

Club Managers Seek Answers to Problems at Annual Meet

Hiring and keeping competent personnel, maintaining high level service under current inflationary stress, employee welfare, insurance, taxes and other attendant problems directly contributing to increased operating costs were the major problems confronting the more than 600 managers attending the annual meeting of the Club Managers Association Convention in Cleveland, O., February 8 to 11.

Irregular hours, transportation, and the seasonal nature of country club employment have forced club management to meet competitive wage scales and benefits in order to provide dependable service. Resulting cost of meeting this competition and solving the labor problem have wages absorbing as much as 60 per cent of the total operating costs of some clubs.

Convention Educational Chairman Frank Moreland, manager of Canterbury GC, in addition to many other fine educational features, had Howard F. Gillette, insurance expert, on the Monday afternoon program. He spoke on the subject, "What Insurance Program Will Best Protect My Club," and outlined for managers a plan clubs can use in working out an employee welfare plan. Gillette was followed by Hugh F. McKenna who covered the Social Security program and explained the benefits to be derived from the program and told how to answer employees' questions.

The general sessions of the convention got under way when CMAA Pres. Page Curran, manager of the River Crest CC,

Ft. Worth, Texas, called the delegates to order and presented William Tinkhoff, general convention chairman and president of the Cleveland chapter. Tinkhoff called attention to some of the highlights of the convention and told of plans and arrangements that had been made by the Cleveland Chapter members under the direction of Ed A. Vetter, program committee chairman, to make the 1953 meeting a personalized convention.

The Honorable Thomas A. Burke, Mayor of Cleveland, made the managers at home with his speech of welcome and the convention settled down to business by making committee appointments and receiving reports of association officers.

Round Table discussions for all types of clubs were scheduled for Tuesday morning with S. T. Sheets, manager of the Meridian CC, Indianapolis, Ind., serving as moderator for the country club section.

Donald Greenaway, Michigan State College, gave a fine report on "Education's Part in Training Future Club Employees," pointing up basic courses students are given and training given under actual experience conditions. Following Greenaway's talk the remainder of the Tuesday afternoon session was devoted to a combined forum in which a five-man panel representing all types of clubs led a stimulating open discussion on many problems of club operation.

The social program and hospitality arranged by Party Chairman James A. Park, manager of the Cleveland Athletic Club, as usual left nothing to be desired.

Jehlen of Baltusrol Heads Club Managers Association

Club Managers' Assn. of America at its 1953 convention again elected a country club manager as its president. Page Curran, River Crest CC, Dallas, Tex., was succeeded as president by Carl J. Jehlen, Baltusrol CC, Springfield, N. J.

Thos. C. McGuffey, Missouri AC, St. Louis, Mo., was elected vp. Edward M. Grenard, University Club, Detroit, Mich., was elected sec.-treas.

Directors for one year: Page Curran, River Crest CC, Dallas, Tex.; Jacob Fina,

Elmhurst (Ill.) CC; David Johnstone, Rolling Rock Club, Ligonier, Pa.; Wm. Tinkhoff, Mayfield CC, Cleveland, O.

Directors for two years: Clyde S. Mingleдорff, Atlanta (Ga.) AC; Erich J. Kruger, University Club of Los Angeles, Calif.

Directors for three years: G. H. Davies, Kanawaki GC, Caughnawaga, Que., Can.; Albert M. Deichler, Jr., City Midway Club, New York 4; S. T. Sheets, Meridian Hills CC, Indianapolis, Ind.

A unique program was arranged for Monday night when the club managers were entertained by club members. Two of Cleveland's outstanding musical organizations, the choir and symphony orchestra composed of members of the Hermit Club gave a concert that will be long remembered by those attending the convention.

A special forum for women club managers on Wednesday afternoon presided over by Luella Beresford of The Clifton Club, Lakewood, Ohio, was an added feature of the special Ladies' Program arranged by the host chapter. A busy schedule of parties and luncheons was highlighted by the luncheon and entertainment for the ladies at Mayfield CC on Monday and the one at the Wade Park Manor on Tuesday.

Added to the program were special entertainment features given by Pabst Brewing Co., Widmer Wine Company, P. Lorillard Co., Pleasant Valley Wine Co., Pfaelzer Bros., "21 Brands," Inc., Edward A. Don and Company, Shenango Pottery Company, S. S. Kemp Co., and Midwest Restaurant Supply, Inc.

Our Chances for Cutting Maintenance Costs

By JAMES REID

Brook Lea CC, Rochester, N. Y.

Every superintendent is looking for cost-cutting methods. Our discussions at the Finger Lakes Greenkeepers Assn. meetings bring out economy ideas that we all can use but they don't have the dollar-saving magnitude that we need.

Where substantial contributions to efficient operation of golf courses are going to be made are in modernizing course design, watering installations and maintenance equipment.

Tees will have to be remodelled so they can be cut with fairway gang mowers. Bunkers in or alongside fairways and bunkers at greens must be reconstructed, and in some instances relocated without destroying the playing qualities of holes, so more machine maintenance can be used. Bunkers that catch shots of players who already are penalized by their lack of distance should be filled in or converted to grassy hollows that fairway mowers can handle and which will not have drainage problems.

Another possibility for major savings is in antiquated water system with undersized mains and valves so placed around

greens and tees that from 75 to 100 ft. of hose is required. With hose costing about as much as pipe, and labor of handling making the hose an extravagance, water systems must be modernized on a hoseless plan.

Equipment is due for improvements that will bring great savings in course maintenance. A tractor that can be used in all maintenance operations is needed. When one sees finger-tip control on machines that farmers and road-builders are using and compares that work with the golf course tractor operator getting off his machine a dozen or more times a day it is obvious that raising and lowering mowers from a tractor seat will be one of the developments in course equipment.

There still is plenty of room for equipment that will rake or sweep, and dispose of wet leaves and do more work in the woods. That will add a couple of weeks of fine playing weather in many localities.

Possibly there will come the time when long-range weather forecasting will be a big factor in course maintenance economy. We think a lot of how we may best adjust work to weather after a year like last year in the Finger Lakes section.

At our course we had .68 in. of rain in May, on June 29 there was .81 in., on July 21 there was .70 in. and on Sept. 14 there was 1.21 in. There were 32 days of 90-and-over heat last summer.

And there were more people playing golf than ever before in this area!

Most courses came through well. Some poa annua went out, there was a little scald and some wilt.

Seven-Day Week Keeps Course Help Away

By JAMES M. SHEPHERD

Supt., Country Club of Maryland, Towson, Md.

The golf course superintendent's toughest problem is the seven days per week schedule of work on the course. Almost all factories work five days a week with overtime pay for anything extra. Rarely any place but a golf course has men working for the public all seven days.

I doubt that top wages, steady employment or anything else that can be offered will solve problem of the seven-day week.

If some men who are shop-sick could get to know what a golf course offers we might ease some of our labor problem but that's about our only chance to get as many good, active men as we need.