

The Golf Business **OUTLOOK**

PGA zeroes-in on 'pension plan'

The new administration of the PGA has been quick to respond to its members' biggest complaint—lack of a pension plan. For years, PGA members have been looking with envy at other professional athletes who have the security of a solid retirement program. Their complaints achieved little. The subject of a pension plan never received a prominent place on the PGA agenda. Until now. With Max Elbin as their president, the professionals now have a champion for their cause. Elbin took over the chair determined to give the matter top priority. This was evident when he hired Robert T. Creasey as the new PGA executive director. Creasey is a pension and welfare fund expert, and he's been busy exploring potential programs for PGA members. It is a complex problem. Under the present structure of the PGA a typical pension plan could not be established without tax complications. But other approaches are being studied, and Elbin is dedicated to having some type of program functioning before he vacates the president's chair.

Rough voyage ahead for the Club Manager

Spiraling food costs and a severe shortage of seasonal personnel are two of the worst problems confronting the club manager. There could be others, however, before the season reaches its peak. Many clubs already have raised their food prices. Others, preparing for the warm weather rush, are in a state of confusion. Food costs have been jumping so erratically that many managers are wondering how much of an increase should be made in menu prices. One club manager reports that the price of ham leaped recently from 87 cents to \$1.35 per pound within a period of 10 days. Other food items which have shown a fluctuation of one or two cents per pound over the past year now are showing variations of from five to 10 cents per pound. All of which will add considerably to the manager's planning and buying problems over the coming months. In addition to this headache, management also must come to grips with manpower shortages. The military draft call in May was the highest so far this year, with the possibility of even greater increases in the following months. And early reports indicate that many collegians will pass up typical summer vacation jobs to shoot for better-paying temporary posts in industry. All industrial areas are hard-pressed for help and appear willing to up the stakes for immediate assistance. Collegian waiters, bus-boys, caddies and the like will be hard to find after June 15 unless clubs are able to fend off this type of competition. Clubs already have been reporting a steady exodus of dining room personnel in the wake of the Internal Revenue ruling on reporting gratuities. Waitresses and waiters have been switching from the country club, where their tips are generally recorded in black and white on the check, to restaurants where they can collect their gratuities in cash.

Score cards—should players be responsible?

"When a prominent player makes a score card error causing his disqualification—as Doug Sanders did in failing to sign his card at Pensacola—more than the immediate case is involved," says Joseph C. Dey, Jr., Executive Director of the USGA in an article in April USGA GOLF JOURNAL. Dey points out that golf is unusual among games in the degree of responsibility which the player must assume. Usually, he is his own referee and must call infractions against himself. There is a strong sentiment that scorecard errors should not be penalized more heavily than those made during play. Whatever your feelings on Rule 38, now's the time to write. The USGA will study "all suggestions of merit" it receives.