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Supt. Discusses Malicious Damage, Ball Reclamation Problems

Speaking at a recent meeting of the New England GCSA, Charlie Parker, supt. at Agawan Hunt Club, Providence, R. I., said that it is his observation that most malicious damage to golf courses is caused by disgruntled caddies and when the problem becomes serious, clubs should make a study of their caddie programs. If this doesn't alleviate the situation, Parker said that the only recourse is for clubs to arrange with the local police department for some kind of patrol.

Discussing reclamation of balls from water hazards, Parker pointed out that it is generally agreed that the balls belong to the club. However, if the hazard is a public waterway or extends beyond the course property, dredging for balls by outside parties doesn't necessarily constitute trespassing. This is particularly true if the dredging operation is carried out from a boat even though the boat may be within what are considered the confines of the club property.

Parker's solution to the reclamation problem: The club should regularly dredge its water hazards so that outsiders won't find it profitable to do so.

\$600,000 in Prize Money for 22 PGA Winter Tournaments

Approximately \$600,000 in prize money will be offered in 13 "official" and 9 "unofficial" PGA winter tournaments that start with the Los Angeles Open (Jan. 6-9) and are concluded with the Masters, Apr. 6-9.

For the first time there will be three \$50,000 tournaments in a row on the winter agenda. These are the Bing Crosby Pro-Am, Lucky International and Palm Springs Classic, coming between Jan. 19 and Feb. 5. The Crosby and Classic are holdovers and the Lucky International, to be played in San Francisco, Jan. 26-29, is a new entry. The Palm Springs affair will again feature a \$50,000 bonus for a hole-in-one.

Other Big Events

Other big money tournaments include the Los Angeles Open, Phoenix Open, New Orleans Open, De Soto Lakes Open and, of course, the Masters. This year the Augusta event added \$87,000 to the PGA prize list, making it the second most lucrative event of the season. This was an increase of \$11,000 over 1959 and \$27,000 over 1958.