

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.