

PARK RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB
PARK RIDGE, ILLINOIS 60068
Carl Grassl, Supt.

Editorial

RESPONSIBILITY

Where does the greatest amount of responsibility lie among the three major departments of your club? Have you heard mention "If it wasn't for the golf course, this country club wouldn't be here."? Doesn't set too well with the club manager or golf pro, and rightly so. However we look at it, we all are spokes of a large wheel that keeps the club facility rolling along. We as golf course superintendents can readily understand this situation, but what about the employees that work under us. Their interpretation of golf course maintenance work is just short of construction work, anyhow since O.S.H.A. they feel that way with wearing hard hats and safety shoes, thus the responsibility they feel somehow far exceeds that of the club waitresses or pro shop employees. Surely when it comes to wages, the grounds crew will feel that their wage rate should be considerably higher than employees in other facets of club operation.

Again we are speaking of this realization from our standpoint. Look at it from the club members standpoint. First of all, unless the superintendent has promoted good relations between the grounds operation and the membership through the club newsletter or club bulletin, members scarcely realize the existence of a grounds crew other than that fellow that wouldn't shut off his machine while I was putting. The constant communication between members and club house employees does promote a better understanding of operational problems, because of quick, on-the-spot explanations. By the time any controversial subject about the golf course reaches the superintendent, it has been completely blown out of proportion, in which case a long train of reasoning is required to correct matters of a simple nature.

Getting back to responsibility, valuable real estate is being cared for by the golf course maintenance crew, a fact that is taken for granted by most people, unless the course condition is in a declining state. Employees on our grounds crews are instilled through us, the superintendent, to take pride in caring for the golf course. Seems a shame if this pride is severed because of a communication break down between the superintendent and the membership. A realization that the golf course is in good shape because of the pride the crew takes in their work, must be maintained.

OK, answering the question, does the grounds crew employee carry a higher degree of responsibility in his daily tasks? The fact that he is responsible for performing this task seven days a week, might give it an edge. Also; considering the type of employee, hiring fellows with golfing backgrounds, good golfers themselves and/or fellows who have been former caddies at your club and understand the golf course from two angles; first hand knowledge of the terrain and the knowledge of the type of golf course the members want from favorable comments and criticism received while carrying for most of them. Thus a higher degree of responsibility is shown through higher quality workmanship, stemming from a deeper knowledge of all phases of golf. Food for thought.

Carl J. Grassl

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The following letter is one I recently received from Melvin Lucas Jr., chairman of the G.C.S.A.A. Historian committee. I pass it on to you for your help. Anything you can do will be appreciated.

June 21, 1974

Mr. Ray H. Gerber
865 Hillside Avenue
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137
Dear Ray:

An active membership is the lifeblood of any association. I am pleased that you have agreed to work with me on the Historian's Committee.

I am required to report on the activities of this phase of the association's activities at each Executive Committee Meeting, and welcome your input. I hope that this committee can be an active one. If you have any suggestions, complaints, or comments, please tell me so that I can include them in my reports.

The activities of this committee are currently directed at determining sources of memorabilia and artifacts which relate to the history of GCSAA. There are two golf halls of fame which are in various stages of development. The first is at Pinehurst, and we understand their building is now constructed and they are starting to induct members into their hall. The second is the Foxburg Country Club in Pennsylvania. They are not quite so far along with their facility, however. In addition, the GCSAA will be celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary at the Sylvania Country Club in Ohio in 1976.

Current thinking of the Executive Committee is that we will have exhibits at each of these locations depicting our history. Current plans call for these exhibits to be pictorial as well as physical. Unfortunately, because of space and transportation considerations, the physical items must necessarily be small. For instance, at this point we could not display gang mowers and other such equipment.

I would appreciate as much help as you or any of your friends can give me in this matter. I have recently met Mr. Will Grimsley, author of *Golf, Its History, People and Events*, which was written in 1966. He has offered to help us during his travels. Also recently, I had the opportunity to spend some time with Robert Koontz, of Dayton, Ohio, who is said to be the single largest collector of golf memorabilia in the country. He has shown much interest in our task and is willing to aid in any way he can in setting up our Fiftieth Anniversary display at Sylvania. Also, we have been in contact with Mr. Joe Murdoch, who is Historian of the USGA Museum in Far Hills, New Jersey. Several members of our Historian Committee have also been contacted.

At this point, I would appreciate your writing to me and telling me what is available and where it is. We can then make arrangements for displays at these various places.

On another matter, we would appreciate hearing from you your comments on any activities that the association is involved in. The Executive Committee, of course, is interested in hearing from the membership. If your comments and/or suggestions fall outside my particular areas of responsibility, we will forward them to the Executive Committee member who is charged with that area.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Very cordially yours,
Melvin B. Lucas, Jr.
GCSAA Historian

Money is like fertilizer; it does no good unless it is spread around.