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As I was interviewing Harvey for this article he was checking the plaques in his office regarding the dates in which he served in the different offices. He couldn't come up with the exact year for his term as President of The Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, because as he explained it, "I was about the 2nd or 3rd President way, way back about 15 years ago and no plaques were given out then."

After reading up on The Belleview Biltmore Hotel and Country Club it is easy to see why Harvey was motivated to remain with the resort for all these years. Called by some the "White Queen of the Gulf," the Belleview opened its doors on January 15, 1897. Construction of the hotel was begun in 1895 and continued through 1896. An army of workmen with mule-powered scrapers, wagons and carts graded the area and set the stage for masons and carpenters who erected the original one hundred forty-five room hotel. "Heart Pine," or Yellow Pine was brought in from north Florida and south Georgia. This type of pine solidifies with age and today the wood used to build the original West Wing rejects both carpenters' tools and termites' jaws.

Henry Bradley Plant, recognized as Florida's greatest 19th century railroad developer was more than any other person responsible for the identification of upper Pinellas County as the ideal location for a luxury resort which was to later become the Belleair and the Harbor Oaks section of Clearwater which includes the Belleview property. Mr. Plant's agents purchased those thousands of acres.

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15th Green, West Course.

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When on January 15, 1897, the Belleview opened its doors it soon became the favored winter retreat of railroad presidents, steel magnates, and other industrial barons. A special siding east of the hotel accommodated private railroad cars. Recreations most recognized at that time were: bicycling and walking, along with "SIX SPORTY HOLES OF GOLF WITH SHELL GREENS."

The SHELL GREENS caught my attention and I asked Harvey about them, "Shell was ground up to construct the greens, the surface was brushed and rolled daily," Harvey was quick to point out, "That was before my day, everything was grass when I came on board."

"The White Queen of the Gulf," the largest occupied wooden structure in the world, "The Grand Dame," 89 years old is now recognized as having introduced the world to resort golf. It may actually have been The Belleview that began the movement of golf towards the resort hotels.

Morton Plant, who took over the hotel after his father died in 1899, was an avid golfer. History states that, "From the time when Morton Plant took the helm at the Belleview, he felt strongly that golf, then in its infancy in this country, would play an important part in the resort's growth and development," since it was generally accepted then that grasses suitable for golf greens would not thrive in Florida and that sand greens were the only answer Mr. Plant began extensive experiments with grasses, soils, fertilizers and methods aimed at a solution. At his order, trainloads of gondola freight cars filled with rich topsoil from Indiana rolled over the rails...thus he became a pioneer in this field.

When Morton Plant assumed control of the hotel in 1899, the six holes were promptly expanded to a nine-hole course with sand greens, designed and constructed by Launcelot Cressy Servos. By 1909, the layout was extended to 18 holes. And by 1915, Plant hired Donald J.

Ross to design and oversee the construction of two 18-hole golf courses on the hotel grounds. Ross was and still remains one of the world's celebrated golf architects.

In the 1920's, golf course maintenance men were sent out in the early morning to remove snakes sunning in the sand traps. Today Harvey manages the 36 holes with a maintenance crew of 18 people and the snake detail has been eliminated. The golf holes stretch over a long, high bluff...the highest elevation in all coastal Florida...fairways follow natural terrain and features of the land as Ross found them. The high plateau, cut by creeks and ravines draining into the bay below, make for many rolling fairways and many natural water hazards uncommon in Florida.

The golf courses bordered by giant live oaks and lush tropical foliage with the blue waters of Clearwater Bay as a backdrop soon helped to cause the hotel to sprout wings, The East Wing was added in 1910, doubling the capacity of the hotel and The South Wing was opened in 1925 bringing the hotel up to its present room capacity of 400. The Belleview Biltmore has developed an identification with golf and with golfers that it will never lose. Having had the responsibility for maintenance and management of the golf courses for the past thirty-five years Harvey Phillips has a lot to be proud of.

On March 8, 1980, the Belleview Biltmore Hotel was recognized as a Historic Site and placed on The National Registry of Historic Places. The hotel has served four generations who have sought warm sunshine, gracious leisure, a wide variety of recreation and the relaxed serenity of a spacious private resort estate. I have a personal goal of visiting The Belleview Biltmore Resort Hotel in the very near future....

*The hotel is only open four months a year (January through late April). The seasonal private country club serves both members and hotel guests. ■



4th Green, West Course, as Donald Ross designed it.



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Tom Burrows, President, FGCSA accepts first place plaque for The Florida Green from Director and Awards Committee Chairman Jim Taylor. The Florida Green took first place for best cover and best overall.

The Gator Growls



Tempting Targets

By: Sandra P. Carmouche

Doughnuts on the greens; sunken golf carts in the lake behind the clubhouse; serpentine flagpoles wrapped around tree limbs.

Golf courses are tempting targets for vandals and the responsibility of dealing with them and the havoc they create usually falls to the superintendent.

Because the culprits generally strike at night on weekends and holidays, catching them is not easy. There aren't many people around and, even when witnesses are present, visibility is poor and identification is difficult.

Taking steps to reduce the chances of being vandalized is therefore the best solution to the problem and will result in fewer property losses.

According to Captain John McDougall, Director of Crime Prevention for the Lee County Sheriff's Department, most vandals are boys between the ages of 14 and 19. But Captain McDougall adds that disgruntled employees and dissatisfied members also make good vandals.

He further made the following suggestions as deterrents to vandalism.

- **Adequate Lighting**
Vandals don't like being seen and areas of particular concern, such as the clubhouse and maintenance buildings, should be well lit. Entrances, exits and service roads that allow access to the golf course should also have good lighting.
- **Reinforce Problem Areas**
If, for instance, there is a section of fence where vandals are getting through, string barbed wire at the top and bottom of the fence and if possible, light it.
- **Secure Items Left Outside**
Golf carts and equipment that must be left outside should be placed in areas that provide good lighting. Chain them if possible and make certain that the keys are removed.
- **Neighborhood Watches**
Make homeowners on the golf course aware of any problems with regard to vandalism and have them report anyone who looks suspicious.

- **Security Patrols**

Security guards are the most effective means of preventing vandalism. Hire an agency or an off-duty deputy; or, depending on the golf course, find out if homeowners and members would be willing to patrol the area. Also, local law enforcement agencies are very cooperative in providing area patrols when requested.

As a final suggestion, Captain McDougall cautions that vandals are frequently under the influence of alcohol or drugs and care should be used in dealing with them. He adds that prosecution is good once the vandals are caught and offenders may be made to pay for damages either with money or by working on the golf course.

Unfortunately though, by the time they are caught the damage has been done. Through prevention, a golf course superintendent can avert costly property damage. ■

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An Attempt to Reduce Vandalism

By: Jack Fogel, Director
Rock Island Park & Recreation Dept.
Illinois

The Rock Island Park and Recreation Department has recently compiled a complete report on vandalism during the calendar year of 1977. A similar report was compiled for the calendar year 1976, in which over \$21,000.00 was spent in vandalism related maintenance. The purpose of this inventory was to obtain an estimated dollar figure on the cost of vandalism and malicious mischief during a 12 month period throughout the facilities under the jurisdiction of the Park and Recreation Department.

The total cost included in the report reflects the damaged item, replacement value, and man hours involved. The vandalism impact related to loss of user participation cannot be determined but in the case of golf course damage, hundreds of rounds may be refused due to damaged greens or unfavorable playing conditions.

The amount of damage occurred during the year of 1977 totaled over \$9,000.00 Same time period in 1976, \$21,000.00 These figures are within a 5% variance for the periods involved. Vandalism does not only involve the

immediate loss of facilities, materials and time, but also involves the need to reschedule man power on such projects. This reduces the total production of the Department and many times normal capital improvement projects must be postponed.

The Rock Island Park and Recreation Department extended their research period over a 2 year span in an attempt to make various changes in their operational procedures in the combatants of vandalism. The total vandalism cost factor was reduced one half in the 2 year period. The reason for such a drastic cost reduction cannot be pin-pointed but certain rational can be mentioned.

Security patrols on a special contract basis were hired during the 1976 (\$21,000.00 period). At the end of 1976, with a \$21,000.00 cost factor and private security patrols, we felt we could afford to gamble. We did so by cutting the patrols and depended entirely on the city's police force. In doing this, we reduced overhead by \$3,200.00, plus spent 50% less on vandalism.


Vandalism in general, was down in Rock Island from 1976 to 1977. This information was substantiated through city police department information, plus experiences encountered by area school districts. School districts do not have accurate data to compare "dollars," but general consensus is that school facility damage is down approximately 15% to 20%.

All of this is in direct relation to a change in the attitudes of the general teenage population. The early 1970's teen, of which most of the vandalism revolved around, has changed. We feel the vandal prone teen of the late 70's has had a change of attitude either through education, a care for facilities, nature or whatever. In any case, we feel they are thinking before acting. This comment is based on more "assumption" than on fact.

In addition to the above statements, the Department has aggressively been working on vandal prevention precautionary methods. This we are sure has also had an effect in the 1977 reduced cost. In late 1975 through 1977, the Department has initiated various preventative measures. These steps have included:

- 1) Burglar alarm systems on all concession stands, pro shops, office buildings and major building sites.
- 2) A step-up in awareness, plus better city police patrol of park facilities.
- 3) Added lighting in troubled areas.

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(continued from page 46)

- 4) Up-graded illumination street light and security systems, by adding 80% higher wattage.
- 5) Constant inventory and replacement of "out" street lamps and security lamps.
- 6) Trimming of all trees and shrubs to provide greater light penetration and reduce potential hiding areas.
- 7) The promotion of more adult activities in facilities where vandal prone youth have created problems.
- 8) Publicity announcements making citizens aware of the cost involved and urging their support in notifying police when vandalism is in progress.
- 9) Revision of lock replacements to curtail break-ins.
- 10) Plus immediate repairs to damaged areas so as not to invite and/or suggest continued vandalism by later occupants of the facility.

Although the above methods will not eliminate vandalism completely, they do represent a step in the right direction in lessening the damage. ■

Arnold Palmer/Lofts Relationship Extended

Bound Brook, NJ — Arnold Palmer will continue to act as spokesman for Lofts products. That announcement was made recently by Palmer and Jon Loft, President of Lofts Inc., one of the leading U.S. seed companies.

The Palmer/Lofts relationship is somewhat unique in Palmer's involvement with the use of Lofts products. Lofts turf varieties are seeded on Palmer's golf courses at Latrobe Country Club in Latrobe, PA; The Bay Hill Club in Orlando, FL; and Ironwood Country Club in Palm Springs, CA. Lofts products also play an important role in the Palmer Course Design Company; Palmer and Golf Course Architect, Ed Seay, not only design courses throughout the world, but also develop special seed mixtures using Lofts turf varieties.

For the past several years, Palmer has represented Lofts on its packaging and advertising. Lofts even named a perennial ryegrass after Palmer, because of its outstanding performance.

Palmer was chosen by Lofts because of his unique position as pro golfer and course owner. In the latter capacity, Palmer takes an active interest in turf management, evaluating turf varieties from a performance and maintenance standpoint. His experience as pro golfer enables him to appreciate the special qualities needed for a playing surface.

Palmer's contract with Lofts has now been extended until 1989. ■

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The Art of Aerifying

By: Rich Roth

It's that time of year when most, if not all, Superintendents get geared up for their spring aerifying programs, some have already begun. It's also time to get out the antacids to relieve an ulcer, which if you don't have already you will probably develop real soon! Between the Membership's only not accepting but not understanding why you're punching those holes all over the course, you also can be guaranteed of your machinery going haywire during the course of your operations. I'd like to discuss the aerifying of greens and the three different techniques I've seen used on courses that I've been associated with.

The first course was in Tamarac, Florida. Ken Nicholson was the Superintendent at The Woodlands Golf Club and his procedure was as follows: Ken utilized a Dedoes Aerifier attached to a cushman truckster. Since the Dedoes aerifys and picks up the plugs and the operator

goes to a given area to dump the plugs to be used in areas where hopefully they will grow, the cost for man power is much less than aerifying with the Ryan Greensaire II's. But the penetration of the tines is not as good as with the Ryan's, which Ken did utilize on his most compacted greens.

At Boca Pointe Country Club in Boca Raton, Florida, Bill Jeffreys techniques was completely different. This year I understand he is using the solid hardened tines. But during the time when I was there we aerified the greens with two Ryan Greensaire II's. This operation is more time consuming than with the Dedoes and more man power is required to clean up the greens, but it gives the quality results that Bill strives for. Since the plugs are left on the green, you have to remove them. This requires three men to do the following: One to verti-cut the plugs, one to vacuum the plugs and one to mow the greens plus the two men who are running the aerifiers. All this is taken place before you can think about topdressing the greens. The only drawback to using the vacuum was that in the morning the plugs were moist and difficult to pick up, but by 10:00 or so they dried within the time it took to go from 1 green to another.

Now as Glen Klauks, Assistant at Delray Dunes Golf & Country Club in Boynton Beach, Florida, a third technique will be discussed. Just like Bill's method at Boca Pointe, two Ryan Greensaires are used, one which should be in the Smithsonian Institute!!! The cleaning up procedure is much more time consuming than either of the other two ways I've already mentioned. The plugs are removed by pushing the plugs into piles with the use of a trap rake. As you push the plugs the soil separates from the plug and starts to fill the holes, which means less topdressing will be needed. Again, man power is needed in this operation. Two men run the aerifiers, while four push the plugs and two pick up the plugs and drop them off in the weak areas that are designated around the course. As you can see there are a lot of techniques available to us, but as you can also see, some considerations have to be taken. First there is the cost, how much money do you want to spend? Second is the time, time is money and the more time spent the more the cost! Third is the equipment, what equipment is available to you? If you have the right equipment for your situation you can usually justify the initial cost because of the time and man power (cost) saved in the future. Fourth is the soil structure, can your greens take some of the heavy equipment I've mentioned? Fifth is the design of the greens, they have to be thought of, as I stated at Boca Pointe a Rak-O-Vac was used on the greens. But at Delray Dunes that same idea would not apply due to the knolls, undulations and dropoffs around the greens. The old-fashioned way of turning over your trap rakes and pushing the plugs to the side is the only alternative. And finally, what it all comes down to is the Superintendent, he knows what he has and what results he is looking for and what the Membership wants.

In conclusion, these Superintendents use different techniques for their aerifying programs and a lot of hard work and thinking goes into the process to get the results and quality they work for to complete the "ART OF AERIFYING." ■

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By MICHAEL BAILEY
Boca Greens Country Club

The Midnight Shift

The following is a true story. Nothing has been exaggerated. The point of this situation is to acknowledge the fact that this peculiar incident could probably happen to anyone of us tonight. Unless you are quite confident that your maintenance building is well secured, you just might experience the same nightmare.

I am deep into a sleep at 2:00 a.m. on Monday morning and I hear the phone ring. You can figure on either of two situations. It's your best friend playing a prank on you by calling to ask you what brand of wiper blades you use on your car, or it's something serious, like the police calling to notify you of an emergency. Unfortunately, the latter is correct. In some what of a daze, I hear an officer say, "Mr. Bailey, we need you to come down to the maintenance building because there has been a break-in and some of the equipment has been stolen." Within the half hour, I drive up the road to the complex only to be so bewildered to view a building that normally services a 36-hole golf course to be virtually empty! Equipment is parked all over the place as if someone said, "Let's make this place look like a junkyard." Still being dark and in the middle of the night, the police begin to try and assess the situation. The only lead into the beginning of this fiasco is the fact that a police officer in the nearby town observed at midnight "an agricultural machine clanging down the middle of main street without any headlights on." Because of such a violation, the person was stopped, whereupon further questioning concluded the machine was hot. It all began to add up. This guy was the culprit of breaking and entering, possession of stolen property and who knows what else. I was requested to drive up the road and see if in fact, this was part of my equipment. As I pulled up to the machine, the headlights of the truck revealed what used to be a 7 gang Fairway mower laid out in the mowing position. After having mowed 8 miles of asphalt, now it's official, "blacktop actually is harder in density than turfgrass!" Most of the reels were either totally missing or so severely abused that only we in the turfgrass industry would still be able to recognize the scrap metal.

By now, dawn is beginning to break, so it's best to head back to the course and see what's still salvageable. The building is completely cleaned out except for a few tractors and other various machines that fortunately had dead batteries and the jumper cables were nowhere to be found. An extremely peculiar situation was still plaguing my mind. How many individuals were involved, when did all of this begin and where in the world is the rest of

the equipment? An investigation revealed the fact that only one person was involved with this whole incident. Evidently, the person broke into the building before sunset. He then put on a company uniform found within the lunchroom. Eyewitnesses were unaware of any such problems. The golfers simply observed what appeared to be the mechanic moving and working on equipment as preparing for the next week's work. Now that the damage was done, the next goal was to locate all of the equipment, bring back to the shop and evaluate, and then determine what was deemed fit to be used for today's crew. Much of the equipment was simply driven around as joy rides. Since most of the equipment was extremely low on fuel, from all of Friday's work, most of the equipment was found within a matter of a few holes from the building. Much of the equipment must have been found to be boring or frustrating to drive. The greensmowers and Sandpros were driven just a few hundred yards and then abandoned. Such was not the case however for a few of the other pieces. A golf cart tire path of dew tracks revealed circles within the 18th fairway, whereupon either the cart drove across the lake, or it lies deep below the surface. A few hours later, the diver concluded my second guess to be true.

The pick-up truck was found out on the back nine complete with 6 flymos in the back (an ambitious lad I would say). A couple of the tractors were found just at the lake bank's edge, some machines stuck in sand traps, and two mowers driven into trees, however the most irritating (but what can now be reflected upon as the most humorous) a Parkmaster parked smack dab in the middle of #7 green, with all seven reels laid out, but stalled, because of the lack of diesel fuel. When was the last time you tried to air bleed a diesel fairway mower atop a green? If this should ever happen to you, about the only thing one can do is set out some plastic underneath the engine and bleed it off until the engine catches. At first I thought of simply pulling the Parkmaster off of the green, however since all the reels were laid out and the green was totally surrounded by sand traps, it seemed evident the only procedure was to simply bleed off the engine until the diesel catches. Once the engine fires and will maintain idle, casually lift the reels into the transport position, let the clutch out slowly and drive off the green and say, "No, I'm not weird, this is the only way to mow."

After eight hours of temper and frustration, it is now noontime. After lunch (what now seems like dinner), the crew begins to take out various pieces of equipment that have been evaluated by the mechanics to be deemed fit

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to take back out onto the course.

The only place left to sit down and feel at home was at my office desk — wrong. Even here, I was hit. The office was a complete shambles (now I know what it's really like to keep a messy office). Anything of materialistic value was gone, however fortunately valuable records and various paper work were left; only problem, I just had to find it amongst the piles of paper.

By 4:00 p.m., the end of the day for a "typical Monday" proved to be an experience that I shall never forget.

There was really very little one could do except to think back and say, if only.....the building had a burglar alarm system, interconnected to either the police or a monitoring service. Perhaps a roving guard patrolling the building on a nightly route would have been nice too, but these are all ifs.....

Most golf course maintenance buildings are built on the extreme corner, out of view locations of the course which makes them easy for prey. The building represents a tremendous value of money, but it is only situations like this, that will convince owners to invest upon an efficient burglar alarm system that will secure all until the next day's work.

Sure all is insured and assuming the vendors have all of the machinery in inventory, theoretically this would be an easy way to get new equipment, but we all know this is not the case. Be glad for what you have and hold onto it as if it were worth a million bucks, because after all, it just about is. ■

Suncoast Sponsors First Benefit Tournament


The Suncoast Golf Course Superintendent's Association is proud to announce the success of its Third Annual Suncoast Scramble Tournament held March 26, 1985. The event benefits local Sara-Manatee Junior Golf, Research Fund for Florida Turf-Grass Association and Scholarship Fund.

A full field of superintendents, club managers, golf professionals and suppliers enjoyed a great day of golf which was enhanced by the beautiful surroundings of the Lakes course of Palm-Aire in Sarasota. Superintendent Jim Larner and crew had the course in excellent condition for the tournament.

The team from River Wilderness came away victorious with a 60.

Through sales of "hole" sponsorships the event raised \$1,000 for local junior golf and \$1,000 for turf research. Both figures were up from previous years. Each year the tournament has grown in size and support.

Hugh Bebout of Sarasota Country Club should be commended for his fine efforts as Tournament Director. ■




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