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Growing Turf the Hard Way

By TOM MASCARO
Geographical Area: Southern State
Problem: Wars have been started over incidents such as this.

When the Biltmore GC, Coral Gables, Fla., was constructed it had 36 holes. It was divided by a highway. Later on, 18 holes were sold and became the Riviera CC. One day a man applied for maintenance work at Riviera. He informed Walt Palmer, then supt., that he caddied on the course when it was just built and knew each hole. Palmer put him to work trimming grass and told him to work from green to green. The workman not knowing that the original Biltmore Club had been divided, finished his work on a Riviera green, crossed the road and began trimming the Biltmore greens. Joe Uzzi, supt. at Biltmore, ran across the workman (whom he had never seen) working like mad on his course. Joe, after a few questions, realized what had happened. He called Palmer on the phone and thanked him for sending him free manpower. Here are Walt and Joe pointing to their respective courses.

championship, and that other wireless thing that took name players away from the Hartford Open, are bringing pro golf exhibitions to the point where some dog food canner may sponsor a golf "cham-
It's a little hard to keep the Sorenson girls straight because both answer to the first name of Carol. However, Carol Jean (I) was the Junior medalist in the recent Women's Trans-Miss, played at Dubuque (la.) CC and just plain Carol was the medalist among the older girls. Sharon Miller won the championship, defeating Jean Bryant in the final, 4 and 3.

Tommy Jacobs of Bermuda Dunes (Calif.), CC is the new chairman of the PGA tournament committee . . . Jacobs as of Aug. 8, was 53rd in PGA tour winnings with $10,340 official and $13,413 total . . . Mason Rudolph is first co-chairman, Dan Sikes is second co-chairman and Bill Casper is third co-chairman . . . PGA president, Warren Cantrell, secretary Max Elbin and Treasurer Leo Fraser, are the other three members of the Tournament committee . . So with the tourney specialists having a majority on the tourney committee you can see how funny it is to censure the PGA non-tournament officials for anything the playing pros don't like.

What was said in this column in August Golfdom about the risks and worries of putting on a major tournament in golf — worst time of the year for grass — unluckily proved to be true at Laurel Valley . . . The explosion involving Pro-Supt. Paul Erath and green chairman, George Wyckoff, blew Erath out of his championship” starring Lassie, supported by Nicklaus, Player and Marr.

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 job during the PGA and was just one of those things . . . Laurel Valley was in perfect condition for the PGA despite long drought ending with heavy rain and hot, humid weather . . . Erath resigned as a winner in the tough argument with Mother Nature . . . Controversy about moving a 60 ft. tree into an angle of a dogleg the day before the PGA opened brought the strain to the cracking point . . . Too bad it happened to nice guys but it isn’t the first time that there has been a last minute order for a course change.

Differences of opinion in the Laurel Valley club family about course changes for the PGA Championship, reminded us that course changes for the National Open and the PGA were problems that were introduced after World War II . . . Prior to that time if the PGA or USGA didn’t like a course as it was, the club could do nicely without the championship . . . Since the pre-championship changes have been in fashion we have noticed that in most cases members wish the courses hadn’t been altered to fit the techniques of the playing specialists . . . Augusta National, in this respect as in so many others, does the right thing . . . It makes any course changes that will be improvements for members and the pros after a championship, not before . . . If need of changes on a course aren’t obvious to an expert in architecture that the alterations can’t be made at least a year before a major championship, then why spend the money?

Erath can take it easier now . . . As owner and operator of an attractive daily fee course he nets himself a whole lot more than anybody is being paid for handling the dual responsibilities of a pro-supt. job . . . Erath has done construction (and design) work in addition to building Laurel Valley . . . Nobody will have to play any benefits for Paul . . . Arnold Palmer, Laurel Valley’s touring pro, had no part of the debate that preceded Erath’s resignation — or discharge, depending on who is talking . . . Palmer took care of his multitudinous cares as the famed host pro with admirable politeness and patience . . . From the No. 1 man in the gallery, Mr. Eisenhower, to the most annoying brat among the auto-
graph collectors, Arnie handled everything pleasantly.

Palmer carried a heavier psychological handicap into a championship than anyone else in golf history, even Bob Jones, back in the days when it was the field against Bob . . . Signs all around the countryside reminded Palmer that the neighbors expected him to win the PGA without having to breathe hard . . . On the first hole an excess of pro-Arnie zeal in ripping away part of a bridge that interfered with his swing, penalized him.

Veteran pros, who are experts in inspecting golf games, say that Palmer's technique as such demands delicate adjustments . . . Distractions or failure to keep tuned to bearing down soon become deadly for him . . . Hence, Arnie's decision to apply himself to golf and ease off on all those get-rich-quick sidebars . . . Arnie's got a potential gold mine in his golf company with Robbie Robinson running it and a great gang of youngsters as salesmen . . . If he will look at Ben Hogan he will see that the golf club business through pros can lead to ample riches . . . Ben, as canny as a businessman as he is as a golfer, parlayed his club business into a fortune that an informed Fort Worth man says is by a long way the biggest of any pro athlete . . . Yet Ben still is known as the golfer and not as a multi-millionaire . . . From tee to green at Laurel Valley Hogan was as good as Dave Marr . . . But as a putter still our Ben . . . Oh, you can't have everything.

Paul Hahn, the trick shot star, is a hard worker who seems to believe that work is fun . . . Hahn put on another marvelous show at the PGA championship and when you can get the PGA contestants watching in awe, you're good . . . Then Hahn flew to Baltimore to put on another performance that day at Pine Ridge GC where Johnny Bass is pro.

Laurel Valley, during the PGA, had enough big tents around to make you think you were at a British Open . . . With air conditioning under the canvas of the restaurant and bar and press tents, conditions weren't too tough even on Sunday when it was over 90 . . . The club-
Jim Cotter (l), pro at Mountain Shadows CC, Scottsdale, Ariz., recently presented Del Webb, founder of the Sun Cities, a special set of clubs, with each club bearing the inscription, "Del Webb's Sun City." Golf is the only hobby of Webb, who has always been preoccupied with making money.

house is rather small, and pleasant, and for men only. Have you ever seen a clubhouse at an Open or PGA championship that was big enough? Even at Olympia Fields, at Dallas and Columbus and at Congressional, where there are big clubhouses and managers who are as much stars in their work as the tournament players, the clubhouses were jammed, the customers were sweating and irritable and the employees often had more work than they could handle. The Columbus CC clubhouse operation during the 1964 PGA I think was the smoothest I've ever seen of the big championships but I've never seen a bad job of clubhouse management with these heavy loads.

There is talk about Laurel Valley having an autumn version of the Masters. With fall coloring on the hills and valleys in the picture the event would be a tournament comparable with the beauty of the Masters when spring is blooming. But getting a date will be difficult.

Johnny Capebianco has been very busy as teaching pro at Laurel Valley. He was pro at Aliquippa (Pa.) CC then at Nenacolin CC, Beallsville, Pa., and with Paul Erath at Fox Chapel before coming to Laurel Valley. He did a great deal of business in the Laurel Valley shop.
during the PGA . . . He had help from veterans in pro selling, Art Yann who was with U.S. Rubber for 38 years before retiring and Smiley Magree, one of Wilson’s pioneers . . . Pat Mahoney, widely known pro at Palo Alto, Calif., municipal course, we are happy to tell you, is coming along O.K. after a serious eye operation.

Jack Nicklaus goes to South Africa early in 1966 for exhibition matches with Gary Player . . . British golf writers and pros continue to express embarrassment because of misconduct of amateur photographers during the British Open . . . It must have been a record low in golf manners and calls for control such as the U.S. Open and the Masters exercise over the camera clickers . . . France now has an official license, “State Degree” for golf professionals and assistants . . . Those who have been in pro golf prior to 1963 are automatically licensed . . . Others must qualify by scoring no more than 20 over par for four rounds in each of four major competitions.

Johnny Moran, a professional for 25 years who left the golf business in 1962 to operate a lounge and restaurant, has returned to the game as pro-manager of the George Diamond CC, Antioch, Ill . . . Florida PGA Seniors and Southeast Florida Dairy Institute are co-sponsoring a “milk-for-health” tourney to be played at the PGA National GC, Oct. 4-5 . . . Wonder what they’ll dispense at the 19th hole . . . Ninth U.S. National Senior Open, to be played at the Dunes and Tropicana in Las Vegas, Sept. 22-26, offers a minimum purse of $50,000 . . . Dutch Harrison has won the last four National Senior Opens.

Seventh annual National Amputee GA Championship to be played Oct. 6-9 at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga. . . . After two 18-hole qualifying rounds are played, contestants will be seeded into six flights . . . There also will be competitions for Women and Juniors . . . Singleton Irrigation Systems, Inc., Manchester, Mass., recently completed building automatic systems for Bonnie Briar CC, Larchmont, N.Y. and Rockport (Mass.) GC.

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September, 1965
A turf conference is scheduled to be held Sept. 15-16 in Columbia at the school's horticulture and extension division department. While the conference is going on, a committee of six will discuss plans for forming a Missouri Valley Turf Association. Oakbrook community developers, Tacoma, Wash., planning a $1 million club to be known as Oakbrook G & CC. Setup will include course, clubhouse, swimming pools and tennis courts. When the Hudson Valley GCSA held a recent meeting at Dutchess G & CC in Poughkeepsie, members were treated to a thundershower. It had to be identified for some who hadn't seen rain for three or four years.

Fields in the Metropolitan (N.Y.), Illinois and Southern California PGA sectional events this year have looked as though the minor league of pro golf already is in operation. U.S. Invitational Pro-Amateur, sponsored by Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, will be played Oct. 2-3 at Losantiville (O.) CC. Field will consist of 72 teams and prize money is $25,000. Last year Mike Krak and First Flight Golf Co. president, Lew Oehmig, won the event.

Ernest Jones, 77, noted teacher who stressed swinging the club, died July 31, in his home at Glen Head, N.Y., after a long illness. Jones lost a leg in World War I. He became a fine player and instructor. He came from England to the U.S. in 1925 and became pro at the Women's National G&TC in the New York met district. When that club closed he opened an indoor school. Many women champions, including Virginia Van Wie and Helen Hicks, were his pupils. He was presented with the Ben Hogan award by the Golf Writers Association in January this year for his triumph over his handicap. He wrote books on his "swing" method of playing with the late Innis Brown and with Dave Eisenberg. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Fred Austin.

Al Mengert, pro at Tacoma C&G club,
has had 130 in his junior classes this summer . . . Mengert took time off from teaching to win his third consecutive Washington Open title . . . Thunderbird tournament drew a record four-day attendance of 79,000 which should fatten Westchester county United Hospital building fund by plenty . . . Last year the tournament, sponsored by Westchester Ford dealers, contributed $155,000 to the United Hospital fund . . . National Pee Wee championship, in its 19th year, had record field of 188 youngsters from three to 15 years . . . Winner in the oldest division (13-15 years) was Tom Jeanette, 15, Pensacola, Fla., with 73-74—147 on Rio Pinar CC 6,583 par 72 course at Orlando, Fla. . . . Orlando Chamber of Commerce and Minute Maid Co. sponsor the competition.

Bud Cunningham is pro at the newly opened Baiting Hollow CC, Riverhead, L.I., N.Y. . . . Cunningham formerly was at Indian Hills CC, Fort Salonga, N.Y.
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At cocktail party preceding Broadmoor Women’s Invitational, played at The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, Colo., in August, some of the top contenders are seen gathered at a buffet table. From left they are Barbara Faye White, 1964 champion, Barbara Mc Intire, who won 1965 title by defeating Judy Rand in the final, Judy Bell, Brigitte Varangot, leading French woman amateur, Nancy Roth Syms and Jean Ashley. Miss Mc Intire also won the tournament in 1962.

... Many courses adding nine holes this summer... Northampton (L.I., N.Y.) GC, opened in 1964, is building its third nine... Gengantslet GC, near Greene, N.Y., building a second nine... Course is owned by brothers Pete and Frank McClean... Carlson Farms Course, Greensboro, N.C., opens its second nine... Dick Miller now pro at Eastern Shore CC, Onancock, Va.... Jerry Gianferante now pro at Lake Sunapee CC, New London, N.H.

Norman Wendling, pro since 1931 at Lakeview Hills CC, Lexington, Mich., and owner of the club since the mid-40s, honored by brother pros and neighbors at a big party in Lexington... Norman and Al Watrous, Oakland Hills pro, were presented Michigan PGA Distinguished Service plaques... Eight of the state’s pro stars took off on a Sunday afternoon to play an exhibition at Lakeview... Wendling’s wife, Vi, has made the clubhouse famous for food and good housekeeping.

Press party given by Art Rooney, Pittsburgh Steelers, owner, at his Ligonier summer home on the eve of the PGA tournament was a gourmet affair... Must have been 150 All-Star eaters there warming up on clams, soup and broiled lobster, then making 11 yards through the steak on each play.

Harry Radix, the world’s most widely