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NATIONAL GOLF DAY DESERVES SUPPORT

National Golf Day needs just one hell of a lot of revitalizing right now.

It is unique in professional sport—it gives.

It has golf professionals working for nothing with their amateur friends, who have the distinction of being cheerful givers.

National Golf Day is the largest source of funds for the Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of America turf scholarships, although National Golf Day is a Professional Golfers' Assn. operation. It is that kind of an unselfish deal for the good of all in golf.

National Golf Day is the largest contributor to the women's volunteer organizations providing golf therapy in veterans' hospitals. You haven't any idea of the tremendous amount and value of that help now.

National Golf Day is the largest contributor to the National Amputee golf tournaments. This is an amazing program putting strong new hearts into men, women and youngsters.

National Golf Day is a substantial and crucial contributor to the nationwide coordinated turf research program, which distributes National Golf Day revenue among 18 agricultural experiment stations all over the country annually. Results of this research is worth millions to golf courses alone and is one of the important factors in keeping America beautiful.

National Golf Day distributes about 20 per cent of its revenue to 26 sectional amateur golf organization caddie scholarship funds. The National Golf Day allotment is a small percentage of

the money that this year is sending about 2,000 fine young men through college in the finest public service of professional and amateur sports.

The Tournament Players Division of the PGA is the lowest contributor of any PGA section to National Golf Day. Yet most of the tournament purses come from tax exempt charity or welfare fund-raising events. At the small rate the caddie scholarships get from National Golf Day, a \$200,000 tournament would raise \$1 million for the sponsor.

It isn't that the tournament players are tight. They just haven't been told they should contribute to the unique and generous job the home professionals do with National Golf Day.

Since 1952, this event has raised more than \$1.8 million. Too few home professionals and the players at their private or pay-play courses participate in this unusual and generous performance in pro sport.

There is no National Baseball Day, no National Football Day and no National Tennis Day on which professionals, who are more concerned with their players' games than their own, ask for a dollar as a public service contribution and as a fee for competing on a handicap basis against Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Kathy Aherm and Suzie Maxwell Berning in the Round of Champions, played May 29, at Canterbury GC, Cleveland.

At any golf course where National Golf Day isn't a well-advertised event, players are missing some of the fun and glory of golf.

Election of *Ellis Maples* to the presidency of the American Society of Golf Architects again honored a family who long has had a

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beneficial influence on American golf.

Maples' father and uncle, Frank, were early to show what a golf course builder could contribute to the fundamentals of golf course architecture.

When the famous Donald Ross was professional at Pinehurst—and its golf architect and golf director as well—Frank Maples was course builder, greenkeeper and pretty much in charge of the Pinehurst grounds.

Maples had a keen vision for beauty, a practical sense for construction that could be well maintained and an appreciation of what cunning ideas the excellent designer, Donald Ross, was trying to present to the thoughtful or thoughtless golfers.

The sandhills of the Pinehurst area invited Ross and Maples to sculpture the earth that made greens and fairways works of art.

When Pinehurst changed from those old oiled sand greens to grass, Maples was ready with the bermudagrass and the maintenance that

suited the Pinehurst course.

Contouring the greens and finishing the bunkers so they were picturesque and testing and not expensive to maintain was the Maples' part of the collaboration with Ross. Those deceptive swales guarding greens were some of the Ross-Maples teamwork that often was reflected in the approximate 500 courses Ross designed.

Age has not withered many of the holes Donald Ross designed with the Maples' brand of construction and maintenance. That pioneer team at Pinehurst discovered something you see today: A first-class golf architect becomes third-rate unless he's got a good builder working with him.

Mini tournament circuits are doing so well and growing so swiftly they're looming as competition to the Tournament Players' Division of the PGA. Somebody may come up with a sponsorship publicity angle of a charity tax deduction idea that could make the TPD satellite tournaments trail behind the mini tournaments like caddie contests. How to knock out

the mini tournaments is a delicate problem that could involve clashes with Federal laws.

Whatever there is to be said against women in golf course maintenance work, seldom has come to me. In the dozen or so cases I've heard about, superintendents say that women generally are the more careful workers and usually follow instructions better than men.

The women, of course, can't handle the very heavy jobs, but on mowing and operating other power equipment and in chemical applications, they are hard to beat, their employers testify.

Possibly the superintendent who employs the most women on course and grounds work is Arlin Grant, superintendent of the three superbly conditioned courses at Innisbrook, Tarpon Springs, Fla. There are 960 acres in the Innisbrook development. The apartment buildings and individual homes are framed by beautiful landscaping.

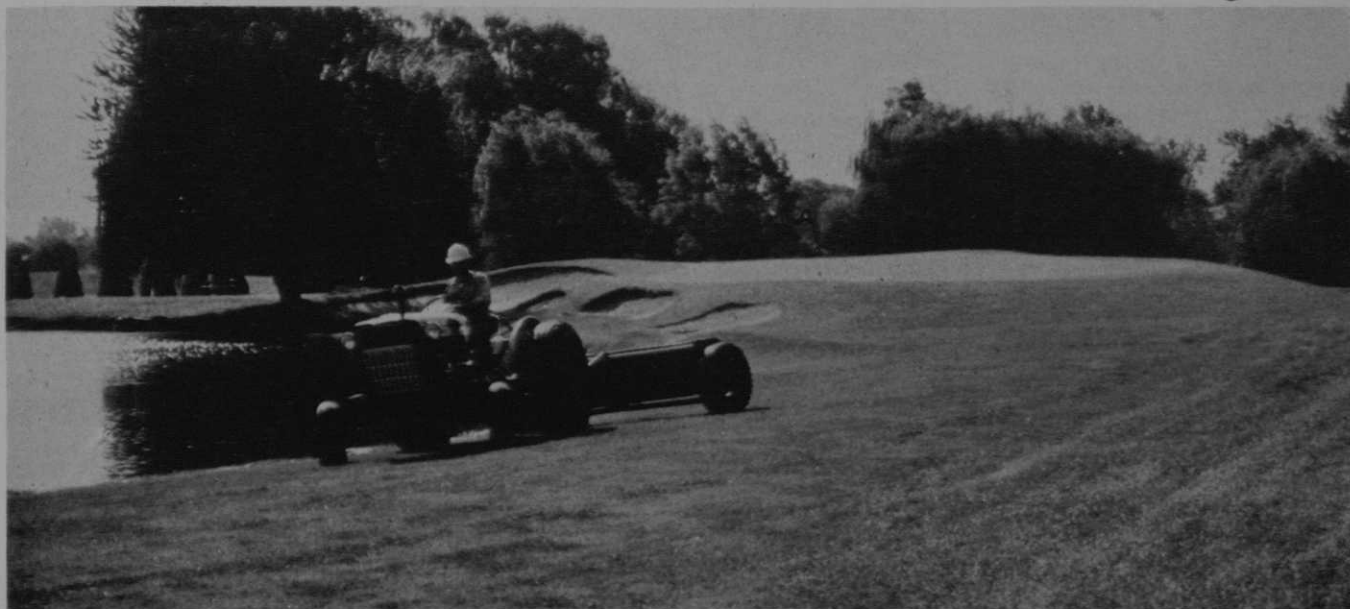
Grant came to Innisbrook two years ago from the Royal Poin-

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ing the time of day when the temperature would otherwise be at its maximum and is quite beneficial. Excess water supplied during syringing, however, is not advantageous and represents an uneconomical use of employee time.

RESEARCH CRUCIAL

Managing turfgrasses in the transition zone is a serious, demanding, but rewarding business, and those involved should be commended for their fortitude in tackling the task. Once those of us in research and teaching can catch up with the demands for information made upon us by those in the field, quality of turfgrass areas will increase even more than in the past. The gap between where we are in research and where we should be is colossal, but it is narrowing. Financial assistance for research and graduate students from sources supported by turf managers is critical if the gap is to be further narrowed. Much of the work that has been done was the result of assistance from organizations supported by turf managers. Those of us in turfgrass research acknowledge your efforts and hope that they continue. □

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cern for environmental quality and the vital ecological role played by turf in the areas of soil erosion control, dust control, heat dissipation, noise abatement and control of visual pollution. They have ceased to discount the contribution of turf to over-all societal health by providing recreational surfaces and ornamental plant covers that surround most individuals in their daily activities at home, at work and at play.

Yet just when their priorities are beginning to reflect the importance of turf research (as evidenced by a U.S. Department of Agriculture study showing that universities were increasing four-fold their staffs in turf research), Congress is asked to cut the funds that would support proposed turf research positions, the result of which will be an overburdening of an insufficient turf research staff and an inevitable decrease in productivity.

Added to this is a continuing inflationary rise of 6 to 7 per cent per year in research costs, which, when combined with the proposed budget reduction, would amount to a 12 per cent bite into available funds for agricultural research on the state level.

The proposed cut is now before Congress for action. It may be a year before the final outcome is known, but unfortunately, experiment stations, through their respective university administrations, must initiate these cuts in anticipation of the actual event because it will be retroactive to July 1, 1973.

Golf turf, as a key segment of the over-all turfgrass industry, will be significantly affected if these cuts are enacted by Congress. Superintendents would increasingly have to rely on regional door-to-door salesmen for information, which could affect their jobs, because of insufficient support for important research centers to test and evaluate turf chemicals.

GOLFDOM readers who wish to express their concern regarding this issue should write their congressmen, and it is especially important to contact those congressmen who are members of the House and Senate Appropriations and Agricultural Committees. □

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ciana Club at Naples. The labor situation was beating him as it has many other superintendents in Florida and elsewhere. When a man could be trained for the job often he wasn't dependable. In desperation a year ago Grant hired and trained young women. He now has 30 on his labor crew and is looking for more.

Grant's experience shows that they can be trained to carefully operate the expensive and sophisticated equipment and use to utmost advantage the labor-saving hydraulic features.

Training of women in the careful use of the new equipment is a field in which equipment manufacturers too are very much interested. Adjustment, repairs and efficient use of the newer equipment are causing headaches to superintendents, dealers and manufacturers. The trouble is not in the equipment, but in difficulty of getting intelligent operators. Some equipment dealers believe a new educational program for course workers will be necessary. Maybe the carefulness that Grant has observed in women operating machines at Innisbrook will be part of the answer.

"Uncle Joe" Friendman's 87th birthday was celebrated April 15 at New York. Uncle Joe of the Softouch Company has been selling professionals golf hosiery and other knitted items for a long time. He was one of the liveliest salesmen at the PGA, and ante-dated the USGA by eight years.

Robert C. Rosenthal now general manager at Knollwood Club, Lake Forest, Ill. He was at St. Charles (Ill.) for the previous seven years . . . Stanley Horvatin, after 20 years as manager, Illinois Athletic Club, Chicago, moves to Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest, Ill., as general manager, succeeding Joseph J. Stephens who retired.

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