

Says Illinois Clubs Must Pay Unemployment Tax

MOST golf clubs in Illinois are probably liable for payments to the state on their 1940 payrolls under the amended Illinois Unemployment Compensation Act which extends coverage to employers of six or more persons, it was announced recently by State Director of Labor Martin P. Durkin. "Caddies are considered to be in the employ of the club at which they caddie," said Director Durkin. "They must be counted along with all other full-time or part-time workers in fixing the number of persons employed. For this reason few golf clubs will have less than six employees under the terms of the Illinois law."

Responsibility for the payment of contributions to the State Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund is based on the employment of six or more workers during 20 or more calendar weeks in either the current or the preceding calendar year. This means that an employer who hired six or more persons for 20 or more weeks in 1939 will have to make payments to the state on his 1940 pay roll even though the number of employees has been reduced to less than six in 1940.

In instances where a set fee is collected by the club or caddie master for the services of a caddie, any tips paid the caddie over and above the regular fee may be disregarded. However, in instances where there is no established fee and caddies are not under the direction of a caddie master, the club will be required to pay contributions on the reasonable estimated amount paid caddies for their services.

ASSOCIATED Golf Courses of America, an organization of daily fee courses in the Chicago district, announces that its 1940 roster includes 45 clubs. The AGA is in its sixth year with its plan of selling a membership book for \$1.50. The book gives a limited number of games at reduced prices at the member courses.

In 1939 the organization sold to 20,000 golfers, according to its current publicity. It tells its story to golfers with striking advertising. Executives of the organization declare that its plan of controlled cut-rate has been responsible for substantial increases in revenue at member clubs.

CLUBHOUSE BUILDING BOOMS!

CLUBHOUSE building is reviving. This time the big and deluxe places are not in the picture except to the extent that municipal courses are demanding new and larger places that not only will serve the golf needs but will function as community social centers.

Smaller clubhouses that are practically overgrown summer shelters and are on the verge of disintegrating, are in line for replacement. Clubhouses of moderate size, and generally of frame construction, also are being scheduled for replacement.

GOLFDOM recently has had numerous requests for plans of clubhouses for various sizes and types of membership. The inquirers set the upper limit of construction cost. No plans that can be closely followed are available. Each clubhouse is a new problem. Even the visits of club architects and building committees to existing clubhouses often fail to produce much specific help. The good points of the inspected clubhouses generally are obvious and the bad features can only be seen by watching operations under varied conditions.

A group of club managers not long ago sat discussing the operating problems that architecture and construction had bequeathed them. They were unanimously of the conviction that if the manager who is to operate the new clubhouse were allowed to take part in the clubhouse planning there'd be fewer operating and maintenance shortcomings and less of the alteration expense that is perennial at the majority of moderate-sized and larger clubhouses.

Here are some of the golf clubhouse design points that these managers believed should have more consideration:

Less lounge space. Have lounge location and area so it may be conveniently and attractively used in handling larger dinners.

Not enough window area in lounges. They're gloomy instead of allowing view of beautiful landscape.

Floor plan should permit (in Northern territory) partial operation of clubhouse

in winter on compact, attractive and economical basis.

Checkrooms often are poorly located and arranged.

Locker-rooms usually are too dark. Skylights might be an answer for some darker locker-rooms.

Locker-room ventilation must be good.

Although locker-rooms are where liveliest "life" of the club is in evidence, painting of lockers and walls, ceilings and floors usually is anything but cheery. Locker-room rugs, carpeting and furniture are chosen with dirt and wear factors so strongly in mind, they're generally ugly.

Shower-room ventilation and light often are bad. Cheap plumbing in showers and washrooms is chronic expense for club and tends to give the whole club and its membership a "cheap" atmosphere.

Locker-rooms and bath departments seldom laid out with an idea of facilitating complete and quick cleaning by small staff.

Locker-room service bar proper location can do a lot in improving service and reducing operating costs.

Kitchen, dining, and grill room layout at golf clubs due for drastic revision due to recent legislation concerning employees.

Considerable study is needed to devise new methods of retaining country club distinction of service without great increase in expense, under recent laws.

More thought needed in location and arrangement of employees' quarters, even if such quarters are merely a room for a caretaker.

New problems have come with growing popularity of swimming pools, and necessity of extending outdoor service.

Few clubhouses make most attractive use of possibilities of food service, and dances on verandas. Most verandas are simply porches nailed onto the clubhouses.

Possibilities of men's lounge and bar areas on upper decks of clubhouse porches rarely have been utilized.

Pro-shop needs to be fitted into architectural plan for convenience for both men and women members and handiness to first tee and eighteenth green.

Storage space for emergency furniture, and small repair shop too seldom seen in clubhouses.

Clothes drying facilities generally are inadequate.

Emergency location of club bars right after repeal often was so far in error

the club bar-rooms now have the stale beer smell of a cheap saloon.

Failure to provide for rapid growth in women's demand for lockers and showers is one of the chief headaches of golf clubs now.

Many clubhouse sewage disposal systems unable to care for amount of sanitary napkins received.

Parking space and walks from it usually are afterthoughts in clubhouse planning.

Manager's office often is located at worst possible place for him to be "every place at once," where members expect the manager to be.

Food and beverage storage facilities many times not in location where delivery and service is convenient; checking is facilitated, and perishable foods can be kept in best possible condition if storage location is correct.

With winter sports programs growing, more attention has to be paid to use of fireplace for emergency heating.

Decided trend toward menu simplification (most apparent at the ritziest clubs) must be studied for possible effect on kitchen design.

Small, smart and good; rather than large, showy and cheap, seems to be the lesson that has been impressed on golf clubs during the two decades that saw the greatest amount of golf clubhouse use.

S. Cal. Greensmen Plan Turf Show—
A turf equipment show coupled with an educational program, sponsored by the Southern California Greenkeepers' Assn., will be held May 22-23 at Griffith Park GC, Los Angeles. This will be the first show of its kind put on in the Pacific Coast section, and every effort is being made to insure its success. The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce has pledged its cooperation, and has extended invitations to all in the Western area who are interested in the maintenance and growing of fine turf, to attend.

The equipment show will be held at Griffith Park beginning at 9. a.m. and lasting until 12:30 p.m., both days. The educational program will be held in the afternoon, on the two days, at the Embassy hotel in Los Angeles, where expert speakers will deal with knotty turf problems. The Embassy hotel has been selected as convention headquarters; reasonable accommodations are still available there for the convention, officials have announced.