

# Par 3s Increase Seven-fold In Seven Years

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Par-3 courses continue to help ease the nation's shortage of golf playing facilities. About 100 new Par-3's were opened for play throughout the country in 1963. There are now about 675 such courses in play where there were only about 100 just seven years ago.

While it requires about 150 acres to build a regulation length 18-hole course, a challenging and interesting 18-hole Par-3 can be built on from 40 to 50 acres. Many private country clubs and municipalities are adding Par-3's to their existing facilities to ease the overall load. Par-3's have a special appeal to beginners, women, teenagers and older players, but prove interesting to all golfers due largely to the time-saving element.

## Golf Centers Are Profitable

Golf centers are very popular and profitable in the heavily populated areas. Included in such centers may be miniatures, a driving range, a short pitch and putt, a longer Par-3 layout and sometimes a Par-60 type course or regulation length layout.

Golf Farm, near Haddonfield, N.J., is an operation of this type. It was completed two seasons ago with four separate golf facilities. Its feature attraction is a 9-hole "Executive" Par-30 course with a length of 1875 yards. It has three par-4 holes and six par-3's and covers 35 acres. Other facilities here include an 18-hole pitch and putt, a 33-tee golf range and an 18-hole miniature built around a barn yard. All of these are lighted. Due to the heavy play at the Golf Farm since its opening, the developers added a 9-hole regulation course (par-36; length 3415 yards) to their operation last year. Now it offers golf at every level.

## Several in Operation

Among other interesting golf center operations on the Eastern seaboard are: Grantmoor at Newington, Conn. Its facilities include a 9-hole Par-3 course (length 1,000 yards), driving range and miniature layout — all lighted.

Pinecrest at Alexandria, Va. — 18-hole Par-3 with total length of 2655 yards. It is built on 40 acres. A regulation 9-hole layout (par-35; length 3015 yards) was

added to this operation two years ago. Green fees are \$2.00 weekdays; \$3.00 weekends and holidays. Fees entitle a person to play any or all facilities.

Thunderbird at Tynsboro, Mass., was opened for play in September, 1963. Built on 45 acres this layout includes an 18-hole Par-3 (total length 2100 yards) and a double deck driving range (20 tees on bottom level; 10 on top) completely lighted.

American Golfers Club, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., includes an 18-hole Par-3 course with total length of 2587 yards and a 482-yard 9-hole pitch and putt layout.

Other interesting Par-3 facilities that are proving popular are Blue Rock in South Yarmouth, Mass., Palm Beach (Fla.) Par-3 and Boca Baton Sun & Surf Beach Club. A season's membership at Boca Raton costs \$300.

## Par 60 Courses Increase

Interest in Par-60 type golf courses also is on the increase. Addition of Par-4 holes moves the layout a step closer to the regulation game of golf. There are, however, no Par-5 holes on these layouts.

Among the successful Par-60 type courses now in play are: Heatherwood, 18 holes, total length 4296 yards, at South Setauket, (L.I.) N.Y., a daily fee operation; Deerfield Beach (Fla.) G & CC, 18 holes, total length 4163 yards (actually par 62) — a private membership operation; and Silver Lake in Tampa, 18 holes with total yardage of 3683.

Now under construction at New Seabury, Mass., is an 18-hole executive type (par 64) course with a length of 5120 yards and an 18-hole championship layout (par 72) — length 7175 yards. This is being developed by Emil Hanslin Associates as part of a new planned community.

## Lighting Increases Play

An increasing number of Par-3's and Par-60's are being lighted. A San Jose, Calif., operator of a lighted Par 30 course reports that of the 700 players his center draws on a Saturday or Sunday, over 60 per cent of them come at night. In addition to the 9-hole course, the center includes a 60-tee driving range, an 18-hole miniature course (Japanese garden motif), a huge 18-hole putting green that can accommodate 36 at one time, and a 60 yard square area with a small green and flag where players may practice anything from chips to half-wedges. The putting green and chipping area facilities are free. The 9-hole golf course alone attracts about

200 per night. The maximum it can accommodate is 216. Green fees are \$1.25 for 9 holes until 6:00 p.m. and \$1.50 thereafter.

Union County, N.J., has operated a lighted 9-hole Par-3 in conjunction with its 18-hole Galloping Hill regulation course for several years. Play on the short course runs 40,000 rounds annually, with about 50 per cent under lights.

#### **Aid Golf Instruction**

Shorter courses are excellent for golf instruction purposes. Two Par-3 golf courses for use of Juniors only were opened last year. Syracuse, N.Y., opened a 9-hole, Par-3 layout in June in its Burnet Park solely for use of teenagers through age 16. Fees are 25 cents a day or \$4.00 for a season ticket. Syracuse has 600 youngsters enrolled in its city sponsored instruction program. Hazeltine National CC, near Minneapolis, Minn., also has a new 9-hole Par-3 for teenagers.

Fourteen Par-3's were opened for play in Illinois in 1963. Other leading states with new Par-3's last year were: California and Ohio each 10; New York and Florida each 9 and Pennsylvania 8. Of the 7412 golf courses in play in the U.S. on Nov. 1, 1963, 645 were Par-3's.

### **Nominate Benedict to be USGA President in 1964**

Clarence W. Benedict, White Plains, N. Y., has been nominated for the presidency of the USGA for 1964. John M. Winters, Jr., Tulsa, is to retire after serving as president for the last two years. Election of officers will be held during the USGA's annual meeting which is scheduled for Jan. 25 in New York's Biltmore Hotel.

Others nominated for office in 1964 are: Vps — Wm. Ward Forshay, New York, and Hord W. Hardin, St. Louis; Secretary — Philip H. Strubing, Philadelphia; Treasurer — Robert W. Howse, Wichita, Kans.

Two new members, Strubing and J. W. McLean, Houston, Tex., have been proposed for the executive committee. Renominated to this committee are: Fred Brand, Jr., Pittsburgh; William C. Campbell, Huntington, W. Va.; Robert F. Dwyer, Portland, Ore.; Edward L. Emerson, Boston; Edwin R. Foley, San Francisco; Eugene S. Pulliam, Indianapolis; Henry H. Russell, Miami; Charles P. Stevenson, Buffalo; and Morrison Waud, Chicago.

Lynford Lardner, Jr., Milwaukee, has



John Grant (l), new Western director of the National Golf Foundation, picks up some background information from Lyle Gray (center), president of Sharon Heights G & CC, Menlo Park, Calif., and Bill Sherman. The latter recently established a golf counselling and marketing company in San Francisco. Grant's base also is San Francisco.

been nominated as general counsel.

The USGA's daylong green section program on Jan. 24 will dwell on the putting green. Speakers and panelists will include agronomists and supts. as well as such well known players as Willie Turnesa, 1938-48 Amateur champion, and Mrs. Allison Choate, who won the 1963 USGA Senior Women's title. Henry H. Russell of Miami will be the meeting chairman.

### **Ladies PGA Teaching Award Goes to Vonnice Colby**

Vonnice Colby is the Ladies PGA teacher-of-the-year for 1963. For the last three years she has been an assistant to Jack



Vonnice Colby

MacDowell at Cherokee Town & CC in Atlanta. Prior to this she was at Normandy Shores GC, Miami Beach, as a teacher and operator of the golf shop.

Miss Colby took up golf at the age of 15 and turned professional in 1955. Her most important victory as an amateur came in 1954 when she won the Trans Mississippi match tournament after capturing medalist honors. She also won the Mason-Dixon Amateur that year.

She is the sixth winner of the Ladies PGA teacher award. Vonnice has more than 100 pupils at Cherokee. Besides teaching there she is in charge of the buying of women's wearing apparel and playing equipment.