

REPORTS TELL STORY

Members Should Know About Work At Club

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AT THE start of every season there's in evidence at many golf clubs a tremendous amount of work done during the fall and winter by the course supt's staff. Members and officials rarely give this work more than a passing glance. They simply haven't been educated to the fact that the course maintenance department is busy the year around.

That's generally the superintendent's own fault. He laments that he's "the forgotten man" but what does he do in the way of advertising himself and his work for the club?

What supt. or pro-supt. has not heard the remark "Well, now that Labor Day is over, you can take it easy! What do you do with yourself all winter long anyway?" Sound familiar?

This will be my 35th year in the golf business, having started as a kid in England, moved on to Canada, then the United States. This is my tenth year at the Centre Hills CC where I am pro-superintendent.

During the first year, after the Labor Day climax to the golfing season, questions about my winter hibernation were plentiful. And most of them were spoken in all sincerity.

My club members did not know what a superintendent and his men could do during the colder weather! So I decided they should be enlightened. They were entitled to know just what the "men they were paying" were doing with their time.

During the past ten years I have kept

a complete, detailed work sheet for each man who works on the course, for every hour of each day. Before the annual membership meeting, I prepare from these work sheets, a summary report of "Hi-Lights of Work Accomplished during the Year." I keep a duplicate copy of this report in my files and give the original to my Green-chairman who reads it to the membership.

It contains such items as follows:

EQUIPMENT

Completely overhauled and painted:

- 2 tractors
- 1 Set 5 fairway Mowers
- 1 Set 3' fairway Mowers
- (Etc. List all items)

PLAYGROUND

Painted and repaired playground equipment.

Constructed new walk around kiddies' pool.

(Etc. List all work under playground)

CLUBHOUSE

Repaired and painted screens.

Painted lockers

Painted Grill room.

Repaired furniture.

(Etc. List all work done in clubhouse.)

TENNIS COURTS

—hours work on Tennis Courts.

NEW CONSTRUCTION ON COURSE

Made new tee for No. 5 hole.

Enlarged No. 4 green.

Built new bridge across creek on No. 3

Built dry wall right of walk to locker-room.

(Etc. Itemize)

BRIDGES

Installed new steps on bridge at No. 7 Green.

Painted and repaired bridges at No. 3 and No. 5.

(Etc. itemize all work on bridges)

WATER LINES

Opened water lines April 1st.

Installed new drinking fountains at No. 3 and No. 7.

Extended line to No. 8 tee.

(Etc.)

NURSERY

Planted 6,000 sq. ft. new nursery.

(list other)

TOPDRESSING

Mixed 50 tons of topdressing.

Topdressed greens, tees, nursery . . . etc.

SAND TRAPS

Edged all traps - times.

Raked all traps - times.

There are numerous other categories in which work done should be listed. Details should be given on what you've done in at least the following categories:

Liming, rolling, aerifying, fertilizing, changing cups, mowing, weed treatment, sodding, ball washers, chemical treatment of greens, snow removal, cleaning woods and grounds, road repairs, trash removal from clubhouse, pruning trees and shrubbery, rock removal, fence repairs, pump and plumbing repairs.

Details Show Work's Scope

You'll be surprised yourself by the scope of your department's work if you will keep detailed records. It's certain your members and officials will be amazed and impressed.

In addition to the annual report, I take advantage of the club News Letter to keep members up-to-date on any special projects which are being accomplished on the course, such as the construction, or enlarging of tees or greens, a special strain of grass in the nursery, a new bridge being built, etc.

The results of this effort to educate the average club member in the operation and maintenance of a golf course are most satisfying.

Now it is only the new club members who have not yet heard the supt's annual report on "Hi-Lights of Work Accomplished" who ask . . . "What do you do with yourself all winter?" The rest of the members know that after Labor Day, an active program is begun . . . weed killing, seeding, fertilizing, topdressing, new construc-

tion etc. They know, too, that as the weather gets colder the water lines are shut off, fountains and equipment taken in, woods cleared of brush and undergrowth, leaves raked and burned, fences and bridges repaired, rocks removed from fairways (if you have such hazards as we do).

And Snow and Ice

Then as snow and ice appear, of course club members know that the snow plow will be at work, the men cindering, all of the golf course equipment will be torn down, worn out parts replaced and general overhauling and painting of equipment accomplished. In the cold winter months they know the men will be busy repairing and painting benches, clubhouse furniture, play equipment, lockers, perhaps the clubhouse itself, as well as the 101 odd jobs always waiting to be done . . . screens repaired and painted, broken window panes replaced, etc.

When spring rolls around, but before the active golf season starts, your club members will know that your crew is busy policing grounds to clean up "storm damage" etc. rolling, aerifying, topdressing, fertilizing, opening water lines, setting out benches and equipment. Then as the grass begins to grow and regular routine maintenance begins your club members will have no questions, because they come out and see what is being done on the course.

Advantages of Program

The result of this educational program will be a help to both supt. and to club members. It will prove it is advantageous to keep key golf course men on a year-round basis to accomplish all the odd jobs, which would cost so much more if done by outside contractors, but more important, to keep these men on the year round so that the experienced golf course help will always be there in the spring, to continue right along. It is highly costly to the club and often times discouraging to a supt. to try to hire green help in the busy spring.

Also, you will find that when club members have a better understanding of golf course operation and understand the supt's problems and the reasons why certain rules and regulations are in effect, they have a new appreciation of their course. They discontinue careless play on greens, tees and fairways and take pride in the improvement of the course which they know the supt. has nurtured for their enjoyment. This makes for fine, harmonious relationship, a definite asset to any club.