Swinging around golf
By HERB GRAFFIS
News of the Golf World in brief

Many thousands were introduced to golf by pro lessons this past spring at night adult high school recreation classes, YMCA's, YWCA's, classes of factory and official employees recreational associations . . . From newspaper stories advertising pros who taught those spring classes, we estimate the enrollment was at least 15 per cent higher than last year . . . These night school classes were started at factories and suburban high schools in the Chicago District years ago, not only as a golf promotion operation, but to give pros who had no other winter income this instruction revenue . . . It worked so well back in the days when Alex Cunningham was Illinois PGA president that Golfdom paid for a nationwide campaign among pros and large industries and school boards to push the golf promotion idea . . . And we were having trouble paying the printer and paper supplier . . . But that campaign paid off so well it very definitely promoted the formation of the National Golf Foundation, another golf development operation that cost Golfdom money when we were worrying about prior bills and before the club and ball manufacturers with Icely of Wilson, Robbins of Spalding, Conlin of U.S. Royal and maybe a couple of others, now also on greener fairways, kicked in and bailed us out.

Many keenly competitive men in the golf business are happy about Hillerich and Bradsby running one, two with Brewer and Nichols at the Masters and Beard winning the Tournament of Champions and Houston Champions International because the three are proteges of Bill Kaiser, H&B sales manager, and Bill is the grand sort of a guy you like to have win when you don’t do it yourself . . . Kaiser took these young men when they didn’t have anybody clamoring for their signatures and were in uncertain physical and temperamental condition and he expertly brought their talent and competitive hearts up . . . Bill had solid support in the front office for his lads when the boys didn’t look like they’d be cashing many checks except H & B’s.

Los Angeles County golf course supervisors talking about putting in several lighted courses . . . San Diego councilmen discussing revisions of South course at Torrey Pines to qualify it as a candidate for a National Open Championship . . . Robert Trent Jones is to do the remodeling . . . The Torrey Pines muny courses along the Pacific are in marvelous scenic locations and with Jones tightening could determine who really is National Open champion and who shouldn’t be . . . The South course was expressly designed as a National Open layout . . . I remember going over it with the professional and the two of us (probably the only two golfers who don’t regard themselves as golf course architects) agreeing that location of clubhouse and gallery and parking facilities didn’t recommend a layout for the Open.

Ed Twohig, pro at the Amherst (Mass.) GC and one of golf’s nicest guys, was guest of honor at the annual Tee Party at Springfield, Mass., which

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opened the golf season in that part of the world . . . We have seen, heard, babbled and laughed at a jillion curtain-raising district golf parties but this is the merriest . . . Owen Griffith, Gerry Finn, Jim Regan, the area’s golf writers, give this fiesta a big play.

Never before have we seen so many sports page items on golf courses being closed for cart and car traffic, while the spring thaws were on . . . Somebody must be getting smarter and getting more guts to use for the good of players and greens later on in the year . . . Better check up on the golf car legal phases . . . Some very tough suits have been rapped against courses by owners of cars who had accidents on courses and weren’t covered by the liability insurance concessionaires have made available.

Par-3 building has slowed decidedly, but the courses now building usually are better than the general standard of a couple of years ago . . . Superior par-3s in the South and Southwest got a good play last winter . . . Some operators said women’s business alone paid expenses . . . Barry Cobb, golf writer for Cincinnati Post and Times Star did an interesting picture feature on five new assistants at Cincinnati clubs; John Wagner with Bob Foppe at Kenwood; Ken Gibbons with Freeman Haywood at Cincinnati CC; Bill Harrison with Larry Shute who switched to Western Hills from Wyoming; Rene Garza with Joe Cardenas now top pro at Wyoming and Fred Uhlman to Coldstream as assistant to Jack Merz.

Florida is to get magnificent new courses at the Florida Disneyland which is to be built on a 43-square mile area starting about 16 miles southwest of Orlando . . . Construction to start in 1968 and opening in 1970 or 1971 . . . Roy O. Disney, brother of the late Walt, says the project involves a $300 million investment . . . Nothing specific yet on golf plans about number of courses or
architects . . . Jackie Gleason hasn’t moved past the talk stage of his plans for five courses and a motion picture and television production center on 5,000 acres in southeast Florida . . . Jackie is talking about nine or more architects to collaborate on the courses and a $500,000 pro tournament . . . Gleason’s announce- ment spurred Hollywood, Fla. Commis- sioner Al Hines to propose four new fine courses so Hollywood would retain “its image as Florida’s golfingest city.”

Morehead State University, Morehead, Ky., buys nine-hole Sunnybrook GC and Morehead Jaycees begin campaign to have new muny course . . . Lincoln, Neb., opens its juvenile nine . . . New York City Park department opened its 13th course this spring; the former South Shore GC on Staten Island . . . The city paid $41/2 million for South Shore which had been started in 1928 as a deluxe private club and, as a market crash casualty, was operated as daily fee . . . Douglas (Duke) Lanahan remains as the pro-superintendent.

Henry J. Margotta now manager, Rye (N.Y.) course under general direction of Ralph J. Damiano, superintendent, recreation . . . Jack Williams now pro-man- ager, Miami View GC, Cincinnati, after 12 years at Bowling Green, Ky., muny course . . . Chuck Alexander, pro at Benvenue CC, Rocky Mount, N.C., re- signs to go into insurance business . . . Seems to us pro golf is losing too many good young pros . . . Alexander is a Duke grad who has been active as a Carolinas PGA officer . . . He’s Skip Alexander’s brother.

Gary Tawzer now pro at Pocatello (Ida.) CC . . . Jim Hatfield is in his first year as pro at West Plains (Mo.) CC . . . Bill Farkas, pro at Maryvale, Phoenix, Ariz. public course, adds Barb- ara Jon Snyder to his staff for shop and teaching duties . . . Miss Snyder was an amateur winner in Kansas and on the Ladies PGA tour . . . Logan P. Stowe
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GRAFFIS SWING

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moves from Gerner CC, Raleigh, N.C., to be pro at Halifax (Va.) CC, succeeding Jim Butler who switched to a pro post in Lynchburg, Va. . . . George Nackel now pro at North Shore CC, Menasha, Wis.

Gene Lesch now is pro at Arizona CC, Phoenix, succeeding Bill Johnson who is full time at his work at Coconino CC, Flagstaff, Ariz. . . . Lesch has been pro at Twin Orchards CC (Chicago District) in the summer and teaching pro at Arizona CC in the winter . . . Dave Schuech now is pro at Twin Lakes CC, Allentown, Pa., going there from Wedgewood GC in the Allentown area . . . Thomas and James O'Connor, Albany, have bought the Tall Timber CC, Slingerlands, N.Y. from William Wais . . . Bill McNab will continue as pro.

Jim Ervin is golf supervisor of Randall Oaks new 18 near Dundee, Ill. . . . It was built by the Dundee Township Park District . . . Art Forrester succeeds his brother Ray as pro at Airways course at Fresno, Calif. . . . Art was assistant to Ray for 11 years . . . Ray resigned to take on an easier load at a nine-hole course at Sonora.

Robert A. Simmon designing 18 for Glenwood Farms at Perry Park near Owenton, Ky. . . . Mike Haywood switches from pro job at Madison, Ind. to Westwood CC, New Castle, Ind. . . . In his first interview as Westwood pro Mike picked Gay Brewer, a protege of Mike's brother, Freeman, to win the Masters . . .

Harry E. Ellis now superintendent, Pipestem 18 and nine, operated by West Virginia Department of Natural Resources . . . Kenneth J. Towns, former National Publinx champion, now pro at Tracy (Calif.) CC, succeeding Bobby Silva who moved to Ft. Washington GC, Fresno, Calif.

Dick Elliot is president, Beachwood Golf Corp., which is building 18 at Crescent Beach, S.C., to plan of Gene Hamm . . . Handsome badges that Joe

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Looney, Boston Herald, former Golf Writers Association president got for the organization’s members . . . Wayne A. Ferrell now general manager, new Old Ranch CC, Seal Beach, Calif. . . . Willie Barber is pro and Tod Matsumoto is superintendent . . . Duff Evans is general manager, Las Posas CC, Camarillo, Calif., and John Hardy is pro . . . Burton Shearin now pro-superintendent, Hardeman County G&CC, Bolivar, Tenn. . . . Jim Bartleson goes from assistant post with pro Les Moe at Yakima (Wash.) CC to be pro at Elks CC new nine-hole course at Colville, Wash.

Arlyn Lawrence and Robert C. Collins of Sterling, Ill., have bought Emerald Hill CC, Golf Bowl and Holiday Swim Club from Paul Long . . . Collins is manager of the operation which will add a motel and indoor swimming pool . . . Enclosed swimming pools at golf clubs and motels appear to be directly and indirect-

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Edward Chalkey now manager, Edgewood CC, Anderson, Ind., succeeding Sid Bowden who resigned to enter another business. Chalkey came from Bluefield (W.Va.) CC.

Jack Seyring now pro at Bonnie Brook, Waukegan, Ill., Park District course. He succeeds Tony Jaronik who resigned last fall after 34 years as Bonnie Brook pro-manager. Ed Creasey Jr., now pro-manager, Prairie CC, Crosett, Ark. Creasey switched from pro-manager job at Paris (Tenn.) CC. Kenneth Davies switches from superintendent job at Danny Farms GC, Akron, N.Y., to become superintendent at Orchard Park CC, succeeded Charles E. Taggert who retired after 45 years with the club. Taggert became Orchard Park's superintendent in 1933. Davies was born when his dad was superintendent at the Tri-County CC, Gowanda, N.Y. He attended Stockbridge course management school at the U. of Mass.