Ames Nominated to Head USGA in 1959

John D. Ames of Chicago, who has held every executive office in the USGA since 1950 and was pres. of the organization in 1958, has been nominated to be re-elected pres. of the Association for 1959. Election of officers and new members of the executive committee will take place on Jan. 31st at the USGA's annual meeting in the Biltmore Hotel in New York. Nomination is tantamount to election.

Ames, a Chicago investment banker, first became affiliated with the USGA administration in 1946 when he was elected to the executive committee. A one time Princeton golf captain, he served in World War II as a Lt. Col. and is a member of the Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest, Ill.

Other officers who have been nominated are: Vps, John G. Clock, Long Beach, Calif., and John M. Winters, Tulsa; Secy., Clarence W. Benedict, White Plains, N.Y.; Treas., Emerson Carey, Jr., Denver.

New executive committee nominees are: Fred Brand, Jr., Pittsburgh; Charles C. Clare, New Haven, Conn.; Harry L. Givan, Seattle and Harold A. Moore, Chicago.

Renominated for the executive committee: William C. Chapin, Rochester, Hord W. Hardin, St. Louis, William McWane, Birmingham and B. H. Ridder, Jr., Duluth.

Philip H. Strubing, Philadelphia, has been nominated general counsel.

Retiring from the USGA administration are Charles L. Pierson, Boston, J. Frederic Byers, Jr., Pittsburgh, Stuart A. Heatley, San Francisco and F. Warren Munro, Portland.

Totton P. Heffelfinger, Minneapolis, heads the current nominating committee and Richard S. Tufts, Pinehurst, N. C. has been named to head it in 1960.

Moore Again Guides Western Golf Assn.

Harold A. Moore, Chicago business and civic leader, has been re-elected pres. of the Western Golf Assn. for 1959. Others elected to office with Moore include Vps, Cameron Eddy, Frank H. Hoy, James M. Royer, George K. Whyte, Walter W. Cruttenden and William F. Souder, Jr.; Secy., Ralph A. L. Bogan, Jr.; Treas., Norman G. Copland; General Counsel, Lynford Lardner.

In Moore’s first year as pres., WGA increased its number of Evans scholarships to 373 and collected record income of $260,000 for the scholarship fund from 30,000 contributors. During 1958, WGA also released a new caddie-training film, “Your Caddie, Sir,” narrated by Bing Crosby. This year the organization will sponsor the 56th Western Open, 57th Western Amateur and 42nd Western Junior.

Pennsylvania Range Operators Fight Sales Tax Levy

Driving range operators in Pennsylvania are grouping their forces to fight a 3 per cent sales tax that the state is trying to impose on them. Murray Saltzman of Allentown heads the committee that is opposing the tax.

Not only is the state trying to twist the language of the Selective Sales and Use Tax to impose the levy on the range operators but it is trying to go back and collect the tax from 1956 on in addition to assessing heavy penalties. The operators' legal counsel points out that ranges don’t charge their patrons for rent of clubs or balls but only for use of the ranges. He maintains that the cost of providing clubs and balls is small in relation to the cost of range upkeep and that essentially a service and not a product or commodity is provided.

Miniatures Exempt

Under a ruling made some time ago, miniature courses are exempted from the sales tax.

Prospects are that the range operators will have to take their case into court to defeat imposition of the tax. Saltzman and his committee are attempting to raise money among the operators to finance a court test of the tax.

Reservations Pour In for CMAA Convention

What probably will be the best attended annual convention ever staged by the Club Managers Assoc. of America will be held at the Shamrock Hotel, Houston, Feb. 19-21. Early reservations have been so heavy that the hotel has had to turn down requests for occupancy of rooms earlier than Feb. 18th. Harry Seide, Westwood CC, Route 4, Box 248, Houston, is in charge of reservations.