Clippings

Brief bits of news from in and around the golf business.

In what was probably one of the worst cases of bad manners on the golf course, Thomas Shortridge of Bedford, Ohio, pleaded guilty to felony when he struck a golf ball that hit Carol Rothgery, 62, in the mouth and required 2 and one-half hours of surgery and 22 stitches to repair. Mrs. Rothgery and her husband were on the green preparing to putt when Shortridge hit onto the green. Mr. Rothgery, 70, knocked the ball from the green and Shortridge pushed him to the ground. Mrs. Rothgery was preparing to tee-off from the women's tee of the sixth, 25 feet in front of the men's tee where Shortridge hit from. Shortridge could get six months to five years.

Scientists with USDA-SEA, in cooperation with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station are experimenting with punch planting perennial grasses in the Southern Great Plains. The conventional practice is to seed about 1/2-inch deep and cover. Punch planting puts a seed in a small diameter hole left open to the atmosphere. Under drying conditions, five different grasses produced satisfactory stands, but few or none with conventional planting.

The U.S. average price for all types of gasoline was $1,006 in October. This reflected a monthly change of 0.8 cents, compared to a slight profit in September, recent increases in the number of golf course architectural projects received by Fream prompted the move to larger quarters. An office is being established in Singapore also to provide local service and attention to the several projects in which the firm has in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.

Porter Brothers, Inc., based in Shelby, N.C., has been named 1979 "Distributor of the Year" by Weed Eater. Porter Brothers was selected from 55 Weed Eater distributors.

The Colgate-Palmolive Company has reached an agreement in principle to sell Ram Golf Corporation to the Hanesberger Corporation, a company owned by the Hanesberger family from whom Colgate acquired Ram Golf in 1974. Ram sales in 1976 were approximately $20 million, compared with an over $43 billion for the Colgate-Palmolive Co. Ram is expected to show a loss in 1979, as compared with a slight profit in 1978.

The turf for the Rose Bowl and Super Bowl was Derby perennial ryegrass. The Orange Bowl was Derby mixed with Highlight Chewings-type fescue.

The Colgate-Palmolive Company has been awarded the 1979 Honored Company Award from the Harvard Business School Club of Minnesota. Selection is made on the basis of the company's financial results, social responsibilities and how it has met the challenges of its marketplace. The 250-member Harvard Business School Club of Minnesota is an association of area Harvard Business School alumni.

The Sensation Corporation has announced five new distributors. Cherokee Sales, Arkansas City, Kansas will distribute throughout Kansas and Oklahoma. Wiggert Brothers in LaCrosse, Wisconsin will cover southern Wisconsin. C. Bunde Company in Toledo, Ohio will distribute in the surrounding area, and the Green Thumb Lawn Equipment Company will distribute in the Columbus, Ohio area. JAYCO Distributing Inc., will handle Sensation for the states of Oregon and Washington.

Porter Brothers also announced the promotions of Hugh E. Graham to manager of warehouses, Charles D. McKee as assistant manager of warehouse, and J. Haskell Bell as director of purchasing. All are based in Shelby.

Rain Bird has named new district managers. Dick Kneip will be responsible for the geographical area of Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri and southern Illinois. Dick Schaeffer will cover Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, northern Illinois and Kentucky. Carole Reed Allaway has been named communications manager for Rain Bird. She will be responsible for implementing advertising and public relations programs.

C. Robert Staib has been promoted to Product Manager—Turf and Horticulture for Boots Hercules Agrochemicals Co. Staib joined Hercules in 1959 as a nitrogen products technical sales representative. He later became a turf specialist for the company and most recently served as account supervisor for agricultural chemicals in Des Moines, Iowa. Staib will be in Hercules headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware.

Scott D. Prueter has been appointed Product Manager for Polaris E-Z-Go Textron. His responsibilities will include the development and implementation of product marketing plans for their golf car and GT-7 turf vehicle, among others.

Excel Industries has announced several promotions and additions to the staff. Promotions include: Paul Wiens to Turf Sales Manager from Marketing Manager; John Harrison to Marketing Manager from Distribution Manager; David Weffelt to Advertising and Promotion Manager from Product Manager; and John Austin, to Service Coordinator from service technician. New staff includes Randy Hagen as Sales Order Supervisor and Vance Trussett as Service Parts Manager, a new position.

The Toro Company's Irrigation Group has appointed Robert Emmerich and John MacLaughlin to newly created positions of regional sales managers. Emmerich is now Eastern region sales manager. MacLaughlin is Western Sales Manager.