

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of THE  
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE  
SUPERINTENDENTS.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There being no local meeting this month of September and being very busy, I do not have much to write about. However I have a little story about golf and golf courses which my daughter Mary wrote when she was in college. Thought you might like it.

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GREENS' PESTS — by Mary Cassier

A golf course manager has many problems confronting him in his work. One of his most important jobs is to exterminate various insects from the greens which in his estimation are "poison on the green".

For this, many types of chemicals are brought into use and scientists are constantly experimenting with various methods which prove very beneficial in insect eradication.

Some of the most troublesome pests known to golf course caretakers are cut-worms, Japanese beetles, common earth-worms, web-worms, etc. Arsenate of lead is applied to the greens to put an end to these menaces.

Another big headache for greenskeepers is "Brown Patch" which appears overnight in humid weather and if not treated in time, kills entire greens very quickly. Brown patch can be detected in time and therefore greensmen must ever be alert in order to avoid loss.

People generally do not realize the value of a green. Building a good green involves much time and expense and it is only through constant care that the greens can be properly maintained. The green is actually composed of black dirt, sod, peat, and a good strain of Bent grass. It must have special drainage and much attention is paid to the fertilization of the grass. All this, together with chemicals makes an expensive project.

Proper watering and air and sunshine are very important as is the proper length to which grass should be cut. Fertilizer is applied in proper amounts and the greens aerified at regular intervals to insure healthy grass. This is all done to establish a good root system for Bent grass which is necessary in order to give good service with many golfers using it.

However, we have discovered from experience that many pests which antagonize greenskeepers are of the human variety. I should like to enumerate and elaborate moderately on a few of them.

The first one that comes to my mind is the human pest known as the "sorehead". He misses a putt and blames it on the green and beats the green with his putter - probably jumping up and down at least a couple of times and leaving dents from both the club and the spiked shoes.

Next we mention the "javelin thrower". He takes the flag from the cup and throws it mightily across the green out of his way. Of course, his ball is only about a foot from the cup but he needs room so why worry about another mark on the green. This type often shares his clubs with other members of his foursome, tossing his putter at random on the green. This is a good way to lose a putter in case it is forgotten lying on the ground.

The third "poison on the green" is known as the "gopher". His ball lands on the soft green from an iron pitch making a hole similar to a gopher hole. He completely ignores this as he walks off the green on his way to the next tee. The correct etiquette in this instance would be to repair the damage which his ball caused.

Let us not omit the "insect" known as the "brain". He is the fellow who knows *all* the rules, including many of his own. However, he does not hesitate to tramp through the sand traps, pulling his cart past the "No Carts Beyond This Point" sign and passing squarely across the greens as he leaves for the next tee.

The "billiard player" is one of the most common. Before putting, he kneels on the green, lining up the ball with the cup. After he is gone, we find his prints in the turf - knees, arms, and probably nose.

The next pest is restricted to the female species - known as the "spike". She feels she looks better and is more attractive in high heels so why not wear them. Her score is not important but her appearance is. She is easy to locate anywhere on the course as she leaves her trail of heel marks.

Then there is the "book-keeper" who takes time to figure the scores before leaving the green. This variety also includes the "gambler" who must pay off or be paid off on every hole. The fact that another foursome is waiting to approach the green does not disturb him in the least. This usually brings a clash of conversation between the parties involved which all adds to the fun.

We can not forget the "leaner". He is so tired when he gets on the green that he cannot stand alone and must rely on his putter to support him. He is of the same species as the "relaxer" who after putting merely sprawls out for a moment while his foursome finishes.

A less plentiful variety of pests is the "putterless golfer" who forgets his putter and hence, uses a different club on the green. This type we sincerely try to exterminate because although they are not too plentiful, they are very destructive.

In conclusion, let us consider the "bad loser". He usually starts out as the life of the party becoming more glum and sullen as his score increases and exceeds the others in his foursome. By the time he is half through, he no doubt develops some ailment and picks up his ball and leaves the golf course. This we appreciate because usually if he continues to play, he seems to get his revenge from destruction.

These are several of the human pests which I can name. No doubt there are more. However, we find also that there are very agreeable and welcome humans who compensate for this unwelcome variety.

My father, who has been a golf course superintendent for many years, has learned to ignore many of these disturbances and takes the bitter with the better as an antidote for the "poison".