

Today every worthwhile job is measured by a "yardstick" the notches of which have to be reached 100% before the product is as near perfect as brains, raw materials, equipment and money can make it. The "yardstick" used on every type of US golf ball checks:

- Distance
- Feel
- Click
- Durability
- Even thickness of cover
- Amalgamation of cover to wound center
- Rebound of finished ball from a hard even surface—such as marble or steel
- Getaway from club-head
- Paint adhesion
- Fine appearance of finished ball
- Equal diameter through the poles, at the equator, and at the shoulders of the ball
- Balance by mercury test

(A ball that meets the last two points must be true in flight and accurate in putting)

This sounds easy, but those who have to make good golf balls better know that it is a long row to hoe before the notches on this yardstick are met 100%; and they will tell you that of all the things made of rubber a golf ball is one of the most difficult to make, and once made right it is twice as difficult to keep it right in volume production.

Golf ball manufacturers do not try to make bad golf balls—they try very hard to make good ones; and when you consider what a golf ball has to take and absorb, it is reasonable to say that the ball makers do a pretty good job.

#### Barrows Given Patent Protection On New Type of Bent

**P**ATENTED putting green grass makes its debut with the issuance of a patent to Earle M. Barrows of Minneapolis, a former associate of Lyman Carrier in the bent nursery business.

There probably will be other putting green grasses patented although the gap of four years since the plant patent act was put into effect and issuance of the first patent on putting green grasses does not indicate a flood of applications.

Patent office awarded Barrows' claim as follows: "A distinct and new variety of *Agrostis stolonifera* as herein shown and described, characterized by its ability to produce a very large number of plants per given area, forming a tough and resilient turf of great density; its slender leaves



● Last year when we announced the new MacGregor-Tommy Armour line of golf clubs, we gave our word that their sale would be reserved exclusively for pros. We pledged ourselves to the strictest sales policy ever adopted by any golf club manufacturer.

To any who may have questioned our ability to live up to this pledge, we now proudly state that not one single MacGregor-Tommy Armour club has ever been sold by us to any one but a legitimate golf professional. Our record is clean! We have kept our promise!

We now face the season of 1936. The pledges we made last year we now renew 100%. The same high quality merchandise, the same broad profit margin, with absolute protection, are yours exclusively. We urge you to make next season a highly successful one with these clubs.

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DAYTON, OHIO

involute to conduplicate in form; its slender culms; its upright habit of growth in turf form; its freedom from tendency to become grainy or fluffy in turf form; its ability to withstand close mowing without injury; its high resistance to disease; its hardiness; its ease of vegetative reproduction."

Barrows gives some information on grass plant patents and his own experience. He comments:

"The act was passed as an amendment to the regular patent act, and carries the same rewards and penalties as the general patent law. Any plant that is vegetatively reproduced (grown by slips or cuttings) and is a new variety, can be patented, except those grown from bulbs or tubers. The patent gives an absolute monopoly to the discoverer or breeder of that particular plant or its progeny, for seventeen years from the date of patent issue.

"I discovered this plant twelve years ago I think it originated as a sport from another creeping bent I was experimenting with, but I am not sure. However, this was the first requirement that the plant was in my possession and under my con-

trol. Next in order was that the plant must never have been sold or have passed out of my control. I could meet this requirement also, as I knew for some years before the passage of the act that it was due to be passed eventually.

"Then came the work of preparing the actual patent application. The first necessity was an absolute botanical identification of the grass so that it could be positively distinguished any time and in any place. I got Prof. Alvin Larson of the University of Minnesota to help me on this. The first thing to do was to grow the grass alongside of the other standard varieties of bent such as Washington, Metropolitan and others, both in the putting green form and in the row or nursery form, and it had to be done more or less secretly. I kept it secret by simply calling the new grass velvet bent and letting it go at that. No one who saw it in the turf ever suspected that it was not a rather coarse velvet.

"After two seasons Prof. Larson was able to determine about twelve definite botanical characters wherein it was different. Now these botanical characters work like a parlay bet. To miss on positive identification would be like picking the winner

# P

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in twelve successive horse races. Just about one chance in a million. Some other grass might have three or four of these peculiar characteristics but to turn up with all twelve is almost impossible. In fact, an examination of all of the plant patents so far issued show that we have far the best identification of any plant patent yet issued.

"So much for the technical end of getting a patent. It explains perhaps why there are something like two million mechanical patents and in four years there have been issued less than two hundred plant patents.

"So to the practical end, there is not much sense in patenting bent that takes a botanist and a microscope to distinguish from some other bent. I am sure I can tell my bent at a glance. In fact it is harder to distinguish it from a velvet than from another creeping bent.

"In regard to protecting my rights: I do not anticipate much difficulty. The patent law makes the buyer equally liable with the seller. No golf club is likely to buy bootleg bent if they may have to pay twice for it, especially as in many cases punitive damages may be collected.

**J. H. WALTER, SEED MAGNATE,  
DIES IN MAINE**

North Bridgton, Me.—Julian Hazelhurst Walter, co-founder 39 years ago of Stumpp & Walter, seed and equipment merchants, died suddenly in late July at his summer home here.

He was a native of South Carolina and was active in Southern society, Masonic and religious organization work. He is survived by his widow and a daughter, Mrs. Willard Isaacs.

Since Mr. Walter formed, with George H. Stumpp, the Stumpp and Walter Co., the first year of Mr. Walter's residence in the New York district he has been a prominent figure in the golf maintenance field and had much to do with the construction and maintenance advisory work on many notable courses.

L. A. YOUNG CO., DETROIT, announces through E. E. Chapman, vice-president and gen. mgr., appointment of Paul Sage as manager of its Chicago branch. Effective January 1st. Until then, Charlie Christopher, who is well known and liked in the Chicago district, will hold down the job, later to become right hand man to Sage.

The appointment is a home-coming for Sage, who was born in Evanston, Illinois and has spent nearly all his lifetime around Chicago. He was the first Chicago

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