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Mowing by the book

Getting the greens into fine playing condition for the New season is a "manual" job at Olympia Fields.

People not familiar with course maintenance would be somewhat surprised to learn that a trainee greenkeeper is given quite thorough instruction in gripping a mower. Not so much, of course, as a neophyte golfer who is drilled in gripping a club, but a man who is going to mow greens has to develop a feel for the machine. The grip, which involves placing only the index fingers and thumbs on the mower handle, is important because it enables the operator to properly hold the blade to the turf and let it float.

Another operation that is carefully demonstrated until the trainee masters it is the turn at the end of a swath. The machine is looped when a cut is completed, and not spun on its rollers. It takes practice to do this properly or collars can be chewed up. Finally, the knack of holding a mower on a straight

line is stressed. This isn't always as easy as it looks or seems to be.

These procedures and cautions, do's and don'ts, and equipment requirements for handling several other maintenance jobs are set down in a manual that has been prepared by Oscar Miles, superintendent, Olympia Fields (Ill.) CC. The purpose of the manual is to aid in the training of new employees, but older workers benefit by occasionally checking it to see if they are carrying on in the proper continuity.

The Miles' manual is not turned over to new employees, although it is always available to them as well as those who have been around a while. The trainee is instructed from the manual by Miles or one of his two maintenance foremen, Wally Hedrick and Roger LaRochelle, each of whom is responsible for one of



Upon approaching the green, stop below bank, remove transport wheels from mower.

Remove all ball marks, moving in systematic pattern, about 10 sq. feet at a time. Press turf in from sides. Step on repaired mark.



By THOMAS CAREY

Olympia Fields' 18. If the new man is to be trained to mow greens, one of his instructors carefully goes over the green-mowing section of the manual with him. The mower is explained in some detail as to how it is assembled, how it works and what is expected of it. The next step is for Miles or one of the foremen to take the trainee out for a trial spin.

The mowing of a green is an operation that is carried out in eleven steps—or there are that many procedures and cautions that have to be taken into account when a green is mowed. At least, that is how Oscar Miles sums up the operation. Here are the leaves from Miles' manual on green mowing:

- 1) Mechanic checks mower for bed knife to reel adjustment before maintenance man removes mower from shop;
- 2) Upon approaching the green, stop

continued on next page



Miles, above, finds his maintenance manual invaluable for both new employees and old.



On first longitudinal cut, aim at object on far side of green to insure straight line.

Begin mowing of green by cutting outline or perimeter cut. Then lift machine and get on line for second or interior perimeter cut.

MOWING GREENS

continued from preceding page

below bank and remove transport wheels;

3) Run mower up to short collar and turn machine off;

4) Remove all ball marks from green, moving in a systematic pattern, taking about 10 square feet of green at a time. (Ball marks are preferably repaired with a meat fork; press turf inward from sides and then step on repaired marks);

5) Start mower, engage reel and begin mowing outline or perimeter cut. After cutting first circle, lift machine and get on line for next interior perimeter cut;

6) Start cutting middle or remainder of green. Cut in direction shown on work schedule board. Aim mower at an object on the far side of the green in order to insure a straight line during the first longitudinal cut;

7) After cutting first half of green, stop mower, disengage reel and go to the opposite side of the first longitudinal cut;

8) Engage reel and proceed to cut second half of the green;

9) Disengage reel and remove mower to area where transport wheels have been dropped. Turn off mower;

10) Whip all loose clippings from green, short and long collars with whipping poles. Be very fastidious about this;

11) Put transport wheels on mower and proceed to next green site.

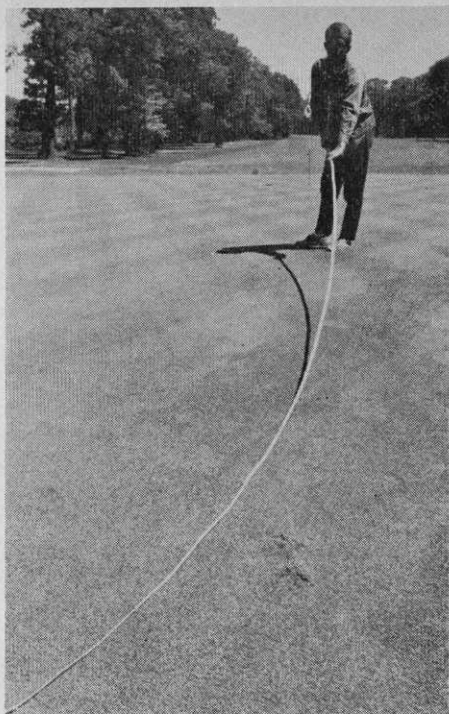
Miles' manual doesn't stop with the 11 procedures listed above. He instructs the employee to keep the following things in mind when working on greens:

A) Turn or reverse direction of mower only when off the green—on long or secondary collar. Make a wide loop to eliminate roller spin, which causes bruising of turf;

B) After mowing a green always disengage reel before going to next one;

C) If machine isn't functioning correctly, or if odd noises are detected, get help from foremen or return mower to shop for checkup;

D) When golfers approach a green on which you are working, stop machine and



Be fastidious about whipping all loose clippings from green, plus short and long collar.

turn off mower. Remember that golfers come first!

E) Don't forget safety! Do not remove any foreign material from the reel without first turning off the mower;

F) The shop foreman will assist you in cleaning and greasing the mower after it is returned to the shop. This is to be done every day! The shop mechanic is responsible for all mower settings.

The greens at Olympia Fields are cut at $5/32$ inches in the spring and fall and at $3/16$ in the summer. The first cut in the cycle is started at seven o'clock and moves toward one; the next cut starts at five and moves toward eleven; then it proceeds from three to nine; and is finished between six and twelve, when the cycle is repeated.

Besides labor turnover, says Miles, the main reason he wrote the manual was he can't devote as much time as he would like to training new men. •



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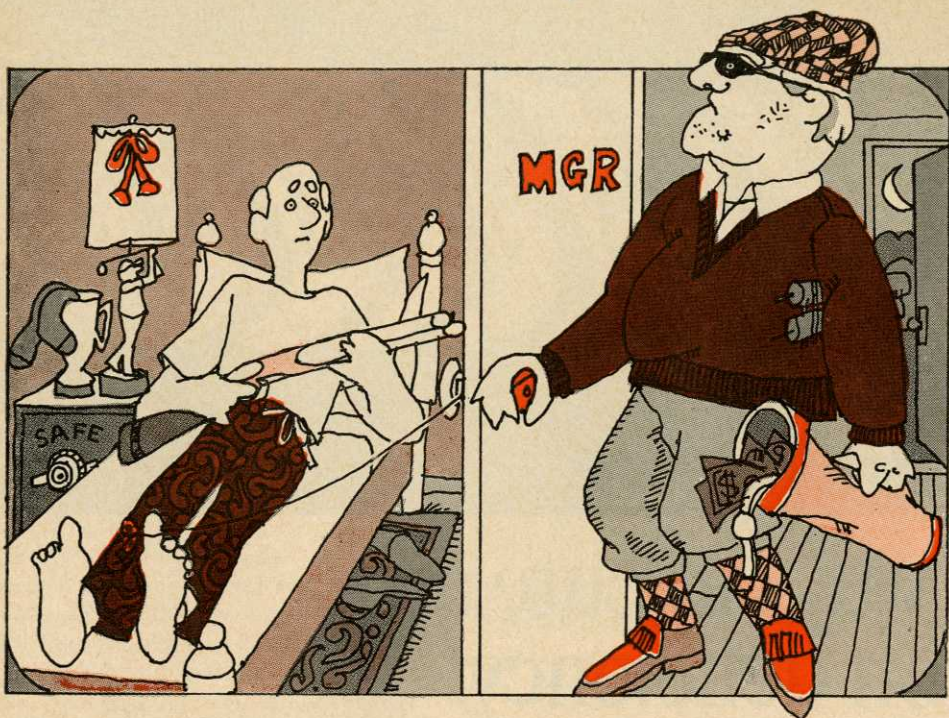
Arnie's own.



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* T.M.'s of Arnold Palmer Golf Co.

Clubhouse security



Pro

By G. V. MARLATT, CCM

Manager, Northmoor CC,
Highland Park, Ill.

All too often country club security is at its best immediately *after* a pro shop robbery, a missing wallet in the mens lockerroom or an unexplained food cost increase of over 20 per cent.

Often, we find that this security takes the form of protecting our clubs from the outsider or total stranger, but I hope to also delve into what I consider "legitimate invasion" by an outsider, as well as "internal theft and pilferage."

Nothing detracts a would-be thief more than an abundance of light. Power companies will be quick to tell you that this is a most economical form of security. Bathing the pro shop with floodlights, both inside and outside, will help to

Con

By HARRY HEARTWELL

#81432

As a long time professional, I have probably "played" more courses around the country than any dozen golfers put together. However, my game was always played at night, and I was shooting for loot instead of birdies. I was a professional burglar. My specialty, country club "knock offs."

Even though I made a good living at this for 15 years, I could never claim any monopoly on the racket, or even much originality. Country clubs offer certain attractions that many burglars find almost impossible to ignore. Most obvious is the fact that they contain a great deal of valuable merchandise that can be easily converted into cash. A pro shop can yield a

deter break-ins, as will entrance lights over every entry to your club, from sundown until the employees have begun their work day. Parking lots, swimming pools, grounds sheds, and off-location buildings can all benefit from this inexpensive form of protection.

While on this subject, most supermarkets and other establishments have found that placing the safe where it can be seen through a window from the outside, and illuminating it, will help to deter would-be safe crackers. If the safe is small, embedding it in concrete or welding the entire safe to structural steel will also make removal much harder.

It is also a good idea to keep only small amount of money, in several locations where needed, and make a few more trips to the bank than to have all the club's cash in one location.

If cash registers are used in your club, it is best to remove the cash at night, place it in a safe, and leave the register drawer open with a light nearby. This will save the inconvenience of having a damaged register on the morning following a break-in.

One of the easiest ways of deterring most "outside" crime in the club can be accomplished by challenging all strangers seen in or around the club. Inform your club employees, through group meetings, who works in all departments. Then, if a stranger is seen in the basement or locker room or pro shop, he will feel that your staff knows an outsider and will hinder his "casing the joint" as well as his unauthorized later entry.

It is also a good idea to inform your employees that only employees who work in the lockerrooms and pro shop will be permitted in those areas.

It is not unusual, when holding a "post mortem" after a lockerroom theft that many employees had seen people they did not recognize, in the lockerroom on that day. Teach your employees to *know* their members, know who works in their departments, and to keep other employees

small fortune in clubs, balls, sportswear, accessories and money. Lockers are good for more clubs, more money and sometimes, jewelry.

Just as attractive from the burglar's point of view, golf courses are set in pleasant rural surroundings—happily devoid of pedestrian traffic and difficult for the police to keep an eye on. As a rule, they are also easy to enter. The locks are none too sturdy and many places don't even have an alarm system or a regularly assigned watchman.

Every year more thieves are taking advantage of such weak points and turning their larcenous attention to golf. I've known some men who worked in garages and used a truck. When they found a club especially wide open, they would strip the pro shop and the clubhouse right down to the last tee.

While I always preferred to work alone, I sometimes teamed up with another burglar named Herman whose job it was to case the clubhouses and figure out how we'd get in and what we'd take!

One problem was that Herman *looked* like a burglar. He had a jaw like a cigar-box and a wicked squint that just didn't go over very well with timid types. But even more of a handicap was his notion of proper golfing attire: argyle socks, plus fours, raglan sweater, a cap with two-inch checks "an' don't tell me no different."

Damon Runyon would have loved him.

When Herman waltzed up to a clubhouse in those plus fours everything stopped. As conspicuous and bungling as he was, though, he always found out what we wanted to know. And, when we returned at night we generally got what we were after.

A typical job was one we pulled at a club in New Jersey. Herman had cased the place and made a favorable analysis: no alarm system, no watchman and nothing but a spring-type lock on the pro shop door. This meant we could either kick the

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CLUB SECURITY PRO

continued from preceding page

and delivery men out of the lockerroom and you will be well on the way to sound lockerroom security.

All head lockerroom men should lock all open lockers while the members and guests are on the course, and reopen them for the person following the round of golf. While inconvenient to the member to ask to have it reopened, he will appreciate this security.

Another form of low cost security in clubs can be accomplished by placing mirrors at the ends of the lockerroom so that a locker man working in a shower or shoe room can observe persons entering or leaving the "back entrance."

Not all theft in a lockerroom, clubhouse or bar can be attributed to the "outsider," however. Some form of security must exist against the outsider whom you invite into your club each day as a delivery man, repair man, or salesman.

One central place of delivery is the best form of security, with a receiving clerk for all deliveries. This person can then record all deliveries, and take them to the departments involved without the outsider going past the delivery entrance.

Repair men can be asked to wait until the maintenance man or department head is summoned, and then accompany the man to the area where his services are required in the clubhouse.

Salesmen can be told to report to one area in the club, and remain there until summoned by a manager, a chef, or department head—and *not* be allowed to roam around the club.

Milk men who are permitted to make deliveries to the kitchen and remove cases or empty milk cans only invite theft, as the empty container can well conceal a pound of butter, a ham, or a few steaks.

Informing delivery men of the authorized persons who may sign delivery tickets, and sending a copy to his company, will discourage leaving cases of liquor

CLUB SECURITY CON

continued from preceding page

door open or trip the lock with a strip of celluloid. Had there been security frames on the windows and a solid lock on the door *we probably would have passed it up.*

We waited until two in the morning parked our car in the club's lot and made short, simple work of the pro shop's lock. It took about 10 minutes to pick out everything we wanted and pile it in the middle of the floor. Then we borrowed a couple of electric golf cars and *drove* the stuff out to our car.

The safe we had to leave behind. Some burglars double as safecrackers, but "busting a pete" is an art I never mastered. I once tried to cut one open with a torch—and all I got for my pains was a puddle of melted silver and a stack of banknotes charred beyond redemption. In my business you develop a tolerance for "hot" money, but this was ridiculous!

Many country clubs, however, make it easy for characters like me by installing small, portable safes or the wall types that can be carried away and beaten open with a sledge hammer. Club managers could reduce the danger of safe-cracking 90 per cent simply by installing heavier safes and taking advantage of the club's built-in protection. Because of location, golfing burglars usually have to park their getaway cars some distance from the clubhouse. They count on making three or four trips for their loot—but you can't split a 500-pound safe into more than one trip. And even the strongest burglars can't carry a load like that across soft ground.

By concentrating mainly on merchandise, I did fairly well. But burglary is like any other business, and very much like golf—there are certain hazards, and on more than one occasion I was sorely tempted to go straight.

You think a water hazard is tough when you're trying to slam across it into the teeth of a 20-mile head wind? Well, you should try *walking* across one on a

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