

On The Green

Frustrating criminals a Schlippert specialty

By MARK LESLIE

HORSHAM, Pa. — Call him Larry "Crime Dog" Schlippert if you like. But don't laugh. Schlippert, a certified golf course superintendent, could save his Commonwealth National Country Club thousands of dollars with some clever handiwork that has made a half-dozen very expensive benches theft-resistant.

"I stress that they are theft-resistant. Nothing is ever theft-proof," Schlippert said. "It's a deterrent more than anything. If thieves can't get them [benches] real easy, it deters them from taking them."

Schlippert and his crew have made signs, ball-washer attachments and club washers "theft-resistant," with a little extra effort and ingenuity.

Most are metal, rather than wood, "so cross-country skiers can't burn them for firewood," Schlippert laughed. "We've also bolted them so the bolts are inaccessible to standard tools.

"The only thing we lose is flag poles."

Schlippert's latest venture into crime prevention is Commonwealth National's six new redwood benches, which cost \$1,000 apiece.

In addition to making the benches theft-resistant, Schlippert said: "I wanted to bring them in during the wintertime because it is a seasonal club."

Exactly how did he do it?

- Put sona tubes (cardboard cylinders used as form framework for pouring concrete) in the ground and leveled them off at ground level.

- Put anchor bolts right into the concrete.

- Bolted the bottom of the benches to the anchor bolts. Used four bolts to hold each bench down — two in front and two in back. Schlippert used five-eighths-inch, threaded rods.

- In the back part of the bench, where the nut goes on top of the bolt, put a four-inch extension, a pipe, welded to the back part of

the mounting support and on top of the hole.

"The only way to get to the nut is with a six-inch extension," Schlippert said. "We also let the bolt stick up 6 inches. So a regular socket wrench wouldn't work. You have to have a six-inch extension.

"We took deep socket extensions, cut the top off, welded a piece of pipe to it and welded it

back on again so that the deep extension is six inches long."

Plastic caps are put over pipe extensions to keep debris and water out.


Unless a thief has a modified wrench, he "would have to torch the things off the concrete pads to get them," Schlippert said.

What works in Horsham should work anywhere, he believes.



Try stealing this! A Schlippert-secured bench at Commonwealth National

FOR 10 YEARS, SUPERINTENDENTS HAVE BEEN USING IT TO RELIEVE HEADACHES.


CIBA-GEIGY
Subdue

Pocks continue golf tradition

Continued from previous page
assistant at Grayhawk this summer, will help open Talon in late December and may assist with Raptor, Grayhawk's second 18-hole course, designed by Tom Fazio, when construction begins early next year.

"Initially, the boys went off to school wanting to become baseball players," Pock said. "But, then they got to a stage where their abilities would only take them so far. Like me, they were raised on golf courses. They've got a lot of knowledge, and they enjoy it. So, I guess, we'll continue to tradition."