



Few pros are as fortunate as Jack Hall (r) in having a member who goes all out for them as does Dal Mutersbaugh (l).

"Jack Hall Day" *It's Repeated Not Once But Twice at Des Moines' Hyperion Field Club*

By HERB GRAFFIS

Hyperion Field Club, Des Moines, Ia., set a record on August 29. It put on its third "Day" in ten years for its professional. It was a day of golf climaxed with a banquet at which the members lauded their pro and presented gifts to him and his wife.

Many clubs have shown their appreciation of a good pro by staging a "Day" for him. A few clubs have held two gala celebrations for their pros, but Hyperion with three "Jack Hall Days" is in a class by itself.

Hyperion's members include prominent business executives who are well traveled and have observed at their own and other clubs that what is good for a pro is equally good for a fine club. Dal Mutersbaugh, Hyperion president, is one of that valuable class of club members. Mutersbaugh also has served as a Hyperion director and green and grounds chairman for five years. He once was on the board of the Firestone CC, Akron, O., and for several years, while residing in Reading, Pa., belonged to the Reading CC. Wherever Mutersbaugh has been in the past 38 years he has actively participated in the progress of his clubs.

Hall is as much Iowa as the tall corn is. He was a state high school golf champion, Iowa PGA champion four times, Des Moines district champion three times, Iowa-Chinese Open champion three times and, what counts most at Hyperion is that he has been its pro for the past 10 years.

First "Hall Day" in 1959

In August, 1959, the first Jack Hall Day was held with the entire membership playing in the golf events and with 250 attending the dinner dance at which Jack and his wife were given handsome gifts. There were more than 100 of these: A stereophonic consolette, furniture, luggage, apparel, golf clubs and many dozens of balls.

Then, in 1962, the members hearing of the PGA Seniors championship to be played in Florida in February, started planning to send Jack and his wife on a vacation to that event.

The Florida trip was behind the second Jack Hall Day. The prize list (contributed by members) must have been the longest, by a clear cut margin, of any a club ever drew up for its pro. The gifts started with an automobile. There also

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Fall Seeding-Overseeding

"On a nearby course they got 30% take on a late Fall seeding of new greens. We sent our proportioner over the following Spring and overseeded with 1/2 lb. Penn Cross per 1000 sq. ft. and Aqua-Gro. I have never seen an overseeding job that was so perfect in such a short time.

"On number 15 green we put in tile drainage in late September after 4 weeks of no rain. We used Aqua-Gro to firm up the soil, and have never gotten any settlement since."

Sod Nursery

Program for seeding 2000 sq. ft.:

Mix 20 gal. water with 1 lb. 21-21-21 fertilizer in a 55 gal. drum proportioner. Premix several hours ahead 2 lbs. Penn Cross and 8 oz. Aqua-Gro in a 5 gal. can of water. Blend and spray on soil in two directions. Use a clear plastic hose to check mix or for kink in hose. We've eliminated raking and germination is quicker with growth more uniform.

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was luggage, golf clubs, clothing, jewelry, golf shoes, typewriters, sets of tires, at least 30 dozen golf balls, gift certificates amounting to several thousand dollars and electric shavers.

The prize list for the third Jack Hall Day, incidentally, was larger than the vast array at the previous two parties.

This spring Hyperion enlarged, rearranged and redecorated Jack's pro shop. In the club president's words, "We feel that the shop now surpasses anything in this part of the country. With a larger shop, Jack has been able to carry a larger inventory as a convenience to the members."

Shop Rebuilt Twice

Hall's shop has been rebuilt twice during his ten years at Hyperion. The present display room is 30 ft. by 50 ft. Club storage is 50 by 50 feet. The display room is paneled in mahogany and has mandarin orange nylon carpeting. A 5-ton air conditioner keeps the shop comfortable in the summer and three gas heaters warm the place in spring and fall. Most of the display equipment was bought from Display Creation Co. and it has worked out well in attractively showing merchandise. Jack has everything in the open, except golf balls. His policy is to encourage members to come in and browse around and he and his staff leave them alone until they indicate that they want attention.

Jack gets around, too, studying shop operations, teaching and other phases of pro department management. He maintains that a pro must be constantly vigilant to keep his members happy so that they will get extra dividends on their investment in the club.

Hall says Hyperion officials and members are unusually energetic in participating in every promotion to improve the club. Committees are headed by people who work with great enthusiasm. "The character of the membership is a blessing to a pro and inspires a fellow to do a little better than his best," observes Hall. He adds: "I wish all clubs could be as lucky as we are at Hyperion to have as

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president such a man as Dal Mutersbaugh. He is an executive who develops and works with the staff. As chairman of our green and grounds committee, he and our supt., Jess Foshe, have closely followed the recommendations of Jim Holmes of the green section, and the condition of our course has improved remarkably."

Rich in "Educated" Members

Des Moines seems to be especially fortunate in having the type of golf club members who, because of innate qualifications, selection or development (maybe all three), attract or produce outstanding men in the golf business. Norman E. Westfall of Wakonda, for example, probably has trained more talented young course supts. than any other man in golf. There also is Bert McGrane, recently retired as Iowa's senior golf writer and now in a lively explosion of second boyhood as editor of the "Iowa Golfer".

So, perhaps Iowa is the foremost state in the education of golf club members, which is a field of education that pros, supts. and managers pray will develop to

the degree that all members realize their obligations, as well as privileges, as members of superior clubs.

Perhaps Dal Mutersbaugh has the right idea, not only of an executive who wisely balances the pressure with golf, but who applies to golf business the judgment of a successful business man.

Dal remarks: "Golf has meant a lot to me — not only from a health standpoint but in enabling me to meet many wonderful people.

Should be Well Paid

"I have always maintained that at the heart of a country club are the course and the professional. Take these two things away and a club doesn't exist. So, when you get down to essentials, you become aware that the club members and officials should do more to enhance the position of the professional. A good professional should be well paid. When officials and members realize that most of a pro's income comes from what he earns himself, patronage of the shop become's a logical necessity."