



—Bell and Howell photo.

Al Lesperance, addressing the ball, has instruction movies made from points directly back of line of flight and directly opposite ball.

Movie Analysis of Pro's Own Game Helps His Teaching

An Interview With
AL LESPERANCE

NEWSPAPERS are taking cognizance of the pro plan of using motion pictures in making golf instruction more resultful, so it looks like the pioneering pros soon can get plenty of evidence that their hunch in this direction was bound to mean a good thing for the pro cause.

During his visit in England, Bob Jones arranged with Joyce Weathered to have some movies made of her game for exclusive use of the P. G. A. in its plans to make the employment of movie instruction by its members more effective through having a good supply of master films.

The Jenkin's super-slow motion pictures of Jones, shot for the P. G. A., have been privately shown and the conflict about what they show of great value to golf instruction already has been started. The original shots were made 1,600 to a second, and retakes are to be made at the top-speed of the camera, 3,200 pictures to the second. Among the many interesting details of the Jones swing, as revealed by this unusual film is that the clubhead and

the ball as in contact for approximately 18 inches. The camera shows the Jones swing distinctly a left-handed performance all the way through. We're not arguing about it; we're just telling you.

The other day we had the interesting job of talking over this pro movie instruction proposition with Al Lesperance, pro at Westmoreland, Chicago district. Al is no member of the First Reader class on this movie instruction. In 1924 when he was in Kansas City, there was a member of his club who was connected with the Pathe moving picture people. Al and this fellow fooled around with the movies and it was then that Lesperance made his debut as a golf instructor via the movies. Now, at Westmoreland, Al has, as a member, one of the big shots of the Bell and Howell movie gang. With this association Al has revived his work in movie instruction and what he has to say on the subject will give the boys food for thought.

"In the first place, the pro gets more out of the movies than the pupil can. By having pictures of the better players al-

ways handy for projection, I can see the details in which they are uniform and those in which they vary. Pictures of my own game can be checked up and by finding out where I am going wrong I can tell, a lot of times, some of those subtle faults or the pupils that often baffle detection.

"There is a crying need for some standardization of method in movie instruction. Take the popular films of Hagen and Jones which a number of the pros are showing. Instead of being as helpful as these films might be, they are dangerously misleading in many respects for they are shot from angles that do not show the true picture of the swings. I am of the opinion that two films of each shot should be made; one directly even with the ball and at right angles to the line of flight, and the other even with the ball and right in the line of flight, the latter picture being shot from the *player's* right side, of course.

"Tape on the ground showing the line of flight and a right angle to it, at the point the ball is teed, should be used, and stationary backgrounds that will quickly locate sideway movement are essential. In this respect trees many times are worse than useless. They will sway just at the wrong time, and you can't tell it from the picture."

Al told about the value of the movies to his own game, relating that George O'Neil, who was his first mentor, got him well grounded and then he was turned loose to shift for himself. The movie provided Al with a check that could be furnished in no other way. The same thing, Al maintains, can be done best for the average pupil by the movies. Pupils who are well grounded in golf methods by a competent instructor, can have movies made of their swings at various times, and have their pros check them over when convenient. The result of this diagnosis will correct the faults before they become a set part of the players' games.

Lesperance is making a number of movies of the leading players in the Chicago district and is using them in illustrating the proper technique to his members. In the movies, Al mentions, the salient features of any expert's game can be pointed out to the pupil so he can imitate the virtues, a proceeding that would be next to impossible if the model himself were studied in actual play, even by a far better than average amateur acolyte.

When Al and the writer were talking things over at luncheon one of Al's mem-

bers, a 6-handicap fellow named Cumnock took part in the conversation. Cumnock is one of these thoughtful and persistent seekers after golf knowledge who comes in every so often to make the heart of the pro glad. Al had him booked for the next lesson. Cumnock told of the use Joe Norwood of Los Angeles had made of the movies in instruction.

It seems that the leading professionals are hard at work on this problem of harnessing the motion picture camera to the instruction problem so the pros not only will turn out better golfers, quicker, but will add a welcome piece of dough to their annual incomes by the profits of this now established method of teaching golf.

Rhode Island's Inaugural Greenkeepers' Day Success

ATTENDANCE at the first Greenkeepers' field day at the Rhode Island state college and Experiment station held at Kingston, May 26, exceeded the expectations of the most optimistic of those in charge. In spite of a rainy day more than 50 greenkeepers and green-committee chairmen attended. The luncheon was attended by 70 people.

The morning was spent inspecting the lawn and golf green experiments at the station. Old lawn plots established more than a quarter of a century ago created much interest, while more recently established golf green plots, of different strains and varieties of grasses, also came in for considerable discussion.

Immediately following lunch, Prof. L. S. Dickinson was the principal speaker at a short program of talks and discussion. Prof. Dickinson spoke on Managerial Problems of the Greenkeeper and handled this subject in his usual clear and effective manner.

About a dozen firms were represented with various lines of equipment, demonstrations of which occupied part of the afternoon. Following the equipment demonstrations, the greenkeepers visited one of the farms of A. N. Peckham, one of the leading bent grass seed producers. From Mr. Peckham's farm the course was laid to Bonnet Shores—a new golf course under construction. This part of the program was in charge of Woodworth Bradley, the architect in charge of constructing the course.

The success with which this first attempt at a Greenkeepers' field day met assures it a permanent place as an annual feature on the state experiment station program.