



Year-end Maintenance of Playground Equipment

ma, Michigan. "Equally important, however, it should be maintained in perfect repair throughout the season."

"All playground equipment should be inspected at regular intervals during the season," Mr. Miller continues. "Frequent inspections will focus attention promptly on recurring acts of vandalism, the greatest single threat to recreational equipment."

Wood parts of apparatus should be carefully inspected. Badly worn, splintery or cracked slide siderails, swing seats or see-saw boards definitely are dangerous for the children, and should be repaired or replaced promptly. Swing chains, hooks, all hangers and frame fittings should be checked carefully, too; for badly worn parts or sections of apparatus are doubly hazardous.

All wood parts should be refinished regularly. In far too many cases, the only paint the playground equipment ever receives is that applied at the factory, even though this apparatus is subjected to exceptionally hard use and constantly exposed to rain, snow, sleet, wind, hail and dust.

Adds Years of Service

Years of extra service can be added to playground equipment by painting it frequently and regularly. American uses Wax-O-Namel, specially prepared for them by one of the nation's foremost paint manufacturers; but less expensive, outdoor enamel will do very well. It should be kept in mind that the protective paint coating will last longer, look much better if the wood parts are sanded reasonably smooth before they are refinished.

Worn slide chutes present a special problem. Few owners have the tools and equipment necessary to do a thorough, really workmanlike job of slide chute repair or rebuilding. Thus, if the siderails or bedways are badly worn and need to be replaced, it's usually advisable to ship the worn chutes to the factory for a factory-rebuilding job. Frequently, too, if the chutes have been in service for ten

When the golfing season ends in the fall, the time has come for golf courses, located in northern climes, to give that important year-end attention to the swings, slides, Castle Towers and other children's playground apparatus located near the clubhouse.

In recent years, many golf clubs, recognizing the baby sitting problems, have installed tot lots to keep the youngsters busy at healthful and safe outdoor play while Pop and Mom are out on the fairways. Such investments have increased attendance, made the golf course a recreational center for the entire family.

With increasing costs making it difficult for everyone to keep within the budget, proper maintenance of this children's playground equipment has assumed greater importance to these golf clubs. Timely repairing and repainting of equipment will make it last longer, provide a greater measure of safety for the children who all enjoy swinging, sliding, climbing and whirling on play apparatus.

"All equipment should be brought into safe repair to start each season, of course," says Norman R. Miller, vice president of the American Playground Device Company of Anderson, Indiana and Nah-

years or longer, it is good economy to replace the worn chutes with new ones of all-steel construction. It's a good idea to send the chute fittings along with the chutes, so that the factory can properly locate them on the new chutes and thus greatly simplify the installation job.

If they are properly galvanized by the hot-dip process, the metal parts of playground equipment will present few problems until they have been in use for about eight years or more. If they were hot-galvanized originally, the pipe members, chains and malleable fittings tend to weather-out smooth and shiny as the years pass. Thus, you will require protective finishing only when signs of rust begin to appear. When that occurs, you need simply clean the metal parts with steel wool or emery paper, then apply two coats of any good grade of outdoor enamel or, if bright colors are not considered essential, with any standard asphalt-base bridge paint.

One sure way to protect equipment while it is in storage and to facilitate its re-installation is to store all the equipment in an orderly, organized manner, so that you will know where to locate the apparatus for each unit.

Another procedure which greatly simplifies installation, maintenance and equipment repair and replacement problems is standardization. An increasing number of school, park and playground systems, motels, resorts, drive-in theatres, orphanages and other institutions are standardizing on equipment of certain approved manufacturers.

In this way, replacement is greatly simplified, even though many years have elapsed since the parts originally were purchased. A desirable interchangeability exists in standard apparatus. There are no orphan units or parts, and finally, familiarity with the units and parts of one manufacturer makes installation, repair and maintenance work much simpler, less costly and much more efficient.

Untidy Front Too Common at Golf Clubs

Probably labor shortage will be offered as an excuse for the most common short-coming GOLFDOM has observed at golf clubs this year but we doubt that the excuse will stand up.

There's a sloppy appearance of many country clubs as a member or guest comes into the grounds. Especially some of the smaller clubs have an untidy front with paper and other debris scattered around, the drives and parking spaces in bad condition, garbage and empty bottle cases conspicuous, the club entrance needing paint and carpenter work and the landscaping and lawns unkempt.

Women's Western Begins Its 50th Year

The Women's Western Golf Assn. starts its 50th year as an incorporated association at its annual meeting on October 8th at the Racquet Club in Chicago. This is the second time in its history the Association has had a Golden celebration. In 1950 the Golden Championship of the Women's Western Golf Association was played at Exmoor Country Club.

In 1903, after two golf tournaments held by the Western Golf Assn. (a men's group), the women golfers in and around Chicago decided to inaugurate their own association and to conduct the already well known Championship for Women of the Western Golf Assn. In July of that year delegates from 21 clubs assembled at 40 E. Randolph in Chicago and formed the Women's Western Golf Assn. This was one of the first groups of women to incorporate.

At the annual meeting this year Mrs. Lawrence J. O'Toole reported the activities of the WWGA for the year. 308 clubs all over the United States belong to the WWGA with over 3000 names listed in the Year Book with handicaps of 18 and under. Three tournaments were conducted by the Western this summer and were most successful. The WWGA 23rd Open Championship was played at Skokie CC (Chicago dist.) with a field of 126 players (the limit permitted). Betsy Rawls, a young professional, broke into the 12 years of wins by the famous big four (Berg, Zaharias, Suggs, Jameson) to win in a spectacular finish from Betty Jameson on the 36th hole.

The Junior Championship, the 26th, was played at Lake Shore CC (Chicago dist.) with a small but interesting field of girls from the ages of 7 through 17.

The 52nd Amateur of the WWGA was played at the Los Angeles CC. This is the only women's championship to have been played for 52 consecutive years. Entries were refused long before the date of the tournament as the quota of 180 was reached early in the summer.

October 8th at the Racquet Club, Chicago, Mrs. John Eliot Warner of Glen View Club becomes the WWGA pres. for its 50th year and will have on her board 46 directors from 17 states.

Women's Western Schedules Open and Junior Events

Women's Western Golf Assn., at its annual meeting, Racquet Club, Chicago, Sept. 8, announces 1953 WWGA Open will be played at Capitol City CC, Atlanta, Ga., June 15-20, and the WWGA Junior at Sunset Ridge CC (Chicago dist.) Aug. 10-14.