

**USGA Has Record 2,905  
Members; Deficit of \$22,177**

## **Benedict Elected USGA President**

Clarence W. Benedict of Winged Foot GC, Mamaroneck, N.Y., was elected to succeed John M. Winters, Jr., Southern Hills CC, Tulsa, Okla., as USGA president at the association's 70th annual meeting in the Biltmore Hotel, New York City.

The USGA Executive committee's informative and comprehensive annual report showed that although 1963 brought the USGA to a new high of 2,905 member clubs (the 18th consecutive year of increase) the association had a deficit of \$22,177. It was the first deficit since 1948.

### **No Dent in Assets**

However, the USGA deficit means simply that the association put more into golf than it took out. But, as the USGA has assets of \$640,867, including unappropriated surplus of \$394,898, the wolf isn't scratching on the door of Golf House.

Highlights of the executive committee report:

The USGA has nearly 600 committee members.

Membership increased by 248 clubs last year to 2,611 regular membership clubs (1,754 18 holes or more) and 294 (170 18-holes or more) associate member clubs.

### **Second Richest Open**

The National Open gate of 50,849 at CC of Brookline was second highest in history, but 11,451 spectators and \$41,343 lower than the previous year at Oakmont. (There were playoffs both years.)

The USGA and PGA have agreed to abide by the same rules for four years.

Success of regional conferences of golf club officials in 1963 have resulted in similar programs to be conducted in March of this year in Los Angeles, Detroit and Philadelphia.

Both club administration matters and course maintenance measures again will be discussed at the regional meetings.

The Women's World Amateur team championship is to be played for first time at St. Germain GC, Paris. The Curtis Cup matches will be played at Royal Porthcawl (Wales) GC. The Men's World



Charles R. Coe (r), top ranking amateur for two decades, was the 1964 winner of the USGA's 1964 Bob Jones award. Hord W. Hardin made the presentation.



... Joe Valentine, who served 50 years as Merion's supt., received the USGA's turfgrass award from John M. Winters, Jr., the association's retiring president.

Amateur team competition is scheduled for Olgiata GC, Rome.

### **1,211 Visits for Green Section**

The green section had new high of 901 courses subscribing to its service. Green section's staff made 1,211 service visits during 1963.

Visiting service subscription fees were increased by \$50 a year up to 36 holes, \$60 for 54 holes and \$75 for 72 holes.

The operating deficit of the green section for 1963 was \$68,037. Expenses were \$168,884. Administrative and general expenses of the USGA, exclusive of the green section expenses, were \$257,-899.