term that remains unexplained. If he is
the kind of person who doesn’t want to
show what he considers to be his ignor-
ance by asking you to define or explain
it, he’ll probably never find out what it
means. But it will bother him to the ex-
tent that he will be more preoccupied with
it than with what you have showed him
about pivoting, or hitting with his hands.
So, part of the lesson is lost for him.

That is why I say explain your terms,
constantly taking time to query the pupil
to find out if he knows precisely what
you mean when you use some of the
phrases peculiar to the golf teaching pro-
fession. It will enable him to grasp the
whole lesson five times faster than if you
leave some of your trade terms dangling
without explanation.

I feel that the explanation of terms for
the benefit of women students is even
more important than for men. The reason
is that men ordinarily have a larger sports
or golf vocabulary than women, and as a
result, have at least a vague idea of what
you are talking about. But it isn’t going to
do any harm to be completely on the side
of clarity in teaching either sex.

Some Have Wide Range
The more advanced the pupil, the wider
the range of shop terms you can use in
teaching him. By the same reasoning, all
of your terminology should be fitted to the
pupil. The fellow with a technical back-
ground revels in all the involved expres-
sions you can throw at him, but on the
other hand only a few of these may
confuse the person who works at a non-
mechanical occupation. Junior players
usually are bored by the intricate phrase
unless it has true pictorial qualities. Above
all and regardless of whom you are teach-
ing, don’t use high flown professional
phrases just for the sake of impressing
someone or making him feel uncomfort-
able.

While I am very much opposed to be-
wildering people with unexplained trade
terms, I think there should be more teach-
ing of the theory of the swing and of the
hit. I haven’t been able to do as much of
this as I would like, but I think it would
be interesting to be able to devote a good
deal of time to small groups and explain
these things by chalk talks and demonstra-
tions. I’m sure that all my pupils would be
better golfers if they had a clearer under-
standing or better, a fuller mental picture,
of what they are doing when they swing
a club. At the same time they would
benefit if they had a better conception of
what happens when the clubface meets

Raise $2,375 for Ed Oliver

A total of $2,375 was raised on Ed
Oliver Day at the recent playing of the
Palm Springs Classic, according to Walter
Burkemo, Eldorado CC pro and local
chmn. of the Oliver fund. The money was
turned over to James L. O’Keefe of Chi-
icago, national chmn. of the fund. Under
O’Keefe’s guidance, a committee has been
formed to raise educational funds for Oli-
ver’s four children and to help Porky over
the hump. He has been living in Wilming-
ton, Dela., following removal of a lung
last summer.

Contributions should be sent to the
Porky Oliver Fund, Western Golf Assn.,
Golf, Ill.

Strong Visual Terms
As a final note, I think you can improve
your teaching by searching out the terms
in your vocabulary that have strong visual
impact. I have two favorites. One is the
use of "compass." To impress the pupil
with the need for maintaining a solid ver-
tical axis throughout the swing, I tell him
that his head and spine are the point
around which the pointer (arm, hands and
clubs) spin or swing. Several of my pupils
have told me that this simple idea has
given them a true picture of how the swing
should be executed, and even a few say
the thought of the compass is uppermost
in their mind when they address the ball.

Another term that has registered well,
and particularly among women, is the
"surveyor’s rod." It is, as you know, the
imaginary vertical line that extends from
the ground and just touches the outside of
the player’s left shoulder at address. I
admonish my pupils not to lurch or lunge
beyond that line at any time during the
swing. Most of them remember not to, or
at least, they are well aware that they
shouldn’t. It isn’t uncommon for me to
look out the pro shop window or across
to another fairway and see one woman
player instructing another by using a club
as a surveyor’s rod. It’s a great satisfaction
to know that one of my favorite teaching
tools is being treated with so much respect
and confidence.