

Educate Golfers to Cooperate in Bettering Maintenance

By JAMES E. THOMAS

Supt., Farmington Country club

"Here are 12 ways that the golfer can cooperate in controlling course maintenance costs, thereby making the game more enjoyable for his fellow players, and making a real contribution to his club and course.

1. Carefully replace all divots.
2. Smooth footprints in all traps and do not climb bunker sides.
3. Do not throw ball wrappings, etc. on the course. Use waste receptacles.
4. Walk carefully on greens and pick up your feet.
5. Do not throw cigarettes and cigar butts on the tees or greens. They often make damaging scars.
6. Carefully lift ball marks on the greens.
7. Walk carefully around the cup when sinking that short one.
8. Do not scratch green to mark spot of ball. Use a small coin or marker.
9. Have caddy handle pin carefully. It should not be used as a rest post, or as a punch.
10. Observe tee markers.
11. Use a tee for playing that short hole; it will mean a smaller divot and will not interfere with your shot.
12. Do not kink hose to control sprinkler operation. It ruptures the hose fabric and hose is a mighty scarce article these days."

Some of these items which were set forth in a 1942 issue of Greenkeepers' Reporter may appear insignificant but during a season they become a sizable factor in course labor costs. No doubt, many players can add more to the twelve ways suggested, and by doing so will show cooperation with the green committee, greenkeeper and his staff. They will appreciate it.

During the past season I have had considerable trouble on my greens with the following careless practices: players dragging their feet across the putting greens and making a complete turn on their heels when missing a putt; failing to lift ball marks on the greens; scratching the green with a wooden tee to mark the spot of the ball; careless handling of the pin when removing it from the cup, and failure to observe the location of the tee markers.

All of these oversights may appear very



James E. Thomas,
Supt., Farmington CC, Charlottesville, Va.

trivial to the average golfer, but to the greens crew it means additional work that in most cases is uncalled for, besides disfigurement of the greens. No green in normal condition should ever show foot tracks unless the cup has been left too long in the same position. It is a very simple matter for one to lift his ball mark on a green and requires just a few seconds and certainly shows consideration for those who are following. Scratching the green to mark the spot of a ball is a companion offense to the dragging of one's feet over the turf. In the good growing weather of spring and fall such wounds soon repair themselves, but this is not the case in the severe weather of mid-summer. At that season of the year along with brownpatch and weeds, thoughtless offenders are doing their share towards putting the greens on their home course in poor playing condition. **THIS SHARE IS MUCH GREATER THAN APPEARS ON THE SURFACE,** and of course the green committee, greenkeeper and his staff are to blame for the condition. Small rips from time to time make large tears and scars.

Tee Markers Disregarded

Failure to tee between markers is a subject by itself. Anyone who has ever had anything to do with the upkeep of a municipal course knows how futile it is to get the patrons to use any part of the tee except the front part. On a private course this should not be the case. The members

are supposed to know the rules and etiquette of the game, yet there are those few who always make their own rules and tee up where their fancy suits. Little do these people care or realize that markers are changed daily to help keep the area in good shape and enable worn places to repair themselves. Rules and regulations are put into effect on a golf course to make the game more enjoyable for those who play. Why should a few who take matters in their own hands be permitted to do whatever they please?

Correction of these evils must come from the club members themselves. No employee can reprimand a member for shortcomings without stirring up a hornet's nest. This is a job for the club's Board of Governors and their green-committee. It is a matter of education. This past season I found the use of the 12-point bulletin a

great help. Copies were printed and posted in prominent places throughout the clubhouse. For a while this brought about a noticeable improvement, but it needs to be followed up a bit more.

A good addition to the above would be a circular copy of the bulletin mailed to all golfers and a series of photographs showing the right and wrong way. These pictures could be placed in glass panels in both the men's and ladies' locker rooms, also in the golf shop. The golf pro would be a good person to pose for the illustrations.

The 12 suggestions are evils that are more or less common on all courses. They should be well circularized and given as much prominence as local rules, and golf course etiquette. They are all vital to proper and economical course maintenance and the full enjoyment of a game of golf.

WESTERN GA OFFERS CLUBS AID WITH

A plan for assisting country clubs to improve their caddie service has been announced by Pres. James L. Garard, Western Golf Assn. "In addition to expanding the Evans Scholars Foundation, which sends qualified and deserving caddies to college on full tuition scholarships, and continuing to annually play the Western Open, Western Amateur and Western Junior Championships, we are offering all municipal, daily fee and private golf courses a plan to help them improve their caddie service," said Garard.

All WGA members clubs will be provided with a Caddie Committee Manual that analyzes the entire caddie problem, and recommends methods for the recruiting and training of caddies.

Each member club will participate in the WGA Honor Caddie Plan. For faithful attendance, superior work records, excellent deportment and satisfactory personal cleanliness, the club will award Honor Badges of the WGA to their 10 best all-around caddies. From the Honor Caddie Roll, WGA expects to select boys who will be granted college scholarships.

Previously, all Evans Scholars have been sent to Northwestern University where the boys live in Evans House but in the past year 2 boys were sent to Loyola University, Chicago. "The experiment of sending boys to schools other than Northwestern has proven sound," said Garard, "and we are going to give selected candidates greater latitude in choosing the college they want to attend". Until houses similar to Evans House are established on other campuses,

CADDIE PLAN

most of the caddie-scholars will attend Northwestern. Northwestern University has given the Evans Scholar Plan outstanding support and cooperation.

Additional advantages to clubs who join WGA are: Only amateurs from member clubs will be eligible to compete in the Western Amateur championship. Invitations from member clubs to play the Western Open and Amateur Championships will receive preference over all other bids. Voting rights in all affairs of the Association will reside with member clubs. Only member clubs will be eligible to nominate caddies for scholarships. The Association will serve member clubs as a clearing house on all matters relating to caddie policies, programs and practices. All literature, posters and studies on caddies will be distributed exclusively to member clubs.

"We expect that the new club membership plan will appeal to all clubs, and each one will want a framed Membership Certificate to display in the clubhouse," said John W. Coffin, Membership Chairman. The annual club membership dues are only \$35.00. Invitations to join are being sent to clubs throughout the country.

The \$5 individual membership in WGA which puts a distinctive identification tag on the contributor's golf bag will be continued. Income from individuals is credited directly to the Evans Scholars Foundation; whereas income from club dues will be used to defray the costs of promoting and administering the Caddie Program. All surplus will be credited to Evans Scholars Foundation.