

Swinging around golf

By **HERB GRAFFIS**

News of the Golf World in brief



The USGA has substantially quickened play in the National Open with two local rules to speed action on the putting green . . . Thus, in play by threes, first-round time was reduced from 5:27 in 1965 to 4:16 in 1966, and the second round from 5:24 to 4:15. In play by twos, the third round elapsed time dropped from 4:26 to 3:40 and the fourth round from 4:13 to 3:29 . . . The playoff between **Casper** and **Palmer** took 3 hours and five minutes before a gallery of 12,059.

There was much room for improvement. Consider that in 1955 the first round of play by threes, with 162 players, took four hours and 27 minutes for the last group . . . In 1965, with a field of 150 the last three took five hours and 27 minutes . . . There also was an hour's slower play by the last two in the fourth round of the 1965 National Open, compared to the three hours and 13 minutes of the last two in the 1955 National Open . . . The example of this slow play partially accounts for a shortage of golf courses and certainly is a factor discouraging many from playing golf and spending their money for the game.

One alibi for the crawl of the stars is that they're playing for such big money (coming from the sort of people slow play is driving from golf.) . . . This whine never scored with golf writers who had to bat out a few hundred words of deathless prose to make an edition and do the job in about the time the slow motion boys are lining up a putt . . . At championships for many years I've never seen any evidence that taking

tediously long time improved results.

The big laugh in the USGA figures shows the last couple in the 1965 Senior Women's played their third and last championship round in three hours and 24 minutes; 49 minutes faster than the last group in the National Open . . . Don't tell me the pro stars play like old ladies . . . Some pro stars don't show that much life.

It would be interesting to have clubs furtively time rounds of their men and women players to see if women golfers at the private clubs are making the ordinary men players look as bad as the pro experts look compared to the lively gait of the expert women.

Fritz Hall is pro at the new Madeline Island Golf Links, La Pointe, Wis., recently opened exclusive island course in Lake Superior . . . Course was built by **Robert Trent Jones** . . . Fritz says the country is a blessing on your eyes . . . Pheasants and deer share it with a few golfers . . . In November when Indian Creek CC opens at Miami Beach, Hall will return there with **Jack White** on the pro staff . . . **George Lake**, in his 30th year as pro at Long Beach, Calif., Recreation Park, is the only golf professional designated as a "landmark" by the *National Geographic* . . . In the May issue of that great magazine there was a map of California on which there was Lake George marked a bit northeast of Long Beach . . . **Malcolm Epley**, Long Beach columnist, who knows most of what's important around Long Beach, discovered Lake George on the map and made inquiries . . . It developed that Lake, George, was a prominent feature

Continued on page 87

named the Bull-Head Putter, is shown as No. 6 and at bottom right (p. 48). This putter conforms to USGA rules. "That's the story," says Vic. "If I had to do it all over again, I think I would have quit cold. Luckily for me, my wife Joan kept prodding me just enough to keep going. I also received a lot of help along the way from professionals to whom I showed the club, especially Fred Ferrara, our pro at Northwood." •

GRAFFIS' SWING

Continued from page 9

of Recreation Park, Long Beach, and the cartographers went on from there . . . But now all is well; the mistake no longer is a mistake . . . At the suggestion of Long Beach citizens who've enjoyed Lake's 30 years of service, the Recreation Park casting pool has been named Lake George . . . George Lake, by the way, while sec. of the PGA Junior Golf Promotion Committee, organized pros nationwide into the kid golf program.

Continued on next page

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Joe Campbell is taking time off from the circuit to work with Sam Carmichael, who's taking a short leave from his job as asst. to Blackie Orsi at Bob o' Link GC (Chicago district) . . . They're running their second U.S. Junior Golf Camp at Lake Manitou, Rochester, Ind. . . . It's for boys from 8 to 18 . . . Jay Kimbrough now pro-mgr. Durant (Okla.) CC . . . Pro football leagues getting together with prospect of television running the pro football show may make you ask what's happened to the Yankees and who cares? . . . Another round is coming up in the debate between sponsors and pros on TV money.

PGA played it very smart in promoting John Hubbard, its magazine editor and publicity man to become an asst. to Robert T. Creasy, the association's executive director . . . Creasy also gets William A. (Billy) Booe as an asst. on tournament bureau matters . . . Booe was supervisor of the Caribbean and Latin American tours . . . Lynn (Bud) Harvey joins the PGA in the new post of director of public relations . . . Harvey is an experienced newspaperman, was associate editor of *Golf World* with Bob Harlow, and helped Fred Corcoran write his book . . . He has been editing a trade association journal . . . Among his numerous cultural qualities is his talent as a Barber Shop Quartette canary . . . At this writing PGA is still looking for a man who will plan and conduct the PGA's business educational program which is to be greatly enlarged.

Douglas Kennedy and Phil Corrado have bought Villa Olivia CC in western suburban Chicago, one of the older daily fee courses which has been attractively rehabilitated . . . Next year Villa Olivia will care for individual fee play as well as trade tournaments but in 1968 will receive trade tournaments only . . . Already much of the course's available time has been booked for trade affairs . . . Pro shop club sales so far this year are decidedly ahead of any previous year . . . Golf courses maintenance equipment sales, mowers and tractors especially, are highly satisfactory, too, in most areas.

Alvin (Butch) Krueger resigns after

40 years as pro at Beloit, Wis., municipal course . . . Poor health . . . He was a fine player in the 1930s . . . **Howie Kluth** now pro at Royal Oaks CC, Mequon, Wis., with winter job at Estate Carlton Hotel course, St. Croix, Virgin Islands . . . **Billy Milward** signed as pro at Bass Lake CC, Antigo, Wis. . . . **George Ruffin** new pro at Beaver Hills CC, Cedar Falls, Ia. . . . **Johnny Bulla** back in a pro job after a long time away . . . He now is pro at Century CC, Scottsdale, Ariz. . . . Bulla has won the Arizona Open 13 times.

Jim Barnes, 79, winner of the first PGA championship (in 1916) and of the PGA in 1919, the US Open in 1921 and the British Open in 1925, and the Western Open in 1914, 1917 and 1919, died of a heart attack in his apartment at East Orange, N.J., May 25 . . . He was born in Cornwall, England, and came to the U.S. in 1906 . . . He served as pro at Pelham CC, Crescent Athletic Club, Essex CC and North Hempstead Club, all in the New York Metropolitan district . . . He retired in 1930 but continued to give occasional lessons . . . He was at the National Open at Congressional in 1964 as a spectator . . . He said that he weighed five pounds more than when he won at Columbia CC in 1921 . . . He led **Walter Hagen** and **Fred McLeod** by nine strokes at the 1921 finish . . . Although tall he played with shafts shorter than normal . . . His wife died in 1964 . . . He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Noel Thompson and Mrs. Joseph A. Manda.

John Lawrence Grimes, 75, formerly advertising director for Wheeling Steel Co. and writer of a golf column in *Wheeling News Register*, died recently in Wheeling . . . He was active in West Virginia golf and was early in seeing the potential of **Sam Snead** and forecasting that the boy from The Greenbrier was bound to be one of the greatest.

L. R. (Rusty) Wall, branch mgr., A.G. Spalding & Bros., Chicago, started with Spalding in April, 1926, when Spalding's Chicago office was at 211 S. State St. and **Doug Tweedie**, C.S. Lincoln, **Johnny Miller**, **Jim Craig** and other historical characters were around . . . Rusty still looks and acts as fresh

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Continued from preceding page

as a new guy on the job trying to make pros happy . . . Avery Harris, who handles Wittek Golf Range Supply Co. foreign business says Wittek's foreign business in range equipment is vastly larger than they ever thought possible . . . Sales of Wittek ball washers and pickers is large in Japan and Britain . . . Oil company employees on ranges in Saudi Arabia use a lot of Clem Wittek's equipment and supplies . . . Miniature courses are doing great wherever the locations are good, Harris reports . . . That new plant of Wittek's with 80,000 sq. ft. is a tremendous rise from Clem's start in range used ball sales.

That story on Doug Sanders a collection of short quotes Dan Fales wrote for *Life*, has some swell paragraphs: . . . "For every bucket of practice drives a golfer should hit two buckets of chip shots . . . That's where most of the money shots are" . . . "I just can't afford to miss these \$100,000 tournaments . . . Hell, a guy can kick the ball around the course and still make three or four thousand." . . . Some tournament sponsors are forecasting there will be a minor league golf tournament circuit sooner than expected if the TV revenue share from the bigger money tourneys is cut from the events that are financed by selling tickets . . . Golf tournament television ratings are not much to brag about but they are reputed to have a class audience and get rid of a lot of advertisers' money very quickly.

Robert Thomason is architect of Old Mill GC nine at Winton, N. C., built on an FHA-guaranteed loan at the site of Hare's Mill, which has been going since pre-revolutionary days . . . Thomason also has designed nine for Montecillo, Ky., with FHA OKing the loan.

It's a pleasant service to be able to put in a plug for William Sherman and Associates and Golf Realty Corp., 16 California St., San Francisco . . . They are selling, leasing, managing and developing golf course projects with housing development on the rim . . . A Fresno, Calif. attorney, Vernon E. Bjorklund is president and Gene Parris of Fres-

no is the real estate broker for the outfit . . . **Bill Sherman** is vp and secretary and **Pat Markovick** is secretary-treasurer . . . I don't know Bjorklund or Parris, but Pat Markovick and Bill Sherman I've known so long and so well I know they've got a great deal of golf business savvy for sale . . . Bill was with the National Golf Foundation . . . Pat Markovick I've seen as one of the smartest, solidest businessmen pros and saw him learning a lesson that somebody can use when he went in with **Johnny Dawson** on the Silverado project . . . Having seen many, many real estate-golf course projects flop because of unbalanced, uninformed planings and by the hope of using something as a substitute for money, I believe Bill, Pat and their teammates have a swell chance to make money for their clients . . . And not go hungry themselves.

As an old guy with, thank heaven, 20-20 vision, reminded of the USGA Senior Women's Amateur at Lakewood CC, New Orleans, Oct. 5-7, let me testify from looking over the field at two of the grandmas' golf championships that our old girls are the most beautiful in sports . . . I like the patrician way they look, the graceful way they walk, the royal and relaxed way they compete and how even their wrinkles are pretty souvenirs of lovely laughing . . . Their carriages are beautiful . . . Infinitely better than the stoop-shoulder slumps of men experts . . . And they look rosy and fresh in the faces instead of having leathery skin . . . And to think that years ago I wrote there wasn't any rule prohibiting the use of cold cream by lady golfers and how I was scolded by the girls.

Chattanooga GC was founded in 1895 as one of the golf-real estate promotions people think now are fairly new . . . **T. J. Nicholl**, manager of the Chattanooga Co., a land company with headquarters at Manchester, Eng., got the Chattanooga club going and signed 52 charter members . . . In six years the club grew to the limit of 100 members . . . Members playing the nine-hole sand green course increased to 200 in 1914 when the lid was raised . . . The club was one of the 35 original members of the Southern Golf Association founded in March, 1902. •

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