

Swinging around golf

by Herb Graffis



The working version of the golf car now is about as prominent in course maintenance as it is in play, according to reports of many superintendents at the Golf Course Superintendent Association San Francisco meeting and exhibition . . . The working car plus the portable wireless telephone is helping the superintendent to be "everywhere at once." . . . Years ago in Golf-dom, Kent Bradley reported valuable use of the field wireless sets in getting course jobs done correctly and promptly . . . That story was applied by many smart superintendents who, in some cases, paid their own money for the communications equipment when chairmen didn't think much of the idea . . . We saw the small working car—portable wireless phone combination employed by Frank Dinelli and his eldest son and top aide at Northmoor in the Chicago district; so the job must have saved its cost several times during construction of seven new holes while maintaining the top standard of course condition on existing holes.

The Dinellis told me that when you know how to use these small working cars for trouble-shooting, education and supervision you've bought yourself the equivalent of the services of a couple of competent new men.

This is the sort of experience—school stuff discussed informally in the bull sessions at rooms and bars at the GCSA national meeting and in sectional meetings . . . It means huge sums in savings and improvements on golf courses each year.

Golf car use is developing changes in maintenance procedure so that aeration, fertilizing, grass strains,

etc., to offset car traffic, is foresighted standard practice at numerous well-managed courses . . . Probably the day isn't too far away on first class courses when the black-topped car paths, or other paths artificially surfaced will be torn up and grass will be used as the path . . . What car roads actually are in the rules of golf bewilders me since they're considered neither hazards nor obstructions . . . Local rules sometimes encourage reading the scorecards, so I yip a ball off a car road, hoping for the best for my arms and club, and knowing that the way I play a stroke or two won't make much difference.

Another subject discussed out of formal bounds at GCSA meetings is replacement of divots . . . On watered courses divot replacement generally is disregarded because management of the top grade courses has the soil-seed-fertilizer repair treatment pretty much standard operating procedure . . . It is quick, looks neater, plays well and as for the cost of fairways and tees, who knows?

If there were a sort of a Pulitzer

Prize awarded for golf business writing it should go to Dr. Marvin Ferguson, research director of the USGA Green Section for his report on turf research at nine state universities and experiment stations and his recommendations for 1968 turf research . . . Ferguson's round-up and condensation of what's doing in turf research is a "must" reading for every superintendent, chairman and other club official who wants to know what the score is in turf maintenance. Support of the turf research programs by USGA Green Section and some state amateur organizations and the National Golf Fund is an exceedingly valuable use of working money . . . The Ferguson round-up was printed in the Green Section report, and at the National Golf Fund annual meeting was rated as the record that told the clearest story of giving golfers big dividends on their National Golf Day dollars.

National Golf Day, the educational and welfare annual fund-raising operation, conducted as a public service by the PGA, is an exhibition of generosity unique in professional sports . . . PGA members raised \$98,553 in 1967 at \$1 per throw from men and women golfers who competed against the better score of the PGA champion, Don January, and the National Open champion, Jack Nicklaus, both of whom gave their services free for the "Round of Champions" which was not televised last year . . . The day for the Round of Champions will be Memorial Day, May 30th, and that will be the target round (whoever's lower) against which the noble ones who pay \$1 per person compete on whatever day the PGA sets as National Golf Day. There is nothing else like

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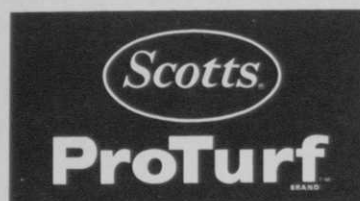
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this in sports as pros in other sports are not notorious for 'giving.'

Unfortunately, only about a third of the PGA class A members are active in National Golf Day . . . Two-thirds are indifferent to the immense prestige possibilities of a PGA fund-raising enterprise, in cooperation with amateur golfers, that distribute about 27 per cent of its net revenue among 23 caddie scholarship funds; 48 per cent to turf research and educational budgets of the USGA Green Section, the Golf Course Superintendent Association research and scholarship funds and the PGA educational fund; and 25 per cent among the National Amputee Golf Association, the golf therapy and entertainment programs presented at veterans' hospitals by the United Voluntary Services and the Relief and Benevolent funds of the PGA.

The PGA with its National Golf Day gives more (\$10,660) to the Golf Course Superintendents scholarship and research fund than the Golf Course Superintendents Association does (\$6,539) . . . Its grant to the USGA Green Section Research and Education Fund unquestionably gives golfers, from the highest to the lowest degree, the greatest return in development of fine playing conditions, per dollar invested of any money spent in golf.

Allie Russo, pro at Palm Beach Lakes (Fla.) GC, whose club was top of the country in National Golf Day, got an award for his members and himself at the PGA clubhouse during the annual meeting of the National Golf Fund . . . Herb Graffis of Golfdom and Golf, was re-elected president, National Golf Fund . . . Graffis, no hand at ducking bows for work others have done, had to admit that Lloyd Lamnert and Bob Creasey of the PGA, Marshall Dann of the Western Golf Association, Joe Dey of the USGA and other Golf Fund teammates were very tight and canny about the distribution of other people's money.

Generally, club officials, club owners and pay-play golfers haven't got the slightest idea of what National Golf Day, a generous public service of golf, is all about

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... Many pros are afraid to tell their members and players.

The PGA further elevated its high standing in golf public service by having the 21 percent of National Golf Day revenue, usually applied to the PGA Educational account, be turned over to relief and benevolent funds, sectors in which pro golfers are far behind pro baseball and football players . . . The transfer is offset by educational money taken from other PGA funds . . . Substantial economies were effected in the promotion of 1967 National Golf Day and its operation, a project in which all officers are unpaid and pay their own expenses.

Eventually many of the better clubs may bill members \$1 a year for National Golf Day on the pattern followed by a considerable number of the top clubs in billing members for caddie scholarship and local association handicap cards.

Par-3 development has settled down to a solid business gait and out of the boom stage . . . These par-3s are much older than you may think . . . Ted Woolley, president, Golfcraft, when he was a smart young pro fresh from Scotland, was an early builder and operator of a par-3 . . . It was around San Diego and about 40 years ago . . . Sonny Ryan now starting his tenth year as teaching pro for Dave Felder at Dave's Golf Center in Minneapolis says Dave's new nine hole par-3 about 1,250 yds. long opens about mid-May.

Bantam Books, Inc., will publish this December the first of the annual round-ups, that the late Charley Bartlett, Golf Writers' Association secretary, had been preparing for years . . . Bartlett's oldest son, Mike, will edit the book . . . Bob Cromie, Chicago Tribune book editor, a golfer and former sports writer, arranged the deal with Bantam . . . Marshall Dann of Western Golf Association, Carol McCue of Chicago District GA, Waxo (Dudley) Green, Golf Writers president, and others are collaborating.

Ted Swanson, Wakefield, Mass., and a founding member of the New England GCSA when he was superintendent Bearhill GC, Stoneham,

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Mass. died recently in a nursing home . . . Ted was in his 60s . . . He is survived by a son and two sisters . . . Swanson retired several years ago because of poor health, eye trouble and nerves . . . You'd be surprised to know how many top superintendents suffer from ulcers and other nerve-tearing afflictions . . . They've got jobs of nerve strain from nature and golfers.

Course near Flagstaff, Ariz., originally known as Northernaire CC, then Oakwood CC, taken over by new company headed by E.L. Robson of Phoenix and will have course modernized and put into top condition by Art Snyder, Jr. . . . Homesites and winter sports also in Pinewood plans . . . Gaylord Currie, on Jules Platte's pro staff at Paradise Valley CC in winter will be Pinewood pro in summer . . . Harold Thomas, pro at Greenville (N.C.) G&CC for 22 years resigned and bought Brook Valley CC at Greenville . . . He will operate Brook Valley and serve as its pro . . . Thomas C. Unger is now manager, Westwood CC, New Castle, Ind.

National chain of golf courses headed by Honolulu attorney William W. Saunders, and with Alexander C. Waterhouse as senior vice president, now are principal owners and operators of nine golf clubs on the mainland . . . Sonoma (Calif.) National was bought by Saunders' father, Dr. Cecil A. Saunders, a former Honolulu physician . . . Saunders family owned interests in the Colwood National and Meriwether National courses at Portland, Ore., which with Sonoma, were elements of the national golf management organized and formed in 1956.

Charlestown (W.Va.) councilman William E. Mohler, in proposing that Edgewood CC nine-hole private course become public pointed out that financing of the purchase of Edgewood, which would be too expensive for the city, actually would be no problem as there are "about seven different agencies in Washington that provide funds for public recreation grants." Come and get it . . . Danny Williams, Jr., now a pro at Mendham (N.J.) G&TC

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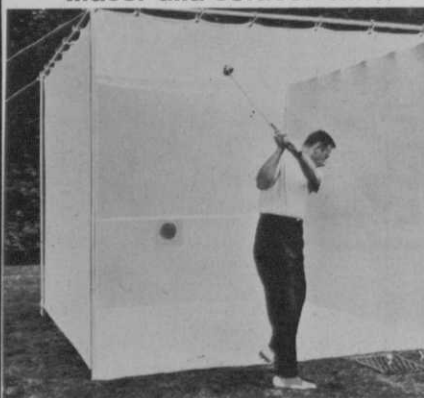
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Continued from page 78

... Larry Brancato succeeds Wil-
liams at Knoll GC, Boonton, N.J.
... Ed Gauntt leaves Twin Oaks
CC, Oklahoma City, Okla., to be-
come pro at new Norman, Okla.,
Westwood Park municipal course.

Dick LaBelle now pro-manager,
Juniata GC at Seattle, Wash. ...
Paul McMullen, for past three years
assistant to Gene Root at Lakewood
CC, Denver, Colo., to be pro at
Aurora (Colo.) municipal course
which will open in August ...
Henry Hughes designed the course
... Irwin Mahood now manager,
Everett (Wash.) G&CC ... L.C.
Martin named pro-manager, Emory
G&CC, Harriman, Tenn. ... His fa-
ther was in that job for 25 years
... Nicholas J. Pompa buys Chili
CC at Pittsford, N.Y. ... His
brother Vince moves from Gow-
anda CC, Hamburg, N.Y., to be-
come Chili pro.

Propose to use nine "trainees" in
building a nine-hole course on Port
of Skamania County land near
North Bonneville, Wash. ... The
expected \$35,000 grant is for a
work-training program for chronically
unemployed persons or persons
"who are unable, because of age
or otherwise, to secure appropriate
employment or training assistance
under other programs."

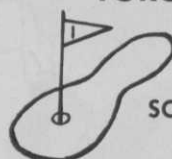
Ray Oakes signed as pro for the
new Briarcliff G&CC being built
near Rainier, Ore., to plans of Fred
Federspiel ... Bobby Bruce Fan-
nin now pro at Fernandina Beach
(Fla.) GC succeeding Ed Mattson
who resigned after serving as pro
since 1957 when the course was
opened ... Ronnie Mattson now
pro at Ludlow (Mass.) CC succeed-
ing veteran Art House who retired
... Mattson, former New England
amateur star, turned pro six years
ago to become assistant to Henry
Bontempo at Franconia.

Lawson Little's death at Pebble
Beach, Calif., was a merciful end
to the long illness of a colorful
champion and a very grand fellow
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the U.S. and British Amateur cham-
pionships in 1934 and 1935 is unique
... Not even Jones came close to
it ... In winning the 1940 National
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from Gene Sarazen, and the Canadian Open in 1936, the year he turned pro, Little, an engaging personality, was the trail-blazer for amateur champions who have turned pro... He was a more spectacular amateur than the later ones but was ahead of the Big Purse era... He did very well, though, and Lawson and his lovely wife, Dorothy, were gracious host and hostess at the beautiful Pebble Beach home during Crosby tournament... Twin daughters and a son are the Little children... The son consoled his mother with a glorious epitaph: "Mother, a lot of Great Ones have gone up there and now with Dad they've got the captain of the team."

Bill Lyons, owner of Lyons Den Golf, Inc., Canal Fulton, O., and widely known among superintendents, makes a \$300 scholarship grant to any lad who works on his course then goes to a turf management school... Series badges for the Masters were oversold by February 3, more than two months before the tournament began... Larger orders were reduced by Augusta National to give wider coverage... Only tickets that could be bought at the gates were for practice rounds, April 7-10, inclusive, at \$3... Plainly the Masters is the most successful of all golf tournaments.

Bob Rickey, widely known in pro golf as a MacGregor-Brunswick sales executive has been promoted and not only heads pro golf sales, but all other of the company's golf and other athletic goods marketing.

A man in Bangkok asks us who makes a small, portable automatic

wooden tee-making machine to be operated by boys who want to make money for their welfare fund... Only one course in Thailand but ought to be fair business at other Orient courses.

Robert Muir Graves, Lafayette, Calif., designed 18 that is being built by Robert F. Lawrence Co., Inc., Milbrae, Calif., for city of Walnut Creek in San Francisco district... Course is at base of 4,000 ft. Mt. Diablo... Clubhouse architects are Thomas and Wolverton... Scheduled opening, late summer... Fourteenth All-America Intercollegiate Invitation tournament at Pine Forest CC, Houston, April 17, 1968 with its 16 fine teams is an exhibition of the influence of Dave Williams, golf coach of the University of Houston... Very, very rarely do you ever see or hear of one of Dave's graduates who has turned pro conducting himself other than in an admirable manner.

Warren Orlick, PGA treasurer, and pro at Orchard Lake (Mich.) CC, administrative supervisor of the 1968 PGA Championship at Pecan Valley CC, San Antonio, Tex., July 18-21, will be chairman PGA Championship committee for the 1969 tourney to be played at National Cash Register GC, Dayton, O., Aug. 14-17... Orlick is one of the top experts on the rules of golf.

Howard Jones for past 15 years superintendent of Oakland Hills CC 36 holes in suburban Detroit, leaves to join Harry Pollock and Joe Gulasy in their reorganized Pine Brook Corp. at Cleveland, O., to complete the Pine Brook 18 in suburban Grafton... The course is a daily fee type one. *Continued on page 100*

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Golf course architects' guide

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Ted Woehrle moves from Beverly CC, Chicago, and will become Oakland Hills superintendent . . . In addition to usual course management work, Woehrle will work on revamping Oakland Hill's public north 18 to plans of Robert Trent Jones and making Oakland Hills a 36-hole private club . . . John T. Brennan is Oakland Hills general manager . . . Mike Souchak is pro.

Harley Coster, who has rebuilt more golf cars than anybody else, after selling his own car business and trying to retire, now is back in golf car business with Sam Oneall Golf Sales, 1203 Stadium Drive, Indianapolis . . . Coster has lectured on golf cars at several PGA schools and with him you get practically a short course in correct maintenance and repair of cars . . . Listening to him in "question and answer" sessions involving 25 or 30 makes of cars is valuable basic training.

Latest of the "swing-grooving" devices we've seen is the Swing Rite arrangement of two plastic guide rails between which the club is swung . . . It received favorable comment at the PGA show . . . It's made at Fairless Hills, Pa. . . Veteran pro Al McDonald is in-

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terested in it.

Charles Grant now pro at Illinois CC, Springfield, Ill., succeeding the late Archie Hambrick . . . Professionals' wives are having a spell of scoring aces . . . Lately Mrs. George Corcoran, Mrs. Gene Sarazen and Mrs. Willie Palumbo were playing at Marco Island (Fla.) CC where George is golf director and Gene resides in the winter and Mrs. Corcoran holed a tee shot . . . It was her third ace . . . Senior queen of the aces is Mrs. Frank Gilholm who at 73 last year holed her tee shot on the 130 yd. fifth hole of her pro husband's home club, Highland CC, Attleboro, Mass.

E. Paul Lemon now is golf course supervisor of West Virginia Div. of Parks and Recreation . . . Lemon's office is at Charleston, W.Va., with the Department of Natural Resources . . . The state has four fine courses, all in the scenic mountains, and designed by Geoffrey Cornish . . . The courses are a \$1 million investment . . . Two are 18-hole jobs, one a nine-hole job and one an "executive" course . . . They've got clubhouses and lodges at the courses and really compare favorably with top resort places at much higher prices . . . Lemon, from Parkersburg, W.Va., is an experienced superintendent and he's teamed with park executives with savvy and class.

Ike Handy, the adept veteran amateur of Houston, Tex., who's written several interesting and unorthodox books on the golf stroke points out that the widely publicized "computer scoreboard" figures of several 1967 tournaments don't show the tourney stars as very good all-around golfers, as only six of 86 averaged par, but figures did indicate that unless the star pros had been exceptionally fine putters they'd not been better than club champion status . . . The "box score" the late Charles Bartlett compiled and ran in the Chicago Tribune showed that even with the courses softened by wider fairways and easier rough, the boys were pretty much spraying shots but getting well with 28 or 30 putts.

Jack Parnell now pro at Callaway Gardens, Georgia course for which Tommy Aaron is the touring sandwich man. □

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Resident golf professional, experienced in all phases of golf—shop operations—age 45—available immediately. Write Box 337, c/o GOLFDOM.

Superintendent desires change preferably northeast, 25 years experience in all phases golf-course building and maintenance including nationally known golfcourse. Excellent references. Write Box 376, c/o GOLFDOM.

College junior, majoring in accounting, desires summer position with golf professional. Can keep books and work in shop. Write Jeff Hoffman 1469 Sheridan, Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

GOLF PROFESSIONAL Available July. Twelve years teaching and management experience. Head professional past eight years. Age-38, happily married. Resume upon request. Write Box 359, c/o GOLFDOM.

Club manager, over 20 years experience, wife experienced in kitchen supervision, can furnish references; Write Box 379, c/o GOLFDOM.

PGA Golf Professional and/or Manager. Wife assists. 20 years experience. Army Gianvito, Phone 614-836-3435.

Golf course supt. 15 years experience. Automatic and semi-automatic watering system. Familiar with all grasses, shrubbery, some landscaping. Southeast preferred. Available 30 days notice. Last employment Florida. Member G.C.S. Write Box 381, c/o GOLFDOM.

AVAILABLE: PGA Golf Professional qualified teacher, par player over 20 years experience in all phases, will represent your club above average. Resume available. Interview. Write Box 382, c/o GOLFDOM.

MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale—Deluxe 18-hole Par 3 golf course expertly lighted and irrigated, with custom designed miniature course, bocce courts, lawn bowling, clubhouse, etc. located on arterial highway, southern New York. Fourth year well-established in fast growing area. Adjacent 3 acres for development. Great potential. Write Box 375, c/o GOLFDOM.

Balls; practice, \$.14, good grade, \$.28, cream-puffs, Titleists, Dots, etc. \$.39, minimum order \$10. COD, Box 2442, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Close out Sale: Range golf balls, in perfect condition \$2.00, near perfect \$1.70, club marks \$1.50. Also plain whites and name brands. Ti Fili Golf Ball Co. 1327 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, Mo. 63103. Phone Collect 314-CE 1-4352.

SELLING ESTABLISHED DRIVING RANGE, miniature, baseball, 9-hole lighted Par-3, and new shop on well-located 15 acres in large midwestern city. \$150,000. Write Box 378, c/o GOLFDOM.

1,000,000 Golf Balls Wanted: Used and/or cuts, premium prices, we pay freight, ship to "Strictly Golf" 320 N. Webster, Naperville, Illinois 60540, phone FI 5-5353 a/c 312.

Golf Ball Refinishing, striping, stamping, cuts rebuilt, re-lettering, private label. Balls bought sold. Fine Finishers Box 26 Downers Grove, Illinois.

For Sale—Driving range, leased land, Texas, income year around, good sales, established 11 years. Building 32' x 40'. Toro mowers. 24 lamps. Write Box 380, c/o GOLFDOM.

RATES: Minimum insertion \$7.70 for 20 words or less; additional words 50¢ each; in boldface type 60¢ per word. ALL CLASSIFIED ADS ARE PAYABLE ON PLACEMENT OF ORDER.

NO CLASSIFIED ADS ACCEPTED AFTER THE 15th OF MONTH PRECEDING DATE OF ISSUE. NO CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING OFFERING NEW MERCHANDISE OR EQUIPMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Please mark all envelopes containing correspondence or checks for classified ads, ATT: Gerri Simmons, GOLFDOM Classified. Under no circumstances are we permitted to divulge the names or addresses of those placing blind advertisements.

Response to all box numbers ads should be addressed to the BOX NUMBER, c/o GOLFDOM, 235 East 45th St., New York, New York 10017. Replies are promptly forwarded to the advertisers. When replies to blind ads require more than 10¢ postage, the additional proper postage for forwarding must be supplied.