

vandalism CONTINUES AND OF A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT TYPE

Golf Courses locally and throughout the country have experienced vandalism of various kinds, such as, cutting up greens, riding over greens with motorcycles, automobiles, horses, breaking windows, tearing down fences, removing barricades, etc. The writer has learned of a new mode of vandalism, that is the painting of greens.

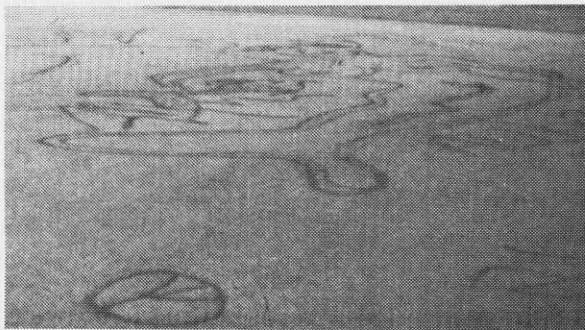
On the night of Monday, August 26th, a group of vandals went to the Theo Wirth Golf Course in Minneapolis and painted the 10th and 15th greens. Actually they did quite an artistic job. It was not a case of a group of feeble-minded people pouring a few pails of paint on the greens. The work was done by one or more people with a reasonable amount of talent as they painted recognizable pictures of emblems and objects. Fortunately they used a type of paint that did not penetrate the roots and kill the grass, except in rare instances where an excessive amount was used in a small area. It would appear that it was the type of paint

used by golf organizations in preparing a course for tournament play. In cases of that kind where paint is used to outline boundaries such as ground under repair, out of bounds, water hazards, etc., there is a type of paint that does not injure the grass. Some of the objects that they painted were cars, words, and designs; also an octopus with its oval body and eight sucker-bearing arms, several figures and emblems, such as The Star of David, a Swastika, the Peace Emblem and others.



In spite of the continuous watering and cutting the paint continued to show. Now almost a month later, the latter part of September, when the Golf Course Superintendent and his Staff have started to aerate the greens, they are eliminating the paint.

Just imagine lining up a putt on a green and staring at an octopus with its eight arms curled around the green or at a car coming at you. Then compare that with some of the things we see on putting greens, such as the player picking up a small blade of grass or brushing off an imaginary loose impediment.



It is too bad that the people that did this could not have applied their talent and time to a more useful purpose, something that would have been rewarding to them.

The people playing the course were very considerate and took the situation in stride and made the best of it knowing that it was the work of vandals and that no one connected with the management of the course or in the maintaining of the course were in any way responsible and the management and

the course superintendent are very grateful to the players for their fine cooperation. There has been vandalism at the Wirth Course before but nothing like this. It has been the cutting up or scraping the greens and they were repaired by replacing the turf from the turf nursery. The members of the MGCSA ask all golfers and golf course employees to be on the lookout for vandals and if they see anything that is even suspicious, to report it to the management of the course or to the golf course superintendent, and if they are not available, to the police.



When Golf Course Superintendent Maynard Erickson called and told me about the vandalism to the greens I went out to the course and was joined by Maynard and the Pro-Manager, Phil Wallin, and we went out on the course to look at the damage and to take some pictures of it. This was like old home week as this is the course on which I played my first golf. It was known at that time as the Glenwood Course and when I first played it, it was only 6 holes and I was still playing there when it grew to 9 holes and then to 18. Of course, there have been several changes in the past few years. The nines have been reversed, many of the hills have been cut down and the course has been lengthened considerably, in fact there are only a couple of holes that appeared to be reasonably the same, the 6th and 10th and maybe one or two others. It is really a beautiful course, hilly, that is the back nine, but beautiful. I believe I am correct when I say the Old Glenwood Course was the second oldest public links course in



the state, the first being the Phalen course in St. Paul. Just to reminisce a little, there was a very active club at the course, small but active. Most of the club competition was on a match play basis. I had a couple of brothers that were also members and as the club was small we did not always have enough qualifiers to fill the 32 or 64 places which meant that there were several Byes and when the pairings were made and posted we took a lot of good

natured ribbing, such as, "if the Warehams don't win it the Byes will;" but they were a great bunch and we had a lot of fun. The club is still very active at Wirth. The Glenwood Club was a charter member of the Minnesota Public Golf Association with the Phalen Club and the Columbia Club. From that beginning the Minnesota Public Golf Association has become a very large, active association with members in all parts of the state. It is through their effort, support and promotion that the United States Golf Association Public Links Championship has been played in Minnesota on three occasions - 1931 at the Keller Course in St. Paul, 1947 at the Meadowbrook Course in Minneapolis and in 1964 at the Gross Course in Minneapolis, and in 1976 it will be played at the Bunker Hills Course in Coon Rapids. All three of these events that have been played in



our area have been outstanding championships and the 1976 championship will be no exception. When one stops to think, what makes these events so successful? There is not space to go into all of the details, however, the work and co-operation of the golf course superintendents plays a major part. Without their fine work it would be impossible to have the kind of championships we have had.



While making the tour of the Wirth Course I learned that there has been three generations of the Erickson Family employed at the Glenwood-Wirth Course. Pete Swanson, Maynard's grandfather, was the custodian at the building, including a new and beautiful club house. He was followed by Carl Erickson, Maynard's father, as greenkeeper and then since 1946

Maynard as Golf Course Superintendent. A great record. Maynard is also proud of the fact that there are six or seven active golf course superintendents who got their initial training under him.