

Feast or Famine in West

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a cost of \$21,000) a distance of 180 miles to plant on Four Hills."

The irony of Las Vegas is that while its thirty acres soak up so much water there is so little of it. The plush desert spa's annual rainfall is only 4.35 inches. Baldock built an 18-hole Par 3 course for the Hacienda Motel. There were water rights available for only nine holes. The other nine holes must remain unirrigated.

Lucky In Water Supply

Sometimes, Nevada water is not so hard to come by. Winnemucca's 9-hole city owned course gets water for the pumping, thanks to a reservoir built some years ago by the Southern Pacific Railroad. It was intended to quench the thirst of the road's steam engines. The switch to Diesels made the pond a liability.

In Carson City, Nev., the last state capital in the union to get a golf course, a nearby rancher had a deep well and a water surplus.

Fallon (Nev.) Soparovan ("meeting place of the tribes") course has a steady supply, pumped out of the Carson River.

Perhaps the extreme in lack of and surplus of water are to be found in Turlock, Calif., and Flagstaff, Ariz.

"In Turlock," says Baldock, "we had to put in a pump to lower the water table; otherwise it was too muddy underfoot."

"For Flagstaff's Coconino CC (at 7,500 feet the highest 18 hole course in the country), two lines were needed, one for drinking water, the other for irrigation. In such short supply, it was a case of using processed sewerage water, distributed from a reservoir built on the first 9 — or no golf course."

Limit on Trade-Ins

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pression that he is buying inferior goods which sometimes is the result if you put the sale to him on "take it or leave it" basis. Every club we re-sell is, of course, cleaned and completely reconditioned.

I feel that every pro should try to set a limit on the amount of time trade-in clubs are kept on hand. In my case, I try to keep it to two weeks or less. But even though I have my profits from the sale of a new set of clubs tied up in the return set, and although I may theoretically be paying interest on money I have

not yet realized, I still try to refrain from selling the used clubs at a figure lower than the one I allowed for them. In fact, I expect to realize a profit on the trade-in clubs to cover my expenses in handling and re-conditioning them.

I think this latter point is important. Too many pros, according to what I have seen and heard, regard trade-ins as something to get rid of as quickly as possible, and in doing so, sell them at ridiculously low prices. It should always be kept in mind that a loss on used clubs reduces the gross profit on the new clubs that were sold when trade-ins were taken in.

Book Review

Better Golf Through Better Practice. Jules Platte and Herb Graffis, Prentice-Hall, Inc., 70 5th ave., New York 11.

This book is the outgrowth of a bull session involving a group of pros. It was agreed that even though golf instruction has evolved into something of a science, nobody has been able to go beyond the teaching of the mechanics of the swing to transmit the true feel to the student golfer. The feel, it was decided, can only be acquired through practice. This led to the statement, "Rare is the golfer who knows anything at all about how to practice," and from it, the book which Jules Platte has written in conjunction with Herb Graffis, editor of *GOLFDOM* and *GOLFING*.

The Platte-Graffis opus is the first ever written on the subject of practice.

Platte, summertime pro at Knollwood in Lake Forest, Ill., and wintertime master at Sundown in Scottsdale, Ariz., apparently is convinced the golfer will never get a grip on his game until he learns to grip the club. He thinks a faulty grip causes more than 50 per cent of those errant shots and a considerable chapter is devoted to getting it straightened out.

A history of practice is woven through the volume. Practically every chapter offers practice checkpoints that are emphasized by being set in bold face. Platte points out, by the way, that you don't necessarily have to go to a course to practice, but can do it at home.

There are a number of sage pieces of advice sprinkled through the book. One is to concentrate on only one thing (not club) at a time; another is to practice only when you're alert and have definite objectives in mind.