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make 5,000 or 10,000 decisions a year. Then, too, if you're connected with the golf business, you'll find that it's a passport in itself."

If these observations didn't convince the student visitors where their future is, Moore gave them this parting sally: "And don't forget that our equipment is getting sexier looking every year!"

Fifth Session

Panelists Tell How to Protect Course, Owner

As chairman of the fifth assembly, Earl Nystrom of Ryan Equipment Co., St. Paul, introduced a panel on vandalism, security and liability composed of **Walter A. Slowinski**, GCSA counsel, **Holman M. Griffin**, USGA Eastern green section rep, and **Alfred E. Hoffman**, Ohio State U. supt. Other speakers on the program were **Gordon Brinkworth**, supt. at Sunset Oaks CC, Rocklin, Calif., and **William E. (Bill) Lyons**, owner of a Par 3 course in Canal Fulton, O.

Favor Course Owner

Speaking on the subject of the course owner's liability, **Walter Slowinski** said that the courts generally are sympathetic to the person who operates a golf layout, figuring perhaps that there are many "accident prone" individuals who are out to make an easy dollar at the expense of the man who provides them a recreation site. It is quite well established, said **Slowinski**, that if the golf property is kept reasonably safe, a player has little recourse to collecting for any injuries he may incur.

"Reasonably safe" is rather widely interpreted, it is true, but by the same token, the golfer has to accept some responsibility for his well being. In one case cited by the GCSA counsel, a player was held to have been guilty of "contributory negligence," and his case thrown out of court, when testimony proved that he had wandered rather blindly into a pothole that was easily observable to other persons who played the course. "Of course," said **Slowinski**, "another court may have decided in favor of the plaintiff in this case. But it does prove that if an owner exercises ordinary care

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Golf Now Included in Index "Market Basket"

Golf is now included in the "market basket." The Labor Department recently announced that the game plus a number of other goods, services and recreational activities have been added to the list that is used in computing the cost of living index. Besides making additions to the list, the Department has changed the weight given various components in the index.

Items that have been added along with golf are hotel and motel rooms, outboard motors, phonograph records, textbooks, legal services, funerals and garbage disposal units. Dropped from the index are women's nighties, men's pajamas, appendectomies and sewing machines. About 400 items now are used in making up the cost of living tab, where only 325 were used before.

Food carries less weight in the new compilation, while recreation, housing, transportation, automobile ownership and several other items carry more.

in marking unsafe areas, or by locating them some distance from paths that are regularly used, as happened in this case, the court will give this precaution all due consideration.

Allow for Deviation

The court, too, said Slowinski, is inclined to be lenient with the player who hits a ball and strikes another person, especially if it is established that ordinary care was taken before the ball was hit. The reasoning is, as a Missouri judge decided some years ago, that the slightest deviation at impact can cause a ball to go astray.

Courts generally agree that one player is not the insurer of another's safety, but that does not mean that ordinary care must not be exercised by every golfer. He is obligated to look before he hits the ball to make sure that his driving range is clear, and he also is expected to give the customary "Fore" warning if other persons are even remotely endangered by a ball that he may hit.

As for trespassing, Slowinski pointed out that an owner usually is not liable for injuries to persons who unlawfully invade his property. However, if there are unusual hazards on a course property,

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Green Section Road Show Scheduled for March

The USGA in a followup of the success of the green section's and club officials' regional conferences held last year, has set regional programs for March 23 in Los Angeles (Ambassador Hotel) March 25 in Detroit (Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel), and March 27 in Philadelphia (Bellevue-Stratford). On days following each of the green section programs, conferences of club officials will be held.

The green section programs will follow the pattern of the turf meetings that were held prior to the USGA annual meeting in New York and will have the theme, "The Putting Green." The New York program presented green section staff members, prominent supts., green section committee members headed by Chmn. Henry H. Russell, and amateur Champions, Mrs. Allison Choate (USGS Women's Senior) and William P. Turnesa (British and USGA National Amateur).

even trespassers have to be protected against them. If children trespass and are injured, the owner has little recourse. "There are too many of the so-called 'attractive nuisances' on a course to keep kids out," the GCBA attorney observed, "and the responsibility for protecting them against these hazards rests with the property owner."

Kids to Blame

Holman Griffin gave an account of the rather extensive study of vandalism that the USGA made two or three years ago. It was found that the most frequent violators of course property are kids ranging from 12 to 15 years of age and most of their depredations are committed on the greens. The USGA went beyond effects and concluded that the cause of the destruction is due to boredom on the part of the kids, lack of parental control, too many movies and too much TV, and gang motivation.

"There probably is no cure for vandalism the USGA has decided," Griffin stated. "But it can be cut down by strong judicial action in some cases, better protection methods on the part of people who run the courses, and by better community relations. Clubs can do a great deal in the latter area," Griffin continued, "by fostering or supporting youth pro-

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grams. If the kids' craving for excitement is drained off through legitimate activity, that is at least partly sponsored by country clubs, it won't be spent in destroying greens, breaking flagsticks and stealing everything that is movable."

Griffin showed several slides that reveal just how extensive and insane golf course damage can be. One among them, though, showed how a supposedly defenseless golf course can have its revenge: An adult, probably with the I.Q. of a field mouse, drove his automobile across several greens but finally wound up in a deep trap that impounded the car. It cost the fellow a few dollars to get squared away on that one.

Tolerate Some Damage

Ohio State University, according to Al Hoffman, has its share of petty vandalism in the off-season, but until losses exceed the cost of hiring a night watchman, the destruction will have to be tolerated. Usually, it amounts to about \$500 a year. It probably would be greater, Hoffman remarked, if the 36-hole Scarlet and Gray courses weren't fenced in and if both layouts weren't well lighted. Trespassers who are caught (about 80 per cent are youngsters) are given a firm warning not to return, but it is rare when they are turned over to the police.

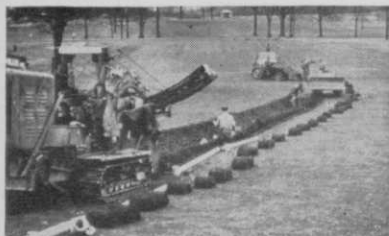
The Ohio State supt. said that vandalism at his club undoubtedly doesn't get any further out of hand because the caddies, many of whom live in the vicinity of the courses, help to prevent it. "We've got these kids pretty much on our side," Hoffman remarked, "because we go out of our way to cultivate them. Our caddiemaster is the O.S.U. wrestling coach. He won't allow the kids to swear or smoke around the place, but he takes good care of them. For example, they have a practice green in the caddie yard. The result is that the boys admire the caddiemaster and they're 100 per cent on his side. With this kind of an attitude, the boys are more than willing to see that our courses are protected."

Bridges Open Up A Course

The wide introduction of golf cars in the last few years, said Gordon Brinkworth, has made it necessary for many courses to rebuild their bridges or put in new ones. Because of this, supts., architects and construction men have found that courses can now be built on property that once was thought to be inaccessible.

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Brinkworth explained, "is not in throwing them up, but in looking into the future and trying to foresee if they are going to be adequate in face of the changes that will come in golf in the next 10 or 20 years. You have to ask yourself, for example, if something bigger and heavier is going to replace the golf car or the machinery we use today, and if your bridges are going to be large and strong enough to take them."

Criteria for Construction

Brinkworth listed several criteria that have to be considered when bridges are constructed. They are: How are they for safety? Can they support tournament crowds? Are they high enough to span rising water? Are accesses to them large enough to keep compaction reduced in the approach areas?

The ex-Canadian supt. supplemented his speech with slides that showed how bridge foundations are built, flooring is installed and how large pre-fab steel spans are set on piers. Some of the more interesting views showed how three 100-foot long, corrugated steel tubes that are 10 feet in diameter were installed as underpasses at Sunset Oaks about two years

ago. Brinkworth supervised construction of this course and then remained as supt.

Bill Rolls 'em Up

Bill Lyons, the Akron, O., squire, is a speaker who has a bit of the Mike O'Grady in him. He doesn't invoke any blessing in the O'Grady manner, and he doesn't threaten to dissolve at the thought of almost having missed bearing Irish arms. Nevertheless, he does a good job of rolling up an audience because he has an uninhibited way of serving some vegetables with the meat course. Bill gave his listeners a shot or two of Edgar Guest, Elbert Hubbard and who knows, maybe Socrates, before easing into the proposition that maybe supts. are getting in the golfers' way.

Here he became a little red-eyed, pointing out that since the players are paying the tab they have a right to expect to use the course from sun-up to sundown. "The trouble is," Bill exploded, "we think we should be cutting grass just when play is heaviest. Golfers are paying guests and we'd better not forget it. We're throwing too many distractions in their way and it's time we stop. How would you like to come out to play golf and have a green-

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mower whirring in your ear, or wonder if some guy was going to amputate your left leg with a seven gang mower?

"The whole thing is ridiculous," Lyons growled.

He offered a solution, too. It's simple enough — night maintenance. If you don't think there's a case for it, Lyons offers these thoughts: There is less wear and tear on men and machines when they work nights; Close mowing at night is safer; There is less wind drift at night and thus spraying is made easier; Even stolons planted at night grow better than those planted in the daytime. Finally, if you work nights and sleep days, you won't suffer the agony of seeing golfers tear up your course.

Sixth Session

Six speakers were presented at the final education meeting by Tom Mascaro, West Point Products Corp. president, the chairman. They included: John E. Gallagher Amchem Products; Prof. John C. Schread, U. of Connecticut entomologist; Alex Radko, eastern rep for the USGA green section; Stan Fredericksen, Mal-

linckrodt Chemical Works; Harry W. Meusel, Yale U. GC supt.; and Dr. Michael P. Britton, U. of Illinois.

Aquatic Weed Control

Because water consumption increases eightfold in a generation, there must be a relentless battle against aquatic weeds, said John Gallagher, a research chemist. It has only been in the last five years that this has been fully realized and a concentrated attack made on the weeds that infest ponds, lakes, streams, irrigation ditches and other bodies of water.

Gallagher declared that herbicides can be used safely and effectively and that tests have pretty well proved that their residue is not toxic to fish. Wide scale weed control through herbicides, he pointed out, is considerably cheaper than carrying on repeated dredging operations to keep water sources cleaned out.

Much of Gallagher's material was presented through the use of slides. These showed the most common aquatic weeds; water hyacinth and water chestnut, both found throughout the U.S.; the water grasses such as coontail and cat tail, both widely distributed; and submersible weeds such as pondweed, of which there are 20