

Understanding Is More Than Scientific Skill

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Too many of today's supts. concern themselves solely with such headaches as weather, manpower, money limitations and player interference. These considerations are very important, yet most of us have been coping with them for the last 30 years.

Of late, we have been aided by radically improved chemicals, increased budgets and other new and effective aids. We combat the intrusion of disease into our turf with new fungicides and insecticides, using modern equipment in applying them. New fertilizers and tools appear every year, introduced and demonstrated by sales engineers of competent manufacturers. With-out these men and their knowledge, our headaches would increase tremendously.

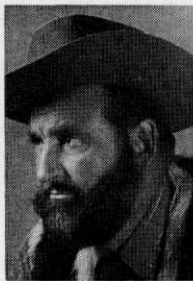
Another recent development is the swelling of ranks of supts. by young college men serving as "on-the-job-trainees." These future turfmasters are well versed in the technical aspects of their profession and most eventually become capable supts. Yet there is something missing.

Although the knowledge of agronomy, silviculture, plant pathology and hydraulics is essential to course construction and maintenance, we require an overall understanding of the esthetic, sporting and financial sides of golf before we can do a complete job.

Not Just Turf, Tee, Traps

Today's golf course, with its spacious clubhouse, grounds and recreation areas, is no longer merely made up of turf, tees and traps. It is designed by professionals from many fields to be a thing of beauty as well as a challenge to golfers. Ornamental trees and shrubs are selected for their appealing appearance as well as their ease of maintenance. Requirements for turf include playability and attractiveness

** This photo tells why Bob Pelusi considers himself the most western of Western supts.*



Bob Pelusi*

in addition to adaptability to soil, weather and drainage conditions. Recreational and horticultural areas are multihued symphonies of color, trimmed and pruned for neatness and vigor, yet displaying the dignity of nature.

Demands Are Numerous

Today's supt. not only faces weather, disease, personnel, hydraulic, budget and equipment problems but is confronted by the demands of public relations, keeping course records, preparing for tournaments, front office correspondence and player recommendations and complaints.

Present turf growing methods and procedures are a far cry from those we knew some years ago. The future promises even more radical innovations. We supts. who have mastered the techniques and prin-

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ciples of agronomy, plant pathology and other sciences realize that these technical building blocks must be cemented with practical experience to withstand the demands put upon them. Give us the youth of today, trained in the sciences, and we will try to instill the necessary experience.

Big Year for Mickey

The \$31,269 that Mickey Wright won on the Ladies PGA tour in 1963 was nearly \$5,000 more than Betsy Rawls collected in 1959 when she set the old money winning record. Mickey won 13 tournaments last year, bringing her professional total to 52. The old record for one season was 10, shared by Miss Wright and Betsy Rawls. Louise Suggs, with 50 was the previous all-time tournament winner. Kathy Whitworth, winner of eight Ladies PGA tournaments in 1963, collected about \$70 more than Betsy Rawls claimed in 1959.