

MAKING *the* SWING

By
HERB GRAFFIS

THE GOLF NEWS IN BRIEF



PGA certainly had no alternative to its action in barring Bobby Locke from tournaments in which the pro association accepts responsibility as co-sponsors. . . Locke's failure to keep exhibition and tournament commitments in the U. S. made prior to his winning of the British Open was in flagrant violation of a policy the PGA must enforce or sacrifice status with sponsors which has accounted for considerable money in the pockets of Locke and other pros.

The PGA has been blasted by sponsors for inability to produce a complete array of gallery magnets. . . Inasmuch as it doesn't pay any salaries to guarantee appearances of stars, other than some guarantees for pre-tournament clinic performances, PGA has a delicate problem in assuring presence of all of the all-stars.

Locke didn't help his public relations any by passing up Inverness and the Western Open while announcing his intention to compete in George S. May's \$65,000 Gold Rush. . . "How hungry can he get?" was American golfing public reaction. . . May, bound by contract with PGA Tournament bureau, couldn't admit Locke to Tam O'Shanter competition.

Locke's failure to make good his commitment to appear in Western Open at St. Paul, celebrating WGA's 50th anniversary, was particularly puzzling. . . Locke had expressed to M. G. (Scotty) Fessenden most cordial endorsement of Western's operation of its Open for benefit of Evans caddy scholarship foundation. . . Fessenden, Western president and chmn., PGA Advisory board, had frequently and effectively championed Locke when the South African had been criticized as being the world's fastest man after a buck and had been the repeated, generous and warmly considerate host during Bobby's American visits.

It looks like Locke has performed an unsuccessful Caesarian on the goose that laid the golden egg. . . He always impressed us as being too canny a gentleman to make the blunders that has got him blacklisted by the PGA of America. . . He probably has a story to tell in his own behalf but it had better be good.

After preceding was written I telephoned Bobby at Dublin during the Irish Open and got for Chicago Sun-Times detailed statement from him. . . He doubts American PGA right to bar him, pointing out he is not a member and subject to their ruling. . . That, he stated, was settled by PGA refusing to allow him in 1949 PGA championship. . . Further, he questioned calling tournaments on the PGA circuit "open" tournaments unless they actually were open. . . He said Inverness and Western GA had been advised of alteration of his plans dictated by his business connections in England.

Locke further stated Associated Press in London promised to advise "Dutch" Harrison of alteration of Locke's plans for exhibitions with Harrison. . . Stars at St. Paul Western Open recited instances of Locke taking run-outs on exhibition dates they had arranged after verbal but definite agreements with him. . . They claimed he passed up exhibition dates after OKing them, when he later made connections with tournament appearance guarantees.

Exhibition dates, rather than tournament absences, seemed to be hottest spot of the Locke argument. . . Snead substituted for Locke as Metz' partner at Inverness. . . Snead-Metz finished third. . . Gallery revenue sure didn't slump with Snead pinch-hitting for Locke. . . Western Open gate at St. Paul seems likely to have by far biggest gate in the event's history. . . Apparently the customers weren't being driven away by Locke's non-appearance.

The Locke-out definitely indicates need of revision in PGA tournament player contract. . . Now, when a star doesn't appear at a tournament, contract calls for suspending him from following tournament or tournaments. . . That, in effect, may punish at the gate, promoters of the following tournaments for a case in which they were not involved. . . There could be stiffening of the exhibition deals which now are too casually regarded by some of the boys. . . Exhibition sponsors in Indiana and Ohio are burning at Locke after they advertised him, made arrangements and sold tickets.

Some pros are wondering what the Locke case may do to relations between PGA of America and British PGA. . . Locke suspension by PGA of America probably won't be of long duration. . . PGA hasn't announced term of suspension or how the PGA and Locke can get together and sing

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"Let Me Call You Sweetheart." . . . Locke said in Dublin-St. Paul conversation that all he knew about his suspension was what he read in the papers. . . . He claimed to have received no official word from PGA of America. . . . He said he had asked Cmdr. Roe, British PGA sec., to "make inquiry" regarding the basis of his suspension by the PGA of America.

Eastern golf writers, with Lawrence Robinson, N.Y. World-Telegram as sec., arranging a big testimonial dinner for Kerr Petrie who retires after 37 years as golf editor of N.Y. Herald-Tribune. . . . Petrie, Scotch-born, is one of the very best in writing golf. He's a great gentleman, beloved by those who have worked with him and whose activities he has covered. . . . Tickets for the dinner to be held at Park Sheraton hotel, N.Y. Aug. 17, are \$6. . . . "Sponsor's tickets" for this who won't be able to attend but who want to be in on the gift (probably an automobile) are \$6. . . . Checks should be mailed to Petrie Dinner committee, Park Sheraton hotel, New York 19.

Ineligibility of Dr. Cary Middlecoff for Ryder Cup team has PGA national and sectional officials thinking of careful reconsideration of pro association's membership basis. . . . The National Open champion was 7th in prize money last year with \$16,821.25 and through July 19, 1949, was second with \$20,024.57.

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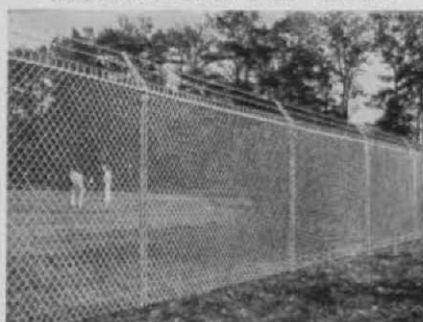
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Middlecoff's honorable action in passing up Walker Cup team trip in 1947 by advising USGA of his intention to turn pro, together with his performance as a pro, in golfing public opinion in U. S. and England, places Doc high among pros, regardless of PGA membership technicalities. . . Pros themselves have high regard for Middlecoff as a gentleman sportsman and player.

However, with established rules of eligibility PGA officials can't make hasty revisions and disbar the last man to qualify for Ryder Cup team by the prevailing point system. . . It's another case somewhat similar to PGA inability by its regulations to accept Lawson Little for membership after he'd won U. S. and British national amateur championships two consecutive years and the golfing public regarded him as a qualified candidate to compete in PGA's match play championship.

It's not fair to criticize PGA officials as freezing out quick rising stars such as Middlecoff and Little. . . The officials have to abide by eligibility rules that are based on the old apprentice conditions of bench clubmaking days. . . To adjust to different conditions and public opinion it looks like PGA eligibility, especially on tournament performances of American

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"Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark! It would be unthinkable. A Ryder Cup team without the champion golfer. Again it sounds impossible unless illness intervened," says Golf Illustrated of London about Middlecoff missing from the U. S. team.

Larry Montes, Filipino pro star who's played in U. S., Britain, France and Australia, says Japanese courses are tops for all-around excellence in upkeep. . . And Larry has no reason for unduly praising the Japs. . . Nor has Tino Tugot, who beat Von Nida and Montes in winning this year's Far East Open. . . Japs blew Tugot into the sea, then when he made shore batted him around for not "talking."

A big difference between R&A and USGA amateur-pro classifications now is that the R&A doesn't rate as a golf pro one whose duties include instruction in games in a recognized educational establishment while USGA definition says pro "includes faculty members or other employees of institutions of learning, regardless of how incidental the giving of golf instruction may be."

PGA annual meeting to be held at Mid Pines, Southern Pines, N.C., Nov. 28 thru Dec. 1.

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... Pinehurst and Southern Pines businessmen raised \$1000 to cover additional expense of bringing the delegates to the Sandhill region. . . North and South Open will be played at Pinehurst Nov. 1, 2, and 3, with a qualifying round Oct. 31.

Robert T. (Bob) Barnett, 52, long pro at Washington's Chevy Chase CC and Indian Creek CC, Miami Beach, Fla. in winter, died 24 hours after being stricken by a heart attack in the Chevy Chase clubhouse, July. . . Barnett was widely known as a fine instructor and gracious personality. . . He had much to do in earlier years of the PGA in establishing the organization on a flourishing basis.

Victory of Harvie Ward in 52d National Intercollegiate identifies the North Carolina youngster as about due for National Amateur title. . . He's been coming along fast against hot competition. . . Edward Lee Burke, candidate for 1970 National Open title, arrives at Woodbridge, Conn. where Pappy Ed is pro at the Country club. . . Edward Lee's first score card showed 6 lbs. 2 oz.

Major league baseball players' participation in public playground and parks baseball instruction program for kids tips off pro golf that a lot more pro tournament star player activity should be tied up with junior golf promotion program.

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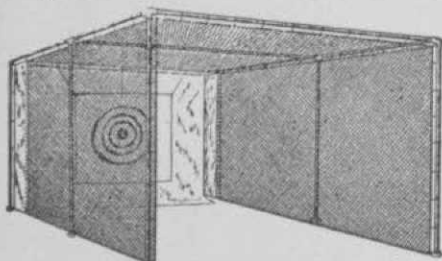
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... The kids are great hero worshippers. . . Patty Berg and Louise Suggs are far ahead of men pro stars in working in kid programs. . . Can't blame the men stars though while so few boys' golf instruction classes are conducted at public courses.

Marvin (Bud) Ward leaves amateur ranks to become pro at Meadowlark CC, Great Falls, Mont. . . . National Amateur winner in 1939 and 1941 and winner of Western Amateur in 1940, 1941 and 1947, Ward made a fine comeback in competitive golf after rugged war service. . . If he hadn't had 5s on all the par 3 holes of the National Open in 1939 he would have been easy winner. . . As it was he finished one shot back of tie for first place.

Ben Hogan's been in Southern California walking around a few holes and swinging a club but unable to play golf. . . His legs still are in bad condition from bus collision last winter. . . Chances of his return to competitive golf now seem dim. . . No word yet on what's to be done about suit against bus company. . . Driver of bus was fined in Texas court. . . Hogan plans to go to England with his wife as visitor to Ryder Cup matches.

Jack Ryerson, Cooperstown, N.Y., who used to be one of the star amateurs, has played 777 different golf courses. . . He

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intends to run the count past 1000. . . Jimmy Thompson playing a lot of exhibitions and school clinic dates. . . Frederick (Okla.) GC sells 52 acres to finance clubhouse. . . Austin (Tex.) CC breaks ground on its \$500,000 clubhouse and pool. . . Construction begins on new clubhouse for Leavenworth (Ks.) CC. . . Beloit (Ks.) CC in new clubhouse.

Kass Inn GC, near Walton, N.Y., opened. . . Louis Pedulla is pro. . . Bob Tucker now pro at San Angelo (Tex.) CC. . . Boston gets one of its infrequent looks at top tournament golf when Ryder Cup team plays team of star pro challengers headed by Byron Nelson at Belmont CC, Aug. 27-28. . . Originally it was intended to have Ryder Cup team warm up against team of star American amateurs who'd get some training for Walker Cup matches. . . Idea did not receive USGA cordial endorsement due to possibility of amateur travel expense. . . Net proceeds of that match were to be split for helping to defray expenses of U. S. Walker and Ryder Cup teams.

Pete Robbins, who's now working with his Pappy, Meat-cutting Tom Robbins, out of MacGregor's New York office, graduated from University of Wisconsin with high honors. . . Pete gets his scholastic brilliance from his mother's side of the

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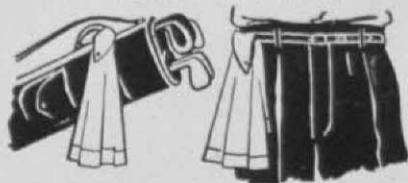
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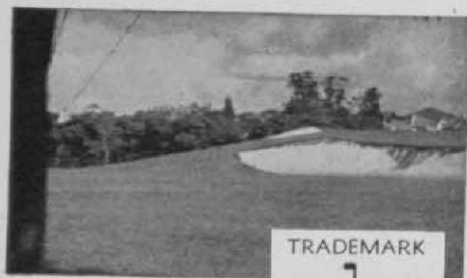
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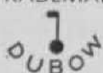
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family. . . That's what all of Tom's pals say, anyway. . . Some more pleasant family news is in report of Mrs. L. B. Icely's continued progress in recovering from a serious illness. . . She's home now and convalescing satisfactorily. . . Kitty used to star on radio. . . She acted a great role in winning the decision over her sickness.

Southeastern PGA to be played at East Lake CC, Atlanta, Ga., Harold Sargent, pro, Sept. 29-Oct. 2. . . 1950 Southeastern PGA invited to Black Rock CC, Atlanta, where George Thomas is pro. Byron Nelson's 60 in exhibition at Santa Rosa (Calif.) CC shows the farmhand still can whack 'em around, even though his cow-barn grip didn't do so well for him in the National Open.

Willie Hunter by plane back and forth to see the folks in Bonnie Scotland and to bat in the British Open for old time's sake. . . It's great to see how pros' boys and girls have made high school and college golf teams and won sectional events this year. . . Team of Johnny Revolta, Sr. and Jr. won Midlothian CC (Chicago dist.) pater-filius this year. . . This 46th event is oldest annual father-son tournament in the country. . . Bob Hope (Old Niblic Nose) flew to St. Paul to put on a broadcast ballyhooing Western Open.

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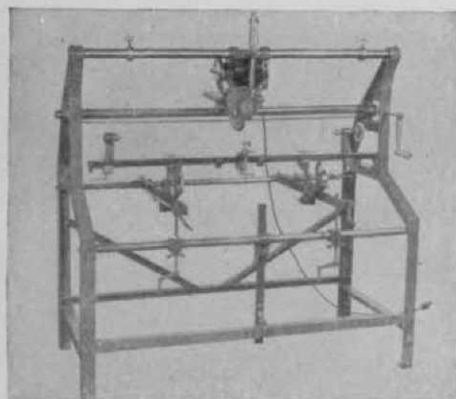
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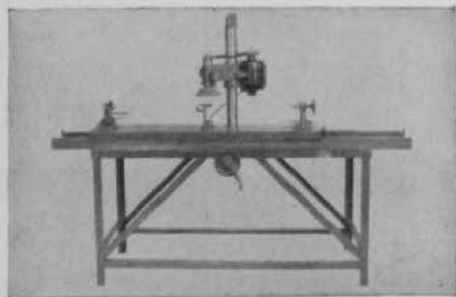
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Bee Bindery, Inc., 36 S. Throop St., Chicago, scoring with its binding customers with a booklet "Easy Cures for Your Ailing Golf," a compilation of pro advice received by a guy whose golf often is ailing, Herb Graffis. . . After Henry Cotton's remark in Sport and Country about 1948 British Open having more illegal clubs in use than U.S. Open the same year, some changes were made before this year's British Open.

Drought in northeast has been serious in effect on golf course maintenance. . . Courses using town water have been restricted to watering greens 3 times weekly. . . Watering job further toughened by breakdowns in old water systems, lower water tables which is requiring deeper wells. . . One course equipment dealer reports he's sold 2½ times more course hose so far this year than all during 1948. . . Only mildly favorable phase of drought reported is that it shows up weeds in dry fairways and rough and makes practical 2,4-D spot treatment.

Gus Cuccinello now pro at Island Hills CC, Sayville, N. Y. . . Jake Nowlin named gr., new Athex (Tex.) CC. . . Bill Kozak, former Ontario amateur, named pro at Niagara Frontier CC, Niagara Falls, N. Y. . . Sunnyside CC in \$100,000 clubhouse and new pool program. . . Lake Herman Recre-

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ation Assn., Madison, S. Dak., completing course and clubhouse rehabilitation. . . . Club succeeds old Madison GC.

W. A. (Lefty) Stackhouse who contributes good laughs and good business ideas to pro golf, now is at Cara Blanca CC, Laredo, Tex. . . . Laugh was turned onto Lefty by a member, Dr. Tangora, who'd taken lessons from Lefty then shot a one-over par 73. . . . The Doc assembled a Mexican string band which serenaded Lefty at 1:30 A.M. following Doc's historic round. . . . Cara Blanca club has 1100 acres. . . . It's building a fine course, putting in two pro shops for Lefty and building a lake 7 x 1½ miles in area. . . . The club is part of a plan to make Laredo main gateway for business and tourist travel to Mexico. . . . Lefty will be an asset in that campaign. . . . In his 22 years in pro golf he's demonstrated Texas hospitality is good business as well as fun.

El Golfista Mexicano, July issue, dedicated to Ben Hogan. . . . Edmundo Salas is doing a great job of golf education and promotion in Mexico with his publication. . . . The going must be tough for the ambitious young man conducting his pioneering venture. . . . Agua Caliente course just over the California border, to put 9 holes back into play. . . . That was site of one of the first big purse tournaments. . . . Sarazen won first money.

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Lot of talk among pros about possible market for kid beginners' sets of a wood between brassie and spoon, 2 and 5 iron, a wedge for approaches and traps, and a putter. . . Many believe they could sell plenty such sets for smaller but fast growing school kids. . . Pros now cut down clubs for class instruction for smaller kids.

Plans for course and clubhouse of Virginia Beach G&CC, Norfolk, Va., completed. . . Proposed plant to cost about \$185,000. . . F. J. Jeffery, head of agriculture dept., Sydney (NSW) Technical college, inquiring about U.S. course maintenance and turf research to apply to New South Wales courses. . . National Assn. of Lefthanded Golfers, sec.-treas. Robt. Romberger, 2555 Berdan Ave., Toledo, O., wants used lefthanded clubs to pass along to fellows in veterans' hospitals.

Honor Caddy Day, Aug. 15, sees 15 top caddies of each Chicago district club getting passes for Cub-Cardinal ball game. . . Charles McMurray succeeds his brother John as Panama National Amateur champion. . . Charles, who learned his golf in Panama, defeated Jack Hutchings, 1 up in 36 hole final at Brazos Brook CC. . . Hutchings is pres., Summit Hills CC. . . Golf is booming at the isthmus.

George S. May in Tam O'Shanter CC News, next issue after reporting members'

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infracton of rules detailed complaints he had investigated and found valid. . . Some of them were "The Shirt's" own complaints. . . Ardmore (Okla.) Optimist club takes over operation of Sunset Hill course. . . Nevada (Mo.) CC opens new clubhouse.

Howard Reese, for 10 years asst. to Paul Scott at Los Angeles muni courses commended for handling his new job at Iowa State College course, Ames, Ia., during National Collegiate. . . Caracas (Venezuela) CC joins Western GA as member farthest south. . . Reggie Myles, Jr., son of veteran pro, wins Michigan Junior championship.

Red Run GC probable host to 1950 Motor City Open. . . Bob Lyon, Burbank golf writer, engaged to handle publicity for Southern California PGA. . . Southern California section says National Credit Bureau states this section has best credit rating of all PGA sections. . . As usual, year book of Westmoreland CC (Chicago dist.) is one of handiest and most complete any member of any club could desire. . . Mgr. Tom Ream who compiled the book is entitled to plaudits for the job.

USGA after its first experiment with gallery stands at a National Open says the experiment at Medinah probably will not be repeated. . . Too much interference with play. . . USGA found at Medinah that re-

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pairing ball shot holes on greens AFTER each pairing had completed putting "seems justified." . . . Previously the USGA allowed repairs prior to putting.

Selwyn Orcutt, director of Monroe (N.C.) Recreation dept. which is conducting a junior golf program at Monroe CC, claims his 2 year old son Alan is "National Diaper champion." . . . When Alan was 21 months old he hit a golf ball 75 ft. and connected with the ball nine out of 10 swings. . . Joe Dudad of Buffalo who caddied for Ben Hogan when Ben won the 1948 Western Open, recently won a Western GA Evans scholarship. . . Joe, a Brookfield CC caddy, starts in pre-med study at Niagara U. this fall. . . Western GA will have nearly 50 on Evans scholarship at 18 universities next semester.

E. W. (Pop) Harbert comes out of retirement to become pro at Bobby Jones GC, Sarasota, Fla. . . Jenny Beeman, mgr., Shuttle Meadow CC, New Britain, Conn., on European vacation. . . John Duncan Dunn writing some fine instruction stuff in Los Angeles Athletic club magazine, Mercury. . . The lively veteran is instructing at the club. . . Willie Hunter, pro at LAC's Riviera CC, writing "Riviera Re-Views" in same magazine. . . Willie says of Middlecoff: "He is a finished player and at the best golfing age of 28 should be outstanding for many years."

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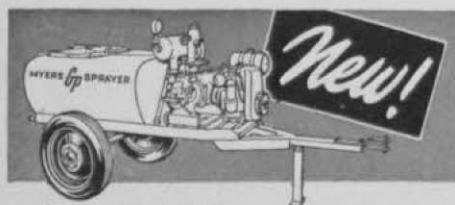
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LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

Texas team of all-star amateurs beats Texas all-star pro team, 10 and 8 in annual match. . . Pros were shy Nelson, Hogan and Ray Hill. . . Amateurs also were shy a couple of their stars, Martin and McCreary. . . Northwest Pacific Coast golfers beat Southern California amateurs 9 and 3 in Morse Cup matches at Seattle GC. . . Veterans Jack Westland and Harry Givan of the Northwest squad scored upset over Bruce McCormick and Johnny Dawson, Walker Cuppers.

Charles Boswell, former U. of Alabama back, blinded in the war, won National Blind Golfers' 1949 championship at Plymouth CC (Philadelphia div.). . . This is Charley's third victory in five championships. . . Field was 18.

Minikahda 50th Anniversary Honors C. T. Jaffray

Minikahda Club, Minneapolis, in celebrating its 50th anniversary is particularly honoring C. T. Jaffray, its only living founder. Jaffray, H. C. Mackall, Harrison R. Johnson and Totten P. Heffelfinger have been members of the USGA Executive committee; Heffelfinger now being USGA senior VP. Minikahda has had 5 members as Western GA vps. Four of the club's members have been Trans-Mississippi



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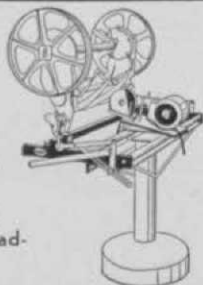
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