

Swinging around golf

By **HERB GRAFFIS**

News of the Golf World in brief



Cold and wet weather in much of the Central and Northeastern states gave pro shop sales a poor start for 1967 . . . But there have been other years when spring has been short and shivery but big summer selling followed . . . Winter damage to courses in the snow area, despite severe winter, was perhaps less than normally reported by superintendents at their sectional meetings in April and May . . . Improved drainage and preventive treatment last fall paid well as insurance . . . The cool spring didn't favor turf growth for repairs or new construction done when ground was dry enough.

Pro shop robberies seem to have been fewer than for several springs past . . . One pro's explanation is that according to prices on advertised store goods it's cheaper to buy some golf equipment than to steal it . . . The big golf robbery this spring was at the Acushnet warehouse in suburban Chicago, Friday night before Memorial Day . . . About 14,600 dozen Acushnet balls stolen . . . Being pro-only balls, they ought to be difficult to sell through illegal channels . . . If they pop up at "fence" prices there probably will be pros relaying the news to the FBI . . . Several years ago the Acushnet Chicago district warehouse was robbed of about 17,000 dozen balls . . . Most of them were located by police in New Jersey.

Golf helps put on color television's sports show . . . Greenzit, a turf dye developed by W. A. Cleary Corp. to make dormant Bermuda green has proved to be valuable in making golf courses and football fields look in great condition on col-

or TV . . . Warren Cleary says the Greenzit golf course dye had another big use last year, coloring more than 5 million Christmas trees.

It was a happy thought to rename the Canada Cup, trophy of world pro golf supremacy, the World Cup . . . The Canada Cup was so named because it was contributed by Canadian interests associated with the late John Jay Hopkins, founder of General Dynamics Corp. who had the idea that golf might be a means of getting together major businessmen and government officials and diplomats of many countries for relaxation, enjoyment and understanding . . . Fred Corcoran, working with Hopkins, formed and conducted the International Golf Association for annual championships in various countries beginning in Canada in 1934 when Cerda and de Vincenzo won the two-man pro team prize, the Canada Cup, for Argentina . . . The individual prize is the International Trophy . . . Palmer and Nicklaus are present holders of the World Cup . . . George Knudson of Canada is the international trophy holder . . . The event returns to Club de Golf, Mexico City, Nov. 9-12 . . . The 1958 Canada Cup event was played there . . . James A. Linen, president of Time Magazine, now heads the International Golf Association . . . He has a board of internationally noted businessmen . . . He's brought the IGA along for international business friendships farther than Hopkins dreamed . . . The PGA of USA made its debut as a world-wide pro power with the International Golf Assoc.

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Graffis Swing

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E. R. Steiniger, superintendent, Pine Valley GC, Clementon, N.J. is chairman, Joseph Valentine Memorial Fund which will build the Joseph Valentine Turfgrass Research Center at Pennsylvania State College.

The late Joe Valentine headed a group of greenkeepers that in 1923 went to Penn State's President Hetzel asking for help on turf problems, especially the current trouble with the Jap beetle. That was a historic event in the modern scientific turf development program.

Valentine, who died in 1962 after being at Merion 55 years and superintendent during 11 USGA championships, was honored by receiving the USGA Green Section award and, last year, by having Penn State's turfgrass research center named after him.

Others on the Valentine Memorial Fund Committee are Walter S. Boysen, GCSA; John Arthur Brown, Pine Valley GC; Joseph C. Dey, Jr., USGA; Herb Graffis, GOLFDOM; Dean Hill, Jr., Merion GC; Robert Trent Jones; Robert Tyre Jones, Augusta National GC; H. Burton Musser, Pennsylvania State College; Ernst Ransome, Golf Association of Philadelphia; Richard S. Turfs, Pinehurst.

Eliot C. Roberts, Professor Agronomy and Horticulture, Iowa State U, Ames, nationally noted for his work in golf turf development and his help to superintendents, becomes Chairman, Department of Ornamental Horticulture, University of Florida, 404 Newell Hall, Gainesville, Fla. 32603 . . . Eliot started in turf research at Rutgers then went to University of Massachusetts with Professor Dickinson . . . Starting July 1, Roberts will coordinate research and teaching assignments of Florida's College of Agriculture, experiment stations and extension services . . . He often is a featured speaker at turf conferences.

Members of Woodland GC, Auburndale, Mass., asked Joe Looney, veteran

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golf writer of the Boston Herald, if their 600 yd. 9th isn't the longest hole in the U.S. without a trap . . . Joe passes the query along . . . Do you know of any trapless hole longer? There's a pond about 270 yds. out but that's the sole hazard . . . Woodland is the club Francis Ouimet represented when he won the US Open of 1913 and the Amateurs of 1914 and 1931 . . . Write Hon. Lawrence O'Brien, Postmaster General, Washington, D.C. 20260 telling him you want a golf commemorative stamp . . . Figure what golf has done for suburban development, sports wear business and in direct and indirect tax payment plus its contributions to the pursuit of health and happiness and golf has a far stronger case for recognition by the Post Office than about 99 per cent of the subjects of commemorative stamps to date.

PGA entries for PGA championship at Columbine CC, Denver, July 20-23

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are 1,441 . . . That's 26 under the 1966 record . . . The entry list includes 63 exemptions . . . That'll leave 1,377 trying for 94 places in a starting field of 150 . . . PGA Senior champion Sam Snead this year missed qualifying for the Open for the second consecutive year (four-putting one green) . . . So that's the end of the Open story for a great player who never won it . . . Gary Player isn't in this year's PGA because he is playing in the British Open previously.

Agreement to have a world-wide code of Rules of Golf effective Jan. 1, 1968, which was reached by United States Golf Association and Royal and Ancient will mean no pain except to the fellows who make croquet-style putters . . . And, as the USGA and R&A explain, the game is golf, not croquet . . . If there'd been a fellow using a croquet-style straddle putter win a big tournament there might have been a loud yowl against the edict which becomes effective next year.

The only difference in the rules next
continued on next page

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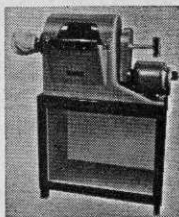
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year will be the official balls . . . The USGA ball weight shall be not greater than 1.620 ounces avoirdupois and the size not less than 1.680 inches in diameter . . . The R&A ball has the same weight specification but size "not less than 1.620 inches in diameter." . . . The R&A has no velocity limitation . . . The USGA ruling is "The velocity of the ball shall be not greater than 250 feet per second when measured on the USGA's apparatus; the temperature of the ball when so tested shall be 75 degrees F." . . . A maximum tolerance of 2 per cent is allowed . . . Some ball makers say the "USGA's apparatus" which is not available at ball factories for production control and checks is impractical and subjects manufacturers to charges of cheating and cash losses due to USGA finding by its exclusive machine that certain balls are illegal.

Walt Ditzen's educational cartoons on golf car safety are being extensively circulated by American Golf Car Manufacturers Association . . . They ought to reduce the appalling amount of thought-

X. G. Hassenplug

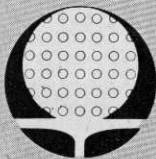
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less and dangerous driving of golf cars . . . Better check up on your club's golf car accident insurance and the procedure in protecting your club or fee course against injury claims.

Walter R. Boysen, president, Golf Course Superintendents Association, and superintendent at the deluxe Sequoyah CC, Oakland, Calif., thinks history was made at the 1967 Masters by Clifford Roberts' press bulletins on the what and why of Augusta National course conditioning for the Masters . . . Boysen regarded the Roberts' communiques as classic jobs of educating some pros and public in factors dictating maintenance operations . . . Boysen wrote Roberts, Bob Jones and John Graves, Augusta National superintendent, expressing superintendents' appreciation . . . The Masters has had a tremendous effect on the improvement of course playing conditions and attractiveness in the South . . . With the Tifton experimental station's valuable work and the practical jobs done by Georgia's fine commercial turf nurseries, and the Masters as a show window, southern golf course maintenance has progressed immensely in the past 25 years . . . Before that, the big impetus that brought Southern courses out of cow pasture condition in turf and housekeeping was the admirable educational example of Pinehurst.

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continued from preceding page

Effect of immense increase in public course play on public course design is pointed out by Gilbert Foster, superintendent, St. Paul's Keller and Goodrich courses . . . At Keller, with old style construction, there has been a lot of trouble in spring from drainage and bag cart traffic . . . Goodrich, which was built considering modern traffic opened in good condition . . . Public course superintendents, flattened under the traffic of official reports and red tape, are getting in bad shape, too, according to letters I've had this spring . . . I wonder if experienced public course superintendents haven't learned the hard way more about designing and building courses to stand heavy traffic than anybody else in golf business.

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chairman, and Ray McCarthy, 1841 Broadway, NYC 23, is secretary, Second International Seniors Amateur Championship played at Gleneagles, Scotland, July 3-7 . . . British Open is at Royal Liverpool, July 12-15 . . . 15 countries are on the International Seniors Amateur Committee . . . Estimates are that U.S. seniors will spend about \$7 million this year for expenses for themselves and wives in senior tournament play of organizations and at resorts . . . That makes the seniors by far the world's richest tournament circuit.

Fellows who have got ranges and "golf centers" in good locations and are real businessmen seem to be scoring well financially . . . Sonny Ryan and Dave Felder are in their ninth year together at Felder's Golf Center, 10324 Olson Highway, Minneapolis, and have a new pro shop, have enlarged the range to 60 tees and added a new iron practice area.

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Danny Galasso, one of the best-liked real smart course equipment and supply salesmen, a veteran with Bob Graves' Toro Power House, White Plains, N.Y., in St. Agnes hospital, North St., White Plains, N.Y. 10604 . . . A severe stroke but Bob says Danny is putting up a great-hearted fight and shows promise of winning . . . Mrs. Vera Berg, Patty's mother, had a bad stroke three years ago but didn't wilt . . . Vera made herself walk and hold a golf club and forced herself to practice with Patty at Fort Myers, Fla., in the winter . . . So last year Vera won the Florida Senior Women's Championship from a fine field of mighty adept old girls and this winter she won the women's championship at Cypress Lake CC, Fort Meyers. •

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