



10 ... or More

To the vacationer, summer is ever so swift. Nothing, it seems, goes by as quickly as those two or three weeks at the beach or those long weekends in the mountains.

To the golf course superintendent, summer is endless. No season of the year drags as slowly. Those hours spent keeping the green on fairways and putting surfaces never seem to cease.

Well, why not carve into that rut with the latest cure for the super's natural plunge into the blahs ... the mid-season vacation?

Sounds kind of strange at the first suggestion. However, once you really think about it, taking something more than that five or 10-minute daily break might turn out to be just what the superintendent needs to recharge his vocational batteries and put some spit and polish on his professional outlook.

Recently, a veteran super decided to pack in his water table gear, arrange a long range work schedule for his crew and take off for one week of whiling away the time with his family at a nearby lake. "We did nothing except a little fishing and swimming," he revealed. "We got up when we pleased and went to bed whenever we ran out of things to do for that day. We didn't bring along any alarm clock and got up when we felt like it. That break from the daily schedule, alone, was a welcomed relief."

Of course, the rest and rehabilitation period had to be taken at the right time in the seasonal work log. "I decided to arrange my vacation in the middle of July," the innovator continued. "The week fell just after the completion of my club's major tournament. The course was at peak condition and any major projects were behind us. By the way, I did leave my crew means of reaching me in case of emergency. It wasn't as if I had abandoned my job."

The results? "I felt like a new man when I returned," he added. "I had heard of people coming back from a vacation with renewed vigor and drive to plunge into their job again. And, I can honestly say that the break did wonders for my mental approach to my duties at the club."

Such attempts at snapping tradition have been popping up in certain professions. And the vacation at the height of the so-called "heavy load season" has proven most successful.

One of the professions now practicing the get-away-from-it-all remedy for job stress is the grinding, pressing world of the major league umpire. When the men in blue went on strike almost 18 months ago, one of the chief issues was a vacation in the middle of the baseball season. As the strike was settled, that issue was resolved in favor of the umpires.

This season, they have been rewarded for their per-

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Next Meeting Thorney Lea Golf Club Sept. 9, 1980

Directors Meeting	9:00 a.m.
Regular Meeting	10:00 a.m.
Lunch	11:45 a.m.
Golf	1:00 p.m.

Note: This is the Super Super Championship. Get yourself a partner and make your own foursomes.

Directions: From route 24 take route 27 to Brockton. Take left at tee in the road 100 yards from traffic light. Take right on West Street and follow to next light and take a right on Torrey St. Club is on right.

Lunch reservations call Joe Rybka at 447-5900 home or 587-9030 shop. Cut off date is Sept. 5, 1980

*If you make a reservation you will be responsible for honoring your commitment.

Another Kind of Golf Clinic

On a golfing day at a semi-private club, a too-familiar scene was enacted by what has to be an uninformed golfing public.

A foursome of players, all using hand-carts, approached a teeing area and parked their bag totes in a heavily-matted area in back of the tee. They proceeded to smash their drives. Then, one by one, they grabbed the handles of their carts and marched across the tee in pursuit of their golf balls.

Another player, on an adjacent tee, saw the punishing parade and took time to tell the offenders that they weren't supposed to drag their carts over the tee. Expecting to get some kind of snarling rejoinder, the player was amazed at what he heard.

"We never knew you weren't supposed to take your cart across the tee," was the collective response. "No one ever told us we couldn't go anywhere with a cart. Hell, we've seen some guys take their carts into sand traps, just so they can save a few steps."

The above session in golf education has been repeated countless times around the public and private playing circuit. However, on-the-spot reminders that the course is to be treated with a certain type of reverence often are forgotten two holes later. The golfer, almost understandably, has only his score on his mind. It isn't that he doesn't care about the condition of the course, he just hasn't had exposure to the part he plays in preserving that condition.

Some of the other acts of promoting damage include dragging carts to the very edge of the greens where they tear up aprons; taking golf bags onto the green and resting them there while a player putts; failure to repair ball marks and the incalculable violations that occur behind the wheels of power-driven cars.

It is amusing to note here that most clubs--be they public or private--concentrate their efforts on educating golfers on every phase of the game except the most important...the preservation of the golf course.

Everywhere along the golfing road clubs fill their bulletin boards with news of clinics conducted by the golf professional...junior clinics, clinics for ladies, clinics for golfers over 50, clinics for novice golfers. That's nice, good service to the members and others frequenting the course. But whatever happened to that strangely phased-out term-- "golfing etiquette."

Golf etiquette goes beyond knowing whose turn it is to putt or who must tend the flag. It's most vital aspect is the behavior of the golfer on the course in regard to preserving the playing conditions to which he becomes attached only when his needs aren't satisfied.

It has to follow, then, that golfers are either unaware of the damage they wrought or unconcerned with the possible part they might play in avoiding such damage. Certainly, the latter might apply only in isolated instances. The mainstream of golfers must realize that conditioning a course is one of the most highly refined and unpredictable tasks a person can tackle. Then, too, they have to believe the end result affects them more than anyone.

Therefore, why don't more clubs initiate a series of clinics designed to educate golfers as to the responsibilities they have during their daily rounds? Why aren't golfers schooled in the areas of following golf car and pull-cart rules? Why aren't they reminded and brow-beaten about repairing ball marks?

Good question...questions. The obvious answer is a form of negligence on somebody's part. Should the behavior aspects of playing a round be included in the pro's clinic? Has he failed to accept its importance in the education of a golfer? Or has the club simply disregarded its inclusion on the basis that everyone knows he is supposed to repair ball marks, et al?

Certainly, the superintendent should be concerned about the lack of respect golfers hold for his domain. It wouldn't be considered out of line if he suggested golf etiquette clinics. And, it would be proper and beneficial if he took a major role in conducting such clinics.

It appears that all three parties--club, professional, super--should share the responsibility for instituting rules and regulations of play that promote the well being of the course's physical properties. In the acceptance of that responsibility, they should see to it that golfers are informed and made aware of the importance of adhering to such standards. And the process should be continuing.

The sight of a golfer dragging his cart across a tee is disgusting ... frightening, too. Surely, another kind of golf clinic is needed to halt the recurrence of that sorry scene.

Gerry Finn

"Meeting Golf's Challenges Efficiently" is GCSAA's 52nd International Conference and Show Theme

Plans are well underway for GCSAA's 1981 Conference and Show which will be held in Anaheim, California, January 24 - January 30. This week of activities begins with educational seminars on Saturday and Sunday followed by the Opening Session on Monday and general sessions throughout the week. The ribbon cutting ceremony kicks off the opening of the Exposition Show on Tuesday. The USGA will co-host our educational session on Thursday.

There will be a variety of social functions on the schedule. In addition to the Monday Night Get Acquainted Party and the Annual Banquet, GCSAA has arranged for a "Special Fun Day" at Disneyland and a "Special Ticket Offer" for the Harlem Globe Trotters game.

As has been done in the past, a golf course tour will be offered on Friday morning following the conference. And then for those adventuresome members - plan to take the post conference trip to HAWAII!

GCSAA's 52nd International Turfgrass Conference and Show promises to be an educational and action packed week. Plan now to attend!

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Take Five, continued

sistence with a rotating schedule set up to allow for vacation time. "The break has been a blessing for me," one umpire disclosed. "We're in a pressure cooker from the first of April until the end of September and sometimes beyond when we have to work the playoffs and World Series. So, when we get a few days to relieve ourselves of that pressure, we come back with a feeling which sharpens our work faculties."

Regardless of the golf course superintendent's job environment, he has to operate under a certain degree of stress. This varies with the demands and reactions of the club he serves. But, even under the rosier of conditions, a superintendent does feel the pressure of having to perform at maximum efficiency at one time or another during the summer months.

The super, too, is guilty of making demands. "I have to admit that I'm kind of hard to live with at times during the golf season," another superintendent offered. "If I feel the strain of pressures to produce the best kind of playing conditions, then my family feels it, too. All of us take our jobs home with us. If we didn't, we wouldn't be worth a plugged nickel. Living with the job away from it is part of the responsibility we assume when we join the profession and when we are given our position at the course."

No one, who has been successful in the superintendent's business, hasn't encountered a period when he would welcome a few days away from the day-in, day-out one-track existence of serving his members. The stress is there--with or without major problems that accompany the fine-tuned performance of the job.

The remedy, then, is simple. Even if it amounts to a few days, a break in the middle of the season will bring the superintendent back to his mental peak. So, just don't take five or 10-minutes to renew your professional enthusiasm. Take more and you'll be a better superintendent for it. You'll also find that summer isn't the drag it has been. It'll fly by for you, too.

Gerry Finn



**Congratulations to
Andy Parcheski - Jim Sullivan
Voted in at last meeting**

A Whimsical Look at Golf

"Golf is the simplest looking game in the world when you decide to take it up and the toughest after you have been at it for ten or twelve years. It is probably the only known game a man can play as long as a quarter of a century and then discover that it was too deep for him in the first place.

"Golf is a physical and mental exertion made attractive by the fact that you have to dress for it in a \$200,000 clubhouse. It is what letter-carrying, ditch-digging, and carpet-beating would be if those three tasks had to be performed on the same afternoon in colored socks, jersey, and pants by gouty-looking gentlemen who require a different implement for every mood.

"The game is played on carefully-selected grass with little white balls and as many clubs as a player can afford. These little balls cost from fifty cents up and it is possible to support a family of ten people (all adults) for five months on the money represented by balls lost by golfers in a single afternoon.

"A golf course is eighteen holes, seventeen of which are unnecessary and just put around the course to make the game harder. A 'hole' is a tin cup in the center of the 'green.'

A 'green' is a small patch of grass costing \$1.98 a blade and usually located between a lake and a couple of apple trees, or a lot of 'unfinished excavations' called sand traps. The idea is to get the ball from a given point into each of the eighteen holes in the fewest strokes and the greatest number of words. A favorite expression is: 'I think you're in a trap, I hope.'

"The ball must not be thrown, pushed or carried. It must be propelled by a bunch of curious-looking implements designed especially to provoke the owner. Each implement has a specific purpose and ultimately some golfers get to know that purpose. However, they are the exceptions.

"After each hole has been completed the golfer counts his strokes. Then he subtracts six and says 'Made that in five. That's one over par. Shall we play for fifty cents on the next hole, too, Ed?' After the final or eighteenth hole the golfer adds his score and stops when he reaches eighty-seven. Then he takes a swim, sings 'Sweet Adeline' with a group of other liars and calls it the end of a perfect day."

-Author Unknown

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