

Memories of Super-Dog

Every year lately superintendents have said that vandalism on golf courses is worse than the year before. Kids running automobiles, motorcycles and captured golf carts over greens, the stealing of flags and poles, damage to course accessories and buildings continue to grow ulcers for the men in charge of the courses.

But really the vandalism is nothing new; simply aggravated by the refinements and expense of modern courses and fittings.

About 1905 Dave McIntosh was pro-greenkeeper at the Calumet Country Club in the then southeast corner of Chicago.

Caddies who didn't realize how golf and association with gentlemen golfers developed character and beautiful manners, or perhaps other neighborhood brats, used to steal flags, poles, hose and sprinklers left around greens and do things in the tee sandboxes and cups you just wouldn't believe.

This vandalism was getting to be mighty annoying until Mr. McIntosh got himself a young collie he schooled in preserving law and order on the course. The collie was an apt, even enthusiastic pupil.

At nightfall Mr. McIntosh would open the kitchen door of his house on the border of Calumet and the collie would fare forth.

Maybe an hour later, the collie would scratch on the door and Mr. McIntosh would admit him. If it happened to be a good hunting night, Mrs. McIntosh would still be knitting and Mr. McIntosh would be smoking his pipe and reading the paper.

But always, early or late, Mr. McIntosh would pour a saucerful of spirits and place it by his chair. When Man's Best Friend is sort of tired from running around a golf course and slightly choked from seats of boys' pants and shreads of naughty boys' fannies, there's nothing better to clear a collie's throat than a wee nippie.

There was golf course vandalism threatened that didn't come off when the Capone hoodlums were flowering in evil in Chicago. Tough young men got the idea they could start themselves unions and get rich and powerful.

Several budding mobsters passed out word they were going to organize golf course greenkeepers and their crews into a union. The workers who weren't quick to join would have greens ruined with gasoline and acid and other damage would be done to the courses.

There was concern, even fright, at the prospect but that alarm didn't extend to genuine artists, usually those of Italian ancestry, who were taking care of the courses.

These pastoral executives didn't scare easy. They sent out echoes to the threats. "Anybody who makes me have to grow new grass is going to have to grow himself a new head."

Many of those course tenders were hunters, well equipped with arms and ammunition in case pheasants, quail, rabbits and other edible items planned to attack them.

So when men gainfully employed went out to water greens at night or merely to enjoy the evening air,

the nocturnal stillness was punctured by shotgun blasts or the whine of a rifle slug. There was talk about cars on roads going past courses and having little blobs of lead ping against windows and windshields but there wasn't much more conversation beginning, "We are going to send our organizers around."

The men who created and preserved those golf courses as their works of art were dedicated to their careers. They loved to get paid, even as you and I, but their art came ahead of money.

Herb Graffis

C. E. STEWART and Associates Civil Engineer

Irrigation, Drainage, Water Supply, Pumping Plants
Design — Reports — Consultation — Supervision
18357 Homewood Ave. Homewood, Illinois

ROSEMAN

2620 CRAWFORD AVE. 864-1842
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

TURF EQUIPMENT HEADQUARTERS

ROSEMAN GANG MOWERS	FORD TRACTORS
TILLER RAKES	DEDOES AERIFIER
SNOW PLOWS	LOADERS
SEEDERS	LEAF MULCHERS
ROTO TILLERS	ROTARY MOWERS

SALES ● SERVICE ● PARTS ● RENTALS

- All Major Turf Supplies
- Par-Ex
- Bean Sprayers
- DuPont
- Chipco
- Vertagreen
- Daconil - Dacthal

Quality — Value — Service

PAARLBERG CHEMICALS

172nd & Paxton, So. Holland, Ill.
GR 4-3086 747-0630