



Construction students are checked out on the transit. Bill Mitchell is at right.

# Mitchell's School of Construction

*A New Hampshire Architect  
Instructs His Employees in  
the Art of Course Building*

By IRWIN N. ROSEE

**G**OLF, like most all other industries, has been hampered in recent years by a shortage of men who are qualified to handle various technical jobs connected with the game. Probably highest on the list of technicians most desperately needed are construction supts. There simply aren't nearly enough experts of this kind to go around.

Bill Mitchell, a course architect who has headquarters in North Sutton, N.H., did something last winter, though, about remedying this situation by setting up a school to teach men how to translate blueprints into golf courses. He took 18 of his more experienced employees, fellows who had been trained to some extent in different golf construction and maintenance projects, and taught them everything he and his brother, Sam, know about building courses.

The academic sessions were held in the local public high school while the practical aspects of construction were taught at the Mitchell Brothers' farm where, it is claimed, the world's largest stretch of green turf is located. The North Sutton curriculum was made up of these subjects:

- The Game of Golf
- Plans and Their Interpretations
- Fundamentals of Surveying
- Heavy Equipment Usage
- Watering Systems — Installation and Use
- Drainage Theories and Installations
- Use of Wheeled Tractor for Finishing Work
- Grass and Seed Identification
- Fertilizer Mixtures and Effects
- Sod and Turf Development
- New Course Maintenance
- Cost Record Keeping
- Principles of Architecture



Seed identification proves to be a fascinating subject for this advanced class.



Theory of grasses is subject taught by Sam Mitchell.

## The Long Purse

By LEO FESER

'Twas back in the days before the car.  
On this occasion we traveled far  
By train. And passing by a field of  
green

We saw those folks. I'd never seen  
Full grown men with pants like mine.  
(Boys then wore knickers at age of nine.)  
They carried with them bags of sticks;  
They struck at a ball with mighty licks.  
Wondering what they were trying to  
play,

I asked my father. He turned to say:  
"They call it golf. Yes, that's the name.  
For people of wealth. A Rich Man's  
Game."

Much grass has been grown and cut  
away  
Since that very eventful day.  
A life of slices, shanks and hooks,

*Being owner, pro, supt. and just about everything else at the Orono GC in Wayzata, Minn., Leo Feser doesn't get much time to devote to writing poetry. But after catching the tempo of Leo's masterful work, you'll probably agree that what was golf's gain was literature's loss.*

Games with masters, men and crooks;  
Millions have shouted the cry of "Fore!"  
These were followed by millions more —  
Lawyers, bakers, bankers, clerks,  
Preachers, teachers, wise men, jerks,  
Stenos, spinsters, scholars, maids —  
All joined the golfing cavalcades.  
Seeking fun or seeking fame,  
Playing at the Rich Man's Game.

Play deigned for men of wealth  
Played by those in search of health  
Made rich in life by courting par.  
The little sphere goes sailing far  
Toward verdant green. The putter  
flicks —

Elation! In the cup it clicks!  
Value that will outweigh gold  
Gained by chipping firm and bold.  
Wealth of Croesus? Golfing score  
Less than that one made before.  
Truly, it remains the same —  
Golf is still a Rich Man's Game!

Bill Mitchell is not hoarding the men he has trained. Some of them are available to serve as construction supervisors or consultants regardless of where a course may be abuilding. Before last year, the North Sutton architect trained only one or two men at time. At various times, these expert course builders were dispatched to locations far removed from New Hampshire to either supervise jobs or serve as troubleshooters. Mitchell recalls with a great deal of pride how one of his supervisors once saved a country club several thousand dollars by questioning an architect's blueprints. It turned out that the plans had been drawn to two scales, a fact that was brought out after the first green had been constructed. A quick conference with the architect uncovered the error; the plans were redrawn and from that point everything proceeded without a hitch.

This is not an isolated case, either. On several occasions superintendents trained at the North Sutton school have recommended changes in grass and fertilizer specifications that have resulted in great-

ly improved turf, or made suggestions as to drainage and contouring that have saved hundreds and perhaps thousands of dollars.

Present plans call for the Mitchell brothers to continue with their winter construction school and perhaps enlarge it if conditions warrant. Like many architects, they feel that course building will never reach its true potential until enough men are trained to grasp and apply the things the architect is trying to put into a course.

### Back to Palm Beach

The 1958 national Mixed Foursome Two-Ball amateur championship will return to its traditional Palm Beach locale where it will be played at the Tequesta CC, Jupiter, Feb. 11-15, according to John E. McAuliffe, tournament chmn. For years, previous to 1957, the event was played at the Everglades Club in Palm Beach. Golfers from U. S., Mexico, Canada and Cuba will be shooting for the title won in 1957 by Jack Penrose, Miami Beach, and Ann Richardson, Columbus, O.