

Trees: Tough to live with, yet you can't live without

By DR. R. JAY STIPES

Can anyone imagine a golf course devoid of trees? Just turfgrass, perhaps with a sprinkling of woody and herbaceous ornamentals? Despite the agonizing they sometimes cause golf course superintendents, I think not!

Trees figure prominently in the names of approximately 275 country clubs in Virginia alone. There are Lonesome Pine, Cherry Hills, Burning Tree, Cedars, Cedar Crest, Longwood, Chestnut Creek, Cypress Cove, Dogwood Hills, Evergreen, Glen Oaks, Great Oaks, Tall Oaks, Holly Hill, Oakwood, Pinecrest, Poplar Forest, Roundwood, Stumpy Lake, Willow Brook, Woodlawn and others.

Trees are focal points, bold statements, spectacular benchmarks, historic markers for generations of golfers. Trees just happen to be the only living links to the historic past.

And golfers enjoy, remember and often savor the beauty and "permanence" of handsome specimens that they remember



Dr. R. Jay Stipes

over a lifetime of golfing.

For many, trees become "old friends" that they "know" and pass on their golfing rounds.

Family generations frequenting the same golf courses see the same trees standing as silent sentinels. Great grandparents, grandparents, parents, sons and daughters and grandchildren have known the same tree on some old golf courses.

A very large, old and venerable elm at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, N.Y., recently succumbed to Dutch elm disease [see story, page 1]. This tree was well known by President Eisenhower and other famous persons of the past and present.

Its necessary removal has left a gaping hole there.

In addition to historic landmarks, trees do more for us than we would ever realize. The bumper sticker that exclaims "Trees Can Save the Earth" may be more profound than just an advertisement for the forestry folks.

Trees exchange clean air for foul in vacuuming up carbon dioxide and other

gaseous wastes and give essential oxygen in return. They also "excrete" pure water through the transpiration process.

They serve as screens for ugly sites and irritating noises. Erosion control is difficult, if not impossible, on certain sites where precipitation is excessive on some types of soil.

They certainly enhance real-estate values! Try selling a house with a treeless landscape compared to one with nice, mature, beautiful specimens, especially in warm climates. Much real estate can only be sold when forested.

Most of us love birds, and trees provide shelter and food for many of them, not to mention other wildlife. Trees are aesthetically unique and essential in providing varied interests in different shapes, sizes, colors and dimensions. They also provide a sense of health and permanence, a part of that subliminal or subconscious linkage to the good earth from which we came. They impart a sense of belonging, therapy and health, and tend to lessen our fear of mortality as we mingle with strong, sturdy, old specimens.

Trees are nature's best air conditioners. Some houses or other buildings are only

Continued on page 12

Royce Richardson, 67

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Royce R. Richardson, 67, a native Arizonan and resident of Paradise Valley, passed away at St. Joseph's Hospital here on March 7. Since 1985, Mr. Richardson served as president and chief executive officer of Farmers Marketing Corp., a wholesale seed business based here.

Mr. Richardson's career in agriculture and seed production spanned 40 years. Born on April 27, 1925, in Miami, Ariz., he served in the Navy during World War II before attending the University of Arizona in Tucson, where he earned his bachelor's degree in range management.

In the early 1960s, Mr. Richardson established a marketing cooperative with Bermudagrass seed growers in the Wellton-Mohawk Valley that helped unite and stabilize the Bermudagrass industry, enabling it to become a crop of significant importance and contribute millions of dollars to the state's economy. He was vice president of Valley Seed



Mr. Royce Richardson

Corp. of Phoenix; president of Pacific Seedsmen's Association; board member of American Seed Trade Association; board member of Western Seedsmen's Association; and president of the Arizona Crop Improvement Association, where he served on the Pure Seed Advisory Committee at the time of his death.

Mr. Richardson leaves his wife of 45 years, Tink; two sons, Royce Rene Richardson and Sheldon E. Richardson; and two grandchildren, all of Paradise Valley. The family has requested that donations in Mr. Richardson's memory be made to either the American Cancer Society or the Royce R. Richardson Memorial Fund, which will be used to endow a scholarship at the University of Arizona. Donations should be mailed to Farmers Marketing Corp., c/o Elaine Jordan, 3501 E. Broadway Road, Phoenix, Ariz., 85040.

Letters

BAVIER MADE A DIFFERENCE

To the editor:

North American golf superintendents typically recognize their colleagues from the Chicago area as trend-setters in our profession. Some of the finest golf courses are located in the greater Chicago District, and there is keen competition among superintendents to provide the best possible playing conditions for the golfers. As a result, there are so many excellent courses in and around Chicago that the entire PGA Tour could be played there over the duration of the summer season. Courses in this area are in excellent condition, and would require little preparation by superintendents for any PGA event.

Recently, a Chicago area superintendent became a distinguished and significant contributor to the industry. Michael Bavier, from Inverness Golf Club, wrote a letter that later was published by *Golf Course News*. He expressed a concise and skillfully worded criticism of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's proposed bylaw changes. The letter was widely acclaimed, and coagulated support on the part of superintendents to defeat proposed changes.

Bavier's letter in *Golf Course News* was the impetus necessary to galvanize support for the defeat of these proposed bylaw changes. The proposed changes would have altered the direction of the associa-

tion. These include the ability for the Board of Directors to regulate dues, change voting procedures (from chapter voting to individual balloting by mail), establishing regional liaisons, and numerous other changes.

GCSAA has elected Randy Nichols, superintendent at a top-notch 36-hole golf course near Atlanta, as its new president. Two incumbent directors, who had supported the proposed bylaws, were not re-elected. Apparently, the GCSAA is returning to its roots and is concentrating on assisting superintendent members.

Gordon Witteveen
Board of Trade Country Club
Toronto, Canada

The Golf Course News Development Letter

Stay abreast of the nation's golf course development with the new Development Letter, published twice monthly by Golf Course News.

- Up-to-the-minute reports on projects under consideration in all 50 states and Canada.
- Updates on projects under construction.
- Expanded charts listing new course projects, facility information and contacts.
- Financial and environmental bulletins.

A "must-read" for architects, builders and suppliers to the golf course industry.

\$195 for 24 issues. For more information and subscription details, contact Peter Blais at 207-846-0600.

GOLF COURSE NEWS
THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

