



Girl and boy students responded with equal enthusiasm to Schneider's golf lesson invitation at Kerrville.

# TEXAS TUTOR

By WILL F. ADAMS

**E**VEN down into south-central Texas, the revival of golf instruction among school boys and girls is on. Sammie Schneider, pro at the Kerrville CC, with an eye to the future, is following the advice of George Jacobus, PGA president, and of GOLFDOM. Kerrville is a resort town of the 5,000-population class 65 miles northwest of San Antonio. Visiting golfers make much use of the 9-hole daily-fee and membership links during summer, but the pro has been working to secure more home players. His methods in reaching and teaching youngsters might be adapted by other clubs to their communities.

He planned a 5-weeks course for beginners and offered it as a gift to students in junior and senior high school. Over half of them responded. Education officials readily consented and gave their cooperation. The pro-instructor taught three hours a day for three days per week. His classes literally were already organized for him as he took over four of the daily physical education periods.

## Girls Flock to Classes

Choosing the golf instruction was voluntary with students. The first day 93 boys turned out. The girls, thinking the training was not intended for them, asked to be taught. When the pro emphasized the fact that the classes were wide open to girls, so many came out that the four sections totaled 250. The percentage of boys and girls was 50-50, and the daily attendance well over 200. They were from 14 to

## Schneider Stirs Golf Interest Among Students in Town of 5,000

19 years of age, and from as low as the sixth grade. Schneider believes that where other pros try a similar plan they should be sure to make it clear that girls are eligible. The girls in his classes were as eager as the boys and were not backward about showing it.

The instructor sold clubs to pupils who had none at a very nominal price. Students who had irons at home were told to bring them to practices. "Some of the students brought out clubs that I didn't even know were in town," Schneider declared. "They would have made quite a collection of relics."

## Use Cotton Balls

After learning something of fundamentals, including how to grip and swing, the future golfers practiced with cotton balls. Conditions on the campus—as would be the case in many towns—forbade the use of real balls. Two ranks of pupils faced one another and drove the cotton balls back and forth between them.

"You would be surprised how many clubs one can see swinging on private lawns now," the pro smiled. His instructions kindled the spark in a number of would-be players who otherwise would not have been reached. Without the incentive of group teaching, some of them would have lacked interest. Others could not have afforded paid lessons.

At this writing, school has just closed; hence chance had not yet been allowed for indications of immediate results. A

strategic time was selected for the classes—the last few weeks of the school year. Vacation was to set the youths free to use the links soon after the lessons ended. The pro reminded students whose parents



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were club members that they could play on the same membership. To others, he arranged to offer a student rate of one-third the regular annual membership fee.

Student golfing received encouragement also when a boy's junior college team in the same town won six of seven state-conference events. All four of the team members had received instruction under Schneider. An annual amateur invitation meet held in the Texas town in mid-June struck more than usual home attention as a result of extended golf knowledge among school youths.

The pro-instructor is elated over interest aroused by the kid lessons, and plans to repeat them. Part of his returns came in soon after school closed. His complete returns he was satisfied to leave to the future. More golfing fathers there have a closer point of contact with their sons. Boys swinging practice clubs are safe from undesirable street influences. Niblic gouges in home yards where none ever appeared before were prophetic of more flashing irons on the fairways and more income at the clubhouse.

**T**HE "cut" on a slot machine in the locker-room of a midwestern golf club is used to finance extras on the club's entertainment program. Money left over at the end of the season is spent for a stag dinner called "The One-armed Bandit's Party", the one-armed Bandit being the slot machine.

## Rhode Island's Sixth Field Day Interests Large Group

**S**IXTH Annual Greenkeepers Field Day at Rhode Island State College was especially well attended this year and got a good break in weather. A number of research men from neighboring colleges were present, green-committee chairmen attended in company with their greenkeepers, and exhibitors were well represented. Sprinklers, spike rollers, and mowers were demonstrated.

Inspection of the experimental areas is always an interesting part of the program. This year the killing effect of sodium arsenite spray treatments on the chickweed in old lawn turf was striking. A set of plats, to compare grasses under heavy play which were planted in 1933, were badly worn in late fall of 1934, and were severely injured during the winter, demonstrated the value of Kentucky bluegrass as a constituent in mixtures for this use.

After lunch in the college banquet room the speakers were introduced by Dean G. E. Adams as follows:

"Sports and Their Turf Requirements" by C. W. Perkins, Supt., Yale University athletic fields.

"Cooperation" by Guy C. West, Greenkeeper, Fall River CC, President, New England Greenkeepers Club, and Editor "Newsletter."

"Applying Experimental Results to Turf Improvements" by Everett Pyle, Greenkeeper, Providence municipal links.

Dr. H. J. Wheeler, early director of the Experiment Station, sketched briefly the advance in general knowledge of soils and fertilizers that has taken place since one set of lawn plats was planted 30 years ago. He mentioned that today the average progressive greenkeeper has a great deal better insight into the problems of soil fertility than the best soils specialists had in 1905.

At the annual meeting of the Rhode Island Greenkeepers Club (the 6th) the following officers were reelected:

E. J. Pyle, Triggs Memorial GC, Providence, R. I., Pres.

H. D. Hall, Gloucester CC, Harmony, R. I., V.-P.

H. F. A. North, R. I. Agr. Exp. Station, Kingston, R. I., Sec.

Martin Greene, Wanamoissett CC, Rumford, R. I., Treas.

**L**ONG ISLAND GA has the biggest tournament schedule of any district association.