

BIG GEORGE By Virgil Partch



"No, he's NOT Arnold Palmer, Ninny. He's the GROUNDKEEPER!"

CARTOON CONTEST CORNER

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PROMPT SERVICE

ARE WE POLICE?

A number of editorials have recently appeared in Chapter newsletters regarding the role of superintendents in suppressing vandalism on the golf course. We are reprinting from the Mid-Atlantic Newsletter —

Alright! What the hell do you kids think you're doing here?? Get off this golf course before I run you off!!!

Sounds familiar, doesn't it? How many times last summer did you run some trespassers off just like that? Bet you even used the same words too, didn't ya'? Well, consider this while you're reading this by the fireplace this evening; A superintendent named Herman Miller from Champaign, Illinois tried the same technique at shooing some vandals off his course. Result — they turned on him and ironically enough, beat him to death with golf clubs!

There was another case in Long Island where a super wound up in the hospital from exactly the same thing.

Case in point — we are not police. We are hired to maintain the golf course. Maintenance does not encompass any phase of police work unless you have an unusual contract.

It seems that the majority of the supers, in accepting more salary each year, are expected to take on more responsibility to prove their merit. This is good to a point, but let's not forget one small thing. We are paid for our professional knowledge. We are trained in turf management, not police work. NO golfgreen, green, clubhouse, or piece of equipment is worth jeopardizing your health, safety, or your life for. Police officers are not expected to know and do our job, so doesn't it seem logical that we shouldn't try to do theirs?

However, for those of us who call the police and see the vandals apprehended, then immediately released because of fear, apathy, or whatever, on the part of the club officials, we are faced with a serious problem. This is the case at several area courses, one of which is all too familiar. If this is your particular situation, then welcome and good luck. Security is always a problem where there is a vast expanse of open space with no fence around it for protection. Let's hope club officials become aware of the problems that come with a laxness in punishing the people who damage their investments on the course.

Know the phone number of the closest police station and USE it! Don't, Don't jeopardize yourself and try to be a J. Edgar Hoover. It's not worth the effort!

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