

GCSA Convention Speeches

Member Sees Supt. As An Expert in His Field

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What are the ingredients of a capable supt?

Although outward appearances differ, nearly all successful and outstanding supts. have many characteristics in common.

What are these characteristics?

1. They enjoy their work.
2. They have confidence in themselves.
3. They are constantly striving to learn more about their job.
4. They have developed imagination.
5. They have a working plan to which they adhere.
6. They have developed the knack of building goodwill, both with their staff and members of their club.
7. They keep full and complete records daily.

It is obvious that the day's work must be planned ahead in order to get the most out of your men and out of your budget. An unplanned, unregulated day means disorganized and undirected work. I can remember the days when the only important job of the supt. was maintaining the greens in perfect condition.

Today members demand that maintenance of fairways, the rough, traps, tees, disease control, drainage, water supply, equipment care, management of help and keeping records are included among duties that fall upon the supt.

Seen As An Expert

The members regard the supt. as an expert in every phase of agronomy and horticulture. In order for him to maintain that impression, he has to study and keep up with developments in an industry that has made tremendous progress in the last decade.

Someone said, "That the day we cease our efforts to learn, we die mentally," and to quote another philosopher who said, "Alas for our hero — too busy to read — he was also too busy, it proved to succeed."

Study and mix with fellows in your profession. Not one of you by yourself can know all the answers — for as James A. Reid wrote: "No Club can 'afford' the cost of new ideas, new weed controls, new fertilizers, new equipment." The USGA green section, colleges, commercial houses, chemical firms are experimenting and are releasing their findings in conferences, books and monthly magazines and papers. One is lucky to be around today when so much is being uncovered in the science of dealing with grasses

and the art of dealing with people.

The keeping of records is an onerous job. You undoubtedly ask yourself if it is really necessary. Just ask Taylor Boyd, of the Camargo Club, Cincinnati, one of America's outstanding course executives, how vital keeping daily records is to your job. The records kept at Woodmont by Bob Shields, our capable supt., has enabled me, as liaison man between the maintenance dept. and the board, to present the actual budget requirements which are based on accurate figures.

There is no guesswork when you have dependable records which take about 15 to 20 minutes a day to keep. The budget committee then sees facts that have been faithfully accumulated showing how every dollar has been spent. Thus the budget committee shares responsibility for the way in which the course and grounds can be maintained.

The budget committee and members of the Board should be made to understand the original big investment the club already has in the course, that it must be maintained with great care. To accomplish this, we must have a staff that understands its job, is devoted and loyal to the interests of the club. It is the job of the chmn. of the green committee to continually educate and impress upon officials the fact that they cannot relax for one moment in the proper care and maintenance of the course around which every other activity in the club must revolve.

South Shall Rise Again - With Turfgrass

By JAMES M. LATHAM

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Demand of the golfing public for better playing conditions and the desire of the supt. for more easily-maintained turf have been the driving forces behind the development of improved grasses. These same groups are responsible for their use. Not too long ago there was quite a division grass-wise between the North and South — bent, bluegrass and fescue for the North; Bermuda, centipede, carpet and St. Augustine for the South. The crabgrass belt from St. Louis to Washington was a no-man's land, not fit for any desirable grass. Mostly, this area depended unsuccessfully upon cool-season grasses. This situation certainly is changing today.

The old cry, "The South will rise again," is certainly true with turfgrasses. U-3 Bermuda is one of the greatest things to happen to golf in the crabgrass belt with summer problems. Al Linkogel started working with it in 1947 in St. Louis, Eb Steiniger at Pine Valley, Clementon, N. J., has been using U-3 Bermuda for fairway turf. Several other northeastern courses have found it useful as a turfgrass. Certainly U-3 is not the only Bermuda adapted to this area, but it is the only one which has been widely tested and approved. Among newer

(Continued on page 77)