

# How 2 Palm Springs Clubs Run Their Golf Car Operations

By **HERB GRAFFIS**

**P**ALM SPRINGS clubs have to be ahead of up-to-date in golf car operation and maintenance.

There are very few caddies in the desert area. Many golfers are recovering from heart attacks or are suffering from the physical penalties of high pressure living. Then there are very hot days when, without golf car transportation, 18 holes might be risky for a man or woman who isn't in good condition.

Course design and maintenance around Palm Springs now must consider wheels as well as legs. Green design that brings traffic on and off the putting surface in about the same general pattern gives the supt. problems that can only be solved by alteration of the course.

There isn't a lot of severe terrain around Palm Springs to strain equipment although at the undulating Bermuda Dunes course there is one 60-ft. quick rise to a tee.

## Fine Setup at Eldorado

The de luxe new Eldorado CC, where the Ryder Cup matches were played,

probably has the fanciest golf car setup of any club in the world. Jimmy Hines and Johnny Dawson had a great deal of experience with golf car operation at clubs with which they had been associated prior to their collaboration at Eldorado.

Cars at Eldorado are stored, charged and maintained in the large, well lit and thoroughly equipped garage in the basement of the clubhouse. The garage is on one side of a large underground golf car parking area. On the other side of this area is a snack bar where golfers can get sandwiches and beverages between the 9th green and 10th tee.

The underground quarters for cars at Eldorado is 150 ft. long and 50 ft. wide. When a car is ordered an intercom system notifies an attendant at the bag storage room who gets out the required bags and puts them in the car. A caddie drives the car to the players at the first tee.

## Automatic Charging System

Eldorado has 50 electric cars for which \$7.50 rental is charged for 18 holes. It stores and services 50 double electric cars owned by members. The charge is \$20 a month during the active season and \$10 a month for dead storage in the summer. There also are 12 privately-owned single cars stored and maintained.

Len Reinhart, an experienced automobile mechanic, is in charge of the Eldo-

*(Continued on page 146)*

## Bermuda Dunes Country Club ELECTRIC GOLF CART CHARGES

CART NO. ....

Date .....

For and in consideration of the rental of the above Electric Golf Cart to me I promise and agree to return the said Golf Cart immediately following the completion of eighteen holes of play in as good condition as I received same, normal wear being excepted.

I promise and agree to pay for any damages that are sustained to the said Golf Cart while the same is in my possession.

I promise and further agree to hold Bermuda Dunes "Country Club and Desert Bermuda Development Co. free and harmless from any damage of claims of any nature whatsoever that may arise from or through my use of said Golf Cart.

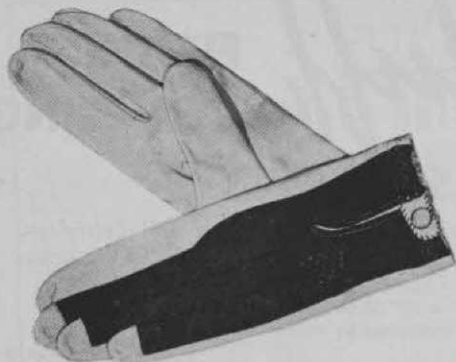
I represent that I am familiar with the operation and use of said Golf Cart and that I have read the instructions and that I can operate and control the same in accordance with said instructions.

Signed .....

CASH  FEE CHARGE

No.

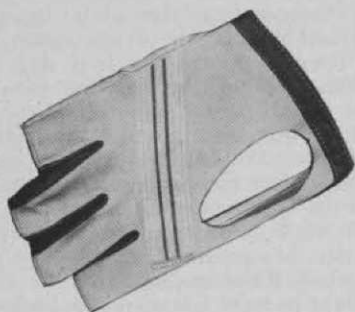
\$.....



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## How Palm Springs Clubs Run Car Operation

(Continued from page 58)

rado car garage. Reinhart and the Mullenbach company of Los Angeles devised an all-automatic charging system for the garage. The installation has 75 charging outlets. Twenty-five cars in a row can be charged.

The automatic charging system has eliminated a lot of trouble often experienced in car operation. Reinhart says: "When a car is brought in we don't know how far it has gone. So we must care for unknown and possibly widely varying charging requirements.

"The automatic system Mullenbach made for us has minimized our charging problems and expense. One interesting and valuable feature of the installation is a time clock arrangement that gives the cars a booster charge in the morning."

### Inspection Schedule

A strict schedule of inspection and service is maintained at Eldorado. Cars are thoroughly cleaned, tires are inspected, brushes and lubrication checked and any reports of malfunctioning are attended to promptly after the cars come in from the course.

Bermuda Dunes has the largest golf car fleet of any of the Desert courses. There are 100 electric cars in the Bermuda shed which is on the first tee level and below the pro shop elevation.

The cars are stored in a redwood shed that borders a large courtyard.

### Careless Driver Rebuked

The standard of car operation at the Desert courses possibly is a bit higher than that at most other private or resort courses. Because of the heavy traffic, the careless driver is quickly and bluntly rebuked.

The agreement that the car renter signs at Bermuda Dunes is considered a most practical and fair deal between a club and a person who rents a car. The agreement is printed on a numbered slip. The renter keeps the duplicate, a copy of which is shown on page 58.

### Nelson Heads Kansas Turf

Duane Nelson of MacPherson has succeeded Tom Andrews as pres. of Kansas Turfgrass Assn. Duane Tritt of Pratt is vp, and Robert E. Lester, Wichita, secy-treas. Directors are Joe Holub, Ed Nelson and L. F. Lambert.