

WHY YOUR SUPERINTENDENT SHOULD BE A GOLFER

REPRINTED FROM FLORIDA GOLF WEEK

I don't know personally of a lawyer who doesn't practice law, a doctor who doesn't use his knowledge to heal, an automobile mechanic who does not keep his hands at least partly greasy. I don't know of a chef who doesn't cook, a so on, ad infinitum.

I do know of clubs that do not allow their superintendents to play golf, except rarely. I even know superintendents who have never even played golf. I question either of these practices. Having been active since before grade school in the golf profession, and having had a father who had over 50 years in the business and other relatives in other parts of golf-related activities, from club members to employees, I just don't understand why a golf club would restrict the golf superintendents activity, playing golf. And I sure can't understand the superintendent who can't, or refuse to learn how to play the game.

How in the world can a non-golfer even understand all the intricacies of the game, a grassed golf course, if he cannot personally play the game, and come to appreciate the golfers' point of view?

I wouldn't want a non-participating doctor removing my appendix. I would not want an auto mechanic repairing my roof, and vice-versa. That's how important it is for the golf course Super to play the game. Years ago, my father was required to submit to the board two attested golf scores each and every week. No excuses were accepted for failure. It meant instant discharge.

His predecessor had been on the property as superintendent for over 20 years, and didn't even know the names of the clubs, much less how and where to use them. This golf club was probably one of the first in the country, back in 1928, to recognize this very important part of being a golf course superintendent.

In all the years since then, and even after Dad's retirement and passing that club has had only one superintendent who did not play the game. He didn't even finish two years on the job before he was discharged.

When you go from the best to the worst, spend \$50,000 more in an annual budget, and can't give a golfer a golfer's reason for the existing conditions, it must be that you don't know the game. Consequently, he was fired.

Your golf course superintendent doesn't have to be a par buster. Even if he can't break 100, you should see that your pro, or your superintendent set themselves a goal of getting him to shoot to least within the 85 to 95 range consistently. Their mutual effort at this task, and its being accomplished, will almost automatically make them work together for other good benefits from which the club and its members will profit from in all ways.

A superintendent who can play within the desired range can more adequately satisfy the golfers and committees. Logical answers will be given and

accepted. If you know he doesn't play the game, and question him about the something, the first thought in your mind is "How the he— does he know, he can't even play the game!"

One of the greatest assets a club can have besides a golfing superintendent, is to allow him to have other superintendents over to play with him periodically. He can get peer opinions from professional people for whom he has great respect. No one knows better the way to travel than a man who has already been there and back. Everyone benefits from such an extended privilege, especially the golfers at the four golf courses these four men represent. After all, the golfers are the people whom we most want to benefit.

I've learned more during the 4-5 hours playing with golf course superintendents than I did in the previous four years of college. There was theory in print. On the links, it was fact, in the presence of growing turf. If a picture is worth 1,000 words, problems solved on the spot, by group professionals mutually linked to the common good of all involved must be worth millions of words, and therefore, dollars.

So, get that superintendent out on the golf course, play with him if you're the chairman, or on the committee, or are a board member. Don't take his mind off the game while you're playing, you're both out for that, but try to mutually make the course better for all players. Then after you've finished the round, talk about problems, then it will be fresh in both minds.

LOSS CONTROL UPDATE

Insurance Tips

NEWS & IDEAS FROM YOUR INSURANCE AND LOSS CONTROL COMMITTEE

ELECTRICAL COMMON SENSE

Electrical common sense—we all have it, right? Or do we? How many times have you performed a task on or around electrical circuits and decided it wasn't worthwhile to shut off the main power supply? The statistics on the number of deaths and disabilities from electrocution each year are alarming. The surprising thing is that most fatal electrical shocks happen to people who should know better. Often we think that serious electric shock can only take place from high voltage circuits. This couldn't be further from the truth. Ordinary household current can be just as deadly. With its many variables the inherent hazard presented by electricity is phenomenal.

Take the case of an electrician who was working around an electrical circuit in which the power source hadn't been cut off. He struck a live wire and received burns over 60% of his body and is lucky he's still alive. A backhoe operator who was digging a trench and struck an underground power line wasn't so fortunate.

When working around electrical devices, more is needed than knowledge and common sense. A set of safety procedures should be drawn up and followed to the letter.