

Play Your Best Golf All the Time," and in his newspaper instruction articles, has remarked that the expert tees a ball every time the rules allow, unless there is some short hole shot under conditions beyond the finessing of average golfers. Armour, too, says he can't understand why the average golfer ever neglects to use a tee on a short hole.

Sloppiness Expensive

Next to the tee damage, the superintendents responding to the Worthington Mower Co. survey said that carelessness—or downright sloppiness—in the disposal of litter usually was the biggest source of preventable expense, nuisance and deterioration of course appearance.

Cans and bottles thrown on fairways and in rough were a cause of complaint at courses where you'd not expect that trouble. Cans in the rough accounted for mower repairs and time out of operation.

In a number of instances the superintendents and officials said they had to accept some responsibility for the waste paper, cans, bottles, paper cups, candy, cigarette and ball packages and other debris being around the course as there hadn't been enough waste receptacles conveniently located.

Failure to repair ball marks in greens was listed high among causes of preventable expense and damage.

Preventable Greens Damage

Other carelessness on greens involved deep scuffing with spikes, mishandling of the flag, bag carts on greens, cigarette and cigar burns on greens, marking ball location by digging scratches with tees or, surprisingly enough, by knocking a dent into the green with the toe of a putter.

Damage to approaches and other areas adjacent to greens and tees by bag cart and golf car tracking was often reported.

Many superintendents said that there was more caddy training needed in handling of the flag. Several noted that small caddies jumping up to hold the flag and keep it from flapping was a common cause of green damage around cups.

The hot-tempered golfers who pound clubs into greens, tees and fairways after missing a shot also came in for painful mention.

Golfers definitely are improving in replacing divots and smoothing traps, although there are plenty of places where the golfers still haven't learned it isn't right to climb out the steep side of traps. Again, the superintendents say part of the trouble in trap care is that often there

aren't rakes provided for players and caddies at the traps.

Need Pro Good Examples

Many of the superintendents and officials say that the pros, and especially tournament pros, haven't given conspicuously good example in replacing divots or smoothing out traps. If the caddy doesn't do those jobs, the pros don't seem to care, according to a number of men responsible for course condition. Several club officials remarked that the PGA could do a good job for golf and improve public relations of tournament pros if they'd get tournament pros to give courses the consideration that dues-paying members are expected to show.

Bag carts in hazards and on trap banks account for plenty of avoidable maintenance work, superintendents say.

Loose spikes that come off shoes and damage mowers are another cause of expense that could be avoided. Superintendents wish that players would check up on their spikes before they leave the locker-rooms.

The superintendents and officials agree that educating golfers in course care is pretty much of a continuous job but the progress made during the first year a campaign was organized on a nation-wide basis by Worthington Mower gave high hope that the work would definitely reduce unnecessary expense in course maintenance and help keep courses in better and more attractive condition for all players.



AP Wirephoto

AFTER A DUST STORM

Dust storms are among the sources of trouble for course supts. in the southwestern states. Elmer Fugate, supt., Lakeside GC at Ponca City, Okla., got nationwide publicity for his ingenuity in plugging a vacuum cleaner into a portable generator and cleaning a layer of dust from his greens.