

Swinging around golf

By **HERB GRAFFIS**

News of the Golf World in brief



Orders placed at the PGA Merchandise Show and at the GCSA Conference and Show indicate this will be the biggest year thus far in sales of golf playing and course maintenance equipment . . . PGA's show sales were mainly of apparel as major clubs buyers in pro golf place orders in fall to be sure of delivery of sales leaders . . . However, club and ball orders were higher than usual at the show . . . The show was put on by Chairman John Vasco of the PGA committee and his teammates as a businesslike production justifying its expense in manufacturers' selling costs . . . *Charles E. (Chuck) Cumming* of Charles A. Eaton Co., was elected president, Golf Manufacturers and Distributors' Assn., during the PGA Merchandise Show at the PGA National GC . . . *John P. Murray, Jr.*, Atlantic Products Co., was elected vice-president, *Robert P. Hornung*, Hornung's Pro Golf Sales, secy-treas.

Labor shortage, demand for top standard of turf at public courses as well as at expensive and exclusive clubs and attractive "housekeeping" on courses accounted for record sales by many of the 100 exhibitors at the Supts.' show in Washington . . . At the Green, Chairman-Superintendent's lunch, during the GCSA meeting, the labor cost factor in the over-all operating cost of old equipment was mentioned several times as making purchase of adequate modern maintenance equipment urgently advisable.

William Ward Foshay, re-elected president of USGA, led the organization over the \$1-million mark for the first

time in its 73 years . . . USGA income for 1966 was \$1,117,750 . . . Tournament revenue was \$666,640 . . . Subscriptions to Green Section Visiting Service were \$149,697 . . . From member club dues; \$142,215 . . . Income over expenses in 1966 was \$186,540, compared with \$5,077 in 1965.

National Open prize money this year will be \$175,000 . . . It was \$150,000 last year . . . First prize will be \$30,000 . . . Green Section Visiting Service reported 928 courses as subscribers and an operating deficit of \$50,564 . . . This visiting service of what might correctly be described as the Golf Course section of the USGA is of direct and immense value in promoting increase in golf play.

Annual Report of the Executive Committee of the USGA, prepared for the 73rd annual meeting, Jan. 28, 1967, was the usual practical, comprehensive model of what a golf club and golf association report should be . . . It is an informative classic that should be read by every golf club and association official . . . The PGA and GCSA will get into major league class of information and service to members and golf in general when their annual reports are of the USGA Executive Committee type.

National Golf Fund which allots income from National Golf Day to golf welfare and educational operations made grants totaling \$80,000 at its annual meeting, Feb. 6 at PGA National clubhouse . . . In its 15 years, National Golf Day has raised \$1,180,000 which has been

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GRAFFIS SWING

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distributed approximately 27 per cent to caddie scholarships through the 22 major golf associations financing such scholarships . . . Golf charities such as PGA Benevolent and Relief funds, women's services operating at military hospitals and the National Amputee GA have received about 25 per cent of the Golf Day revenue . . . Educational programs such as the Turf Research and scholarship funds of the USGA and the GCSA, and the PGA educational operations have received about 48 per cent of the dollar entry fee paid by golfers who play in the Golf Day competitions at their clubs . . . More than two-thirds of the GCSA grants to turf scholars comes from National Golf Day . . . *Harold A. Moore*, former Western GA president, declined reelection as National Golf Fund president and *Herb Graffis* was elected . . . New members elected are *William M. Jennings* of New York and *Charles Stewart* of Lost Tree Village, Fla.

"Bobby Jones on Golf" is a selection of the newspaper syndicate pieces Jones did twice a week when he was at the top of his game . . . *Charley Price* picked out the columns then Bob went over them meticulously and Golf's Gospel According to Jones is available as a classic aid to the aspiring . . . The price is \$5.95 . . . Doubleday and Co., is the publisher . . . Bob played with Vardon, Hagen and the elder stars and at the Masters has seen, studied close-up and appraised, all the younger ones . . . Jones played intermittently like a businessman golfer when he was compiling the greatest championship record in the game . . . Older pros who played with him and were instructors at East Lake have told me Bob was the brightest, deepest scholar of golf they'd ever met and the Number One Learner . . . This collection of the Jones examination and report on simply playing good golf is sure to be recommended by a lot of wise pros to their promising pupils.

Paul Hahn, trick shot star, changes

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his headquarters to Country Club of Miami, PO Box 38-1058, Miami . . . *Tom Fitzgerald*, veteran golf writer who covers hockey in the winter, is president of the National Hockey League Writers' Assn. . . . Series by *Al Laney*, N. Y. World Journal Tribune, on "The Club Pro; Golf's Strength" is a top job of propaganda for the service pro . . . It covers pros in the N. Y. section . . . Laney writes that "behind the glamorous figures who . . . are merely the showcase of golf . . ." is the "world of the so-called home club pros who man the golf shops at clubs everywhere, devote their lives to serving their members as teachers, friends and always as staunch defenders of the best traditions of the game" . . . "The roots of the great professional tour is deep in the pro shops of the land." . . . Laney also makes the interesting observation "the advent of television has shown us clearly that their (the club pros') golf swings in some cases are even better than the swings of tour pros."

Look for considerable changes in the promotion of the PGA National Team championship . . . The top purse event was \$40,755 of its operating expenses and \$275,000 prize money and Palm Beach County and towns close to the PGA course had to make up the deficit after the PGA had paid plenty for last December's event . . . PGA National courses have been put in fine condition by Supt. Bob McKinney and are getting considerable play but they don't draw galleries . . . PGA Senior's championship with Snead's 279 winning by nine strokes drew only a few hundred spectators; most of them other seniors and some salesmen left over from the PGA Merchandise show . . . Sam was putting sharp with the peculiar method he got in England . . . His approaching didn't leave him many long putts.

Illness prevented *Dick Tufts* accepting the Bob Jones award at the USGA annual meeting . . . Dick's son Peter re-

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ceived the award as his dad's stand-in . . . The choice of Dick Tufts as one who has served golf in the Jones spirit was perfect . . . Over the years no other one man has done more for the game than Dick . . . He has defended the traditional character of golf against the cheapening of the gold rush.

Some excellent golf was played by veteran club pros in the Teacher's championship class of the PGA Seniors . . . Scores under par 72 of the PGA East course were numerous . . . There was sharpshooting in the Age Groups too . . . Winners in the age classes were *Don Murphy, Sam Byrd, Joe Turnesa, Bobby Cruickshank, George Ferrier, Charles Mayo* and *George Livingstone*.

Paul Erath was elected president, PGA Seniors and with him were elected *Johnny Gaucas* as first vice-president, *John Vasco* as second vice-president and *Denny*

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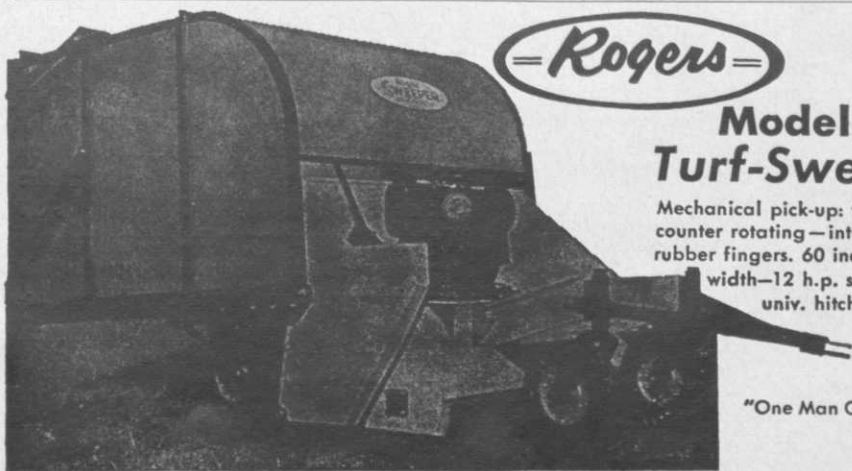
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McGonagle as secretary-treasurer . . . At the Seniors' annual dinner, *Ronald Teacher*, donor of the championship trophy and financial sponsor of the PGA national and international championships was the guest of honor . . . *Harry Moffitt* as mc kept the party going smoothly, swiftly and merrily.

PGA Seniors' Women's Auxiliary elected *Mrs. Tony Janis* president . . . *Mrs. Ed Lockey* was elected first vice-president; *Mrs. Angelo Mainero*, second vice-president and *Mrs. Johnny Gaucas*, secretary-treasurer . . . The Women's Auxiliary championship was won by *Mrs. Sam Byrd* with 82 on the PGA West course.

Virgil E. Morey, 59, pro at Riverside CC, Lanett, Ala., suffered a fatal heart attack in front of the clubhouse during the PGA Merchandise Show . . . He had been professional at clubs in Indiana before moving south . . . He is survived by his widow, Ruth and their daughter.

Green Section annual award to *Elmer J. Michael*, many years superintendent at Oak Hill CC, Rochester, N. Y. was the second time the award went to a recently retired superintendent . . . The late Joe Valentine, along with Merion was the first supt. to get the USGA honor . . . Michael's father preceded him in golf course work . . . Elmer now is keeping his hand in as a consultant . . . Green Sec-



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tion conference featuring modernizing of courses was a helpful program at the Biltmore hotel, N. Y., Jan. 27, preceding the USGA annual meeting and will echoed in regional meetings.

Glenn E. McGibon promoted to head pro post at Los Angeles CC . . . He was pro at Norton Air Force Base course in San Bernardino and at Hacienda CC prior to joining the LACC staff . . . *Roger W. Van Dyke* now pro at Flint (Mich.) G&CC . . . He switched from Hickory Hills GC, Oak Lawn, Ill. . . . Buick Motor Div. contributes \$10,000 to Evans Scholars Foundation for Tony Lema memorial scholarships . . . Tony was the only two-time winner of the Buick Open.

Pooley Trammell, operator of the Roebuck and *Charlie Boswell* public courses of the Birmingham (Ala.) Park Board released the recently reopened North Birmingham nine-hole course . . . *Dick Harvey* is pro at North Birmingham . . .

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Forest Hills GC, Bishopville, O., in its first year . . . *Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Knoderer* are owners and operators . . . *Harry Flora* designed the course and is pro . . . One way to start a job was exhibited by *Bobby Brooks*, now this year as pro at Baytown, Tex. . . . While inspecting the course he borrowed a club from a player and aced the third hole with the first shot he'd hit on his new job.

Neil Plopper from Orlando (Fla. Air Force Base course to pro job at Rio Pinar GC, Orlando, succeeding *Ernest Edwards* who went to Starmount Forest CC, Greensboro, N. C. . . . *Doug Sanders* has an interest in the Shamrock CC, a resort and residential development to be built near Tulsa, Okla. . . . It is to have two 18s and a lighted par-3 . . . *Bob Rosburg* is journeyman pro for Savannah (Ga.) Inn & CC which expects to open this summer its 18 designed by *Willard Byrd* of Atlanta . . . *continued on next page*

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Fathers and Sons lunch at GCSAA conference

Golfdom's annual Fathers and Sons luncheon during the GCSA conference drew a record attendance of 85. Joe Graffis, Sr. and Jr. teamed as hosts when Bob Abramson, GOLFDOM Associate Publisher, who had started for the affair was snowbound between New York and Washington. Several of the paternal pioneers in course maintenance told of course budgets and salaries early in their careers while their sons wondered "Whaddye mean; the good old days?"

Bill Parkas, Jr., now pro at Black Mountain CC, Henderson, Nev. . . .
Jack Harden now pro at River Oaks CC, Houston, Tex. . . . Harden succeeded at Rolling Hills CC, Golden, Colo., by *William Flenniken*, formerly assistant at Pinehurst CC, Littleton, Colo.

Another great *R. T. Jones* arrives in
continued on next page

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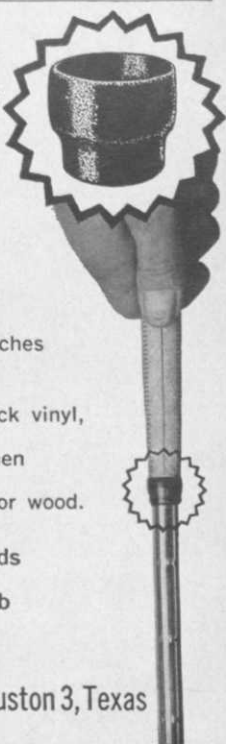
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golf . . . This latest one is Robert Trent Jones III, son of *Mr. and Mrs. Robert Trent Jones, Jr.*, and grandson of the noted architect *Robert Trent Jones* who continues to be confused with *Robert Tyre Jones, Jr.*, by reporters who don't golf. . . . The newest one of the Jones boys lives in Menlo Park, Calif., where his daddy has an architectural office with the first Robert Trent J.

Swell 25th anniversary party for *Harry Nettlebladt* and his wife *Evelyn* given by Golf Club of Avon, Conn. where Harry is pro . . . Harry, former Connecticut PGA president has won all the state's title titles and has graduated a lot of his amateur pupils into championships in their classes . . . Harry would get a bale of votes as "Nicest Guy in Golf."

Stan Hale now general manager Minneapolis CC . . . *David M. Zimmer-schied* now pro at Belle Fourche (S.

DiFini, golf sports-wear manufacturers, "dressed up" celebrities and many leading professionals with these Bravo-Flex stretch slacks at the Bob Hope Desert Classic. Made of dacron, worsted and lycra spandex, they give as your weight fluctuates eliminating any alterations.



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