

Again Says *A Pilot for* *the Pros* *Needed Now*

By EDDIE ALLEN
[Oak Park Golf School]

THE pro situation has reached the point where the pros need the guiding hand of a commissioner. Too many professionals today have not acquired enough practical business experience to cope with the threatening situation that today confronts them. Drastic action must block further advances of the elements opposed to the pro's interests, rather than the pro depending on long drawn out experience to demonstrate his vital importance to the clubs and his right to a good, steady income.

I believe the time has already arrived when the pro situation needs a guiding hand, "not later on, but right now before it is too late."

Having secured the services of a man of proven ability to work out the many business details of guiding the destiny of the pro, it should not be a difficult matter to prove to the pro that he could receive greater benefits by becoming a member of an organization so conducted.

Thus manned, the organization would show the pros that it is looking after his interests at all times by securing for the unemployed pro a job worthy of his ability and having secured the position for the pro, seeing to it that he fills the job to its fullest obligations required in the contract of the club.

Placing the Pro Right.

This organization should have a rating of the pros as well as a rating of the golf clubs, the number of members each club has as well as other details of the club, so that the organization would be in a position to place the pro according to his ability to fulfill this position with the guarantee of backing the pro up.

The commissioner should inquire two or three times during the season as to how the pro is behaving on the job. If he finds that the answer is satisfactory, "O. K." If he finds that the pro is negligent in certain duties, the pro should be sent a letter or he should be asked to appear at the headquarters and informed of the com-

plaint so he could go back on the job knowing what to do to correct his error. Would not this prove to the pro that the guiding hand was looking after his interest and would it not place this organization in high esteem with the clubs?

The P. G. A. thus giving definite and frequent evidence, actually achieving results for every member in the organization, could get every reliable pro to become a member, and those that were not reliable could not become a member until they could prove to this organization they had the necessary experience and ability to justify the backing of the said organization. The over-night pro, the price-cutting pro and the careless credit pro would not last long when this organization had the co-operation of every reliable pro to wipe out these detrimental factors.

There are enough golf clubs or should be when those now under construction are completed, to take care of the jobless pros in this district, providing the over-night kid pro and the like are dealt with in a way that will prove to the club hiring them, that they are doing their club more harm than good, unless they are placed with clubs where they fit and can develop along the right lines.

A letter to this effect from a commissioner of the P. G. A., such as I am trying to picture in this article, would do much to help a club and gain its confidence for the organization.

Building P. G. A. Strength.

The P. G. A. should be an organization as strong as any labor organization now existing. The organization should secure the names of every golf club in this country whether completed or under construction and those that are planned for future construction. It should keep in close touch with every golf architect or course construction company. All new clubs should be approached in a business manner and the organization should explain the reasons why their club should hire a reliable pro with the backing of this organization

as to his ability, character, etc. It should be a business organization and not a sports and pastime organization.

Tournaments are beneficial only for the few good playing pros. For the average pro the chances against him are two hundred to one that he does not finish in the money. It's a cheap way to get one's name in print, but after figuring up your entry fee, railroad fare, hotel expenses, caddie and Lord knows what, you find it pretty expensive just to see your name appear sometimes in the list outside the money. It cost the average pro who played at Olympia Fields anywhere from \$50 to \$75 to keep up with the rest of the boys for the three playing days. One young pro told me that it cost him exactly \$75 for two days in this tournament. Tournaments are a good way to get the boys together for a test of skill, but not in a business way. For the married pro with a family to support they show no returns for the money invested.

There is enough money spent foolishly each year by the average pro to rent enough floor space for headquarters for the pro organization with plenty of room for teaching nets, display booths, showers and a putting course.

These nets and booths could be rented by any pro who was a member of this organization through winter months at a reasonable rent and would give him a chance to dispose of stock left over at his club. This would bring the boys together in a business way and in close touch with organization headquarters ready to thrash out any important problem that might arise.

Now that we have solved how to help the business pro, let's help the playing pro who is also a member and needs our help. Special exhibition matches for the expert playing pro could be booked through this organization to clubs desiring their services.

Why not form state pro teams on the order of the Cubs and Sox? These are just a few suggestions of mine which might lead to a real honest to God organization "one everyone of us pros would be only too glad to join."

Pro Veterans Organizing P.G.A. Senior Association

PROFESSIONAL golfers having served more than 20 years as master professionals are organizing the P. G. A. Senior

Association of America. Maurice J. McCarthy, Room 1012, 366 Fifth avenue, New York, is chairman of the organizing committee.

This association has as its purpose "the promoting of that which is best in the game of golf; to perpetuate its traditions; to promote good fellowship; to meet from time to time for tournament play; renew past acquaintances and help preserve the best interests of the game."

Membership dues in the organization are \$5.00.

The grouping of those who rocked the cradle of golf in the United States undoubtedly will be attended by happy consequences and already has enlisted a number of distinguished veterans. Those qualified for membership are invited to write Mr. McCarthy.

Greenkeeping Exhibit Planned at Amherst, March 8-9

MEMBERS of the greenkeepers class at the Massachusetts Agricultural College will hold a golf course maintenance exhibition in the college buildings at Amherst, Mass., March 8 and 9. The exhibition is purely educational and no commercial influence enters into it.

The class will show the variety of grasses common to golf courses and demonstrate the effects of the rates of seeding, the different weights of rolling and the effects of various fertilizers and depth of seeding. All kinds of seeds will be on display.

Other displays will include demonstrations of proper and improper drainage; landscaping around the clubhouse and golf course; correct water systems; rates of watering; the correct size of pipes and pumps; and kinds of soils and fertilizers. Complete equipment for the golf course can be studied with the working parts bared for closer inspection.

Members of the greenkeepers class will be on hand at all displays and will discuss with visitors questions brought before them. Visitors will benefit by a visit to the cost-keeping and analysis booth and will be shown a modern method of book-keeping as it applies to the golf course.

The New England Greenkeepers Assn. will hold its annual meeting at Amherst during the same dates so members will have an opportunity to visit the displays