



From left, Dick Boggs, West Coast PGA school dir., Tommy Jacobs, Ken Venturi, Al Geiberger, Guy Bellitt, SoCal section pres., Jerry Priddy, Harry Bassler, Bob McAllister and Jimmy Thompson carry a classroom discussion over into the "break" period at L. A. school.

On West Coast

Veterans Vie with Youngsters for PGA School Learning

The last graduate had barely left the podium with his prized sheepskin when dirs. of the third PGA West Coast business training school (Feb. 14-17 in Los Angeles) began to make plans for next year's semester.

"Our 1961 attendance was four times that of the first school and doubled that of last year," said Dick Boggs, dir. of the school. Boggs is head professional at Sepulveda GC in Encino, Cal. (San Fernando Valley) and is 1st vp of the Southern California PGA section.

"Conducting a business school understandably is a long-range time-consuming project," said Boggs, "but we honestly feel we have accomplished a very useful contribution to the game by teaching these fellows things that most of us had to learn the hard way.

"We feel we have imparted knowledge to the participants of our school that will make them better representatives of the

PGA," Boggs concluded.

Guy Bellitt, pres. of the SoCal section, concurred with Boggs' views.

Many Prominent Pros

"All you had to do was to see some of the people we had in attendance to appreciate the importance and success of our school," said Bellitt. "We certainly had our share of prominent tournament players including Ken Venturi, second leading money winner in 1960; Al Geiberger, top rookie of 1960; Tommy Jacobs, Bob McCallister, Eddie Merrins, Joe Zakarian, Felice Torza, 1953 runnerup in the PGA championship; Jerry Priddy, former major league baseball star, and Smiley Quick, runner-up in the 1959 National Seniors Open.

"What especially pleased us," Bellitt added, "was the attendance of Class A professionals, who certainly didn't need the one-year credit toward their five-year apprenticeship.

"Al Borla of the Michigan Section; Ed Newkirk and Torza of Illinois and Mac Hunter of our own section, who was both a lecturer and student, came here to learn. Hunter told me that listening to Samuel Rothman (accountant for State of California) talk on taxes alone was worth having this school."

Boggs maintains that tournament players and others present didn't attend the

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West Coast PGA School

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school merely to hasten their eligibility toward Class A membership.

Looking to the Future

"I sincerely believe, as do the other members of the school committee, that these young fellows are becoming aware that they can't play the PGA tour all their lives. They realize they eventually must take club jobs. We're preparing them for this important work.

"And we're certainly making it easier for them to learn. We gave them comprehensive courses that covered public relations and good manners, modern merchandising methods, group and individual teaching, taxation problems, which most of them already know, and the rules.

Use Score Sheets

"Another thing that pleased us was the wonderful response we got from our 'Evaluation Sheet,'" continued Boggs.

"We asked the fellows to rate each speaker and to make criticisms and suggestions. We didn't ask them to identify themselves on the sheets to assure our getting candid comments. But many of the fellows signed their names voluntarily.

"By studying these papers we can eliminate some of the less important things and improve the school curriculum for next year," said Boggs.

School Committee

The school committee was comprised of Boggs, Guy Bellitt, SoCal president and pro at Whittier Narrows Golf Course, South San Gabriel; Harry Bassler, SoCal tournament chmn. and pro at Fox Hills CC, Culver City; Jimmy Thompson, SoCal PGA sec. and pro at Rancho Golf Course, Los Angeles, and Bud Oakley, national PGA vp and pro at Palos Verdes CC.

Oakley presented diplomas to the 185 graduates. Enrollees came from 14 states. Students ranged from 17-year-old Jerry Schamp of Knollwood GC, Pacoima, Calif., to 62-year-old Guy Hukel of Shady Oaks CC, Ft. Worth, Tex.

Metropolitan GCSA Officers

James Fulwider, supt., Century CC, is new pres., Metropolitan (N. Y.) GCSA. Ray Twombly, Old Oaks CC is vp, Joe Camberato, Sleepy Hollow CC is sec., and Stanley Priest, Bedford (N. Y.) Golf & Tennis Club is treas.