

Golf Shows Finance Turf Scholarships in the Berkshires

The Berkshire Junior Golf Foundation, founded in April, 1959, in the rolling hills of Massachusetts's westernmost county of Berkshire, was at that time the first east of the Mississippi (according to John English—former assistant executive secretary of USGA) to give scholarships solely to high school golfers, who planned to take up golf turf management as a life career at the nationally known turf school of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Since its founding — the Foundation has granted 10 one-year scholarships to seven young men. Already five of the recipients who graduated from the two year course now hold top supt. posts in the country.

The Foundation was the brain-child of a golf writer — Ed Toole, dean of western New England golf writers and a member of the GWA.

Having, with pro Dick Baxter, recently retired pro-supt. at Taconic, in Williamstown, Mass., founded the Berkshire Interscholastic Championships and the Allied Junior Championships of Berkshire County, O'Toole decided it was time that golfers gave something back to the game from which they had received so much . . . and decided to do something about it.

Raises Lid on Season

There was need for funds in order to acquire suitable trophies for the boys and girls — winners in the various divisions . . . so how better to raise the money than in the snow-banked final weeks of Berkshire's winter when golfers were eager to get back on the fairways.

As tournament director for the Allied Golf Association of Berkshire County — made up of the 12 area country clubs — and one of the oldest in the United States (founded in 1904) Toole had the needed affiliations with the area's golfers.

Thus was born the Berkshire Hills Golf-O-Rama . . . a gala golf show, clinic, golf movies, awards, etc., program which was launched in the main ballroom and a banquet room off the main lobby of the Hotel Wendell in the heart of the City of Pittsfield. It taxed the facilities and lobby of the hostelry. Of tremendous assistance in getting the show off the ground was Bob Rickey of MacGregor who guaranteed his salesmen would be present to display golf equipment lines. With that, every other major golf manufacturing company in the country felt the need of appearing together with MacGregor.

Cooperating were the Allied Golf Clubs of Berkshire County, the sectional PGA, Seniors Golf Association of Berkshire County, the Massachusetts Golf Association, the Women's Golf Association of Berkshire County, the Berkshire Hills Conference — the area's promotional unit and many more.

Use Surplus Funds

With nominal \$1 donations filling the coffer much more was received than needed for the Junior golf awards program in the offing. Then it was that the "idea" came to life to create a scholarship fund to aid worthy high school golfers who wanted to study to be supts at the U of M's famous turf school.

A board of trustees was set up to handle the funds and C. C. Decker, treasurer of the Allied Golf Clubs agreed to serve as treasurer. It was decided that a boy had to be a golfer (not a champion necessarily) to qualify and if his marks were satisfactory in his first year he would automatically receive a scholarship grant for his second and final year.

Too, it was decided at ensuing Golf-O-Ramas some one who had contributed greatly down thru the years to golf and golf turf in the area would be singularly honored during the program with a beautiful silver plaque suitably inscribed.

Dick Baxter and Ernie Faucher, supt. at Wyantenuck CC in Great Barrington have been among the recipients.

The beneficiaries of the scholarship fund for future supts have done very well for themselves. They include:

(Continued on page 158)

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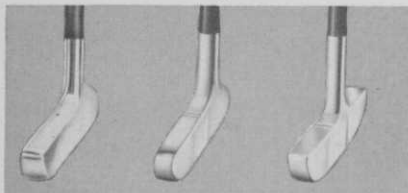
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Scholarship Financing

(Continued from page 62)

John Cook, supt at the CC of Virginia, Richmond, and its affiliated championship James River Course;

Bill Emerson, now supt at a course under construction at Hyattsville, Md.;

Dave Mauk of White Cliffs CC in Plymouth, Mass. (on Cape Cod);

George Thompson, an assistant at the Columbia CC in Chevy-Chase, Md.;

Pat O'Connor, at the New London (Conn.) CC;

John Kellar Jr. of Pittsfield is currently completing his first year at Amherst.

Last year the program was aided by contributions made from a number of golf minded industrialists and business executives such as "Bing" Hunter of Hunter Machine, Bruce Crane of Crane & Co., Dixon Daniels of the LL Brown Paper Co., Chauncey C. Loomis, Dan England Jr., former Yale golf great; Merwin Wineberg of the Adams Super Mkts chain, Haines Spencer of USF-Arnold Finishing in Adams, the professionals of the area, James Colgate Jerome of Mt. Anthony, Williams College's Taconic Golf Club, Doug Hewat of the Hewat Company in North Adams, the various golf associations of the Berkshire area.

Big Demand for Managers

(Continued from page 52)

25, excluding examination periods and vacation time. Broken down, this means roughly 36 days each fall and spring term and 50 days winter term, or 120 days in all.

Demand for all of the graduates in hotel, restaurant, and institutional management has increased in recent years, and it seems to be particularly true in the area of golf and country club management. Similarly, it seems that the recruitment of management personnel has increased. Students interested in golf and country club positions indeed have several fine opportunities.

Recruitment information requests should be sent to John D. Singleton, director of Placement Bureau, 142 Student Service Building, Michigan State U., East Lansing, Mich.