

Outdoor Features Attract Crowds To Olympia Parties

By JACK FULTON, JR.

WHEN THE frying-hot days of July and August roll around, it is pleasant to attend a country club party away from hot city pavements and stuffy living quarters. This is especially so when the club has an outdoor dance platform, so that full benefit can be taken of the cool evening breezes.

Olympia Fields CC, in the Chicago district, has an unusually elaborate entertainment program each year, scheduling dinner dances twice weekly, on Thursdays and Saturdays. Other than the dance facilities on the club's outdoor floor, no added entertainment features are ordinarily planned for the Saturday dances, since the week-end crowd is always sufficient to make the party successful.

But attracting a crowd on Thursday requires a certain amount of ballyhoo, Olympia has found, so its entertainment committee concocts various stunts and features to boost attendance. One policy is to serve the dinner at tables on the clubhouse lawn whenever the weather permits; eating outdoors is much more pleasurable on a warm summer evening than under a hot dining-room ceiling.

Another policy is to offer a number of attractions in addition to the dancing and much ingenuity is shown and a great deal of work is done in preparation for each Thursday's party by Olympia Fields' entertainment committee, with the able assistance of the club manager, Carl L. Schweitzer.

Below, because other clubs may be interested in staging similar evenings, will be found descriptions of three of Olympia's most successful outdoor affairs of last summer. These particular parties have become fixtures on Olympia's entertainment schedule. But first a few words about the dinner on the lawn:

Tables and chairs are set out near to the dining room to facilitate service and the menu planned so that its items will not be spoiled through becoming too cool (in the case of hot dishes) or too warm

(in the case of cold servings) should unexpected delays hinder prompt service.

Nearly all of the members and their guests arrive for their meal before dark has settled definitely. For late-comers, sufficient illumination is furnished through three medium sized flood-lights on the roof of the nearby clubhouse and festoons of lanterns swung between standards erected temporarily to support the wires. After dark, the area is as well illuminated under this system as the average night club, so the late arriving members raise few objections to the effect that they "can't see what they're eating."

Olympia's outdoor parties are particularly popular with the members for entertaining their friends and frequently there are more guests present than members. On one occasion, 1,200 persons turned up and were served—for Olympia's annual "Circus."

Members Assist with "Circus"

The Circus party is most elaborate. Tables are arranged around a typical circus ring some 40 feet in diameter wherein the activities of the evening are centered.

Performers at the circus are 75 to 100 of the members of the club, who volunteer their services. Alleys in the locker-rooms, both men's and women's, are invited to work up "acts" and the club stands the expense of whatever costumes are needed. These are rented from a downtown costume house at a figure surprisingly low considering the variety of the demands the volunteer performers make. Clowns, bareback riders, side-show barkers, comic policemen, ballet dancers, oriental girls, acrobats, flower girls, soft drink vendors and other characters generally to be seen at a circus are generally represented at Olympia's circus party.

The evening's festivities begin about dusk with the "grand parade." The performers are served a free buffet dinner an hour before and put on their costumes and assemble behind the clubhouse. The

parade is formed, with the club orchestra in the lead, followed by the bareback riders (on horses from the club stables), the clowns, the ringmaster, and all the rest. The parade wends its way around the clubhouse and straight through the circus ring, accompanied by much noise, much festivity and much applause from the assembled diners. It disbands in a convenient hollow behind the tables, where the various "acts" wait their turn to enter the ring and put on their stunts, each of which is introduced in true circus style by the ringmaster, who in Olympia's case, is the chairman of the entertainment committee.

The acts are finished by 10:30 p. m. The orchestra moves to the club's outdoor dance platform. The performers change into their regular clothes. Dancing continues until 1:00 a. m.

"County Fair" Draws Crowd

Another popular party held each season by Olympia is the "County Fair." For this evening, Manager Schweitzer locates some carnival troup touring the neighborhood and arranges for it to set up its various tents and booths on the lawn adjacent to the dining area. The concessions are arranged in a semi-circle behind the piece d'occasion—a full size merry-go-round, callope and all.

Members and their guests participate in the attractions of the carnival to whatever extent they desire. Every thing is a dime, from rides on the merry-go-round to chances at the paddle-wheels on stuffed woolly dogs, bric-a-brac and canes. By the end of the evening, there is scarcely a woman present whose arms are not filled with an assortment of thoroughly worthless prizes for which their escorts have paid plenty in dimes.

Business arrangements for the County Fair are simple. The carnival troup erects the merry-go-round and the concession tents with its own labor. It furnishes all necessary equipment and all merchandise to be awarded the holders of the lucky numbers.

The club handles all money, each concession tent having a member of the club on hand to watch and assist the operator of the paddle-wheel or game contained therein. At the end of the evening, the member makes an inventory of whatever merchandise has not been given out and turns in this list, together with what cash the booth has collected.

The club then settles with the owner of



How the hurdles are arranged for the "horse" races. In the upper foreground is part of the net from which the dice are spilled

the carnival, paying him an agreed price (supposedly cost) for the merchandise disposed of, and splitting the evening's proceeds on a 50-50 basis.

"Horse Race" Complicated, but Fun

A third feature party on Olympia's outdoor program is "Horse-Race Night." Some fifteen hurdles about 1 ft. high and 10 ft. wide are arranged in a line to represent the race-track. At the finish line is a circular net supported by uprights to form a sort of shallow bowl some 8 ft. from the ground. A rope fastened to the center of the net and leading over a pulley above it permits an operator to turn the "bowl" inside out and eject the contents onto the ground below.

The bowl is used to hold three mammoth dice about 1 cu. ft. in size which are easily made from wooden boxes, painted white with black pips. The dice, used to control the progress of the "horses" (to be described shortly) are tossed into the net and ejected therefrom by means of the rope described above. They fall to the ground and the face uppermost on each die determines which horse in the race moves forward one hurdle.

The "horses," of which six are required for each race, are dummy papier-mache beasts available at any costumers, into which a person may step and adjust around his waist. At Olympia, daughters of members serve as the "jockeys" and are appropriately costumed for the affair.

The race is very simple to run. The six horses line up just short of the first hurdle at the far end of the track. The dice are allowed to fall from the net. An announcer calls the results: "Four, six, two," whereupon horses 4, 6 and 2 move up

one hurdle. The dice are thrown again, this time reading "Five, three, three." Horse 5 moves up one hurdle; horse 3 advances two hurdles. This routine is continued until one horse wins and another "places" second. Toward the end of each race, the excitement of the assembled diners reaches fever pitch.

This excitement on the part of the spectators is due to the fact that they are betting in nominal fashion on each race. Olympia has regular pari-mutuel tickets printed for this purpose and sells them before each race to the spectators at 10c per ticket. The buyer can invest in as many tickets as he chooses on whatever horse his fancy dictates, and can bet the horse will win or place.

About a dozen wives and daughters of members handle the detail of selling the tickets, circulating among the tables with tickets on each horse. When a race is ready to begin they turn in whatever money they have collected at a cashier's window, located in a tent near the finish line, where the club auditor and several assistants, while the race is being run, count the total amount of money bet on the race, and tabulate the number of tickets purchased on each horse.

As soon as the winning and second-place horse has been determined, on the track, this information is relayed to the tent, where the odds to pay back to lucky ticket holders is quickly computed. For this purpose, Olympia holds back 20 per cent of each purse (to cover expense of the party) and returns the balance as winnings to the spectators. An example will make clear the workings of the payoff window:

Suppose the "win" sales for a race were as follows:

56 tickets on Horse 1.....	\$ 5.60
47 tickets on Horse 2.....	4.70
76 tickets on Horse 3.....	7.60
81 tickets on Horse 4.....	3.10
88 tickets on Horse 5.....	8.80
40 tickets on Horse 6.....	4.00

Total purse	\$33.80
Club's "take" (20%).....	6.75

Leaving for "payoff".....\$27.05

If Horse 1 wins, 1/56th of \$27.05, figured to the nearest nickel, goes to each holder of a "win" ticket on Horse 1. In this case it would amount to 50c. If horse 2 wins, 1/47th of \$27.05 is paid back, and so on.



Daughters of members serve as jockeys of the papier-mache horses, obtainable at any costumer. The jockey uniforms can be rented from the same source

Computing "place" tickets is somewhat more complicated in that holders of such tickets on both the winning horse and the horse placing second are entitled to visit the pay-off window. Here is how these bets are computed:

Suppose the "place" sales on a race are as follows:

28 tickets on Horse 1.....	\$ 2.80
42 tickets on Horse 2.....	4.20
19 tickets on Horse 3.....	1.90
39 tickets on Horse 4.....	3.90
37 tickets on Horse 5.....	3.70
24 tickets on Horse 6.....	2.40

Total purse	\$18.90
Club's "take" (20%).....	3.70

Leaving for "payoff".....\$15.20

"Place" tickets on both the winning horse and the second horse must be paid, half of the pot to each—\$7.60 in this case. Suppose horse 3 wins and horse 4 places. The \$15.20 goes to holders of "place" tickets on 3 and 4. But notice that twice as many tickets were bought on 4 to place than were bought on 3 to place. Horse 4 pays 1/39th of \$7.60 or roughly 20c per ticket, while Horse 3 pays 1/19th of \$7.60, or 40c. Any other combination of horses would be figured the same way.

About half an hour is required to run each race, including the time needed to sell tickets, operate the race proper and pay the holders of winning tickets. Olympia finds four races in the course of the early evening to be about enough, after which the club orchestra takes charge of things and lures the crowd to the dance floor.

Handicap on Difficulty, Not on Length

Editor, Golfdom,
Dear Sir,

We are troubled with the problem of handicaps. I understand that the regular system is $4/5$ ths of the strokes over par, figured from the average of a number of best scores. I am informed that the $4/5$ ths system is to allow for the better scores made by the poorer golfers on short holes. Sounds reasonable, but is it? However, here is our problem.

Our course is very short, being situated on property owned by the County, inside the city limits. Total yardage is 1900 yards. Of course, we have tried to make it as difficult as possible, without greatly handicapping the poorer golfers. How would you advise us in establishing a system of handicapping?

D. L. W. (Wash.)

Reply:

The usual system of handicapping is to take the average of a player's five best scores, subtract from this average the par of the course, and allow the player a handicap equal to $4/5$ ths the difference.

The $4/5$ ths rule seems to work out equitably at courses where the order in which strokes are taken is based on the difficulty of the various holes of the course. By "difficulty" length is not meant. The shortest hole on a course may be more difficult to play in par (because of hazards or the size of the green) than the longest hole of the layout.

We suggest that you conform to custom and figure your handicaps on the $4/5$ ths basis. But award the strokes in order of the hole difficulty, not hole length. Here is how to determine hole difficulty:

Collect the scores of some 500 rounds, as made by all classes of golfers and tabulate these scores to get the total number of strokes the whole lot of them required for each hole.

Strike an average for each hole. For example, one of your short 3-par holes may show an average of 4.462 strokes, while another may figure out 4.824 strokes. Obviously the latter hole is more difficult than the former by $4/10$ ths of a stroke.

After you have obtained the average for all nine holes, the next step is to divide the average of each hole by the par of the hole. This is to make possible comparison between 3-par holes and 4-par holes. If you didn't do this you'd get

some such figure as 4.965 for a 3-par hole and 6.067 for a 4-par hole. Which is harder to shoot in par? Dividing each of these averages by the par of the hole you get 1.655 for the 3-par hole and 1.516 for the 4-par hole. Now you can easily compare the two holes although they have different pars and it is obvious that the 3-par hole is harder than the 4-par hole.

Still Working on National Daily Fee Association

LEADERS in the daily fee golf business continue to work toward the formation of a national daily fee association. Prominent daily fee operators in Kansas City, Cleveland, Detroit, Minneapolis and Chicago are endeavoring to call a convention that will result in an active nucleus of a national organization.

The main handicap right now is lack of money. The owners don't want to form an association unless the organization can do something constructive. That will take money, and money is what the fee owners haven't got after the last three murderous years in their business. Inasmuch as considerable of the trouble from which the fee course owners suffered was from an internal competitive condition, it is the hope of fee course leaders that a recurrence of this misery may be prevented by an organization that will get code action.

Improvement in the fee course business promises that definite action in forming the national association will be taken some time this season.

CONSENSUS of manufacturer and pro opinion is that the pros' big day is coming back with the new code. The general idea of the codes is to equalize prices.

With prices equalized there is no sense of a member going downtown; quality and service will determine the point of purchase. If a pro can't show a plainly better deal on first class quality or at least equal quality for the same price, and on expert service, he had better get out of the business.

HERE'S a cheering note. On May 25, 1934, the PGA had 180 more Class A members than it had the same day last year.

Hypo Syringe and Gasoline Deal Death to Dandelions

By G. A. SKINNER

All greenkeepers know gasoline will kill dandelions, but most of them hesitate to use it because the gasoline is difficult to control; the turf surrounding each dandelion plant is likely to be killed, too.

Col. Skinner, U. S. Army Medical Corps, Omaha, finds that an ordinary \$1.50 glass syringe gives the desired control, while at the same time application is fast enough to be practical.

IN OBSERVING work of greenkeepers at various courses where I have played during the past few years, my admiration of their results in keeping greens free from weeds has constantly grown. It has appeared, however, to be a very laborious process, and especially in keeping out dandelions.

I have been fond of keeping up my lawn for a number of years, but up to three years ago almost despaired of ever controlling the dandelions therein. I dug them out by the ton, but they only seemed to thrive on the process, and were taking over the better part of certain portions of the lawn, in spite of fertilization, digging them out, and even digging up the area and reseeding.

Then one day, it occurred to me that gasoline was fatal to vegetation. Methods had been suggested for using gasoline, but an oil can did not control the amount of gasoline applied, so that much grass around each dandelion plant was killed whenever I attempted to use it.

Some instrument that would accurately control the gasoline was essential, and I tried first the ordinary laboratory pipette, which worked admirably and made it possible to put gasoline where I wished to, but was slow and rather cumbersome. In casting about for something better, my eyes happened to note a large glass syringe, such as doctors use for taking blood specimens. This syringe had a long slender needle, and appeared to be the exact thing to fill the bill. I tried it. The results were entirely beyond expectations,

and after using it a few weeks I found I had absolute control over the dandelions, with comparatively little work and no damage to other vegetation.

The method is so extremely simple that most people won't try it, but for two years I have had a lawn practically free from dandelions, and this with so little work that it seems to me the method would be ideal for controlling weeds on greens, approaches and tees.

Needle Not Injected.

First let me say that there is nothing specific in the syringe itself. The plant is not injected, and anything else that will control gasoline as accurately will work as well. Many persons make the error of thinking it is necessary to inject the



Method of applying gasoline by means of a syringe

plant; this error I wish especially to point out at the beginning. The needle is held over the plant, never injected into it.

All that is necessary is for the gasoline to reach the center of the dandelion and the plant promptly dies. I have dug them up after several days and found the roots completely disintegrated. Three to five drops on the crown of the plant will kill it without fail, if it is not wet at the time. Three or four drops on each developing flower will prevent seed formation, so I always destroy them also.

I use an ounce syringe. It is of glass,

with an accurately ground piston; the needle is long and slender. This gives the necessary control of the gasoline, and is the only advantage in this particular form of instrument. After the syringe is filled I control the plunger by the pressure of my left little finger, which acts as a brake and prevents the dripping of excess gasoline. Placing the needle above the center of the plant, I depress the piston slightly, and a few drops of gasoline run onto the plant. That is all there is to it. One can kill 30 to 40 a minute, and each loading of this ounce syringe will spread over that many or more plants, according to amount used on each. Usually by the second day the plant is brown or black in the center then it withers, and in a week no trace of it can be found.

The method works very satisfactorily also on plantains, but they are more resistant, so I usually put a little at the tip of each leaf, as well as in the center, and they likewise disappear. It is especially valuable in getting weeds out of places where it is next to impossible to dig them, such as between cracks in sidewalks, around stepping stones, on walls, etc. Vegetation of any sort can be killed very promptly in this easy way.

The illustrations will make the method plain. Its simplicity appears to be its greatest obstacle. If one does not wish to bend his back, it would be a very simple matter to fashion a similar instrument with a long handle, but I think it would be difficult to make it as accurate as the method outlined. But if done as suggested, it is very effective, and by going over the turf as often as new weeds start to develop, they may be instantly killed, and without the necessity of disturbing the surface of the turf in the slightest. Anyone can be taught the method in five minutes at the outside. And it does work.

Such a syringe as pictured costs about \$1.50 and may be purchased from any dealer in surgical supplies, under the name of Leur syringe.

Big Turn-Out for Rhode Island Field Day

FFIFTH annual greenkeepers' field day, held May 21 at Rhode Island State college agricultural experiment station, Kingston, R. I., drew an attendance of over 70, including a larger percentage of greenkeepers than have attended the four previous field days, according to H. F. A.

North, assistant research professor of agronomy at the station.

A tour was made of lawn, putting green and seed plats. One group of lawn plats is devoted to a study of the resistance of grasses to wear. Much interest was shown in the putting green plats with regard to the quality of different varieties, and the effects of varying proportions of N, P₂O₅



and K₂O in the fertilizer applied. Interest was also shown in the habits and control of the bluegrass webworm.

After lunch Dr. John Montieth, Jr., spoke on the subject of economical course maintenance. He stressed the growing tendency of golfers to demand good but not luxurious playing conditions at moderate cost. Some of the ways to achieve this were pointed out.

Annual meeting of the R. I. Greenkeepers' club was held following the speaking program. Exhibits and demonstrations of sprinklers, mowers and spikers formed a very interesting feature of the day.

Midwest Greenkeepers Hold Equipment Demonstration

A WELL-ATTENDED equipment demonstration was conducted at Twin Orchards GC (Chicago district), May 23, under auspices of the Midwest Greenkeepers Assn. Fred Kruger, Fred Ingwerson and Edward B. Dearie, Jr., made up the Midwest committee handling the event.

Demonstrations were divided into following classes: tractors and trucks, power lawn mowers, hand mowers, fertilizer distributors, sickles, green mowers, fairway units and tractors, sprinklers, miscellaneous equipment and supplies.

The show ran from 10 a. m. until 5, with an hour for luncheon.

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Club May Be Held Liable for Unenforced Safety Rules

By LESLIE CHILDS

GENERALLY speaking, where a golf player suffers injury upon a course by being struck by a ball driven wild by another player his right to recover damages, if any, will be against the player causing the injury, and not the club. This for the reason that, as a usual thing, the club, as such, will have taken no part in the transaction so as to render it legally liable for such an accident.

On the other hand, where a club announces and takes steps to enforce safety rules, and a player suffers injury because of its failure so to do, in conjunction with the negligence of another player, it is possible for joint liability between the club and the player at fault to accrue. A nice point this for golf club managers and owners, and as an example of judicial reasoning thereon the following will serve.

In this case the plaintiff while playing golf suffered a broken knee cap as the result of being struck by a ball driven by a player who was following him in another game. Plaintiff brought the instant action for damages against both the player and the club. The case against the player was based upon the contention that he had been negligent in not calling "fore" before driving his ball in the direction of plaintiff. The case against the club was predicated upon its alleged failure to enforce reasonable safety rules.

In making his case against the player, plaintiff offered evidence that tended to prove that the player drove his ball in utter disregard of the fact that plaintiff was in his line of play, and only a short distance away when the drive was made. That in making the play, the well settled rules of the game as well as the rules announced by the club, were violated. In proving his case against the club, the plaintiff offered the following:

That the club promulgated certain safety rules one of which was that a front match should be allowed at least two drives by the match immediately following, so as to eliminate the danger of players being struck by balls. That the club undertook

to enforce this and other rules by employing rangers with authority to supervise the playing, and see that the rules were obeyed, BUT—

That on the day of plaintiff's injury neither the rangers nor anyone else in authority made any attempt to enforce the foregoing rule; that the match following plaintiff drove balls in and about him and his companion from the fifth hole up to the fourteenth; that these players would drive almost immediately after plaintiff and his companion had driven, and that plaintiff protested this manner of play as being dangerous up to the time he was injured.

On the above evidence, the trial resulted in a judgment for plaintiff for \$500 against both the defendant player and the club. On appeal the higher court, after holding the evidence sufficient to render the defendant player liable, directed its attention to the question of whether or not the evidence also sustained the judgment against the club. In reasoning on this, and in affirming the judgment, the court, among other things, said:

What the Court Decided

"There was ample evidence that plaintiff sustained a serious injury. There was also evidence that the defendant golf club had promulgated certain rules, to the effect that the players first using the course and beginning a game were entitled 'to have two drives' before the succeeding match or players were permitted to tee off. * * *

"Manifestly, it is the duty of the owner (of a golf course) to exercise ordinary care in promulgating reasonable rules for the protection of persons who rightfully use the course, and furthermore, to exercise ordinary care in seeing that the rules so promulgated for the protection of players are enforced. The owner of a golf course is not an insurer, nor is such owner liable in damages for mishaps, accidents, and misadventures not due to negligence.

"In the case at bar, the evidence tends to show that the owner of the course had

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promulgated certain rules designed to protect players, and, in an effort to see that such rules were enforced, had employed rangers who were charged with the duty of supervising the course, and enforcing the rules and regulations prescribed by the owner.

"There is evidence that the rules so prescribed were openly violated, and that the defendant owner, through its agents and employees, made no effort to caution offending players or otherwise to discharge the duties imposed by law. Therefore, the liability of the owner was properly submitted to the jury, and the judgment based upon the verdict must be upheld. No error." (160 S. E. 316).

So that was that, and the court concluded by holding both the defendants, player and club, liable for plaintiff's injury. Of course, the liability of the player, upon the facts as they have been outlined, is well supported by the authorities, for the books contain a number of cases in which players have been held liable under like circumstances.

On the other hand, the holding of the club liable, on the grounds set out, appears to be in a class by itself, in so far as other cases are concerned. At least a reasonable search has failed to disclose other cases of this character, in which a golf club has been held liable on the ground of negligence in not enforcing its rules.

However, the case speaks for itself and in the light of its holding, it is clear that the mere making of safety rules is not sufficient to prevent liability for accidents attaching to a club, but that the latter is also under a legal duty to exercise reasonable care in enforcing such rules. Truly, a decision of force and importance on the point involved, and one that may well be had in mind by golf club executives charged with the duty of making and enforcing safety rules for the guidance of players.

To Clean Enamelware

When enamel kitchen utensils appear hopelessly ruined after food has been burned in them, place a mixture of strong soap powder in them and allow to stand three or four days without changing the water. Then pour the water off and rub with a soft cloth. All the blackness will disappear. Do not scrape before soaking as the enamel will crack.