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A Game Worth Talking About GOLF

by Roy Henderson

Here in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, are 400-golf courses. Some big, some small, but every one dedicated to the golfer.

Almost 8,000,000 rounds of golf will be enjoyed on these courses during 1976. That's a bunch.

More than 58,000 acres of beautiful grassed golf land influence these golfers to spend \$24,000,000 in greens fees and about \$14,000,000 for the privilege to drive a golf cart around the course. These people will spend another \$30,000,000 to purchase golf balls, clubs, access-

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ories, golf bags, umbrellas and - you name it, These same people will spend another \$50,000,000 for food, beverages, and the use of other club house facilities during the year.

We're talking about 120 million dollars. Golf is a truly great game.

There is another end to the whole story. The golf course must maintain their acres of lush grass; their sand traps; the tennis courts and swimming pools, in an excellent manner to attract golfers to their particular "piece of the turf". They will spend \$100,000,000 this year to entice the golfer to their playing surface. They will employ 5,000 people - the combined payrolls will approach \$40,000,000.

When taxes, insurance and all other little things connected to this "industry" are totalled out, GOLF is responsible for more than \$250,000,000 business in our fair area of commerce. A quarter BILLION DOLLARS.

At a time in history when most people are quivering about "economic factors", the game of golf is enjoying the greatest year ever. Every golf course is pressed to accommodate the hoard of golfers who descend upon it - sometimes as early as 5:00 AM in the morning. Here, indeed, are the optimists of 1976.

Golf is a Game Worth Talking About ----

How about GOLF and the ENVIRONMENT? Every acre of well cultivated bent grass, blue grass and other fine golf course turf, generate sufficient oxygen each day, to sustain the lives of more than 30 people. This grass then replenishes oxygen for more than 2,000,000 persons during the golf season. In doing this, it absorbs an equal amount of carbon dioxide (an air pollutant), and magically transforms it by photosynthesis to food for the grass plant, and life giving oxygen for us.

Wherever possible, golf courses take advantage of the natural beauties of trees, hillocks, flowing streams and water impoundments. These features all lend character to a particular course. The original plans of mother nature are improved upon.

Golf is a purposeful method to get the average guy just a little bit "back to nature". Golf offers the same relaxation, exercise, and natural uplift, to the garage mechanic, the storekeeper or the president of the bank - it doesn't care who you are. Damm few riots originate when people are playing golf.

There are environmental pluses which just can't be disregarded, or minimized. We need desperately the influences of this sort to soothe the day-to-day problems which exist.

The people who generate the GOLF "industry" deserve some credit.

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