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Grau's Answers to Turf Questions



If you've got a question you want Dr. Fred V. Grau to answer, please address it to Grau Q&A, Golfdom, 407 S. Dearborn, Chicago 5, Ill.

Calculating Costs

A T THE 29th turfgrass conference in Washington, D. C., the theme was developed that it is just as important for a supt. to know costs of maintenance as it is for a manufacturer to know costs of production. It becomes doubly important when a committee grants and approves a budget of \$40,000 and then asks for a program that could not possibly be accomplished for less than \$70,000.

There are cases in which attempts have been made to save money on the course to cover clubhouse expenditures by asking the supt. to have the greens mowed only twice a week. The cost of renovating to get the greens back in playable condition after a few weeks of that kind of maintenance would be several times the cost of daily mowing to keep them in shape.

The high cost of labor was brought out by more then one speaker. One said, "65 to 75 per cent of the budget." Another said, "70 to 80 per cent." Regardless of which is more nearly correct, the fact remains that labor costs money. It seems unfortunate that labor costs are not well understood by some committees. Here is a case in point:

A supt. decided to change his fertilizer practice in favor of one that would reduce labor costs by not watering in the fertilizer and by making only three applications a season. He had been using a high-nitroga soluble which had a low cost per ton about \$80. In order to achieve reasonabi steady feeding he had to apply it light every two weeks and water it in to puvent burning. This required the work a six men for two days for 18 greens or 3 labor hours for each application. By maing the change to the new material is could cover the greens with two meworking one day. In presenting his requeto the committee the price of \$400 a to stopped them cold. "We can't afford it" was the first reaction.

This is the way in which cost figure, were presented to the committee;

		Soluble		Nes
Cost per ton	\$	ogram 80.00		rogram 400.00
Nitrogen content		33%	- 20	38%
Cost per lb. of N (approx.) Annual N. requirement		13¢		52e
at 8 lbs. of N per 1000 s				
	8	00 lbs.	8	00 Ibs
Cost per season for				-
fertilizer	\$	104.00	3	416.0
Number of applications		16		3
Man hours per application		96		16
Cost of labor per appli-				1.000
cation @1.75 an hour	\$	168.00	\$	28.0
Cost of labor for season	\$2	2688.00	S	84.00
Cost of labor and fertilizer Savings	\$2	2792.00		500.0 292.0

These figures will not coincide exact with any existing figures because of van tions in prices, wage rates and methods application. They are intended to poin out the need for having total cost figure to justify a request. They show also hav higher unit costs for materials and equipment can be justified when they accom-(Continued on page 86)

Gran Ph

Syringing is a must when grass begins to with if there is ample soil moisture. Fine mist carries solved oxygen to suffocating roots. Half hour des often means loss of grass.

Golfdi





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Denver Caudill Makes Career of Pro Merchandising

THE trend in recent years among home club professionals to becoming as capable merchandisers as they are instructors is exemplified in Walter (Denver) Caudill, who is Jack Bell's "inside man" at River Forest CC, near Elmhurst, Ill.

Denver, who 30 years ago was running Pittsburgh's Valley Heights pro shop at the callow age of 16, has followed a rather singular career in golf. He has specialized more in moving merchandise than in improving players' games although he is certainly no stranger to the lesson tee.

When Denver started caddying in 1925 at the Oakmont CC, Willie Rowe, one of the famed old clubmakers, was professional. Caudill watched Willie repair a driver one day and became so fascinated with the process that he asked permission to help in the back end of the shop when he wasn't on call for any bag toting jobs. Out of this grew an early familiarity, first with the equipment that is used in playing the game and later, with sportswear and the like, when it was introduced in some volume to the pro shop merchandising picture.

Assistant to Rogers

Caudill stayed on his assistant's job at Valley Heights until 1933 when he moved west to become second in command to Big John Rogers, one of those fabulous fellows who worked very hard all day so as to justify playing through most of the night. The locale was the Denver CC where Caudill took charge of most of the inside operations and picked up his nickname. He stayed with Rogers for eight years.

After the war years, Denver transferred his talents to Jimmy Hines and shuttled between Hines' shops at the North Shore CC in Glenview, Ill., and Thunderbird in Palm Springs, Calif. This is Denver's second year at the River Forest shop.

Through the years, Caudill says, he has got as big a kick out of selling golf accouterment as the average fellow does out of taking a big, rawboned swinger and making a finished player of him. "Maybe it goes back to the fact," says Denver, "that buying new things makes people feel



Denver Caudill (left) and Jack Bell.

good. I try to get this into every sales talk I make whether I am pushing clubs or shoes or sportswear. It works particularly well where women are involved."

Helps the Youngsters

Denver also has taken a great deal of pride in properly indoctrinating assistants in the art of running a golf shop and in helping young pros get off the ground in their first headmaster assignments. Among those he has tutored are Dale Andreason, Rip Arnold and Bill Ogden. Jack Bell, by the way, is in only his second year as a head pro and, incidentally, swears by Denver. "He knows more about this business than 90 per cent of us," says Jack. "Denver approaches every sale like staying in the black depended on it."

Since his career in golf has been so closely tied to helping young fellows get a start, Denver has sage advice for assistants or young fellows who are thinking seriously of getting into the pro end of the game. "Contrary to what you may have heard," says Caudill, "being able to shoot par or subpar golf is not essential. You are actually better off as a home club pro if you can shoot only what might be called a respectable game, but know how to teach. This latter point is extremely important. If a young fellow thinks as much about how to get across to the golf student as he does about how he is going to demonstrate a certain shot, he will be a better instructor for it.

"What it amounts to," Denver explains, "is that the instructor isn't there to show how beautifully he himself can execute a (Continued on page 75)



Tell Your Members about Plymouth's New 1958 Trophy



Plymouth's "Worth Its Weight in Gold" Trophy for professionals scoring a hole-in-one with a PGA ball. Plus a chance for a cash bonus. Ask your PGA distributor. An amateur scoring a duly attested hole-in-one with a PGA ball during 1958 will receive this imported, jeweled, fully engraved clock with his or her "lucky" ball mounted beside it—compliments of Plymouth.

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Book Review

How to Think and Swing Like a Golf Champion, By Dick Mayer. Published by Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York 16. Price \$3.95.

Dick Mayer, with Charles Cleveland as his literary caddie, has done a first class job on this book. There's no effort made to put out any fancy stuff or "secrets." Sound and simple material, and about as much of it as the average golf book reader can digest is presented.

Dick, a lean, limber young man, naturally has very little left foot action in his backswing but nevertheless a fine turn from his knees, hips and shoulders.

He says that he does not recommend a pause of hands at the top of the same and believes that such hesitation would interfere with the flow of his swing. The excellent series of pictures of Dick making a 4-iron shot, which appear as the end papers in the book, show that his hands are still for a couple of frames of pictures at the top of the backswing.

His comment on tactics of playing a course, especially his references to his play at Baltusrol in 1954 when a par on the last hole would have tied him with Furgol, his play at Inverness in winning the 1957 National Open and at Tam O'Shanter last year in winning the last of George S. May's \$50,000 first prizes, are very interesting. They provide helpful suggestions for golfers in all classes. He also offers valuable advice on putting policy and tells of his own putting methods which have a wrist-action tap for the shorter putts.

Mayer demonstrated at the 1957 PGA annual meeting instruction sessions that he's got a smart, analytical mind and a keen and ingenious way of adapting the generalities of good technique to fit his particular physique and temperament. In this book Dick has taken his game apart for the reader to look at and study.

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The U. S. Golfer's Annual Handbook, Edited by John Barrington. Published by Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York 16. Price \$3.95.

This book consists mainly of the rules of golf, comments on the rules and citations of decisions in puzzling cases. It also contains several pages of "Historical Sidelights," records of major events, a calendar of some of this year's leading championships and suggestions of events for club competitions.

The Management of Clubs, By Harry J. Fawcett. Published by Vantage Press, 120 W. 31st St., New York. Price \$5.

Harry Fawcett, mgr. of the Kansas City Club and former pres., Club Managers' Assn. of America for more than 30 years, has been accurately identified as a top operating expert on excellent cuisine, superb service and efficient management of superior and exclusive clubs and the highest class of hotel operations.

Fawcett always has maintained that the highest quality of club operation although inevitably more expensive than commercial restaurant work, due to better materials, higher labor costs and uncertain volume, should not involve preventable waste. His way of organizing club management and of selecting, training, instructing, supervising and rewarding employees has been a strong influence for progress in country and city club operation.

The Fawcett book will take club officials and house committee members back stage in well operated clubs and show them, many times, what their own managers are trying to do.

Fawcett says that the divided management of clubs with officials and committees complicating the policy, and pricing procedures the club manager is expected to put into effect, account for much of the avoidable waste in club operation. He recommends an executive committee of three members to function with the mgr. in the business direction of the club.

He declares that the club is a "big, overgrown home." He also asserts that the excise taxes paid on club dues and fees are far in excess of income tax paid by hotels and restaurants "organized for profit."

The departmental directives from Fawcett's own extensive and successful experience alone are well worth the price of the book.

The Fawcett plan of employee welfare which has been in successful operation at the Kansay City Club for 10 years, the 54 departments of the club manager's operating knowledge, and the food and liquor control information also provide interesting and valuable pages.

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