Golf Promotion Work Paid Off for New Jersey Section in '61

By J. Bud Geoghegan
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Emery Thomas, Forest Hill Field pro and pres. of the New Jersey section of the P.G.A. for the past two years, reported at the annual meeting last fall that this progressive group had its greatest year in history in 1961. Through his efforts and those of his executive board the pros played for more prize money and the tournaments attracted larger fields than in any previous season. Spectator interest in the various championship events was at a new high.

Many Jersey pros have developed great public interest in the game by conducting free clinics for Juniors at their clubs and at schools and recreational areas. Adults also have been attracted to the game in great numbers through the night adult schools the pros have conducted.

Golf College Popular

Another worthwhile feature that has gained momentum in recent years is the New Jersey P.G.A. Golf College arranged for assistant pros. Each seminar has a faculty made up of top players and instructors. Styles of play and shotmaking are outlined and demonstrated and methods of golf instruction are explained in detail.

Joe Dante, Rockaway River C C, whose late father, Jim Dante, served five years as pres. of the New Jersey section, is the newly elected head of the N. J. organization.

Winters Slated for Presidency of U.S. Golf Association

John M. Winters, Jr., Tulsa, Okla., has been nominated to head the USGA in 1962. Other nominees for office are: Vps — Clarence W. Benedict, White Plains, N.Y. and William Ward Foshay, New York City; Secretary — Bernard H. Ridder, Jr., St. Paul; and Treasurer — Hord W. Hardin, St. Louis. New nominees for the executive committee are: William C. Campbell, Huntington, W. Va. and Robert F. Dwyer, Portland, Ore. Nomination of these men to the various offices and the executive committee is tantamount to election when the USGA holds its annual meeting at the Biltmore Hotel in New York on Jan. 27.

Winters, who will succeed John G. Clock, the USGA's president for the last two years, is a Tulsa attorney and one-time president of Southern Hills CC in that city. He has been a member of the executive committee since 1955, secretary of the USGA in 1958 and a vp for the last three years. An able golfer, he reached the semi-finals of the USGA Senior Amateur Championship in 1957. While attending the U. of Michigan, from which he was graduated in 1923, Winters was captain of the golf team.

Members of the executive committee for 1962, in addition to Campbell and Dwyer, will be: Fred Brand, Jr., Pittsburgh; William C. Chapin, Rochester, N.Y.; Edward L. Emerson, Boston; Edwin R. Foley, San Francisco; Robert K. Howse, Wichita; Harold A. Moore, Chicago; Eugene S. Pulliam, Indianapolis; and Henry H. Russell, Miami, Fla.

Soper is Michigan President

Don Soper is pres. of the Michigan section of the PGA for 1962. Ron LaParl and Alex Sinclair are vps. Cliff Good is sec-treas. Directors are Tom Talkington, Al Watrous and Hal Whittington. Al Betz of Tam O'Shanter CC in Orchard Lake is general counsel for the section.

Besco Heads S.C. GA

Julie Bescos of the Virginia CC has been elected pres. of the Southern Calif. GA for 1962. Leonard T. Mendelson of Hillcrest is vp; Zebulon P. Owings, Valley Club, is sec.; and Charles H. Laws, San Gabriel CC, treas. Harold A. Dawson continues to serve as executive sec.