

JACK TAYLOR IS TOPS

says Everett Leonard, pro, Butte des Morts GC, Appleton, Wis., in praise of his fellow worker and club greenkeeper

OUR club has the best greenkeeper in the United States. When a pro can say that, and argue in support of his statement until the opposition gives up, the club can consider itself fortunate. I can declare that Butte des Morts' greenkeeper, Jack Taylor, is the best in the country instead of only "one of the best" because Taylor does everything that can be done in producing and maintaining turf in the finest condition, plus a thoroughness of attention to the little details that certainly has played an important part in winning a national reputation for a course in a city of 27,000.

Take a detail like the lesson tees as an example of good greenkeeping that will appeal to both member and pro and have an effect on the pro's income. Many lesson tees are scarred by hard use and the general appearance of the layout does nothing to add to the pleasure or relaxation of the pupil. I often give as many as 20 lessons a day. Our lesson tee is kept in good shape so that despite its punishing use it is in condition of a regulation tee.

A little detail one doesn't often see is tee markers on a practice green. Ours are merely golf balls with long spikes run through them and kept painted and clean. Incidentally this small detail assures more than usual fairness in putting competitions where the competitor often places his ball almost any place to suit his convenience.

Very important is the way borders of our fairways are mowed. Taylor sets

these lines so the fairway borders are definite architectural features of the course. The rough swings in and out on our course to provide very interesting problems of shot placement for expert, average and duffer classes of both men and women players.

This is a feature that I have noticed is usually neglected on courses and is a point that should be given careful study by pro, greenkeeper and green-chairman. In our own case Taylor is very well qualified to do his stuff because he shoots around in 75. Jack will get on that tractor and haul the mowers around in a way that is a great improvement over merely cutting grass. He makes the mower a valuable architectural aid.

Our course is not long. It is 3,116 out and 3,170 in, with both sides of the 6,286-yard layout being balanced in par. Men's par on both sides is 36, and women's 41. Notwithstanding lack of distance Butte des Morts isn't burned up often by any star's scoring. One reason is that the traps, both green and fairway, are bordered by a thick, coarse-bladed rough that calls for either real mastery or phenomenal luck in making recoveries.

It requires real greenkeeping to make the rough contribute to the interest of the

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game and not be mainly an area for losing golf balls and tempers.

Keeping the stream banks in good shape at the many points on our course where there are water carries is something that Taylor does with more than a touch of art. The job is to have the banks so they will look natural but not be slippery, un-kempt hazards to player and ball.

At many clubs, rocks are used as stepping stones across streams, in addition to the usual bridges. Caddies who are as sure-footed as mountain goats can use these stones, but frequently such crossings at courses are dangerous for player use.

Taylor moulds concrete on the tops and sides of these stones to provide firm, level, adequate footing; this is a great convenience when a player is off the beaten track to the green and does not feel like recrossing the fairway back to the bridge.

Galvanized metal strips border flowerbeds around the clubhouse and keep the beds looking neatly trimmed without the expense of having men spend a lot of time on these borders.

Other Courses Can't Compare

Because every part of golf has a bearing on my pro job, I have paid attention to the details of greenkeeping at the many courses I visit in the usual round of my work. The fine points, in my opinion, really give best evidence of a greenkeeper's ability. There are hundreds of great greenkeepers in the United States, and in establishing and maintaining turf they are doing remarkable jobs. But when it comes to attending to the fundamentals of greenkeeping and also caring for the many details that go to make up a distinguished golf course, we've got the best of all of them I've seen.

Naturally, Taylor is a great guy to work with. A fellow who knows his job always is, when he's associated with other fellows who know their part of the job, too.

Butte des Morts is an unusual golf club. Dues are only \$25 a year. We have 275 members and many of them are quite wealthy. I believe that it would be difficult to get better golf anywhere else, even though the \$25 annual dues figure might fool you into believing that we have a county-seat pasture. In design and construction of our course and clubhouse I believe we have a model for the smaller cities of the country. My shop is especially well-designed in location, size, wall

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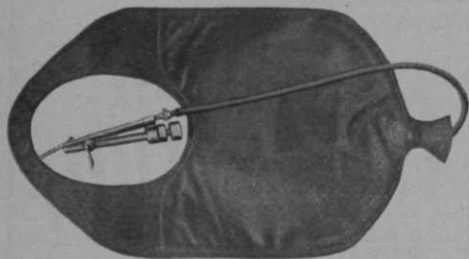
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space and lighting. It gives me an opportunity to put in a shop display that is very attractive to members and guests and is one that builds business.

I'm proud, of course, of the way my shop looks and is operated, but when a pro thinks so much of the work done by the greenkeeper with whom he is associated at a fine club, the shop design and operation becomes another story.

Every pro can be sure, though, that the way our course is kept means business in my shop. So, in addition to Jack Taylor being my pal, he is a factor in my business. I am sorry for both the pro and the greenkeeper at a club where the fellows aren't the best of friends and each of them trying to bring new ideas to the other man. The smarter a fellow is, the more he appreciates new ideas, and Jack Taylor, as the smartest greenkeeper I've seen, among many great ones, has a warm welcome for every idea.

Government Literature On Bird Protection Is Extensive and Valuable

RALPH T. KING of the University of Minnesota staff prepared for greenkeepers a bibliography on bird protection and encouragement. Books listed by King may be obtained from the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., with the exception of "A Field Guide to the Birds" which any bookseller has, or can obtain, for you.

King's bibliography was supplementary to a highly instructive lecture on golf courses as wild life refuges, given during the University of Minnesota short course.

A Field Guide to the Birds, by Roger Tory Peterson. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company. (To be purchased).

Homes for Birds. U.S.D.A. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1456.

Earthworms as Pests and Otherwise. U.S.D.A. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1569.

Cottontail Rabbits in Relation to Trees and Farm Crops. U.S.D.A. Farmers' Bulletin No. 702.

How to Make a Cat Trap. U.S.D.A. Leaflet No. 50.

English Sparrow Control. U.S.D.A. Leaflet No. 61.

Mouse Control in Field and Orchard. U.S.D.A. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1397.

Methods for Eradicating Objectionable Roosts of Birds. U.S.D.A. Bureau of Biological Survey. Bi-489.

Dealers in Devices for Attracting Birds.