

"WOMEN WE HAVE KNOWN"

One year ago, as a bachelor, and president of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, Dr. Daniels would not permit me to present this expose. Values have changed, presidents of all kinds are victims of scandal, and true confessions are the order of the day. I am married now, and with women pushing their noses and busts into our profession, it's time to discuss our affairs with them.

I thought I had a unique situation at Silver Lake when a woman answered my want ad for seasonal outdoor help. Why not try her, I thought? In three years time, my one lady laborer became five, and I had my own harem.

Salesmen started calling at noon when the women were on their lunch break. Customer service and deliveries to Silver Lake was never better. The same salesmen kept tabs on which superintendent had just hired a college girl. They could tell you whether the girls were braless and other vital statistics.

In surveying fellow superintendents, I found the men who hired one female employee, generally increased the number to two or three. Most of the ladies did the same chores, regardless of their club affiliation. There are few jobs on the golf course that women cannot handle. Each of the superintendents thought his girls were "super". I have selected one (who had unusual talent) from each club; a series of herstories, if you will.

"Jesse"

Prestwick C.C.
Dick Trevarthan

Jesse was the original female worker on the southside of Chicago. Jesse, a farm wife, has retired and moved with her arthritic husband to Arizona. This mature lady mowed roughs with five gang blitzer units eight hours a day from April until frost. She wore slacks and tennis shoes to work, carried her lunch pail, and ate with the older men on the crew. Jesse was dependable and a perfectionist at her work. Since she was an older woman, the offensive language she overheard the men use did not raise a problem.

An interesting note: her son, Jim, received his PhD in plant pathology from the University of Illinois and is now employed with the duPont Co. and working with our friend, Bob Miller.

"Gloria"

Fox Lake C.C.
Ray Schei

Gloria, a nineteen year old high school graduate, was looking for outdoor work when she was hired. She is now one of five female crew members at Fox Lake. The girls work 40 hours a week, including the weekend. If they work Saturday one week, then they alternate and work Sunday the next week.

Gloria is a full time year 'round employee. In the summer she has sprayed greens, done sodding jobs, and ... shoveled sand up in the bunkers. During the winter she washes the equipment with a hot water

pressure cleaner, and has been grinding the bedknives. This past week Gloria attended the Toro Service Clinic held at Itasca C.C.

Last summer while wearing a halter top and short shorts to work in, she was "propositioned" by a foursome of golfers and has since changed her dress habits. Speaking of dress, during the winter Gloria dresses up one day a week complete with lipstick, and does secretarial work, payroll, etc. in the office.

"Debbie"

Glen Oak C.C.
Fred Opperman

Debbie is a college student majoring in landscape architecture. She and another girl maintain all the flower beds at Glen Oak, weeding, edging, and pruning. Debbie wears shorts to work, eats her noon meal at the clubhouse, and does *not* use the washroom at the barn but has access to facilities provided for the girl caddies.

With her horticulture background she has identified and labeled every tree and bush on the golf course. The superintendent has a map with complete inventory of his plant material. Debbie may not return this summer, but what an excellent source of talent, horticulture students looking for summer work!

"Mary Beth"

Marriott Inn Resort
Joseph Grenko

Mary Beth is a college student with a farm background. The superintendent was attracted to her when she worked as a waitress in the clubhouse. In 1974 Mary Beth operated a nine-gang fairway unit. Joe Grenko's appraisal, "the best damn tractor driver I've ever seen. No skidding, and no banged up trees. She was a natural."

For the 1975 season Grenko has hired five girls ... so far. They will start Monday March 17th and work year 'round. Starting pay will be \$3.00 per and rise to \$3.50 by autumn. Joe expects half his crew to be women.

The women will be supplied with Marriott uniforms which they *must* wear. A seven day work week prevails, and Grenko expects his women to do *all* the mowing, plus be available for night work making artificial snow, and snow removal jobs in the winter.

Grenko is convinced women labor is the direction to look, and prays his 1975 crew will provide more girls like Mary Beth.

"Claudette"

Silver Lake Golf Club
Dudley Smith

Claudette is a housewife and mother desiring to supplement the family income, but the idea of outside work "turned her on". She is also an ecology nut. Claudette collects mushrooms, berries, and asparagus while out mowing. She has a pet crow at home, and talks to the squirrels and ducks on the golf course.

Claudette can handle any of our mowing jobs and usually does the fungicide applications. She "begs off" when aquatic weed killers are applied (they harm the fish) or when arsenicals are used for Poa Annua control (you are killing the birds).

She wears shorts when it's hot, but normally it's levi's and a purple (Polish) sweatshirt. The girls have an extra set of clothes, in case they are caught in a thundershower.

This past season the girls did all the aerifying, verticutting, and clean up chores on all the greens and tees. Claudette and the other girls steamcleaned the dirty equipment when we disassembled it this winter, and they did an excellent job painting the flagpoles, ball washers, and tee benches. Women are naturally neater and they don't spill paint.

The women employees at Silver Lake have only worked Spring and Fall. They report in the morning after their children are on the schoolbus, and leave at 3:30 P.M. to resume their motherly duties. The women do *not* work on weekends or on school holidays. Since I have adequate schoolboy help during the summer months, the women fill the labor shortage that exists in early Spring and again in the autumn. Working only six hours a day fits nicely into their home schedule as well. The women eat their sandwiches at the barn with the male employees, but usually they are watching their diets and settle for an apple or a can of beer. They use the same washroom we use, but lock themselves in for privacy, they also keep the 'john' much cleaner than we did.

"Margaret"

St. Charles C.C.
Art Benson Sr.

Margaret is twenty years old and a full time employee at St. Charles. Her summer duties include mowing greens and grooming sandtraps. She does work weekends; Saturday one week, Sunday the next week.

Mr. Benson feels that the \$2.25 and \$2.50 per hour offered by Sears and Marshall Field Co. is disgraceful, his girls start for \$3.00.

Margaret was reprimanded by some of the women clubmembers for dressing too scantily, ... there was no objection from the men.

In the winter Margaret cleans and washes parts in the maintenance barn and does housecleaning in the clubhouse. Keeping the women on full time shampooing rugs, polishing furniture, dusting, etc. provides an experienced crew when Spring arrives. Mr. Benson feels women are *not* adept at snow removal tasks.

"Connie"

Edgewood Valley C.C.
Harold Frederickson

There used to be a mother and daughter waitress team in the Edgewood Valley clubhouse. Harold noticed that Connie needed some sunlight and fresh air and soon had her under his wing. Connie operated the 'Sand Pro' machine, assisted on the spray rig, and fertilized all the trees with the little fertilizer spikes.

Connie was calorie conscious and usually worked straight through the lunch period and went home early. She also took advantage of the club pool on Mondays, with the other clubhouse employees. Many of the clubhouse women were envious of this beautiful girl working with the men out on the grounds.

Harold tried Connie on a brand new triplex greenmower, and within an hour she had it in the lake. When he arrived at the scene, Connie was in tears. "How could I get angry?" he said.

Connie is majoring in modern dance at Arizona State University, and is currently working on the grounds at the Champions Golf Club in Houston, Texas.

Frederickson says, "I'm very happy with my girls. In fact, this winter we spent \$5,000 installing a ladies washroom and lounge in our maintenance shop."

1. What does O.S.H.A. have to say about women?
Practically nothing. If women fit our needs, then hire them.
 - a.) Make sure your girls are 18 years or older
 - b.) The minimum wage is \$1.90, but my survey showed golf courses were paying between \$2.40 and \$3.00
 - c.) Women may work 6 days a week, 8 hours each day.
 - d.) Safety shoes with steel toes and hardhats are *not* required, but strongly suggested.
 - e.) Regarding washrooms, one toilet must be provided for each fifteen employees. Make sure the door can be locked from the inside, and cover the window with a curtain. Suggest females use the halfway house, rather than the barn facilities.
2. Women want equal pay for equal work, and they desire a variety of jobs, not the same machine every day. I might add some longtime male employees resent the women getting all the "gravy" jobs.
3. I have found some jobs impractical for the ladies. They are not strong enough to change hole cups, or unload truckloads of fertilizer.
4. Try to keep your women isolated with individual assignments, this will reduce the time spent at the coffee pot, and curtail the gossiping.
5. You will notice that with women employees you have a cleaner golf course. First, they will stop and pick up a paper cup rather than mow it into confetti. Secondly, the four letter words will disappear from the barn walls, and verbal profanity will be a thing of the past.
Are you tired of discussing the weather with your assistant?
Are you tired of smelling the grease and gasoline on your mechanics coveralls?
Why not stop and pick som peonies with Debbie?
How about checking the water temperature at the pool with Connie?
Get a few wild ideas in your head, and then go home, thinking this golf course work isn't so bad after all.

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