

Youngsters Get Passes for Cleaning Up Course

By RAY J. SCHMIDT

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I don't claim to be originator of the idea, but a spring cleaning program we have used at Coeur d'Alene for the past several years is one that small clubs can profitably copy.

Every spring we organize junior players in work parties and, supervised by members, have them clean up the course from the first tee to the 18th green. This is not a superficial housecleaning job, but a thorough one. The kids don't merely pick up debris but rake tees, fairways, roughs, greens and the clubhouse grounds.

For their work they are issued season passes. The passes don't restrict them to playing merely on weekdays but give them weekend and holiday privileges. The best thing about the idea is that it gives the Junior golfers an appreciation of what is involved in the course maintenance job. You won't find them carelessly tearing up the course when they play because each has a little sweat and hard work in it.

More Mechanization to Neutralize Higher Costs

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It is well established that two out of every three dollars that are spent for course maintenance are charged off to labor. This cost has been steadily increasing over the years and our only hope of heading it off is to use ingenuity wherever possible. Ingenuity consists of improving or mechanizing operations when the opportunities arise.

We have mechanized our maintenance routines to the extent that we always use tractors to rake traps. Electric hedge trimmers were purchased several years ago to replace manual units, and are run off truck or tractor batteries. Fertilizer is applied via machines. Not too many years



Signs installed at the bottom of a post or standard are less likely to get knocked over than those that are fastened at the top, according to Gene Stoddard, supt. at Irvine Coast CC, Newport Beach, Calif. This sign is attached to 1/2-inch angle iron that is imbedded in an old hub cap, filled with cement. It is easy to move for mowing purposes.

ago it took four men all day to fertilize 18 fairways; now two men complete the job in four or five hours. Incidentally, we have stepped up our soil tests to give us a better guide in buying fertilizers. Knowing which course areas are in need of heavy fertilization as contrasted with those that aren't, does away with much indiscriminate feeding and saves us money not only in material but the cost of applying it.

In recent years, we have made quite careful studies of course workers' traffic patterns in handling their jobs. The result has been the dispatching of more employees by utility vehicles from tee to tee and green to green. In addition, we arrange to have our crew members picked up by truck or utility vehicle before lunch and at quitting time so that they can stay on the job a few minutes longer and time isn't wasted by them in returning to the maintenance building.

Hundreds of labor hours can be saved in a year's time by cutting down on employees' walking time from job site to job site. Supts. don't always realize this because the time saved in individual situations may amount to only a few minutes. But the accumulation of five minutes here and ten minutes there amounts to a con-

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