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GEORGE PEITZCKER

5646 Clemens Ave. St. Louis, Mo.

*But now an early parting
Is called for, as I'm starting
To look for other cares within our means.
Still I fear, with all our gassing,
In the springs that will be passing,
You'll still be playing temporary greens.*

Manion, Culbertson Combine to Issue "Contract Golf"

AS IF THERE weren't enough ways for a golfer to lose his shirt in a match, Jimmy Manion, the boy sharpshooter from down St. Louis way, has blossomed out as the author of a refined and murderous system of links competition entitled "Culbertson's Contract Golf."

The basic idea of this new form of golf contest is somewhat akin to contract bridge in that a side "bids" the number of strokes it thinks a given hole will require. If opponents think they can negotiate the hole in fewer strokes, they "bid" lower. Bidding continues until neither side wants to shave another stroke off the last hazarded estimate. Like in bridge, unsuccessful bidders may "double" if they think the final bid is lower than is reasonable. "Redoubles" may be made by the bidding side or player.

Thus is the "contract" arrived at on each tee. Points are awarded for successful filling of a contract, and likewise points are awarded to the opponents if the bidders fail to make their contract. The number of points either side wins depends on the number of strokes over or under the contract it takes the bidders to hole out their final putts. It doesn't cost much and you don't win much if the final total of the two players is within a stroke or two of the contract figure, but a side takes it on the chin plenty if it varies greatly from its original estimate. As many as 80 points can be lost by a side going 10 strokes over its contract; as many as 60 points can be won by a side shooting 5 strokes under its contract.

Manion's book is pocket-sized, which is just as well because the table of points won or lost is fairly complicated and the book should really be carried along out on the course for consultation. Besides the table, the book contains full descriptions and hints on how twosomes, threesomes and foursomes play "contract golf," and a number of humorous drawings suggestive of the tight situations and unfortunate

strategic positions in which players of this cut-throat brand of "gaming" can find themselves.

The book is priced at \$1.00 and may be obtained through all book stores or from the publishers, Bridge World, Inc., 570 Lexington Ave., New York City.

Add to Life's Mysteries; Why Should Mower Last Forever?

FOR THE LAST three months GOLFDOM has been studying maintenance cost records and consulting greenkeepers, chairmen and manufacturers in an effort to get some information on length of economical life of fairway mowers.

It must be confessed that difficulty of getting enough figures has defeated us, although records on about 25 clubs obtained to include the 1931 season show 3 to 4 years is the longest span of thrifty operation that ordinarily can be expected. Apparently, regardless of care and operating conditions, repairs and the blind item of time paid for during repairs on the course, make mowers due for replacement after 4 years' service anyway, as a matter of decided thrift. However, it is not unusual to see fairway mowers that are operating in their eighth year.

In commenting on the struggle we made to get enough definite figures to arrive at a conclusive statement, one of the well known men in the mower business said:

"It surely is a cinch that if you can convince any number of golf clubs that it doesn't pay to run along for years with a lot of old junk you are doing a noble job for budget economy.

"I could tell you of any number of places where we have sold equipment that has been in hard use not merely the 3 years you strike as an average, but sometimes 4 and 5 years, and when it comes to replacements the buyer puts up a terrible howl, seeming to be of the opinion that a mower should wear indefinitely.

"The man who thinks he ought to have a new automobile about every second year will buy mowers for his club with the idea that 8 or 10 years' life is not too much to expect from such machinery."

MOSS ON fairway or green is almost certainly the result of poor drainage or less commonly, impoverished soil. The cure is obvious.

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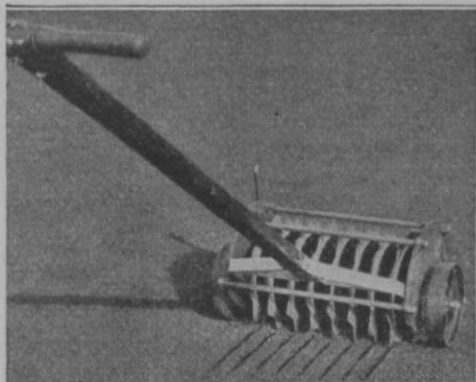
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