

making for greater course progress. This thinking would naturally boost the payroll dollar, but over the years we would be saving on the costs of repairs to this modern expensive equipment. Job security would also reduce the overall costs in the attitude and the effectiveness of the employee. The employee could be trained better and also trained to have a little pride in his work. In my opinion, it would be a step in the right direction if we as superintendents devoted more time at some of our monthly meetings in further discussion of these matters. It would be a suggestion that we have these meetings attended by all the superintendents in the area. This could be done with just superintendents attending and with no other business. We as a group should have many comments concerning this. Comments that would start us getting a program started that would not only be beneficial to the superintendent, but would help the clubs and the employees at the same time.

I TRAVEL THE SUBURBAN LINKS by Dave Fairbanks

I took some time off from the spring grind to visit with a few of our suburban supers last week and I wasn't too surprised to find they were working hard too. Some of us are working hard with projects at hand and some are working with their Boards to come up with some projects and or equipment. I believe a conspiracy is in the air this year because it seems to me that an awfully lot of clubs are enlarging dining rooms, locker rooms, kitchen areas, and rebuilding parking lots instead of improving the most important part of the golfing facility, the course itself. There are always constant and sometimes justified complaints about the golf course but when budgets are submitted to make amends, they are scratched for more important projects. You can fight just so much until you realize their ears have been closed the whole time. We all complain about our chairmen once in a while, but this time I'll give mine credit for fighting for the course to the final "no."

I stopped to see my neighbor, Wayne Jerome, over at Montgomery Village Golf Club. I'm sure you all know by now that we'll be losing Wayne from our ranks on May 3. He's going on working retirement in Florida building a new club just north of Fort Lauderdale. We've got a few members that have worked the twelve month gauntlet in the past. Might suggest that Wayne get a few pointers from them before leaving. While at his club, I noticed three new tees built this spring, one in its final stages. Wayne kept his men busy over the winter planting 200 trees of mixed breeds and rebuilt three traps in strategic locations on the course. Sorry to see you leave, Wayne.

Over at the monstrous Washingtonian National, Buel Hitchcock had his gala opening on April 12th, banners and all. For any of you have seen it, I'm sure you will

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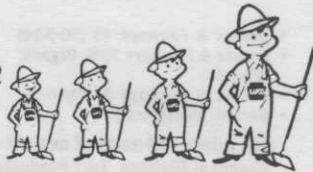
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agree with me when I say monstrous. To back up my description. I'll offer a few examples; 1½ miles of paved paths and roads, two new shelters with running water in the bathrooms, sand traps which carry a total load of 4200 tons of sand (now the Sahara Desert has competition), five new bridges at a total cost of \$30,000, greens averaging 14,000 sq.ft. Buel plans on having three triplex greens mowers by the end of the season. The whole 18 holes are now open, the first nine having opened in June of 1968.

George Thompson over at Columbia Country Club had a busy off season. The road that borders the No. 6 hole was widened, tightening the width of the hole. George screened the fence with 37 mixed Red and White Pines ranging from 3 to 5 inch caliper. The trees were all taken from the course nursery using a hydraulic tree spade. George has also planted flowering crabs and cherries, bald cypress, and metasequoia to go with the old established club. I took another look at his greenhouse and not only saw a lot of seedling flowers, but tomatoes and peppers as well. I asked George which bed he was going to plant them in, but I never did get an answer. While driving around in the rain, I saw his new Fylking tee and his U.S.G.A. C-1 bent tee which both looked very good. We stopped and watched his Massachusetts placement student sprigging sedum in a bank for erosion control. George is trying a variety of plants to see which works best. Even though I did get wet, there was a bright side to the day. I came home with a few flats of petunias and marigold seedlings to plant around my clubhouse. Just couldn't get any of those tomatoes or peppers away from George.

Here at Lakewood Country Club, we're working on our ground maintenance, trying to keep us with the grass on the new holes and waiting for the new parking lot - can't wait for that!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Support the N.C.A."

This is a very busy time of the year in the Mid-Atlantic States for the superintendent. All the spring chores are demanding our attention and the availability of good labor is severely restricted.

Let us stop for a moment in this budding season and consider a project that needs our support. I am speaking of the National Club Association and their assistance to the clubs that are being harassed by various government agencies and others imposing themselves upon these clubs. One of the threats involves revoking state licenses to compel clubs to become public facilities and thereby serve the general public.

Our association is comprised of 90% club-employed superintendents (92 of 109). Allow an erosion of the club system and if golf is to survive it will be on government reservations, which are not favorable to superintendents. As an example: Our association lists