

It's Hahn, Si, Castro, No, in the Caribbean

Early this year, Paul Hahn, who puts on those breathtaking sleight-of-hand golf shows and has earned the title of the "clown prince of golf", decided to take another fling at the circuit. He planned to play several tournaments on the Caribbean tour, and at the same time serve as the mc at serious clinics which the PGA travellers put on in conjunction with these events.

But when the word gets around that Paul is going to be in the neighborhood, demands for the display of his wizardry usually are so great that he has to forego his personal plans and, as he puts it, "give my public a glimpse of my show." John Barrymore had to do the same thing some years ago.

At any rate, Hahn, on the trail of the guaranteed dollar that comes from exhibitions, in contrast with that which may or may not materialize in tournament play, booked five weeks of exhibits in the Caribbean. It isn't, of course, that Paul needs the money. However, he did agree to preside at the clinics given in conjunction with the PGA tourneys.

Paul Will Get There!

For any other man, keeping all those dates would be quite a problem. But not for peerless Paul. When he can't reach a spot by the regular air routes, banana boat or on the back of a mule, he cranks up his own plane and flies in. That's the advantage of being a licensed pilot and, for that matter, owning an airplane.

The first two legs of the Southern trip were via a regular PGA chartered plane. In Venezuela, Paul borrowed a plane from Don Wall and flew it to Aruba and Caracas for side exhibitions. Then he jumped to Trinidad and did a show for American troops stationed there. At this point it became obvious that there were so many dates on Paul's schedule that he couldn't depend on a combination of borrowed and scheduled aircraft to keep his appointments. So, he hurried back to Miami, picked up his own Commanche,



Paul Hahn (r) is shown with Jim Dempsey, retired Navy commander, who is now serving as professional at the Guantanamo golf course. Practically the entire base personnel turned out to see Paul put on his act.

and accompanied by his wife, rejoined the PGA delegation in San Juan.

Cloak and Dagger Atmosphere

Hahn's junket was spiced with some excitement and apprehension because of the increasing political tension throughout the Caribbean. In both Cuba and Santo Domingo, the American consulates were stoned on the days before Paul flew in, but he doesn't think his anticipated arrival in either case was responsible for these outbreaks. "There must have been other reasons," he remarks. "They always loved me down there."

The Santo Domingo episode was particularly touchy. He received a telegram from an Ed Hunter saying it was okay to fly in, but the wire was so terse that Paul became apprehensive as to what kind of a reception he would receive. His plane is extremely "thin skinned" as he describes it, and his only armament is a set of collapsible golf clubs. The clown prince wasn't looking for any aerial combat. Fortunately, the Santo Domingo curfew ended just as Hahn circled the airport, and he landed without incident. If you've seen Paul's show, you know he always plays it close — especially when he tees the ball up between the dentures of some comely, young lady.

On to Guantanamo

The next stop on Hahn's itinerary was Guantanamo Bay. If you've been reading the newspapers lately, you know that Castro is mad at us. Paul is included

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Hahn, Si, Castro, No

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among the Americans that Fidel doesn't like. But Captain Bruce Weber, commandant of the air station at Guantanamo, arranged a clearance for Hahn's Commanche and brought it in via radar-vector, which sounds just as impressive as if arrangements had been made for Paul to re-enter the atmosphere after having been in outer space for a fortnight.

Real Cook's Tour

What started out to be a short PGA junket finally turned out to be a deluxe Cook's tour for Hahn who touched down in Panama, Maracaibo, Kingston and the Grand Bahamas in addition to the places already mentioned.

Hahn makes his headquarters at Paradise CC in Crystal River, Fla. He can be booked through that address. Complete information on his show can be obtained by writing to him for the Paul Hahn brochure.

Mass. Turf School Gives Degrees to 32 Students

The University of Massachusetts' winter school for turf managers was attended by 32 men. Thirteen of the students were from Mass. Other areas represented were Conn., Ill., Mich., N.H., N.J., N.Y., Ohio, Pa. and R.I.; Ontario and Quebec also were represented. Most of the men in attendance came from golf clubs. Golf professionals and landscape gardeners also were among those attending the school.

Comprehensive Instruction

The students received instruction in soils and fertilizers, insects, trees and shrubs, irrigation and drainage, and maintenance of turf machinery. Guest lecturers were Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson, who began the winter school in 1927; Albert Allen of the Kernwood CC, Salem, Mass., and Leon St. Pierre, Supt. of the Longmeadow CC, Longmeadow, Mass.

Graduation exercises were held in conjunction with the Mass. turf conference on Mar. 8 and 9. More than 500 attended the conference.

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