



Sam Randolph, LaCumbre pro, slips bag into one of the new racks in his pro shop.

Use Chipboard in Re-Building LaCumbre Racks

By ROBERT INGLE HOYT, A.I.A.

Golf bag storage is as various and perhaps nondescript as the swings of beginning golfers. Uniformity is one of the routine necessities of golf shop operation that should have been developed years ago. The need for protection of members' property is of the greatest importance, but where club storage is involved it has been neglected too often.

A recent survey of club storage at one club indicated that the racks had been designed by a person who had nothing to do with the pro operation. How many times has this happened?

This article is intended to show what the study of a professional packaging expert has uncovered . . . that it may be usefully shared . . . and possibly improved upon by those who care to try.

During a recent remodeling and extension program at the La Cumbre G & CC clubhouse in Santa Barbara, Calif., some enthusiasm, ideas and money spilled over into the pro shop. The club professional inherited what passed for racks that held bags six tiers deep between pipe dividers

against a wall. This resulted in inaccurate storing, clumsy service by the staff, inefficient use of the allotted space and was extremely abusive of equipment.

Protect Members' Property

Sam Randolph, the club pro, asked the professional in the building program, the club architect, to study his problem. A survey demonstrated that the most convenient storage method was through the use of cubbyholes with clubs put in the racks horizontally. The advantages of accessibility and storing, as well as protection of the members' property, was the prime consideration.

The space utilization of the horizontal method, in view of building construction costs, probably is the most efficient that has been devised. The architect, recognizing the dimensional efficiency of stacking circular holes over square holes, checked the use of concrete, plastic and cardboard pipes. The small advantage of the increased number of cubbyholes was offset by higher cost, but it was worth it.

Material Proves Superior

Normal construction of cubbyholes is of ¾-inch plywood and 12 to 16 inch holes or openings. The architect checked other materials that could have been adapted for this purpose and found one that to date has proved superior. A by-product of the lumber industry is a non-warping sheet sold under various names but generally described as "chipboard".

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Use Chipboard for Racks

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This comes in several densities and the hardest of these was selected for the La Cumbre racks. The thickness of the material is 1/2 inch which seems to be quite adequate for club storage.

La Cumbre construction provides cubbyholes 42 inches deep and with 13 1/2 inches net dimensions with several bays of larger cubbyholes for supersized bags. The contractor was able to pre-cut all material for 180 cubbyholes and installation was accomplished in less than one working day. The horizontal surfaces are continuous in 8-foot sheets. The top surfaces of these were grooved with a router to receive the vertical sections which were glued top and bottom and slipped into place, checked for alignment and nailed from above. Finishing consisted of glue nailing — 1/2 round, on horizontal faces.

The exposed vertical corners were touched lightly with a vibrating sander. The cubbyholes were then numbered and

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treated on all sides with a roller coat of colored Minwax to ease the movement of bags and preserve the chipboard against wear and moisture. Some members had the pro staff carpet their sections.

Costs are always important to club management. This job, exclusive of paint finish, ran \$4.83 per cubbyhole. Three-quarter inch plywood would have cost \$1.00 more per section, but it is felt that the plywood would be subject to greater splintering deterioration and bag damage. Costs between different club installations and various regions of the country will vary quite considerably.

\$350,000 Clubhouse

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here than in the main dining room.

The pro shop is located on the east end of the clubhouse, and is only a short distance from the first tee. The sales display room is 25 feet wide and 40 feet long and opens into an alcove where clubs are stored. Behind this is Pro Don Dunkelberger's office.

Eventually, about 2,400 residences will surround the Canyon Creek course. The subdivision is being developed by Wallace Investments, Inc., which has its headquarters in Dallas. As of Jan. 1, about 250 homesites had been sold in the subdivision. The fact that 10,000 people someday will live in the Canyon Creek area doesn't mean that the club will be overrun with golfers. The course is not being used as a come-on for the sale of real estate. Memberships in the club weren't offered until the clubhouse and all 18 holes were completed last summer. The clubhouse has been built to accommodate between 250 and 300 members and when this quota is filled, Canyon Creek CC doesn't plan further expansion of its membership.

The manager of the Canyon Creek club is H. C. McSwain, who served in the Air Force for 21 years and got into club management work shortly after he was retired in 1961. While in service, McSwain, a graduate of the University of Texas, was in charge of officers' clubs from 1955 until the time he was discharged.