

# From scenery to grasses, book chronicles courses

## Vermont, New Hampshire courses detailed

BY VERN PUTNEY

Bob Labbanace and David Cornwell mainly are in the food service business.

However, to serve up in short order for keen playing appetites far-spaced golf courses in Vermont and New Hampshire, they undertook Cook's Tours that consumed eight summers of Monday strolls.

The fruit of their two-state walkathon odyssey is detailed in two books.

The latest, "The Golf Courses of New Hampshire, From the Mountains to the Sea," became available in April. A revision of "Vermont Golf Courses: A Player's Guide" hits the book shelves in June.

It is of little use for the course superintendent to groom a course beautifully, only to have the starved-for-action playing public drive aimlessly around the countryside trying to find links nestled in scenic, hideaway spots.

That was precisely the problem Vermont residents Labbanace and Cornwell encountered when in 1980 they renewed their college ties (Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, Class of '74) and hit upon golf as their recreational link.

### Tremendous void

They found guides on almost every social or sporting activity in the Green Mountain State. Golf courses, however, were conspicuously absent.

Six years, 7,500 miles of travel and 54 courses later, Vermont courses and locations had been catalogued in painstaking detail.

The pair plunged into New Hampshire the next summer and, at 5:33 p.m. Monday, Sept. 26, 1988, at Amherst Country Club completed their 72nd public golf course round - and blanketed their second state.

Total golf holes for the two states was more than 1,700.

"Two Down and One To Go" was their original travel battle cry, meaning Maine was the next target.

That idea's on hold, though. The Pine Tree State spans 500 miles from Fort Kent to Kittery, and there may be 140 courses to cover.

Maine is a far piece from Labbanace's bailiwick. Stockbridge is more than rural. The road Labbanace and wife Kathie live on dead-ends at the Appalachian Trail.

Cornwell resides in Thetford Center, close by the New Hampshire border but still far from Maine.

The "Maine Golf Guide" may have to await appearance of the elusive wealthy patron. Still, Cornwell is researching and has a file on the number of Maine courses.

Meanwhile, both must give priority to the workaday world.

Labbanace manages the food and beverage departments for Vermont



Photo by Stephanie Wolff/Valley News

Bob Labbanace, left, and David Cornwell ready for yet another round of golf in their whirlwind tour.

Law School. Cornwell, after culinary school in Paris and years of work in high-priced (and high pressure) restaurants, is the head chef at Dartmouth College's Faculty Club.

Even more than appeal to Vermont palates to whom they cater has been their sparkling service to the golf industry in two states.

Instead of frustrating turns and twists and frequent tossing in of travel towels, golfers armed with these informative books can make a bee line for the first tee.

It's been worth it, they say, to have endured in one day 100-degree heat, violent thunderstorms and ravenous mosquitoes.

Offsetting traffic jams and driving around in circles looking for courses hidden in trailer parks or buried in residential neighborhoods have been moments of unsurpassed spectacular scenery.

Stirring settings in New Hampshire surely include The Balsams Grand Resort in the White Mountains and Mount Washington. Among the grand views are Waumbek in Jefferson, Mountain View in Whitefield and Profile Club in Franconia.

Barre, Sugarbush and Equinox country clubs are among Vermont scenic standouts.

Venturing from Vermont into the Granite State, Labbanace and Cornwell cite discovery of architectural gems from course designers of the past.

New Hampshire native Ralph Martin Barton's nine-hole Lisbon Village Golf Club may look flat and boring from the road. However, it is challenging, scenic, well designed and exciting to play.

Whip-Poor-Will CC in Hudson is a nine-hole layout for which Manny Francis rates a salute. Francis developed his Vesper Velvet at nearby Vesper CC, Tyngsboro, Mass.

The fine-bladed German

bentgrass suitable to mid-New England forms a luxurious carpet that putts true and fast, say Labbanace and Cornwell.

Hooper CC in Walpole is an excellent monument to Wayne Stiles and John Van Kleek. This team from the 1920s blended esthetics with enjoyable golfing.

Pine Meadow in New Hampton is a reminder of another era, when greens weren't green. Play is on oiled, hard-packed sand that looks like wet clay and putts like polished marble.

### Grueling schedule

Labbanace and Cornwell walked every Vermont course and never took a golf car, even when playing 36 holes three days in a row. There was slight concession to car use in New Hampshire because of photographic and recording equipment which had become as much a part of their round as golf clubs.

An ordinary day would begin at 7 in the morning and end at mid-evening.

Both also write for The Valley News, a Vermont daily with a circulation of 20,000.

Labbanace used that connection in mid-March to cover the TPC Pro Tour event at Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra, Fla., play the course and donate 4 balls to the feared water-surrounded 142-yard 17th hole.

Cornwell also has covered local and national tournaments for the News. On his way south to cover the 1989 Masters, he stopped at the USGA's Golf House library to probe early Maine golf courses.

He also visited the new site of the Kemper Open, the TPC at Avenel, Potomac, Md., to check the maturation of the course with its unique zoysia fairways, and interviewed course superintendent Dave Andersen.

(To obtain either book, write to New England Golf Specialists, Box 17, Stockbridge, Vt. 05772.)

## NEW LITERATURE

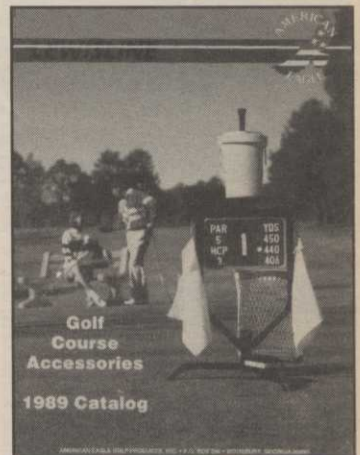
### American Eagle features Lewis

The Lewis Line of golf course accessories is featured in the 1989 catalog of American Eagle Golf Products.

The new Preflight ball washer has but one moving part, the paddle, therefore minimizing breakdown possibility.

It is said to be the only ball washer with a quick-change brush changer, requiring but three minutes for brush replacement.

Other new products include disposable tee towel, cup cutter featuring positive stop depth adjustment which permits operator to cut exact depth every time, a solid 5-inch plastic marker color impregnated to eliminate chipping and peeling of paint, and heavy-duty chain'r rope stake. Durable powder metal coatings in white or yellow



low are 3/8 inch in diameter for extended life.

Contact American Eagle Golf Products, Inc., 205 Main St., P. O. Box 396, Woodbury, Ga. 30293. 404-553-2061. Circle No 298

### CSSA explores seed moisture

The Crop Science Society of America has published "Seed Moisture" in which 13 international experts explore the facets of biological water in general, and seed moisture in particular.

Seed moisture plays a critical role in all aspects of seed science, technology and commercial trade. The underlying physiological aspects are addressed in terms of membrane systems, physiological reaction in seeds and seed inhibi-

tion.

The role of seed moisture content and development of the seed on the mother plant are also reviewed.

Edited by Phillip C. Stanwood and Miller B. McDonald, the 136-page paperback CSSA Special Publication Number 14 is available from American Seed Trade Association, 1030 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. Circle No 299



### Overseeding, aeration explained

A 24-page manual on aeration and overseeding for lawn maintenance professionals is available from the Cushman Division of Outboard Marine Corp. — the first in a series of educational publications the company plans for the lawn-care industry.

Titled "The Dawn of a New Age in Lawn Care," the publication provides a wealth of reference information.

It covers topics from the procedures and benefits of precision core aeration to grass selections and techniques for overseeding, lawn renovation and how to profitably price and market aeration and lawn renovation services. Methods used by lawn-care experts in various parts of the country are included.

The manual also covers the newest Ryan equipment available for aeration and overseeding, along with an explanation of the research and design ideas that led to the development of this new equipment.

Robert C. Brophy, manager of lawn-care product sales for Cushman, said, "The educational aspect of meeting today's demands for supplementary lawn-care services is important ...and today's equipment must be more efficient and the people who operate it must be more knowledgeable."

Sample copies are available free from Lawn Care Manual, Cushman Division, P.O. Box 82409, Lincoln, Neb. 68501; 1-800-228-4444. Circle No 296