

PROTECT Against Fire Loss

By Bethune Jones

WHEN a clubhouse burns down, the club not only loses valuable property, but may have its very existence endangered. Regardless of the amount of fire insurance carried, rebuilding and refurbishing a clubhouse always involves heavy expenses that fall directly upon the club, and an unexpected financial burden, combined with the long-continued lack of essential facilities, has forced many a club into dissolution.

Yet, the average golf clubhouse is peculiarly vulnerable to fire. It is constructed largely, if not entirely, of combustible materials and is located some distance away from the nearest fire department station. Hence, if a fire gets a good start in the clubhouse, it is likely to do a great deal of damage before the firemen can arrive.

To prevent such a disaster, the club's own resources of manpower and fire-protection equipment must be properly organized to safeguard the property.

Organization, of course, requires an organizer; therefore, every club should have someone that acts in the capacity of "fire marshal", to use a convenient term.

Who the fire marshal should be will vary with the size and character of the club. In some cases, the club manager is best qualified to assume this responsibility. A very large club might well have a fire prevention committee with some experienced person, such as a fire chief or a fire protection engineer, as chairman. In any case, the fire marshal should be a man who will take the job very seriously and who will be able to assume leadership of both members and club employees in an emergency.

The duties of the fire marshal will vary with conditions but the following outline has general application:

Safeguarding Fire Hazards—The first thing to be done is to study the fire hazards in and around the clubhouse. These will include fireplaces, kitchen, storage places for paint, gasoline and oil, workrooms where paints and other inflammable liquids are used, rubbish heaps, garage, and any condition where a care-

lessly flung match or cigarette stub would quickly cause a bad fire (such as draperies that touch the floor, extensive decorations composed of highly combustible materials, open paint cans, and the like).

Whenever possible, fire hazards should be completely eliminated, but when they are a normal part of the club's operations, steps will include maintaining a high standard of housekeeping, the prompt removal and safe disposal of rubbish, keeping oily and paint-soaked rags in safety metal containers until disposed of, cleaning greasy kitchen flues, storing all inflammable liquids well away from the clubhouse, and many others.

If the fire marshal is uncertain just what he should do to protect the property, the local fire department will be glad to assign a man to go over the club property and help the fire marshal with this phase of his work.

Providing Adequate Fire Protection—Most clubhouses have one or more lines of hose, which can be used on fires outside and inside the clubhouse, but such hose should always be counted as the "second line" of defense against fires inside the house. The first line of defense should be made up of hand fire distinguishers, of the right types, located at strategic points.

Several different types of fire extinguishers will be needed to protect the average clubhouse, as there are special types for use on fires of ordinary combustible materials, of inflammable liquids and live electrical equipment. Here, again, the fire marshal should seek expert advice as to the selection and location of extinguishers, if he himself is unfamiliar with the subject. In any case, the extinguishers installed should be of types bearing the inspection label of the Underwriters' Laboratories, in order to insure getting equipment that has been tested and approved by a competent authority.

The number of extinguishers required can be determined by the following rule: a sufficient number of extinguishers should be provided so that a person will not have to travel more than 50 feet from any point

in the clubhouse to reach the nearest unit.

After the extinguishers are installed, the fire marshal should make sure that every club employee knows where they are located, on what kind of fires each is to be used, and, by actual practice, how to use each type.

Organizing for Action—When a fire breaks out in the clubhouse, there are three things that must be done simultaneously, if possible:

1. Escort women, children, and all others not needed for other duties to a place of safety.
2. Turn in a fire alarm.
3. Fight the fire.

The fire marshal must have some plan whereby these duties will be carried out properly. Otherwise there is likely to be panic and confusion and members and employees are likely to do foolish, futile things, with the result that lives may be endangered and the fire may spread unchecked.

What plans must be laid will depend entirely on circumstances. Obviously, a fire in the kitchen or in an empty clubhouse will be fought differently from a fire in a crowded lounge.

In large clubs, selected members may look after the safety of fellow members, clerks or barkeepers may have the responsibility of turning in the alarm, and waiters and other employees may use the fire extinguishers and man the hose lines. In small clubs, other arrangements have to be worked out.

In all clubs it should be a rule that the fire marshal or other experienced person should attend all club gatherings so as to take charge of the situation should an emergency occur.

Inspection and Maintenance—As the heating and electric systems, if defective, may cause fires, part of the fire marshal's duties should be to see that these systems are inspected frequently and that hazardous conditions are rectified immediately. He should also supervise the inspection of the fire protection equipment to make sure it is in proper operating condition at all times.

Control of Smoking—It must be recognized that careless smoking and use of matches is the leading cause of fires. It is impossible to restrict members smoking in a club, but this hazard can be minimized by providing an ample number of safe ash receivers and by making

More than 350 adults attended the golf clinic held at Timken Vocational high school, Akron, O., under auspices of the school's athletic department. Pros George Howard, Lloyd Gullickson and Frank Castleberg demonstrated, and Harry Moots, Tam O'Shanter (Canton, Ohio) mgr., lectured on the etiquette of golf.

sure that there is no spot in the house where a carelessly thrown match or stub of cigar or cigarette can cause disaster. Employees should be prohibited from smoking in store rooms and other places where the practice is dangerous.

Attitude Toward Club Members—It is generally unwise from a club standpoint and useless from a practical standpoint to worry the average club member about fire prevention. If, however, the fire marshal has done a good job, the price of some act of carelessness will not be the destruction of the club's property.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?

By George F. Ehrhardt

To make the Sunday mornings in a golf club more interesting for members by serving a popular-priced "Foursome Breakfast" consisting of fruit or fruit juices, dry cereal, ham-bacon-or-sausage and eggs, or wheat cakes, coffee, jam and toast? Reservations for this to be made the night before?

To keep mosquitoes away from outdoor dance floors by using the old-time "pitch-torches" all around, and high enough to provide light, too?

To increase your party or dining room attendance, by giving away door prize on "off nights"?

To number all forms, slips, checks, etc., and list as to make-up and size of sheets—one copy at printers, one at office—and when re-ordering order by number?

Standardizing club accounting to make comparisons of the operations of different clubs fair, informative and mutually helpful?

Having monthly meetings with employees to hear their grievances and by fair decisions keep them happy and loyal?