

remember Sam would always say, "Boy, when you miss one (meaning hitting it on the heel or toe of the club), you really miss it bad." And he was right!

I never thought much about this statement of Sam's until years later when playing the tournament circuit.

At this time, Ben Hogan impressed upon me the importance of good body action to control the ball better. I remember while playing at the Phoenix CC with Ben, Lew Worsham and Jimmy Demaret, Hogan explained this to me. He expressed the idea that if my body had control of the swing I wouldn't be in the bushes so much. With this thought in mind, I headed for the practice fairway and after just about wearing myself out, I finally gave up. No apparent result.

A couple of weeks later we were practicing for the Texas Open and I noticed Byron Nelson coming down to practice so I waved my caddy in and went right over to watch Lord Byron.

I didn't watch the ball but kept my eyes on his body action. I noticed that his left heel stayed down throughout his swing. He braced his right leg before he started the backswing. His backswing started with the left shoulder and left arm and his downswing started with his left hip.

When he stopped to rest, I questioned him on this action and he brought out the thought that when he missed a shot he wanted to make sure it still went straight, so he tried to set the body in control of the swing.

After watching Nelson practice I finally realized what Ben Hogan had been trying to get into this thick head of mine: How to use my body to control the club in order to hit the ball anywhere on the club face and still hit it straight.

#### **Teaching the Large Muscles**

In teaching I work with the large muscles so that they will blend through the hands to the club.

To illustrate, bring the club up in front of you with the hands or wrists and have some one push down on it. You will see that they can push the club down with their fingers. So we find that if the club is controlled by wrists or hands only we are going to hit plenty of wild shots.

Now bring the club up again; only this time do it with the shoulders and arms. In this way you set large muscles in control and you will find that you can hold the club in a solid position and anyone pushing down on it with their fingers will not bother the control.

If we use good body action the weight of the ball hitting on the heel or toe will not deviate the action of the club.

As Hogan said on television a short time ago. "Stop worrying about your hands and wrists and concentrate more on body action for control."

Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson, who are the most consistent players I have ever watched, use many of the same basic fundamentals of body control, although Hogan's arc of swing is flat and Nelson's is upright.

They both brace the right leg to set up a strong foundation. The left shoulder and arm push the hands back in order to have a full arc. The left heel stays down so that they can get a full stretch out of the left side and also have an anchor point. In this way they will not sway too much and when they start the left hip down it pulls the arms and hands down and through the ball. In doing this, they keep from hitting from the top of the swing. This action gives them a full arc and wonderful control.

#### **Begin Census of Golfers In United States**

"How many men, women and junior golfers are there in the United States today?"

The answer to this question is being sought this month through the annual Golf Census of the National Golf Foundation, Inc. The more than 5,000 golf courses in the country will be circularized for this information. Rex McMorris, Foundation director says:

"The interest in the game by the press, radio and television has multiplied the demands for facts on golf in America today.

"This increased interest is directly reflected in the tremendously accelerated activity in golf facility construction all over the country. In the past eighteen months alone, 80 new golf courses have been opened for play. As of July 1st, 1954, there are 192 golf courses under construction and an additional 357 are in some stage of planning.

"We want to know how many golfers there are and where they are, in order that the Foundation may pin-point its program of services in the development of golf and golf facilities where they are most urgently needed."

McMorris pointed out that present statistics on golf activity have been rendered obsolete during the past year by the recent increased interest in the game.