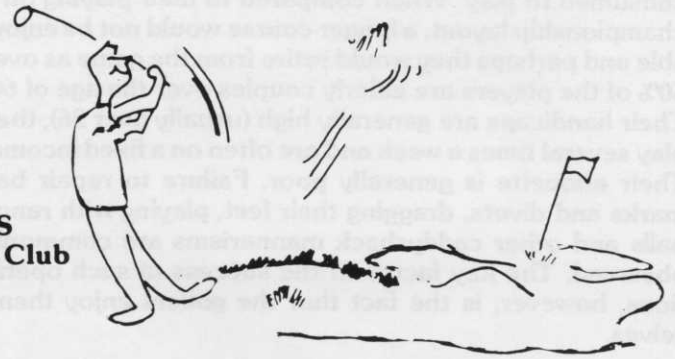


NORTH FLORIDA

DIVOTS

By **EDDIE SNIPES**
Selva Marina Country Club



“Working For The City”

The word municipal, according to brother Webster, means “self government locally”. Oh, but this is what a golf course superintendent has always wanted; to actually self govern the golf course and be the final word of authority. This is a nice thought but in reality a municipal golf course has a more complex situation than one might suspect.

Government of the municipality and the high number of rounds of golf played a year are probably the two main concerns of a superintendent of a municipal course. Generally, a superintendent works directly for the city as a city employee or for the golf pro who in some cases leases the course from the city.

Attitudes about the golf course will be pending at election time. The mayor, city manager, and councilmen will all have great impact on the golf course budget and the course itself from election to election. Monies derived from the golf course operation may be used to bail out faltering departments in the city rather than being put back into the golf course. In this case, flexibility of the superintendent and the ability to compensate and change maintenance direction are a key for continued success. Visibility of the superintendent and good public relations

might help to ensure needed appropriations for the golf course and promote a professional image to the governing bodies of the city.

With forty to fifty thousand rounds of golf played a year, or more, maintenance on a municipal course may be taking a back seat to the dollar sign. In a situation like this, less different heights of cut and chemical edging to reduce handwork are ways to maximize limited maintenance time due to heavy play. The importance of concentrating on doing a few things well and completely will be more beneficial on a municipal course than trying to over extend your maintenance abilities. Patience should be a prerequisite when hiring employees on a municipal course. Being able to understand and cope while working under heavy play conditions are a necessity. Many superintendents have good luck with retired or semi-retired personnel that have the demeanor necessary to work under such conditions and not be overly lax.

Municipal golf courses and municipal golf course superintendents bring golf to the masses. Their special problems and uniqueness should not be overlooked or side stepped because of the value that they hold in furthering the game of golf and our profession.■



Your Sand Man

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