



These 23 golfers helped Denny Champagne, who stands in the center with an arm-load of ball boxes, to send a ball around 18 holes in a quarter hour.

FEE COURSE STUNT WOVES PLAYERS AND PRESS

HOW quickly can a golf ball be sent around a regulation length golf course? Denny Champagne, able and wide-awake pro of Gracewil Lawns CC, Grand Rapids, Mich., assisted by 23 other players, recently relayed a ball around that 6,620-yard fee course, holing out at each of the 18 greens, in the amazing time of 15 minutes and 42 seconds!

The stunt, mechanics of which will be described later in this article, was conceived by Denny and recognized by him as an opportunity to get wide publicity for his course. He tipped off the newspapers several days ahead of what he was going to do. It was a new slant to golf, as far as the local sports editors were concerned, so they gave Denny's course plenty of write-ups ahead of the event and ran long accounts of the results in following issues. The publicity attracted a large gallery—and Denny didn't mind that either.

Used League Teams for Stunt

So, here is an account of the whole affair, as described by Champagne. Says Denny:

At Gracewil Lawns I have a league consisting of 24 players, 6 teams of 4 men each. Every Sunday we have team matches at Gracewil. Each team represents a local firm. This is the third year that this league has been operating. Last year we

had a league average of 79 for the season.

After talking over with the boys the possibility of sending a golf ball around the course in relays to see just how quickly it could be done, I drew a diagram of the course, took my 23 star players and myself, and placed them on the diagram, each to play the shot at which he was best. Then, of course, as each player played more than one shot, I had to figure out just how far he could advance each time to get in position before the ball got to him so he could again send it on its way.

Each Player Had Several Shots

For instance, I drove the ball off six different tees. As soon as I drove off of one tee I would hurry to another to await the arrival of the ball so as not to delay the relay. Four players beside myself were used to do the driving. In my case, I drove off the first tee and then went over to No. 6 tee, a sprint of about 225 yards, and did not have much time to waste before the ball was there. As we have a few parallel fairways on the first 9 I could

easily play the tee shots on No. 8 and No. 10. My next jump was over to No. 14 and then to No. 18.

On par-5 holes five players were used besides the player making the tee shot, and on par-4 holes four players were used besides the driver. On par-3 holes two players were used besides the player making the tee shot. On par-4 and -5 holes two players were stationed about 235 yards down the fairway, one on each side; the one nearest the ball after the drive was to play the second shot. On par-5 holes a player was stationed to play the third shot.

At every green two players were stationed, one to do the chipping if the green was missed, the other to do the putting. The player detailed to do the chipping around the green also had a putter with him and if the green wasn't missed he made the second putt (if there was one) then picked the ball out of the cup and tossed it to the next tee, where another player stood waiting to send the ball on its way. If the green was missed by the player making the second shot on par-4 holes, the third shot on par-5 holes, or by the player making the tee shot on par-3 holes, the player doing the chipping would rush to the hole after playing the chip shot, and take the ball out of the cup after it was tapped in by the player doing the putting and toss it to the next tee.

Speed First but Rules Mattered

As this relay was a speed contest everything that could be done to save time, and still play the game of golf as it should be played was done. The Public Links league carries three subs. They were placed about 100 yards in front of the tees so that if a ball off any tee was topped, it could be relayed to the player making the second shot. These subs followed the players making the tee shots. It so happened that there were no tee shots missed very badly.

A few of the players, after playing their shots on the first nine, had to be transferred by auto in order to reach their positions on the second nine in time.

This relay was tried twice one afternoon. The first round, which was in the nature of a practice round, took 17 min. 10 sec. The real show was put on soon after and my boys set a record of 15 min. 42 sec. with a score of 83.

The local papers gave us a lot of advance publicity when I told them what I

was going to do and as a result, a large gallery was on hand to witness the stunt. It was so greatly enjoyed by all that I am going to try it again for their benefit some time soon. I don't think we will be able to better our time, but I would like to break 80.

Dates Announced for District Meets with Green Section

JOHAN MONTIETH, jr., head of the USGA Green Section, will shortly begin his annual trek through the Midwest for the yearly series of get-togethers with greenkeepers, green-chairmen and others interested in turf and the work of the Section. Sites of these meetings, other than Chicago, have not been announced, but the schedule is as follows:

Cleveland district	Sept. 12
Cincinnati	“	“ 16
Chicago	“	“ 17
Indianapolis	“	“ 18
St. Louis	“	“ 20
Detroit	“	“ 24

Sessions will consist of inspection tours of experimental plots, discussions of recent advances in Green Section research and a round table period when the Green Section expert will counsel local greensmen on their individual turf problems.

The Chicago meeting will be held at Midwest Turf gardens on Albert Lasker's Mill Road Farm course, where maintenance of a number of important turf research projects are being financed.

Caliente Closing Relieves Pros of Ethical Problem

WHEN the Mexican government closed out gambling at Agua Caliente and the \$10,000,000 border resort suspended operations completely, a delicate problem was removed from the Yank pro stars' files. Agua Caliente was figuring on a \$30,000 Open next winter and inviting only 30 players.

Criticism of the Agua Caliente mutual gambling at its last open tournament probably would have prevented some of the tournament leaders from competing at Caliente this winter. Absence, with 30 grand awaiting takers, would have brought tears to the eyes of some boys willing to provide happy homes for even modest hunks of that 30 G.