

Team of Taylors Give Club Balanced Service

By BETTY BURTON

The team of Willie and Dena Taylor, pro and assistant to the pro at the Rehoboth Beach (Del.) GC, is unique in that Dena not only gives a friendly welcome atmosphere to the pro shop, but when the bags pile up with clubs to be cleaned and Willie, pro-greenkeeper, is out of the shop she dons a large work apron and cleans the clubs at the buffing wheel. She is only 5 feet 2 inches tall but she is strong and gives those clubs thorough, expert treatment.

While at the wheel the 'phone rang and she said: "That's the way it goes. I just get started and then—" She moved quickly over to the phone and said in her soft well-modulated voice: "Pro Shop. No, Mr. Taylor is not here, he has gone to get the new golf score cards." There is a slight burr in her voice although not as pronounced as Willie's. Both were born in Scotland, on opposite coasts, but did not know each other until they came to the states where mutual friends in Baltimore introduced them. They have been married about 20 years and before coming to Rehoboth Beach 6 years ago were stationed at Scranton, Pa. They have no children.

Dena likes to play golf but does not neglect the work in the shop to improve her game. The little shop is far too small to satisfactorily display the supplies

but ingenious Dena every few days dusts and rearranges things so the customers may have a chance to see the variety of things on hand. Golf equipment predominates but a small section is also devoted to tennis requirements.

Willie returned to the pro shop without the score cards. The printer had not finished them. The nine hole course has two sets of tee plates and has recently been measured for accurate distances. Willie took over at the buffing wheel and, while tying on the apron he took from Dena, pointed to a score sheet on the wall and said: "Mrs. Beebee made a hole-in-one yesterday." Then added proudly, "She had two lessons and has only been playing three weeks. It was on the fifth hole of 135 yards and she used a 5 iron." A member asked him how do you make a hole-in-one? Willie laughed with his eyes twinkling through his glasses. "I really don't know. I've been playing all my life and never made one."

Willie thinks individual lessons are best. Being thorough like he is in all things said: "You can give better service while teaching just one." When he came to Rehoboth Beach Club the women members showed no special interest in golf, they were occupied with Red Cross work, but he got them organized and now Tuesday is Ladies' Day with about 20 regular



The team of Dena and Willie Taylor makes double duty of course and pro shop management a smooth operation. The ease with which Dena takes over in running the pro shop gives members complete service when its necessary for Willie to devote time to course maintenance.

members. The men did not need that encouragement.

Sells to the Wives

It was Monday morning when we interviewed Dena while she was occupied with signing up players, arranging for caddies and carts, but she stopped to sell a cap to a gentleman player and with an eye to business took a blue duck hat out of the case and handed it to his wife saying: "This will look well with your blue dress." The woman tried it on, looked in the long mirror and apparently pleased with the effect, took it.

"We have a new supply of balls, do you need some?" Dena asked. The man bought three. The phone rang. Someone wanted a boy to shag balls. None was available. She called out the window to a colored boy, "Maury, here are some shoes to be cleaned." Shortly a couple of white boys about 16 years old appeared at the door and wanted to caddy. They had not caddied before but were big strong boys and she told them when a regular caddy came in she would let them go out on a job with him. She told them to sit under the trees and she would call them. To us, "There are not so many jobs around town now so the boys are turning to caddying. The money is not so plentiful nowdays."

The iceman then came to put ice in the cold drinks stand and she said, "Excuse me, he won't wait." More members came in for attention. She greeted them courteously and seemed to sense what they wanted. There are shuffleboards and tennis courts too with supplies to be sold and after a moment's rest she said: "Monday is supposed to be an easy day but we are busy all the time and I do not get to do the work at the desk until late, sometimes we are here until dark." She handles each situation with patience. She modestly said: "Mr. Taylor is more patient in some things than I am and so we balance each other."

Flowers Brighten Shop

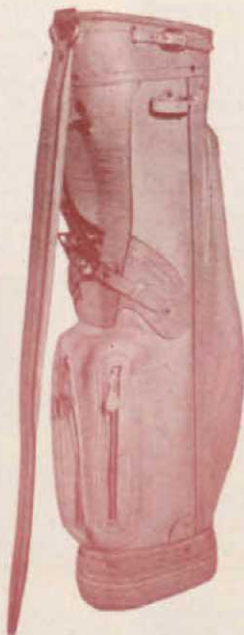
Dena keeps the shop in order and daily brings flowers from her garden to brighten it up. Their white frame house is located on the edge of the course near the third tee, and after the morning rush is over she walks down the lane to get her lunch and prepare Willie's which she brings to the shop.

Willie is distressed now about the greens. The intense heat and the salt air are hard on the grass. He gets up at 5:30 A.M. to water them. He uses a Worthington tractor and has several colored men to help him on the course, but is busy from morning until night.

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While Dena was arranging for a couple of carts for players we asked Willie if she helped him in selecting the merchandise. "Help? She does it. Selects all the merchandise except clubs and balls. I select the clubs and balls." And the records? we asked. "The books? She does all that too. Works on them at night. The green fees we collect we turn in to the clubhouse."

Another morning when Willie was asked if Dena was in, he replied in Scottish terms, "We try to spell each other off. But she'll be back." We met her later on the boardwalk looking wistfully out at the ocean. "Wish I could get in that ocean but I have to get the groceries now and then relieve Mr. Taylor." She stopped long enough for a cigarette. Queried about what she had done before assisting Willie in the shop she said seriously: "A Scotsman does not like his wife to work. Wants her to stay at home, but during the war I began to work in the shop."

It is evident that she likes the work and is a valuable assistant with a personal interest in the success of her husband. There is a friendly understanding existing between them. She calls herself the "silent partner." Although Willie is the only golf instructor in this team, Dena's worth is easily recognized in the smooth running of the shop. "She is a lovely lady," one member said. "Yes, definitely an asset to the club," others agreed.

New Experiments and Equipment Shown at Philadelphia Turf Field Day

More than 100 turf men attended the annual Turf Field Day, Aug. 2, sponsored by the Philadelphia Agricultural Extension Service. Assembled course supts. generally conceded 1949 to be a tough year for turf with many veterans avowing it

the worst year on turf since 1928. First there was drought, then heat in late June with extreme hot weather in July and August. Turf can be held in hot spells but this year it lost out to the excessive humidity. Charlie Hallowell, Philadelphia County Agent, led the on-the-spot discussions of the field work. The group assembled first at the Philadelphia CC Spring Mill Course to see the fungicide plots done by Bob Means, under the direction of Dr. H. W. Thurston, Pathologist of Penn. State College of Agriculture. He pointed out the results to date of ten different fungicides applied three times at four week intervals. Two new fungicides show exceptional promise.

The group studied new crabgrass control plots laid out the past May, by John Stanford, under the direction of H. B. Musser, Agronomist of Penn. State. Musser explained the work and answered many questions about this work. Again it was too early to report results, but eight pints of PMAS per acre were holding crabgrass back.

A specialized implement for golf course maintenance, soon to be introduced generally, was demonstrated at the Philadelphia meeting. The new implement was the Link Mole Drain Assembly which fits into the Aerifier frame. As the implement is pulled forward, two steel "bullets" make parallel inch diameter drain channels beneath the surface. The channels are eighteen inches apart; depth is adjustable from three to eleven inches. The narrow slit made by the colter is the only mark left upon the surface. Many superintendents could see a place for the mole drain on wet areas of their own golf courses.

Marshall Farnham, Supt. of Philadelphia CC, had outstanding plots of U-3 bermuda and B-27 Kentucky bluegrass. Turf from the nursery had been moved to several tees. Details of making the transition were explained by Marshall Farnham and Tom Mascaro. Farnham



Group attending Phila. Turf Field Day studied new crabgrass control plots laid out in May by John Stanford under direction of H. B. Musser, Penn State College agronomist. Although too early to report final results, it was noted eight pints of PMAS per acre was giving effective control.