

Others Get Praise, Money While Supts. Sulk in Their Maintenance Buildings

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For the past few years I have heard supts. in my area constantly declare they are worth much more than their present salaries. I have heard them say that growing fine turf is not a simple matter. I have been told that supt. must be trained in agrostology, agronomy, arboriculture, botany, chemistry, landscape architecture, mechanics and business management; that he is a landscaper, chemist, plumber, mechanic, accountant, purchasing agent, personnel manager and golfer.

I have continuously been challenged to name where else in the business world a person in charge of 10-20 men, an annual budget from \$35,000 to \$100,000, thousands of dollars worth of machinery and 150 acres of valuable land is making well under \$10,000 a year.

What is the answer? Could it be that we need to tell our story? Shouldn't we inform the public as to the problems involved in turfgrass management? We definitely do! Our handling of public relations has been extremely poor. We must acquaint the public with the duties of a supt. by writing magazine and newspaper articles, by accepting speaking engagements and by making ourselves known to the players at our clubs.

150 Acres of Problems

It is our responsibility to erase the image of the simple grass cutter from the minds of the public. The homeowner has an idea of the problems involved in keeping a weed-free, insect-free and fungus-free lawn. He should be told the supt. encounters these same problems every day, that he is striving for perfection on a 150 acre tract of land with several different types of grass cut at different heights. In addition several hundred feet are tramping his turf and 50 electric golf cars are rolling over it.

You don't think this is true? All right, try this the next time you're introduced to a stranger. Tell him your occupation and watch for the puzzled expression on his face. I'm sure you all already have seen it. Now ask this person if he knows what you do. I bet more often than not the answer will be, "You must be the fellow who cuts the grass."

No Screening Here

A supt., who did not have an assistant, recently retired from one of our exclusive country clubs. Did this club accept applications from qualified candidates to fill this vacancy? No! They awarded the position to one of the course laborers who doesn't know one grass, weed, fertilizer or chemical from another, but does know how to cut grass. Another club appointed a supt. who was not the best qualified man for the position, but offered to work for the least money. It can readily be seen that even the men in charge of country clubs do not recognize the fact that a supt. must possess technical knowledge.

Recently I watched the concluding ceremonies of a televised tournament. The winner thanked the club president, the club manager, the assistant manager and the pro and congratulated them on the condition of their fine golf course. But he didn't think to mention the man who really had the golf course in such excellent playing condition for the tournament.

No Newspaper Recognition

I have noticed that newspapers hardly recognize our profession. In the spring, when an article appears on the sport pages concerning the conditions of golf courses in this area, the writer asks the opinions of the pros. But the pros aren't to blame for oversights such as these.

This past year a supt. and a profes-
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Others Get Praise, Money

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sional were hired by an area club. Which man and position was given a big send-off in the newspaper? You guessed it — the professional. The supt's name wasn't mentioned.

Supt. Overlooked

Last winter I attended an employee's Christmas party at one of the local private country clubs. I heard warm praise of the fine atmosphere of the clubhouse and excellence of the food. The manager of the club was lauded for the great job he had performed the past year. But again the golf course or the supt. wasn't mentioned. The course, I know, had been in fine shape all year.

So, how can the supt., hope to advance his profession and earnings if he allows such things to continue? I reiterate, "We must inform the public." Let's not sulk in our maintenance buildings and continue to be the unknown or forgotten men.

Visit Other Courses

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come from Texas in the spring eager to work. Late in the fall, when things slow down at the club, they are happy to return home. That makes it ideal for them and me. Mexicans are capable of doing more work in hot weather than any other nationality I know of. I think the secret is that they drink enormous quantities of water and it doesn't seem to make them sick as it does people of other nationalities. Or, it may be that Mexicans are basically very happy people who derive their greatest pleasure from working with the soil. I have been told that many of them aren't content working on inside jobs.

We are told that eventually automation is going to catch up with course maintenance and that in five or ten years, our labor requirements will be cut in two, if not more. I feel that we will see some changes, but as to how they are going to affect our manpower requirements, I wouldn't venture to say. In the future we