

President of American Society of Golf Course Architects Sees Continuing Boom in Golf Course Construction

The pent-up demand for new golf courses is not a short-term situation, but one that will continue into the next decade, according to Ken Killian, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

"We've seen a tremendous surge in remodeling work, as well as new course development in 1986, and that certainly will continue throughout 1987. Furthermore, that activity is across the board — real estate, resort, municipal and private courses," Killian noted.

"In fact," he added, "if economic conditions remain stable and the interest in golf continues to grow, the next 10 years could well become another 'golden age of golf' in the United States and Canada."

Killian pointed out that not only is the number of golfers growing, but that the frequency of their play is increasing, too. The ASGCA president said that this is due partly to the fact that Americans have more leisure time and more people are taking early retirement.

The Chicago golf course architect also identified regional population shifts, such as the ongoing trend toward Sun Belt cities. These year-round golfing markets are experiencing a continuing demand for new golf courses of all types.

Increasing numbers of women and senior golfers, Killian stated, are requiring architects to design more versatile courses that will accommodate all types of golfers. More of today's courses, for instance, have multiple tees that allow the low handicapper to test the full length of the course while the new player or high handicapper can use the front tees to play a course that is still a challenge.

ASGCA President Killian also projects a growing number of high-quality public courses, especially in smaller cities and suburban areas around metropolitan areas.

"Golfers who travel on business and play some of the country's outstanding resort courses are demanding new and interesting designs at home, and public and municipal courses will be coming on stream at a more rapid rate in the future," Killian predicted.

He added that anyone interested in building or remodeling a golf course may obtain free information from the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601.

To support his contention that golf will continue to boom in the next decade, Killian pointed to statistics discussed at the recent Golf Summit '86 meeting. Researchers have found that a modest 2% growth rate will generate nearly nine million new golfers by the year 2000; a 5% growth rate (only half the rate experienced in the 1960s) would result in more than 41 million total golfers by the year 2000.

"It is the responsibility of all those associated with the game of golf to make sure that this expansion is done well, with the highest level of professionalism, so that the next generation will look back and recognize that we not only planned well, but executed with a respect for the great traditions of golf," Killian said.

Position Available

Weber Park Golf Course Head Greenskeeper

Skokie Park District, a north suburban Chicago Metropolitan Park and Recreation Agency, a population of approximately 65,000, announces the opening of the Weber Park Golf Course Head Greenskeeper.

This position is directly responsible for the maintenance of a **small 9 hole, par 3 Golf Course** and adjacent Weber Park. The employee is under the direct supervision of the Supervisor of Landscape Services and Development, but is granted opportunities for independent action and exercises immediate supervision over full-time and seasonal golf course maintenance personnel.

Contact: Tom Lippert, Manager of Park Services, Skokie Park District, 4400 Grove Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076. Phone 312/674-1500.

Closing Date: January 16, 1987.

For Sale:

Fully Equipped Lawn Spray Trucks, Vans & Pickups. Assorted Herbicides & Fungicides (Unopened Containers), Spreaders, Spray Equipment, Spare Parts, Truck Tires, Side Boards, Bulk Tanks, & Misc. Items. For information call Bob Block at Tempo 21, 541-1335.

Editor's comment: In one of the newsletters that come across my desk is this interesting article which can very well apply to our golf courses.

The Safety Link

by Robert R. Maeglin

This message comes through the courtesy of the Michigan Association of Timbermen and the Michigan Logger Safety Training Program.

WANTED

Wanted for Manslaughter:

Name: Widowmaker

Description

Standing dead and dry tree, with limbs and tops which break off and fall with the wind or when struck by falling trees.

Armed and Dangerous

Considered to be the most deadly hazard in the woods (or golf course).

If you spot this killer in your working area cut him down immediately, thereby disarming him.

He may look innocent standing there but he is just waiting his chance, under cover of the noise of machinery or wind he may strike at any moment to kill or maim.

This killer has no feeling — is ruthless, will kill young or old, married or single.

BEWARE

May be spotted throughout the country.

REWARD — YOUR LIFE