

Deaf-Mutes Made Golfers By Pro's Class Lessons

By JACK DURHAM

THEY SAID Lindbergh couldn't fly the Atlantic; they said Byrd couldn't live at the South Pole as long as he did; and they may think that people who are deaf and dumb cannot be taught the game of golf as it should be played, but Joseph Burman, professional at the Danville (Ky.) C. C., is showing 'em that deaf and dumb folk CAN be taught golf.

Burman is already hard at it and has a class of pupils from the Kentucky School for the Deaf, which is located at Danville. Until school is dismissed in June, Joe will not be able to get in as much systematic teaching as he desires, due to the interference of schoolwork. However, with the dismissal of school, Burman is expecting the enrollment of his class to increase to 40.

The result will be something that will revolutionize golf teaching, Burman believes. He is the originator of the idea and is believed to be the first golf professional to undertake such a program. Another unusual fact is that Burman is devoting many hours of his time to the work—free of charge. And the idea is going over down here in the Bluegrass State in a big way.

Burman got his idea, or inspiration as some call it, last fall. One day he was approached by a golfer who asked if he had ever given lessons to a deaf and dumb person. Always seeking some new angle to the game, Burman replied that he had not but said he would gladly attempt to do so. The first pupil happened to be a woman—an instructor at the school—and Burman was so overjoyed at the rapid progress of his pupil that he decided to open a class for deaf mutes. Quickly two other women and three men joined and this new system of golf teaching was under way.

Burman instructs this class in just the same manner as he would any other—first teaching them how to properly grip a club, the proper swing, stance, etc. Burman starts all of his pupils off on a mashie. Since Joe cannot "tell" his pupils what

he wants them to do, he combines the use of the blackboard with an interpreter, and sometimes writes his instructions to his pupils on a pad which he carries with him during class instruction hours.

Youngsters Taught, Too

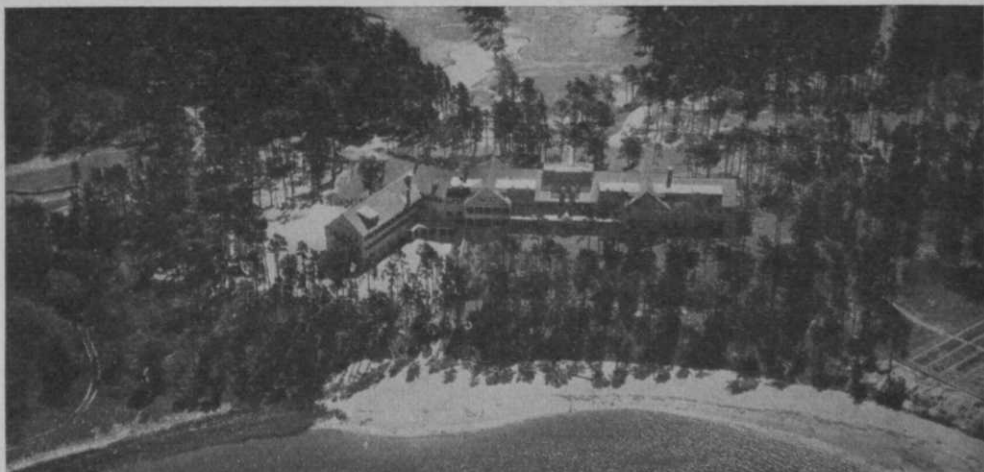
Another big thing that Burman is putting over besides the teaching of deaf and dumb grown-ups is instructing deaf and dumb children between the ages of 10 and 16 years. The poor little silent kids go for the game in a big way and Burman declares that they make excellent pupils since their desire to learn is so great.

The idea, of course, is in its infancy and just what results will be obtained will not be seen until late summer, but Burman is confident that it will be a success.

Not only, however, is this same Burman stirring up interest in golf in the little Bluegrass metropolis in this manner, but is also teaching other classes FREE OF CHARGE—and made up entirely of the kids. Once a week Burman gathers the youngsters up, takes them out to the links and gives them from 1½ to 2½ hours of instruction. The result here, of course, is obvious. Interest in the game is being built up from the beginning and by the time the boys and girls reach college age they will be tied to the game. In the future the Danville club membership will be made up mainly of these youngsters that Burman started off in golf. They should make good golfers and one can never tell—he may be producing another state champion that will climb the ladder.

Too, the mothers are going for the idea in a big way, since it keeps Johnny and Willie and little Arthur out of the back-alley marble games and the usual childish mischief. They would rather know that their sons and daughters are out at the golf course, taking real interest in something worth while, than possibly associating with the tougher element of children.

The proposition is leading to state-wide publicity for the Danville club, something that most golf clubs never deplore. It is



SPRING FEVER HITS EDITOR

On page 13 of last month's issue, we ran a picture of a clubhouse perched on a hill-top and labelled it a view of Oyster Harbors' fine building at Osterville, Cape Cod. After the issue was out, F. W. Norris, president of Oyster Harbors, called our attention to the fact that the picture wasn't his club at all and enclosed a view to prove it. We reproduce it above.

Thanks to Mr. Norris, our apologies to members of Oyster Harbors for the error—and will some kind reader identify for us the view we DID run?—Ed.

also reviving interest in a golf course that has been waning for the past several years, and promises to be a money producer in years to come—not for professionals only, who decide to follow in Burman's footsteps but for clubs from the standpoint of increased memberships, resulting in larger treasuries.

Joe Is a Builder

Joe came to Danville last summer from Frankfort, Ky., the state capital, where he had taken a course that was practically broke and put it on its feet through such promotional ideas as the one at present. He was early with the free class for children idea in Kentucky and sports writers all over the state have given him many columns of praise and comment. About thirty-two years of age, Burman has been at golf practically all of his life and has gained his reputation not with low scores and medal play but solely through his conscientious and careful instruction. Says Joe of his free-class idea: "It's making golfers that might otherwise never have picked up a club and is thereby increasing business for those connected with the golf profession. Classes are not restricted to children of club members only, but any kids who desire to learn. It is more or less an 'insurance' to me that my

future teaching business will be good, for my pupils will stick with me once they get the love of the game. The idea can't lose, as I figure it, for there is nothing invested by anyone except my time, and I believe that if time were money most professionals would be millionaires!"

Physician Co-operates

In order to be assured that any slow pupil is not being handicapped by some physical or mental disorder, Burman sends those pupils in his classes who seem to "lag behind" to a Danville physician who is co-operating with him to put the plan over. The child is given a thorough physical examination and whatever is wrong is corrected.

Here's another of Burman's innovations: Every now and then Joe has an examination paper which he requires all of his pupils to fill out—just as if they were taking an arithmetic or English examination in school. Here he can check their progress carefully as to how they are taking his instructions and the effect they are having. The papers are carefully graded and all mistakes are ironed out individually.

The teaching, examinations, etc., connected with the new idea takes about 10 hours per week of his time, Burman

figures, and says further: "The least I can give to the game is time!"

Among the grown-ups in Kentucky who are outstanding golfers and who come to Joe for instructions during the tournament seasons are Wilbur Meece, central Kentucky champion for several years, of Somerset, Ky.; Mrs. Elvina Lebus, of Versailles, Ky., woman state champion for several years; Mrs. Charles K. Hogue, Frankfort, who has won not only many club championships in Kentucky but several trophies in the east as well; Jack Mohney, youthful Lexington, Ky., golfer and present Kentucky open champion; Johnny Eversole, also of Lexington, junior champion of central Kentucky, and Virgil Meece, Somerset, high school champion of central Kentucky.

Don't Give Up Hope

One good example of his teaching may be seen in the following: A young lady who attends a Danville college was told by another professional that she might as well give up golf. She would never learn the game, he said. Burman took her last summer and in less than two weeks taught her enough to enable her to win the ladies championship of the Danville club! Joe says she's going places this summer—and you can never tell!

Kentucky "colonels" are known far and wide, and it so happens that Burman holds a commission as "general of golf" on the staff of Lieut. Governor Albert ("Happy") Chandler.

Hop onto this idea of Burman's. The "General" is doing a great job for golf in Kentucky and he isn't through yet.

Crack Down on Free Deals and "Buy It Wholesale"

THE PGA of Northern California and leading manufacturers operating in that section have come to an agreement that rules out the trick discount deals that used to make the straight retail price a laughing matter to smart chiselers.

In a meeting with the pros the manufacturers committed themselves to a policy of staying strong to their retail prices and of granting discounts only in legitimate instances.

Harold Sampson, president of the PGA of Northern California, comments on this new deal:

"While the agreement is naturally to the benefit of professionals it also is the 'road

out of the red' for the manufacturers, especially if they will give it their co-operation throughout the country, as they have manifested their desire to do here by the action they have already taken.

"It is merely an effort to put the golf ball and the golf club business back on a retail basis. In other words, to discontinue giving away merchandise free (or at 50 cents a dozen so that players may retain their amateur standing) or in any manner for less than retail price, except to the golf professional, clubs that have the sale of balls, and the legitimate sporting goods dealer.

"The practice of giving merchandise for less than cost I am sure has been an evil that the manufacturers have often regretted was ever started. It has added considerable to advertising costs, cuts into the manufacturers' income no little because aside from the actual cost of the merchandise given away it eliminates a customer from the market to sell merchandise to. It can also be seen that by discontinuing this practice a lot of new retail business is created because parties who were formerly getting merchandise gratis or for less than cost are now forced to purchase at established levels. This has been quite evident already in the increased retail business in this district since the action was taken, and I am sure it is going to result in increased incomes both to the manufacturer and to the legitimate dealer.

"The real reason that this has never been accomplished before was because the manufacturers did not co-operate with each other; but now that all of the leading manufacturers, without exception, are behind this movement, I do not see how it can be anything but a success, and it most certainly should have, and I believe will have, the very strong support from all golf professionals."

Buddy Poppies to Be Sold Memorial Week

ANUAL SALES of Buddy Poppies, conducted by Veterans of Foreign Wars, will be held during the week in which Memorial day occurs. Proceeds of the sale of these emblems, which are made by veterans in government hospitals, are devoted to veteran relief work and to the VFW national home for widows and orphans of ex-service men at Eaton Rapids, Mich.