

# New Superintendent Gets Quick Education in Member Relations

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A year ago this spring when I took over as supt. at Calumet CC after having served an apprenticeship at Olympia Fields (Ill.) CC, I had quite a few qualms as to whether I was going to be able to handle the job. I suppose a lot of fellows are beset by self-doubt when they take that big step from an assistant's post to the head man position. For a while you are a little afraid if you have forgotten what you have learned, or if you are capable of thinking at the right time of everything you've learned. Possibly even worse than this, you start thinking about all the bad things that can happen to your golf course after you've taken over.

It wasn't bad enough that I was taking over my first big job. The course I was going to had been chewed up by tollway construction the fall before, making it necessary to construct five new holes and rebuild four others. To make matters even worse, heavy spring rains knocked out two of the remaining nine holes until we could get around to tiling them.

## Three Times Around

So that the members could get in their golf, we had them play six of the seven remaining holes, suggesting, of course, that they make the circuit three times to get in a full 18. Traffic on these half dozen holes reminded you of a merry-go-round, with greens, tees and even fairways taking a terrific beating because of the concentrated play. As you might guess, this was another big knock in the head for a fellow who already had a king size headache.

But I lived through it. Not only because of hard work in trying to bring construction and maintenance along simultaneously, but more important because I suddenly realized that I had a tremendous job in members relations to handle.

When your course is all chewed up, this becomes the most important thing in your life.

There are about 200 players at Calumet. During the year I must have given at least four or five explanations to each as to why certain things were as they were on the

## Catch Up with Stolen Acushnet Golf Balls in New Jersey

Two men have been charged in New Jersey with possession of 17,500 doz. Acushnet golf balls stolen from the terminal of a freight line firm in Chicago in January. They are Gene Intravartola, Jamesburg, N.J., and Alexander C. Di-Brizzi, Staten Island, N.Y. The balls were found in the basement of Intravartola's home. The truckload of balls were enroute from Acushnet's New Bedford, Mass., plant to Evanston, Ill. when it was hijacked. According to the FBI, more arrests are expected to be made in the case.

course. Occasionally I thought that some of the protests, most of them mild, by the way, about playing conditions were a little unwarranted, but from the beginning I decided I had to roll with the punch. Fortunately, the members were at least 99 per cent reasonable and understanding after things were explained to them.

## Keeps Members Fully Posted

We did just a little more than explain why occasional rough spots developed on the six playing holes. By bulletins as well as verbally, we kept the members posted as to progress on the new holes that were being constructed as well as those that were being repaired. This is very important in keeping them in the proper frame of mind.

Incidentally, I shouldn't take credit for carrying the entire member relations load. Walter Haefner, our club mgr., and Dave Mose, Calumet's pro, also pitched in by providing what I would call a great deal of diversionary activity to keep the members' minds off the fact that they weren't playing as much as golf as they wanted to play. Walter arranged more parties, dinners and barbecues than the club had ever known before. Dave ran a series of putting and offbeat tournaments that proved here is a man of great imagination.

Getting along with six holes where traffic is heavy isn't easy, but this is how we managed to survive until September when the remaining 12 were put in play:

- Pins were changed daily, mostly to the sides of the greens, and brought into the centers on Saturdays and Sundays.

- Tee markers were moved daily and usually twice a day on Saturdays and Sundays. Tee divots were seeded every Mon-

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