



**Construction, architectural ideas,
a long time in the making, can bring
real savings in course management**

By BOB DUNNING

WITH THE acceptance of the "sandy mixture" for putting greens it becomes possible to combine proved construction methods with architectural design of putting surfaces, irrigation and engineering. Through this, nearly every golf course can reduce its overall maintenance costs by 30 to 40 per cent.

This is not a new or revolutionary idea but one that has been more than 10 years in the making. It has involved the combined efforts of the best thinking in soils, construction methods, drainage, putting green, and in particular putting surface design. But even all of these advancements have not been enough.

During the same period manufacturers have improved irrigation equipment, engineering and design. Semi-and fully-automatic sprinkling systems have become a reality. Now, for the first time, golf is offered a full package deal. It is something really new that can reduce costs and labor time, result in better playing conditions, more disease resistance and wear-free greens.

A summary of the requirements to obtain these advantages are:

1. Proper Soil — Use proved methods or laboratory testing of materials and mixtures for developing topsoil for putting greens. Follow specifications closely. The soil will have very rapid infiltration, absorption and percolation of moisture, with enough water holding capacity to sustain plant life.

2. Construction — Construction methods, published and available, will insure internal and lateral drainage, as well as

FULL PACKAGE DEAL FOR IMPROVED MAINTENANCE

(L) Bob Dunning pores over course contour charts.

that of diffusion with disposal of all water over field capacity.

3. Design and Principles of Contouring Greens — Design will insure surface drainage in many directions and not in just "several or two or three directions." Surface water will escape from the green to the nearest outlet on all sides or in every direction. It will be carried only a short distance to the nearest outlet at the perimeter of the green. Methods of construction and principles of contouring greens have been published and are available, including multiple pin positions or cup cutting areas to save greens by preventing wear and tear. This combination, including location, will cover drainage in five phases: surface, internal, lateral, by diffusion and by air.

Irrigation Design and Engineering — By having the necessary phases of soil mixture, construction methods and design, it is now possible to combine fully automatic multiple sprinkler systems to obtain the ultimate in maintenance efficiency that was previously impossible. It will save the U. S. courses millions of dollars in maintenance when proper construction in all phases is combined with automatic sprinkling systems. A three to four hour watering job is completed in 15 minutes.

Watering is the greatest labor cost on the course. What do you get in return? Now this loss can be channeled to productive activities. A course never needs to be closed because the greens are too wet.

Golf courses have never had the opportunities that now are offered. Certainly the objective of our older courses should be toward more efficient management by making use of the many advancements developed in recent years.

Penick's Teaching Is A Hit

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There were more applicants for the course than could be admitted.

She emphasized that the job of fitting women's clubs is tremendously important and that pros must be losing considerable club business by not making women aware of this factor.

Don January told of starting in golf by caddying for his father, then getting into fast amateur competition around Dallas and being tutored by Dallas pros before he decided to turn pro himself. He said that the great lessons circuit pros get are from fellow performers. He said Gary Player gave him valuable assistance by

telling him to look at the ball and not around it so as to stay over it longer.

Palmer's Secrets

Arnold Palmer answering a request to reveal the "secret" of being the "best driver" replied that a good deal depends on the grip. He keeps his left elbow straight and high right elbow in. He says that he squeezes the grip if he finds his drives getting off line. When he moves his left hand a bit more on top of the grip to keep from hooking he doesn't have to hold the club so firmly. For longer shots he takes the club away quite slowly. His driver has a 12 degree loft and the shaft is stiff. He takes the driver back from 6 to 12 inches before his wrists start cocking.

Warren Orlick conducted a useful session on the rules, illustrating with diagrams some of the puzzling matters that pros are asked to settle. Orlick also made illuminating comment on the 1961 changes. Orlick, a leading student of the rules and probably the No. 1 practical authority on their application, is a severe critic of the change that permits keeping the flagstick in the hole.

TV Rules Violations

He cited violations of rules in the TV matches as showing that tournament pros need considerably more education in the rules or risk losing public standing as authorities. His remark recalled to several persons a comment Walter Hagen made during the 1960 National Open when a pro sent in from the course for a rules committee decision on a simple case. Said The Haig: "A man who plays golf for a living shouldn't have to ask an amateur for the answer in a case like that."

PGA Meeting

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Rogers of the law firm that unraveled the legal intricacies that led to the PGA brand of equipment being put on the market, reported to the delegates. Schaffner discussed the progress made with the PGA line in 1960 and revealed merchandising plans for the current year, while Rogers brought the delegates up to date on the latest legal developments.

Other business transacted included arrangements made between the PGA and International Golf Sponsors Assn. and William A. Martin and Associates, Chicago, for TV tournament coverage. Miscellaneous circuit details also were worked out by the tournament advisory committee with co-sponsors.