CLARKE, CARDI IN RACE FOR PGA PRESIDENCY

PALM BEACH GARDENS, FLA.—With the current president of the Professional Golfers' Assn., Warren Orlick, bowing out, a race looms for the position between Frank Cardi, national vice president and professional at the Rockaway Hunting Club, Cedarhurst, N.Y., and Bill Clarke, current secretary of the PGA and professional at the Hillendale CC, Phoenix, Md. The president will be elected by sectional PGA delegates at the annual meeting slated for November 13 to 17 in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Orlick, who has been president for the past two years and has served over 17 years as a PGA official, declined running for a third term citing a heavy business schedule for the upcoming year as the reason.

The delegates will be offered a clear choice in the candidates. Both hold diametrical positions on several key issues, including the controversy over the location of the PGA headquarters.

Clarke is opposed to the PGA building or owning its own golf course. “We were set up to help the golf professional,” Clarke says, “not run golf courses.” He favors the present lease-franchise agreement the PGA now has with John D. MacArthur, who leases the headquarters to the PGA. Clarke would like to see several lease-franchise operations established throughout the United States to give midwestern and western sections better representation.

Cardi favors moving away from Palm Beach Gardens and the lease arrangement. “We need to have the finest facility, one with two or three golf courses and our own headquarters,” Cardi says. “We can either own it or control it, but it must be on a permanent basis.”

The key confrontation between Clarke and Cardi is likely to be centered around Robert Creasey, executive director of the PGA.

Clarke supports Creasey saying he has done a fine job for the PGA, whereas Cardi believes the PGA needs a new image and leadership and an executive director with "personality."

Cardi also feels his candidacy can mend the differences that exist between club professionals in the PGA and the touring professionals in the PGA's Tournament Players Division.

Clarke favors expansion of the home-study educational program to help keep professionals informed of the changing times. He also favors a second tour oriented toward club professionals.

Regardless of the outcome, Clarke and Cardi each believes he can unify the many factions that exist within the PGA into a solid smooth-running organization.

NGF TO AID AILING FEDERAL COURSES; CHLEVIN IN PR POST

CHICAGO—The National Golf Foundation has received a one-year, $126,181, contract from the Farmers Home Administration (FHA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study and advise some 130 federally-financed golf courses that are currently operating at a loss.

Under a rural development program, which was designed to increase the scope of recreational activities in rural areas, the FHA loaned over $102 million, a good percentage of which went to over 500 golf courses in 41 states. The loans were made to individual farmers and landowners to convert all or portions of their farms to recreational facilities, such as golf courses. The loan program began in 1962 and was discontinued in 1971.

According to the FHA, some 130 of these federally-financed golf courses are having problems repaying the loans. According to Don Rossi, NGF's executive director, these courses will be examined by NGF field consultants who will then recommend ways to make the courses profitable, so that they can pay off the loans.

Rossi also announced that Ben Chlevin, former executive director of the Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of America, has been appointed public relations director of NGF. His appointment, Rossi continued, will initiate a new program to expand the foundation's current promotion of golf and golf facility development throughout the United States. Larry Smith, who formerly handled a wide variety of activities for NGF, including public relations, will become Midwest field consultant for the association.

UNIFORM BALL TESTS CONTINUE

FAR HILLS, N.J.—The United States Golf Assn. reports that the decision, expected in September, on the feasibility of the proposed 1.66-inch uniform golf ball is "still a ways away." The USGA gave no indication as to when the decision would be made. The uniform ball, which is a compromise between the 1.68-inch golf ball officially used in the United States and the 1.62-inch British ball, has undergone mechanical testing and now is ready to be tested under actual playing conditions, according to the USGA.

TRUE TEMPER'S LESLIE RETIRES

CLEVELAND—Gordon Leslie, vice president, member of the board of directors and general manager of the Tubular Products Div. of True Temper Corp. has retired. George Manning, previously division operations manager, has been named general manager to succeed Leslie.

Leslie, who has been in the golf equipment industry 44 years, started making golf shafts in True Temper's Geneva shop in 1928. He was responsible for the revolutionary design and material changes in golf shafts through the years including the "step-down" shaft, various steel shafts, aluminum and shafts made from space-age metals. He was also responsible for True Temper's sponsorship of the annual Quarter Century Golf Tournament held in Palm.
Beach Gardens, Fla., every January. He plans to continue "puttering" in the golf industry in woodworking and experimenting on golf club design.

Manning was project manager for Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio, and was developer of the True Temper Golf Testing Device. He joined Leslie at True Temper and was responsible for golf shaft development prior to Leslie's retirement.

SHEETZ NAMED TO GCSAA POST

DES PLAINES, ILL.—Conrad L. Sheetz, former business manager of the international Reading Assn., Newark, Del., has been named executive director of the Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of America, it was announced here by Robert V. Mitchell, the association's president. Sheetz has been acting executive director since May 1 of this year.

He will oversee the national organization's budget of $610,000 and supervise a staff of 12. Other duties include association management, personnel, accounting, data processing, membership services and conference management.

Sheetz holds a B.S. in commerce and engineering from Drexel University, Philadelphia, and has worked extensively in the budget and data processing fields.

PARGO SIGNS LEASING, FINANCING PACT

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—Pargo, Inc., producer of electric golf cars and vehicles, and Industrial Leasing Corp., a lease financing company, have signed an agreement designating Industrial Leasing as Pargo's exclusive leasing affiliate. The agreement also covers the sale of 3,700 electric golf cars.

Value of the sale, leaseback and continuing financing agreements exceeds $3 million, said Wesley O. McGee, Pargo president. According to McGee, Industrial Leasing has purchased Pargo's lease fleet of 3,686 electric golf cars at 87 golf and country clubs and then has leased the equipment back to Pargo under a three year agreement. Pargo will continue to service and maintain the fleet under existing leases.

According to McGee, the transactions and affiliation will improve Pargo's cash position and enhance their marketing efforts. "These leasing arrangements are extremely flexible," McGee said, "and provide packages designed to meet the particular needs of the golf industry." Straight leases from one to three years—with or without maintenance—adjusted payment levels, seasonal payment leases as well as conditional sales contracts can be provided by Industrial Leasing.

TORO ACQUIRES NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRIBUTOR

MINNEAPOLIS—The Toro Company has entered into agreement to purchase the assets of its full-line distributor, Western Turf Equipment, Inc., Burlingame, Calif.

According to Toro President David McLaughlin, the new company will be re-named Toro Distributing-San Francisco. Western Turf will be the fifth distributorship that Toro has established since the start of 1971 when McLaughlin announced that Toro would operate its own distribution centers in a limited number of important marketing areas. Western Turf sells, in addition to Moist O'Matic underground sprinkler systems, Toro mowers, riders, tractors, tillers, debris-handling machines and a full range of turf-maintenance equipment.

GOLF TECH MERGES WITH SIMMONS GOLF

TORRANCE, CALIF.—Merger of Golf Tech, Inc., into the Pat Simmons Golf Company was announced by Pat Simmons, chairman of the board of the combined company. Under the terms of the merger agreement, Golf Tech becomes the sales and marketing division of the Simmons Golf Company. Carl A. Horn, president of Golf Tech, assumes additional duties as president of the parent company.

Simmons is a leading designer and manufacturer of private-label golf woods, irons, putters and utility clubs. Golf Tech is a national distributor of golf clubs, coordinated golf apparel and other products for golfers. They also market the Excalibur Plus investment-cast stainless steel irons under their own label.

Founded in 1968, Simmons has expanded from a $60,000 operation its first year to projected gross sales of $2.6 million in calendar year 1972. Golf Tech, founded in 1965, has grown from a $100,000 per year sales volume to an estimated $1.5 million by the end of 1972.

"Future plans call for expansion of the company's national and international marketing programs, especially its nationwide network of regional sales managers and representatives," Horn said.

JACOBSEN HEIR DIES


The company was founded by his father, Knud, and his brother, Oscar. Jacobsen joined the company in 1928 after graduating from the University of Wisconsin. He was named president in 1928 and elected chairman of the board in 1971.

He was involved in Jacobsen's pioneering efforts in the golf turf industry, including these firsts: powered greensmower; first riding attachment for power mowers; first mechanical recoil starter for small mower engines; the polyethylene grass catcher and the all-hydraulic triplex greensmower.