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Few professional people must live through the frustrations of those responsible for turf on a golf course. Not only must they deal with the daily problem of a generally uncooperative nature, they must overcome inherited problems such as poor design as relates to maintenance, along with increasing pressure from players for conditions contrary to good maintenance practices.

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Jack Harkins, First Flight Founder, Dies in Miami

Jack Harkins, 64, founder of Professional Golf Co., First Flight Co. and chairman of the board of those companies and the Arnold Palmer Co., died in Miami, Fla., Sept. 29, of cancer. During the past year or so he had been in and out of hospitals. Harkins was born in Tipperary, Ireland. He came to Philadelphia in 1920 and was an automobile racer and stunt flier during his early years in America.

He got into golf club manufacturing in Chattanooga to market hickory shafts. The Professional Golf Co. was the development of that enterprise. It became the manufacturing company in which First Flight Co. is the marketing operation, with First Flight International, Ltd., Cork, Ireland, handling foreign production and marketing. Professional Golf Co. also was the parent manufacturing organization for the Arnold Palmer Co.

Harkins was an excellent golfer himself, active in Southern Seniors and other tournaments. Through First Flight he was a sponsor of the PGA National Golf Club championship.

Harkins began several years ago to ease up in his work and set up an executive and operating organization headed by Lew Oehmig as president, and Herb Williams and others as managers and supervisors of First Flight operations.

Surviving Jack Harkins are his wife, the former Emily Nesbitt, who is widely known to professional golfers and their wives, and the Harkins' daughter, Mrs. Irene Yon, and three grandchildren.

The 1965 U.S.G.A. Open will be played June 17-19 at Bellerive CC, St. Louis. Bellerive, built only a few years ago, is one of the finest clubs in the Midwest.

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Nutter Resigns As GCSA Executive Director

Dr. Gene C. Nutter, executive director of the GCSA since 1959, has resigned his position effective April 1, 1965. Nutter, who also serves as editor of GCSA publications, will resume professional and business interests in the turfgrass industry.

He holds a B.S. degree in agronomy from the Ohio State University and in 1951 received his PhD from Cornell University, specializing in agronomy and ornamental horticulture. He came to the GCSA from the University of Florida where he was an associate turf technologist and associate professor of ornamental horticulture.

During Nutter's five-year tenure, the GCSA has experienced its most progressive growth period. Membership has increased from over 1300 to over 2100. The International Turf-Grass Conference and Show has doubled in scope and in attendance and the association molded into a large business organization with expanded membership and professional services.

David S. Moote, GCSA president, says a successor to Nutter has not yet been chosen.

It's Money — But Not Official

The PGA "official money winner list" doesn't reflect all the dollars that are earned by the circuit players in a year's time. About one-third of Tommy Jacobs' gross of $34,600 for 1964 has come through "unofficial" prizes. Tony Lema has won more than $11,000 in extracurricular tournaments and Bob Charles, nearly $8,000.

Bigtime Coverage

Omaha's KMTV City Championship tournament receives local TV coverage said to be comparable to that given by networks to major PGA events.
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Golf Books


Cromie, former sports writer for the Chicago Tribune and now its book editor, has chosen interesting samples of moderately long and short prose and short verse on golf. There is very little instruction material but plenty of the pleasant sort of golf talk you hear now and then as fluent, well educated golfers start “remembering when.” For years Cromie has been a golf book collector. This anthology exhibits gems from his collection. His all-star team includes such experts as Bernard Darwin, P. G. Wodehouse, John Lardner, Jr., Francis Ouimet, Arthur Daley, Grantland Rice and O. B. Keeler.


The revised edition of the history and record book that Major Gibson first published in 1958 now has records through 1962. Although in smaller page size than the first edition, the revision has about 50 more pages and is a reference work that should be in every golf library. Anybody who has to talk or write on golf history and the game’s great players will find most of the material needed for a script in Gibson’s Encyclopedia. Leading U.S. amateur and professional, men and women, national and regional championship events are covered, as are British Open and Amateur and international events involving U.S. golfers.

Australian “Provident Fund”

The Australian PGA’s “provident fund” for aid of members amounts to approximately $250,000. It has been built from a 10 per cent assessment on professional tournaments. The Australians manufacture more than 400,000 golf clubs a year and another 60,000 are imported.
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October, 1964
Sea Pines’ Formula
(Continued from page 66)

tributed heavy or light as needed. Because of the danger of burning, the nitrate was spread at intervals, with great care being taken afterwards to soak the turf thoroughly. “Sprinkling is not enough,” O’Quinn explains.

With good weather conditions, Tifton greens up at Hilton Head about mid-February or early March. Play on the course becomes heavy from then until sometime in May when winter tourists depart. There is a brief lull before summer vacationists arrive, and another following Labor Day. After Labor Day the course is seeded with rye.

Mow Every Day

Greens and tees are mowed everyday. When the weather is “right,” fairways also must be mowed every day, a job that has to be worked in between waves of golfers. At other times they are cut on alternate days. One man, who is the caretaker of the sandtraps, spends his entire time raking, trimming edges, and replacing sand washed out by rains, or packed or blasted by players. Strangely enough, sand for the traps must be imported even though the Sea Pines plantation has 13 miles of white-ribboned beaches. This sand is too fine and packs too firmly.

The sandy soil is helpful, however, in repairing damaged areas. Wounds in the fast-growing Tifton 328 heal quickly when sand is applied around divot edges and watered thoroughly.

O’Quinn emphasizes the necessity for keeping the turf thinned and aerified. Control of weeds, pests and diseases calls for a continuing battle. “We have to be alert for foreign grasses, such as dallis and crab, and keep a watchful eye on sod webworm, army worm, mole cricket, fairy ring, dollarspot and brownpatch and fungi,” says the Sea Pines turfman. “Nematodes cause us trouble. But again, we use a varying program against these things, changing from year to year as immunity to pesticides and fungicides is built up.”

Scum Control, Too

Unique at Sea Pines is its method of weed or scum control in water hazards. A page was taken from the history of this