Long Jim Barnes (right) regaled members of the very active New Jersey PGA section at their annual meeting this spring with some priceless anecdotes from out of the past. Jim, an associate of Johnny Farrell, pro at Baltusrol, still shoots around par. (Inset) J. Bud Geoghegan, coordinator of the N. J. PGA Junior program, discusses President’s Youth Fitness program with Dr. Shane McCarthy.

Low Rainfall, High Winds Take Toll in Western States

Winterkill caused a great deal of damage to courses in the northern part of the country, but this wasn’t the only section that was hard hit.

Lack of rainfall in Calif., Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico has taken its toll in recent months. There has been only about half as much rain as normally, the water table is dropping quite sharply and pumping costs are bound to go up. Albuquerque, N. M., is especially barren at this time. The reservoir supplying the Los Altos GC there is almost dry and seeding of the 27-hole muni layout has been delayed until a new well is brought in.

High winds throughout these states also have been a source of trouble. Architect Bob Baldock estimates that re-seeding of three western courses he has designed will cost around $25,000.

It Blew in Washington, Too

The wind also blew lustily in Washington during the spring. An 18-hole course at Pasco will have to be re-seeded because the original planting was blown into the sagebrush. Pasco, fortunately, doesn’t have a water problem.

There were also anxious days at Camp Vandenburg, Calif, where there was nearly a week of steady gales. Sand covered three seeded greens completely and nearly blanketed other greens and fairways that were just beginning to get a covering of turf. It is estimated that it will cost about $7,000 to restore the newly constructed 18 holes there.