



Safety— It's Something That Is Planned

By Andrew A. Bertoni

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SAFETY and accident prevention are among the most important tasks of the supt. Accidents are expensive. Course maintenance may be slowed down or stopped completely by them. Valuable workers may be temporarily or permanently lost. The accident may result in a neglected course or even the club's loss of community goodwill. Even more important than the loss to the club is the effect on the worker and his family. Therefore, from this standpoint alone the supt. and the club must make certain that every operation is carried on as safely as possible. Safety equipment required for the job must be adequate and in good working order.

I am a firm believer that personal problems affect personnel. An anxious, fearful, worried employee is likely to become inefficient, dissatisfied, ripe for an accident. In the "Handbook for Supervisors" by Ecker et. al. it is claimed that morale or attitude of a worker towards his job is a significant element in production and safety. He is a hazard not only to himself but also his co-workers if his attitude is negative.

State of Mind

Since safety is a state of mind, these

This article is condensed from a speech made by Bertoni at the 1961 USGA green section meeting.

two fundamental principles are of consequence: (1) Constructive suggestions and positive directions are of more value than a list of "don'ts;" (2) Emphasis should be placed on the promotion of safety and the prevention of accidents as a means of insuring greater usefulness rather than fear of injury. Safety education should develop courage with prudence as distinguished from foolhardiness.

I cannot recall a single employee fatality that has occurred at a course. There must be an unconscious safety endeavor on the part of the supt. Apparently, he is keenly aware of the safety and welfare of his crew. Golf courses can consider themselves fortunate that there have not been many fatal or serious injuries.

Watch Out For Each Other

There are many hazards in course work but, as in any well regulated business, these hazards have been carefully analyzed and safety rules and practices have been established to forestall them. If I relate what we do at Meadowbrook to promote safety it is because, as in all talks of this type, it is necessary to resort to personal experiences.

Our workmen are taught to watch out for themselves and for other crewmen. We ask that they keep track of each other at all times on the course. Since they are in danger of flying golf balls the men wear white pith helmets and white uniforms.

Here are things that are provided or what we try to prevent:

Heat — can cause prostration, sunburn, excessive perspiration, etc. Sedatives, restoratives, creams, ointments, insect repellants in various forms are part of each man's first aid kit.

Cold — frost bites, exposure, etc. We furnish suits of thermal underwear, boots, gloves, uniforms, and coveralls. (These are actually cheap fringe benefits. They more than pay for themselves in increased work output.)

Rain and lightning — USGA has done a fine presentation on this. Our men are instructed to go out in their cars to bring in stranded members and caddies.

Several Regulations

Driving — on the course, club property, etc. — golfers and children are hazards here. We have speed limits. On our tractors and other mobile equipment are mounted multiview mirrors, similar to the type used on busses. Brakes are constantly checked; parking or stopping on steep hills is forbidden. Keys are never left in equipment. Mounting and unmounting can be hazardous; men are taught the correct method. We request all employees to walk around a piece of equipment before it is mounted.

Mowers — these can be treacherous. They should be treated as such. One person only adjusts the reel at a time. Leather gloves are worn when adjusting in the shear area. It is interesting to note that there are twice as many finger amputations for the age group under 18 years than all others. One can readily see why some states will not allow youths under 18 to work with power equipment. An experienced man handles this for us — we put the coolest man on the hottest job. We have one rotary — the man who uses it has safety protective shoes. Common sense safety practices are in effect when work is done in any way, any place, any time, as regards mowers. The danger of burn, hand, finger, or foot injury multiplies in the mower area; therefore, precautions and safety practices should multiply in ratio.

Know How It Works

Electricity — Know where the live wires come into the buildings and on to the course. Alert your crew on switch operation. Motors should be as automatic as possible. Have warning signs, paint danger areas, lock buildings or fences.

Chemicals — these can be the big bad wolf. In general, instruct your crew to

Commuting Pro



Bill Entwistle, Jr. and his wife.

Bill Entwistle, Jr., who wrote the April *Golfdom* article, "Bright Displays Will Never Match the Good Sell," may be the only international, commuting pro in the history of golf. Besides running the shop at Ogdensburg (N. Y.) CC, Entwistle is the head pro at a club in Prescott, Ontario. To travel between jobs, which are about 10 minutes apart, he has to drive across the new Seaway Skyway bridge which spans the St. Lawrence river. There have been quite a few instances where pros have operated shops at two clubs, but it's doubtful if any have done so in two countries. If you know whether this has been done before, *Golfdom* would like to hear about it.

treat all chemicals with utmost respect. Again, we furnish rubber gloves, aprons, boots, face masks, goggles, and protective creams. If not too windy, we want chemicals mixed outside for good ventilation. We have built a platform so that workmen can put chemicals down into a tank rather than hold them overhead. This avoids spilling into eyes, face, and body. Plastic containers and measuring cups are safer. May I suggest to the manufacturer that chemicals be marked in a better manner, including dangers and precautions involved and antidotes prescribed. At my suggestion some manufacturers have pre-

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Safety Is Planned

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pared their chemicals in soluble glutinous bags — no handling, no measuring — just throw them in. There is much room for improvement. Supts. should warn workers against skin contact, eyes, breathing, and swallowing. Smoking should not be permitted. Where safety of the pocketbook is concerned chemicals should never be stored near seed or fertilizer — they can sterilize and contaminate. They should be stored separately, containers tightly secured and under lock and key.

Avoid the Strain

Material handling — Avoid storing heavy objects overhead. Lifting or carrying or lowering objects is among the most dangerous jobs in industry. Handling loads that are too heavy, using back muscles instead of leg muscles, not having a proper grip on an object, not using proper tools for lifting, not having a firm footing, or jerking or twisting the body rate among the chief causes of injury.

Digging and tree trimming — These activities require constant alertness and good equipment such as sharp saws, clip-

pers, ladders, picks and axes with tight handles. We hire professional tree trimmers. They have insurance, recognize their own hazards and in the long run are cheaper. Some trimming can be done from the bucket of a tractor front loader.

Shop — The common sense rules of safety that prevail in industry and good garage operations pertain here. "Good housekeeping" means clean buildings, floors free from obstacles over which one can fall, floor clean of oil and grease, rags, rubbish and other hazards. Proper lighting and ventilation, especially for spray painting, is essential. I have read that touching any part of a broken fluorescent light is dangerous because the inside coating retards healing and can cause complications. Proper and sharp tools, guards, double jacks, etc. are a safety must. We have our employees take turns cleaning up the shop — in this way all are acquainted with the handling of tools and know where they belong.

Keep the Date

Fire — It is a good idea to mark your calendar as to the date the extinguisher should be checked. Here's something to



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make you think: (1) Your fire extinguisher may be useless when needed; (2) It may spread the fire if used incorrectly; (3) It can produce dangerous gasses. So be sure of yours and have them checked!

Other Safety Measures

Perhaps you may gain something from the following practices. Every piece of equipment for each man has a first aid kit and fire extinguisher for any emergency. We have saved three electric carts that got too hot.

Around our ponds we place life savers and ropes. Players and children should not be there, but they are!

Signs are placed at #1 and #10 tees notifying members when greens have been sprayed and warning them not to place a ball to their mouths and also to clean their shoes before entering locker room. We also alert locker room attendants.

In a twofold effort to teach and practice safety, we have our men constantly look for hazards on the course. This may surprise you, but some of our best ideas are tapped from this source. Ramps leading from steep tees for electric cars, suggested by an employee, eliminated the roller coaster atmosphere and also the dangers.

Golf at Guantanamo

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likes the duty. When he retired he did just what he wanted to do by getting a job running a golf course.

The club holds an invitation tournament each year that has fast become a must on the military golfer's list. The 72 hole medal play event attracts many of the best of the military golfers stationed not only in the Caribbean area but also at bases within the United States. Many save up leave just for this tournament, then hitchhike by military aircraft to be on hand for this highly enjoyable event. Frank Boynton, a pro golfer in civilian life and a former sailor won one of the Guantanamo tournaments. Jim Kinder, ex-All Navy champion, comes up from his San Juan duty station to compete. Jim is presently the Navy's best in the Caribbean area.

There is plenty of trouble outside the gate. But inside, Guantanamo goes quietly about the task of training men and ships. That 27-hole course, built as a big "Do It Yourself" project at no cost to the government, contributes its part to that training. It's physical fitness at its best and keeps morale highest. When there is a little time to spare a lot of golf is played.

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