

## VANDALISM *continued*

authorized persons, potential vandals, roaming Reeves and to have them removed. Unfortunately, the rule excluding non-players had to include caddies from whose ranks come dedicated golfers and damn few vandals.

Reeves Memorial, named for Will R. Reeves, first director of recreation for Cincinnati, who served in that capacity when the agency was formed in 1926 until his death in 1931, is unique, because it stretches 6,395 yards over flat terrain at the end of Lunken Airport, which used to be Cincinnati's Municipal. The vast acreage encompassing the airport as well as Reeves Memorial precludes fencing.

Possibly Cincinnati's most effective weapon against vandalism is their beginners' school program. Each May, new crops of golfers are introduced to the beauties of the Queen City's courses. According to Robert "Red" Strauss, superintendent of golf for the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, "The school wraps up in a nutshell all the basic techniques and information needed for a good start in the game." Group instruction at each course, including one session with film, is offered under the watchful eye of the professional. A package of six lessons is being offered this year for fees as low as \$3. The hours are flexible, too. The involvement of Cincinnati's youth in sports like golf, which could evolve into an avocation or a career, may be the city's best deterrent against future vandalism.

George Cosgrove, professional at Heatherwood GC on Long Island, utilizes a systematic control of potential vandalism. Any youngster found on the course who doesn't belong there is brought in and "booked." First offense, a warning and a listing of his name and address in Cosgrove's special ledger. Second time, apprehension and retention until a parent comes by to claim his delinquent and again on the list. Third offense and the youngster has run out of chances. The police are summoned. It now becomes a formal matter with charges covering trespassing and whatever acts of vandalism have been committed.

While protecting his superb executive layout by the use of his "list," Cosgrove believes also in involving youth.

He has another list—a caddie list—to encourage teenagers into becoming part of the Heatherwood scene. The opportunity to make a few dollars can also lead to an appreciation of a splendid golf course. Heatherwood, superbly operated as a business, is also vulnerable to vandalism. Cosgrove's "book" and his attempts to involve his youthful contingent go hand in hand toward coping with potential invaders.

Many communities, of course, have junior programs giving preferential rates to youngsters. Sacramento may be unique in its handling of the younger generation. To assure the proper kind of involvement and incidentally to insure against vandalism, Tommy Lo Presti, professional and manager at Haggin Oaks municipal, runs a series of three etiquette classes prior to issuing junior cards.

Juniors, aware of golf's unwritten rules about identifying one's ball, raking traps, fixing ball marks and not driving into people, feel no resentment from their elders. Frustration at not being accepted has no room in which to build. Hopefully, the young golfers have an influence on other young people of the Sacramento area. Ultimately, perhaps, leading to the elimination of vandalism.

There are no ready solutions to the vandalism problem. The get-tough attitude is fine and often necessary. It may solve an immediate local problem. It may serve notice on potential vandals that stern action follows destructive behavior. But it will never end vandalism's devastation of our golf course facilities.

It may be necessary to endure sneak attacks, property damage and the humiliation of being unable to pursue and prosecute vandals until such time as enough potential vandals are won over through alternative, meaningful activities.

Understanding the reasons behind vandalism and offering alternatives, in the long run, may be the only solution to this costly and deeply frustrating problem. □



CMAA CONTINUING EXECUTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM, Club Law and Internal Control, Vancouver, B.C., June 4-6.

RUTGERS TURFGRASS RESEARCH DAY, Dudley and College Farm Roads, College of Agriculture and Environmental Science, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., June 12.

INTERNATIONAL SHADE TREE CONFERENCE, Hotel Utah, Salt Lake City, June 17-20.

TEXAS TURFGRASS FIELD DAYS, Agronomy Field Lab, Texas A & M University, College Station, Tex., June 27.

FOURTH ANNUAL SOUTH CAROLINA TURFGRASS CONFERENCE, Clemson House, Clemson, S.C., July 10-11.

CMAA CONTINUING EXECUTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM, Advanced Management Techniques, Denver, July 16-18.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY TURFGRASS FIELD DAY, Columbus, Ohio, August 7.

CMAA CONTINUING EXECUTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM, Personnel and Motivation Management, Haverford, Pa., August 13-15.

RHODE ISLAND TURFGRASS FIELD DAYS, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I., August 22-23.

TURF AND LANDSCAPE DAY, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster, Ohio, September 11.

TURFGRASS FIELD DAY, Ornamental Horticulture Research Center, Urbana, Ill., September 18.