitted him to be free to join another company and continue his lifestyle of crime, probably becoming more expert in it as his experience grew."

"This situation was compounded by the fact that, as the size of business grows, so does the rate of crime. It is almost impossible today for a head of a medium-sized or large-sized company to be fully aware of those activities of his employees that are detrimental to the company's good financial health."

"This includes everything from the disappearance of cash or merchandise, inventory shortages, a rise in sales without an accompanying rise in profits, poor production that may be the result of timecard cheating, excessive overtime, unauthorized discounts, shortages in merchandise, excessive complaints from customers, and unexplained drops in company morale."

"The acknowledgement on the part of the farm and industrial equipment industry of the role of the undercover agent has done much to implement management's new get-tough policy on crime," he said.

"And," Wessel went on, "a clearer understanding on the part of management or just who the undercover man or woman is and just what the duties are, will most certainly result in increased use of the agent and increased savings on the part of management."

He suggests that undercover agents be placed at strategic jobs in the company, either in the area of suspected crime, or in a situation where they have freedom of movement to make widespread observation more readily.

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