

Going Postal

■ WE'VE GOT MAIL

And the Oscar goes to ...

After reading your July Flagstick column, I couldn't help but share an Oscar Miles story with you. I'm a superintendent of a Chicago-area muni that does about 55,000 rounds a year.

We were hosting one of our local chapter meetings, and I spent the couple of weeks prior nervously running around sweeping dust under the carpet for the "party."

Following the day, Oscar, with whom I had no prior acquaintance, took the time to give me a call and thank me for my efforts, compliment me on our golf course and invite me and three friends to the Merit Club as his guests.

It was a wonderful gesture that I will always remember and appreciate. It doesn't surprise at all me that you chose him as an example of nobility in our profession.

While I never had the good fortune to work for Mr. Miles, I would like to nominate Bob Williams for an "Oscar." Bob is the retired superintendent of Bob O'Link GC in Highland Park, Ill. Bob (Bruce Williams' father) prepared dozens of greenhorns like me for careers as superintendents.

Once Bob took you on his staff, he made it his business to fill in the blanks and smooth the rough edges.

In my case, he took one look at my talents and put me on the remedial track, even to the point of giving me personal instruction on the proper technique of operating a shovel — I'm talking about the manual kind.

Whatever success I enjoy in this crazy and mysterious field, I owe to the patience and ex-

acting standards I learned in the two years I spent working for this fine gentleman. Thanks for reminding me of my roots and my obligation to those who follow.

Fred Behnke
Superintendent
Mount Prospect GC
Mount Prospect, Ill.

Shorter courses require advance planning

I enjoyed "Hacks Long for Short Courses" (Money Shot, June) and certainly agree with many of your comments. There's a place for shorter courses and as you say, "People will come, but they are getting tired of waiting."

We're involved in two First Tee projects that will have shorter courses and a project in Lake Geneva, Wis., that actually has an 18-hole short game challenge course adjacent to the 18-hole regulation course.

The short-game challenge course is one of the strongest selling points of the project and is sure to be a hit. From the beginning, the developer wanted to provide a course that would appeal to golfers seeking an alternative to the par-72, 18-hole big course.

Doug Hellman
Craig Schreiner Golf Course
Architects
Kansas City, Mo.

Feel like going postal? We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Pat Jones at pjones@advanstar.com, fax to 440-891-2675 or send them via snail-mail to: 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Make sure to include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length or relevance.

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