



Uniforms for Maintenance Crew

San Jose CC, Jacksonville, Fla., has outfitted each member of its maintenance crew in forest green uniforms which carry the name of the club and the employee over the shirt pockets. Dan L. Hall, Jr., supt., who suggested the idea to his green committee, feels that the uniforms help distinguish maintenance employees from caddies, gives members the opportunity to call employees by name and creates the right eye appeal.

Motorist, Struck by Golf Ball, Awarded Damages

A decision that deserves careful consideration by every club with a course bordering closely on a public highway was handed down recently in the New York Court of Claims. The driver of a car on the highway, who was passing the Battle Island GC, was awarded damages when she was hit on the wrist by a golf ball. And, it was no mere private club that was held responsible. Battle Island is owned and operated by the sovereign state of New York.

The 18th hole of the Battle Island course parallels Route 48 between Oswego and Fulton. The driver of the car, Sylvia Farley Townley, was hit on the wrist by a wildly driven ball while she was signalling for a right turn. She brought suit against the State contending that the driving of golf balls on or across the highway, something that was fairly frequent during more than 25 years that the state had operated the course, constituted a public nuisance to travelers using the highway. "With this the court agrees," says the opinion.

Pointing out that the public is entitled to "free and unmolested use of the highways," the court continued, "the game of golf, itself, is not inherently dangerous. In the case at bar, however, the evidence established that the state had notice of golf balls landing on or across the highway. It

was surely within the realm of foreseeable possibility that golfers might drive a ball into the stream of traffic along the highway. This possibility presents the element of danger."

State Should Recognize Danger

The court further observed that the state's failure to erect protective devices to eliminate this element of danger "created a hazard of which the state in the exercise of reasonable diligence should have been aware."

Although holding the state liable for injuries to persons lawfully using the highways and decreeing that an award should be made, the reported decision fails to satisfy the curiosity of those who would like to know what a blow on the wrist from a golf ball is worth in cold cash. It does not mention the amount awarded.

Gowanda CC Is Model of Small Course Construction

Superintendents and professionals in western New York are commenting with high favor on the excellence and economy of the job done in building the new 9-hole Gowanda (N.Y.) CC. Al Schardt, supt., Wanakah CC, Hamburg, N. Y., designed and supervised construction of the layout. W. Peters is construction supt.

Schardt is a veteran who started as one of the lads under Rockefeller at Inverness in Toledo.

The Gowanda site was selected in April, 1956. It's rolling ground with woods and a stream. Site is irregular and permits placement of holes so there is plenty of room between them and ample practice area. Fourth tee also is near the clubhouse.

Work on the course started in June, 1956. Fairways were seeded before the third week in September and were cut twice before the first snowfall, Nov. 28.

About 5,000 ft. of pipe line were installed and underground sprinkler heads were located at all greens and tees. Two spring-fed ponds with approximately 2,000,000 gal. storage were built. Cable for pumps was run underground 1400 ft.

For drainage, 4,500 ft. of tile was installed.

Details on Grass

All fairways were treated with 800 lbs. 5-10-5 per acre. Fairways were seeded with 30 per cent Kentucky bluegrass, 35 per cent creeping red fescue, 20 per cent Colonial bent and 10 per cent domestic ryegrass.

Greens were surfaced with 8 in. of prepared top soil containing coarse sand, peat moss and organic fertilizer.

Greens were seeded with 50 percent Seaside bent and 50 per cent Astoria bent at

the rate of 5 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft.

Due to cooperation of Gowanda businessmen and contractors, course cost was notably low and speed of construction was fast. An 11-ft. bulldozer, a 1-yd. high-lift and three trucks made up most of the equipment used in building the course.

Tractors, rough cutters, mowers and small tools for maintenance were bought and used early so the course was in good, cleaned-up condition for the opening.

Schardt went at the job with the idea of developing a pattern for smaller course construction that would be as small as practical without leaving the job so it would be unsatisfactory to play and difficult to maintain at the degree of condition the players on 9-hole courses now expect.

Golfdom's advertising and editorial staff doesn't exactly hibernate during November and December; neither does it publish the magazine during these two months. That should give everyone connected with the publication time to thank those who have helped make 1957 another successful year, but in case anyone is missed, we're expressing our thanks right here. See you in January, 1958!

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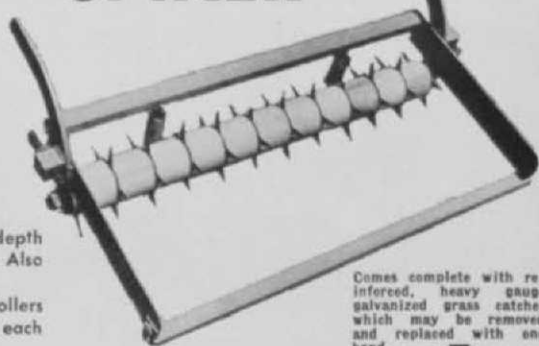
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