

THE HOUSE YOU LIVE IN

The house you live in. Is it owned by the country club where you tuck in the fairways and pull the covers up over the traps before they go to bed each night?

If you happen to be included among this all too slowly-vanishing breed of superintendent, perhaps the arrangement is ideal. But for the most part, what usually comes from such a togetherness existence results in added woes and discomfort for the golf course's star boarder.

The practice of throwing the super a bone in order to make the job opportunity appear that more lucrative, thank heavens, is losing its appeal.

There have been several examples of bad tastes erupting from the mouths of those who accepted such a candy-coated deal.

The typical house and lot setup goes something like this: In all likelihood the house looks as though it might not stand long enough to even be condemned. Usually, it is a castoff and the little woman who inherits it as a reward for being married to the duped super suddenly discovers she should have listened to mother before taking the big step. Thus, the association of new club and new superintendent gets off to a terrifying internal spat and start.

From there, things only can get worse. There are instances when club presidents, greens chairmen and other hi-falutin' members look upon the grounds residence as a number of conveniences. With them it always is open house, a free bar and only a stone's throw from some silly complaint.

The super with the built-in house also suffers the ravages of being on call 24 hours a day. It is not uncommon to be summoned from a Sunday afternoon at home with the wife and kiddies because some club whip had his ball bruised by a sprinkler head. It should be removed at once "or the board of governors shall receive a letter" from his highness.

Even the occasion of living within wedge distance of the course makes for an unnatural feeling. As one superintendent aptly described it . . . "I don't want to wake up in the morning, look out the window and see that damn course staring at me when I have to live with it the rest of the day."

In addition to these setbacks, there are a number of other arguments to direct the super away from on-the-course living. One lesser publicized fact is the possibility of future financial sickness, because of the loss of opportunity to accumulate equity on a mortgage which sometimes acts as an incentive in owning your own home.

The sermon here is not in direct opposition to the practice, should the individual superintendent realize the pitfalls involved but still accept the lure of free housing. It is more of a warning to those, who might plunge into such a happy-sounding affair, then regret it while still having to live with it. No matter how you slice it, the word for the day on this matter is "caution." The house you live in may make the difference between a happy and sour association with your next post along the golf course beat.

— Gerry Finn
GCSA of New England

PRESS RELEASES from Buchen & Co.

Paul Voykin, golf course superintendent, Briarwood Country Club, Deerfield, Illinois, will be a featured speaker at the 40th International Turfgrass Conference and Show, January 19-24, 1969, at the Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida.

James W. Brandt, president, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the sponsoring group, said Voykin will speak on "Efficiency In Operations Which Help The Superintendent."

Author of "A Perfect Lawn The Easy Way," which will be published by Rand-McNally in 1969, Voykin began his turf career at Olympia Fields (Illinois) Country Club before becoming golf superintendent at Calumet Country Club, Homewood, Illinois for three years. He was then named to his present position.

A native Canadian, he is one of three brothers, all of whom are golf course superintendents. A fourth brother operates a driving range. Voykin is the current vice president, Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

Charles C. Vance, vice president and director, Buchen Public Relations, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, will be a feature speaker at the 40th International Turfgrass Conference & Show, January 19-24, 1969, at the Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida.

James W. Brandt, president, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the sponsoring group, said Vance will speak on "What To Look For In the Future — Public Relations."

Born in Streator, Illinois, Vance joined Buchen in 1961. Previously, he was vice president, Mayer & O'Brien, Chicago Public Relations firm, for nine years; acting superintendent, departmental reports, State of Illinois and assistant city editor, Illinois State Register, Springfield, Illinois.

Some 40 other speakers also will be featured during the show's four and one-half day educational program. Included will be research scientists, agronomists, golf course superintendents, and officials of other golf agencies, Brandt said. However, the conference will be open to students, non-association members and persons in allied and related industries.

Frank Dobie, golf course superintendent, The Sharon Golf Club, Sharon Center, Ohio, will be a feature speaker at the 40th International Turfgrass Conference & Show, January 19-24, 1969, at the Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida.

James W. Brandt, president, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the sponsoring group, said Dobie will speak on "Efficiency In Operations Which Help The Superintendent."

The recipient of a Golf Course Superintendent Association of America Scholarship, Dobie was graduated from the Turfgrass Management Course, Pennsylvania State University in 1960. Subsequently, he held positions at Bob O'Link Golf Club, Highland Park, Illinois; Sleepy Hollow Country Club, Brecksville, Ohio and Fairlawn Country Club, Akron, Ohio.

In 1964, Dobie was placed in charge of construction of the men only Sharon Golf Club near Akron and was named golf superintendent when the club opened for play July 1966.

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