

Biggest Course Job Handled by Ed Brady and Staff

EDWARD P. BRADY, director of golf for the City of New York's Dept. of Parks, is responsible for the care of ten courses that get the heaviest golf traffic of any group of courses in the world.

The courses handle around 700,000 rounds per year, and probably will hit a new high this year as Brady kept open one course in each borough all through the winter, instead of operating them on the usual April through November schedule. Dyker in Brooklyn, Clearview in Queens, Mosolu in the Bronx and La-Tourette in Richmond were kept open and no signs of undue damage have appeared. Brady got pretty near the mild winter he expected.

Robert Moses, New York's commissioner of parks, long has been noted for getting good men and allowing them to handle their jobs to the utmost of their abilities and energy, without political interference. The park and golf course problems in New York are many and serious as the vast population must get recreation or go nutty. This means, of course, that on the New York courses the players outrank the turf in importance so Brady and his staff adjust themselves and their operations to conditions much more severe than face golf course maintenance organizations at private clubs. Considering the abuse the ten New York courses get they're generally in remarkably good condition.

Nursery and Soils Labs

The golf division has an experimental nursery under the supervision of Bill Doyle where newer strains of grasses are tested and when found satisfactory are in numerous cases produced for use on the city's courses and parks.

The department also has what started out as a soils testing laboratory, directed by Arthur E. Bartlett, and which now not only tests soils but has expanded greatly to become a general testing laboratory.

Brady was a civil engineer who got into golf work as supervisor, in charge of maintenance and operation of the 36 holes of the Pelham-Split Rock courses of the New York park dept. from 1936 to 1952. His interest and performance in golf

course turf management received high recognition from his colleagues in this work by their election of him to the presidency of the N. Y.-Conn. Turf Improvement Assn. for two terms, and in his election to the vice presidency of the New York State Turf Assn.

In 1947, Bill Doyle, who had been supervisor at Mosholu, became Brady's assistant at Pelham-Split Rock, and transferred from that post in November, 1953, to be Brady's deputy in charge of turf.

Besides being Director of Golf Brady also is Director of Special Projects which includes New York City's land reclamation program.

New Course From Sea

Under this program there will be reclaimed many thousands of acres of what now is tidal wasteland. At present, the site of the future Marine Park course in Brooklyn is being reclaimed. Bert Musser of Penn State, Jesse De France of Rhode Island, Fred Grau, Marshall Farnum and others well known as golf turf authorities, have been amazed at this job which involves the manufacture of synthetic topsoil, utilizing sewage sludge previously dumped into the sea.

The project in high gear utilizes about 2,000,000 gal. of sludge a week, sprayed on the area at the rate of 1000 gal. per minute.

New York's municipal courses begin registering a half-hour before the starting time which, officially, is sunrise. Over the municipal radio station WNYC the length of waiting time on city golf courses is broadcast.

The New York program includes entertaining and instructing public course golfers with such films as "Keep 'Em on the Fairway" and DuPont's "Enemies of Fine Turf."

Brady and his team are determined optimists in their policy of educating public course players to cooperate in keeping the courses in good condition for all. They want every player to enjoy the courses and continuously try to put across the idea that the effort to approximate private course conditions at New York's ten public courses is a two-way deal requiring

the players to act as intelligent golfers should—but often don't.

The way the Brady staff looks at the problem is that it's one of constant education, with so many new golfers continuously appearing on the scene. Players can't be blamed if they're not informed about what is expected of them on a golf course and this essential education isn't to be effectively done by accenting "forbidden" details.

Diplomatic Education

An interesting way in which this attitude is put into action appears in some green areas. As at many other courses, golf carts have caused considerable damage to aprons of N. Y. public course greens.

This misuse of the carts was greatly reduced by signs similar to golf carts, erected in vicinity of affected areas.

These signs have one wheel of a golf cart at the bottom and a cart handle at the top. Instead of the bag there is a red board, the size of a bag, on which appears "Please Don't Take Carts Upon Greens or Aprons."

Equipment Use Wisely Planned

Equipment is a tremendous buying, operating and maintenance problem at the New York City courses. Due to heavy traffic mechanized maintenance is vital and operating schedules are tightly planned on a time basis. That's not easy in anything involving weather, but Brady's men do it astonishingly well.

Thomas F. Gilligan is the golf department's director of mechanical equipment, and Frank Coughlin is supt. of automotive equipment. They see to it that all possible equipment to save operating expense and time in maintaining courses in satisfactory condition is available for the work, and that each piece of equipment is in correct order for operation on the job.

The New York City golf department management and operation is one that superintendents of private, public and semi-private courses in the east rate highly as demonstration of ably organized and conducted big business in a most difficult field of golf course maintenance.

New York City's public course golfers naturally don't realize what an enormous and demanding job it is to provide them with well-maintained courses, but other course superintendents do, and from their viewpoints say it's one of the top performances in the great jobs done by the Bob Moses organization in providing and operating public recreation facilities.

SERVICE AND SELLING EASIER IN GAFFORD'S SHOP



Raymond Gafford (L) and Bill Shelton, assistant, are in front of one of the specially built display shelving arrangements in the Ridgelea shop. A big point is made of keeping merchandise in the open for easy reach and purchase.

Notice that golf balls are right out where buyers can get at them and subject to the suggestion to buy a dozen balls instead of the customary three.



At Raymond Gafford's shop at Ridgelea CC, Fort Worth, Tex., the bag rack room is big and light so the boys can easily and quickly handle the bags.

The racks are large enough to protect various-sized bags against abrasion.

Eight levels of bag storage go pretty high but upper levels are provided for growth, emergency use or dead storage and the aisles are wide enough to accommodate a stable ladder device for reaching the upper compartments.