

Superintendents: Try the Easy Way

A chain hoist on an overhead track is a key item for an efficient golf course maintenance shop

By STAN METSKER Superintendent, Boulder CC, Boulder, Colorado

WITH the right location and equipment, a chain hoist can save much time and energy with routine work, such as sharpening mowers and fixing maintenance machinery.

Locate the overhead track for the hoist far enough inside the shop door so that a truck or tractor can be positioned under it and still be able to get the door closed. Usually the track is crosswise to the entrance. The track should be at least 12 feet and preferably 20 feet long. If there is not enough roof support to be able to hang the hoist from the ceiling, then a self-supported track can be made.

A one-half ton capacity hoist will be enough for most shop work.

It should be at least seven feet above the floor. When hanging from a traveling dolly, the hoist is then ready for lifting and moving heavy engines, mowers, motor cycles and other equipment. It allows the mechanic to easily get the machinery up on a table where it is easier to work on and there is not so much bending over.

This hoist setup is especially helpful when working on tractor clutches or transmissions where the tractor must be split in half to get at the parts. One end can be hung by the hoist and rolled apart allowing access to vital parts.

In routine mower sharpening the mower is washed before it is brought in. The hoist lift it onto a

portable work table which has been rolled into place. The mower is disassembled and small parts are further cleaned at a nearby washstand. The hoist is then used to move the mower over to the grinder where it is adjusted to help hold the mower in position while it is being sharpened. All this can be done by only one man and he is in no danger of injuring his back from heavy lifting.

One of the more frequent uses for the hoist is lifting the front or rear end of small turf vehicles. Because of the overhead suspension, there are no jack or blocks to get in the way while working. When the hoist is not in use it can be simply rolled out of the way and takes no floor space.

A one-half ton hoist (\$36) hung from a traveling dolly (\$45) on a four-inch I beam 20 feet long (\$27) is a safe, efficient, low cost system that can save you money in your routine work as well as allowing you to do specialized jobs such as engine, clutch and transmission repairs. Every good maintenance shop should have an organized overhead hoist system. □

OVERHEAD HOIST SYSTEM

