

PICKED UP IN THE ROUGH

By HERB GRAFFIS

SECTIONS OF THE PGA are appointing examining boards for conducting the PGA instruction research campaign. Presidents of sections are chairmen of these boards.

Since George Jacobus, president of the PGA, made it plain that the idea of the instruction effort is not to establish a hard-and-fast instruction ritual but rather to determine the fundamental principles and mechanical laws applying to playing, there has been considerable favorable interest in the enterprise.

USGA approval given to the research also has helped to stir up the pros. There is potentially much public interest and service in the idea, so it is hoped that the fellows will cooperate unselfishly and effectively in this plan for the promotion of the game and for pro effectiveness and profit.

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DICK WILSON, whose contract as manager of the Delray Beach (Fla.) municipal golf course recently has been renewed for 5 years by the local council, has given an outstanding demonstration of making golf a civic asset.

Wilson, a Toomey and Flynn graduate, runs that Delray Beach 9-hole course so it is a strong attraction for winter residence in the community. He operates on little money but spends it so expertly and has developed such a lively and happy spirit among the players that the Delray Beach course has drawn many neighborly notables to the community.

Hotel and residence accommodations are sold out early in the season at Delray Beach. The Wilson operation of the municipal golf course is one of the main reasons.

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JOE WHITEHEAD, superintendent of Middletown G. C., Cromwell, Conn., now has solved the problem of getting up out of the hay at dawn to see what hell happened to the course overnight.

Into the Whitehead family has arrived William Warren, the first born. He weighed in at 7 lbs., 15 ounces, Feb. 9. He is being trained by Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead to squawk for his morning bottle at a time

permitting White, Sr., to poke the milk into the infant's howling face and then make a complete inspection of the course prior to the arrival of the first men on the day shift.

You can't beat the ingenuity of these greenkeepers even by cutting the cost of an alarm clock out of the budget.

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MORE OF A "willingness to please" attitude on the part of tournament sponsors and players than ever was in evidence before was shown during the California circuit this winter.

Unfortunately, "unusual" weather messed things up a bit with the schedules at Santa Monica and Los Angeles, but both events and others on the route were outstanding successes.

Pros who played in the California tournaments this year continued the circuit singing the praises of their hosts and jubilant that the California debut of the playing season was a certain indication of a great year in golf.

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THE FIRST official international German and French golf matches will be held at Frankfort-on-Main, June 24.

There is some significance to this. We can't decide whether it means that the war is really over or another one is being worked up.

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"GOLF FACTS AND STATISTICS," giving general data on the extent of the golf club field and highlights of information regarding the PGA, is a booklet recently prepared by the pro organization and sent out to the association's publicity list of sports writers.

Copies of the booklet will be sent free by the PGA headquarters, First National Bank Bldg., Chicago.

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ALDERWOOD C. C. (Portland, Ore.) has a live club mirrored in a brisk four page club magazine, the "Back Swing."

The magazine has been campaigning for members to give permanent or temporary employment to caddies who must contribute to the support of their families. During the off months for caddying at Alder-

wood the campaign was effective in getting a number of the boys placed with members.

The idea of caddie ranks furnishing rookies for the members' business service is one that all clubs will do well to develop.

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DICK AHLBRECHT, greenkeeper of the Hutchinson (Minn.) G. C. has reason for believing he has a future star in his family. His son who will be 6 in April, turns in scores of 40 frequently on the 2,682 yard, par 36, sand green course at Hutchinson.

Young Dick started to play when he was a little over 2 years old. All of the Ahlbrecht family play; Dick, Sr., the Mrs., three boys and the 8-year-old daughter. The baby, Louis, who is just over 2, already has started to bat the ball around.

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GALLOPING HILL course, ably run by the Union County (N. J.) Park commission put in a special rate for winter play.

Although snow was on the ground half of January there were 500 who played the course.

Apparently golf has greater possibilities for winter play than many appreciate.

In 1933 there were 51,062 rounds played at Galloping Hill course. This was 3,299 less than in 1932 although official weather records showed 135 per cent more rain fell in April to September, 1933 inclusive, than in the same period in 1932.

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IN JANUARY GOLFDOM we had some comment on the hit-and-run so-called professional golf shops that move into long-vacant stores, misrepresent merchandise and then move along after the suckers have been trimmed.

We had reference to cases in Chicago and New York that we had investigated and on which we had the dope cold.

Now we are advised that one outfit of "Professional Golf Shops" is strictly on the legitimate and has such pros as Charley Miller of Aberdeen, S. D., and J. O. Gibson, formerly of Fox Chapel, Pittsburgh, Pa., as branch managers.

These boys feel hurt, believing that GOLFDOM, mentioning the gospel truth about the racketeering false-front "pro shops" downtown, does their stores an injustice. None of the other pros at clubs who are interested in other legitimate downtown "pro golf shops" squawked.

GOLFDOM is first and foremost for the pro, but it also is definitely for other legitimate and honest operating retailers of golf goods against the racketeers of the hit-and-run type.

So, if we hurt the feelings of the pros who are at the *substantial* "Professional Golf Shops," operated as square-dealing establishments for supplying golf equipment, we are sorry and stand on our heads and bump our brows to show contrition.

It looks, again, like some legitimate operators share with the public and the pros at courses, the damage of hit-and-run stores masquerading as "Pro Golf Shops."

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TOURNAMENT BUREAU of the PGA with Bob Harlow as engineer is stirring up more interest in tournaments than there has been for some years.

There are several signs that a revival of summer events is in prospect. With the National Open, the Western, Canadian, St. Paul, Glen Falls, Hershey, Tri-State, Nebraska and St. Louis already on as fixtures, and interest recently exhibited in such places as Columbus, O., and Waterloo, Ia., Harlow has the hunch that he can work up a circuit that will do much to promote golf.

The problem is to get enough ranking players to draw gates.

Some of the boys who have been unable to make profitable connections at clubs are hoping that a summer circuit can be established.

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UNDOUBTEDLY the most significant golf news of the past month was the announcement that the Hitler government has made golf the national game of Germany.

Official recognition of golf's embracing benefits to all ages and classes has been evident in other countries only to the extent to which local branches of government have encouraged municipal golf courses. In the majority of cases these courses have been rather quickly amortized when competently run without political interference.

There are 65,300,000 people in Germany, according to the 1933 census, and only 42 golf courses. This figure of a golf course to every 1,500,000 people, compared with the United States proportion of a course to every 20,000 inhabitants, indicates that Germany is going to be the scene of a lot of golf business during the next few years.