

Few Members Realize Extent of Golf Course Vandalism

Vandalism, which is called "kids' disease" by supts. whose courses have been damaged, is becoming more extensive and expensive each year.

Comparatively few of the juvenile offenders are caught. Recently, employees at George S. May's Tam o' Shanter CC, northwest of Chicago, caught two boys who had climbed the fence. Each employee collected \$100 from May for apprehending the young vandals. The boys were charged with trespassing and stealing golf balls. The Waveland course greens at Lincoln Park, Chicago, were damaged by vandals and flags, poles, cups and ball washers were stolen. Some clubs in Chicago district allow boys to recover balls from water holes after experiencing some vandalism when kids were kept off.

Lawrence G. Mattei, supt., Kingsboro CC, Gloversville, N.Y., and pres., Northeastern GCSA, writes in the Northeastern "Collaborator":

If the Greens Committee wonders what happened to your budget, show them the list of the various acts of vandalism and the amount of loss involved, either for the repairs or replacement.

Record All Facts

Your records should show the date that the vandalism occurred, the exact nature of the act, costs and any procedure followed to apprehend those responsible including a report to law enforcement agencies. Some of the vandalism may be classified as pranks by the uninterested, but all of it costs money.

Each succeeding year sees vandalism taking a bigger cut out of the budget in replacement of flags, flagpoles, ball washers, tee markers, benches, yardage markers, towels; the wanton destruction of fine turf grass on greens, tees and fairways plus uprooted trees, broken tree branches and ruined nursery stock, to say nothing of broken windows, broken fences and the rain shelters that are torn apart. It may be surprising to the uninitiated to add that many times human excreta has been found in the cup.

Tractors and mechanized equipment must be guarded at all times. Ignition wires and distributor caps have vanished along with air filters. Soil, sand and gravel have been poured into the gas tank or crankcase or both by, we assume, some devilish boys while the tractor operator



Much of the land that is being used in the construction of an 18-hole course in Key West, Fla., is being dredged out of the Gulf of Mexico. Sam Golan (l), pres. of the club, is seen pointing to what will be the 15th fairway. He is shown with Delio Cobo, Key West's mayor and a golf enthusiast. Keys peat moss, excavated from the roots of mangrove swamps, will provide topsoil for the entire course. Besides the 15th hole, parts of the 13th and 14th are being built in the Gulf. The course will cost more than \$300,000. Its pro is the veteran Joe Lopez.

has gone to lunch or for a drink of water.

The sad part of it all is that once in awhile these mischievous kids are caught only to go unpunished because the law enforcement personnel and in most cases parents consider these costly acts as childish pranks. There is little respect for the property of others today and from this we can readily understand why in some areas there is little respect for law and order. Children do not know or realize the seriousness of their acts, so isn't it reasonable to expect their parents to be responsible? I dare say, that juvenile delinquency would be practically eliminated in all of America if the judiciary used the backbone it was born with.

George A. Davis, head of George A. Davis, Inc., golf course equipment and supply dealers, Chicago, recalls that when he and his brother, Howard, (now pro emeritus of Ridgemoor CC, Chicago) were caddies about 1907-10 at the old Calumet CC at Cottage Grove and 95th st., Jim Foulis who then was pro had a collie that prevented vandalism and trespassing.