

Swinging around golf

by Herb Graffis



Problem: Getting jobs & jobless together

Difficulty of recruiting golf course employees who can be trained to work and stay on the job is increasing while government "experts" cope with the problem of getting hard-core unemployables earning . . . To have a Poor Folks encampment getting newspaper space for showboating demagogos while near-by golf courses and other places are looking for men to hire doesn't make sense.

The late *Craig Wood*, a National Open and Masters winner whose attractive personality, good looks and genuine "class" especially impressed big businessmen was the first of the professionals to get into substantial business enterprises other than golf promotions of various sorts . . . *Craig* had automobile agencies and with *Bill McNulty* got into the golf apparel business . . . *Craig's* golf shirts were the first to tip off shirtmakers to marketing possibilities of playing golf pros' names . . . By spending large amounts in advertising the shirt makers have made the merchandising value of the pro names proportionate to the money spent in advertising . . . The pro names without paid advertising wouldn't sell much.

Golf was further identified as the national game of the United States by the 1968 National Golf Day statement of President Johnson . . . The presidential letter concluded with congratulations to the PGA for conducting National Golf Day . . . Early reports indicated more pros were successfully active in this year's National Golf Day operation than in any of the event's previous

16 years and more golfers at private, public and fee courses contributed the \$1 per than previously had figured in the annual presentation of the affair. Unique in sports, the event has raised more than \$1,250,000 for caddie scholarships, turf research, golf as therapy for casualties of war and industry and other educational and welfare activities.

National Golf Day and caddie scholarship contributions of golfers are something in which golfers can take great pride.

Caddie scholars seem to be champions of the scholarship winners, not only in collegiate performance but in their superior over-all mental capacity, maturity, self-discipline and poise during a period when so many campus kiddies have been in bubbleheaded misbehavior and so many collegiate authorities have exhibited incapacity.

Florida West Coast Golf Course Supts. Assn. which has been an immensely valuable factor in establishing high standards of course condition despite tough growing and budget conditions now has an area chapter of its own kin, the Everglades GCSA, headed by Supt. *Bob Sanderson*, Port Charlotte GC . . . The newly organized group meets on the first Tuesday of each month . . . With tourists absent and last winter's tourist revenue providing funds for needed course work the Florida West Coast supts. have heavy summer work programs involving a great deal of improvement.

John M. Shippen, one of the first American-born pros, who died recently in a Newark (N.J.) nursing home at the age of 90, was of Indian-Negro parentage and came into golf as workman on the Shinnecock Hills golf

course . . . His first job as a pro was as pro-greenkeeper at the Maidstone Club in East Hampton, N.Y., when he graduated from caddie ranks. He played in six National Opens with his first effort being in 1896 when he tied for fifth . . . In each Open he listed under a different label; *John Shippen*, *John W.*, *Jack*, *J.W.*, etc . . . We had a job tracking him for a golfing story some years back . . . *Charley Thom*, veteran pro, *John Brennan*, Long Island golf writer, and others tried to track down Shippen but *Frank Strafaci* was the one who stuck to the job and located Shippen's relatives, then the old boy himself, who was teaching at a small New Jersey club with mostly Negro members . . . He was barely making eating money . . . Reference in the Shippen obituary to *Theodore Havemeyer*, first pres., USGA, threatening to call off the 1896 National Open at Shinnecock Hills unless the other pros allowed him to play was one of those fictions that amused those who'd learned the facts years ago.

New Mexico State University students in computer science classes and using computer equipment at the White Sands Missile Range kept score in great detail on NM State's intercollegiate tourney last April and during the 71st National Collegiate AA championship June 17-22 . . . With all the computerized scorekeeping there has been in the National Open and other tournaments the *de Vincenzo* score screw-up in the Masters never can be excused . . . Since *Charley Bartlett*, for many years golf writer for the Chicago Tribune, died and his box score showing putts, greens reached in par, rough and bunkers visited,

Continued on page 17

is no longer presented, it is difficult to tell just what goes on in a championship round of golf.

Again, congratulations to the Women's Metropolitan GA, 1968 Tournament Schedule . . . In giving its calendar of women's and junior events, information on WMGA official personnel, officials' duties, handicap information, rules, etc., the Met women do a job very few men's associations equal.

Grand party for a grand guy when *George J. Hermann* was honored at a testimonial dinner given by officers and directors of the Athletic Goods Mfrs. Assn., the National Golf Foundation, Athletic Institute, Golf Ball Mfrs. Assn. and National Assn. of Golf Ball Mfrs., at Drake Hotel, Chicago . . . George has been sec. and treas. for most of those associations since they were organized . . . He's done a wonderful job for them with figures and his judgment . . . Now he has retired . . . He has been succeeded by *Art Goettler*.

Two record fields this year . . . USGA Open record was 3,038 (previous record was 1967's 2,651) and PGA championship 1,494 . . . *John R. Darrah* designed a completely new 18 for London (Ky.) CC replacing original 18 . . . Darrah also has planned new 18 for Morris (Ill.) CC . . . He's finishing nine additional holes for Back Acres CC, Senatobia, Miss., near Memphis, Tenn., and Arispie Lake CC. at Princeton, Ill., with a nine-hole course and other recreation and residential facilities.

Florida golf clubs are getting organized to protect themselves against destructive taxation . . . And to think of the millions upon millions of dollars of revenue from residential and vacation players golf brings into Florida!

O.J. Noer Research Foundation, Inc., July 8 meeting at Clauson's Inn and CC, Cape Cod, formally reports continued substantial progress in the phases of golf turf development financed by the memorial to the late great guy who did so much for golf by help-

ing to bring the course supts., the chairmen, the state experiment station scientists and the Green Section experts together . . . *Orville Clapper* is pres. of the Noer Foundation; *Frank I. Shuman*, 1528 Belfield Ave., Philadelphia, 19141 is sec. and *Charles Wilson*, PO Box 2079, Milwaukee, 53201, is research director.

Sometimes I wonder, if the research on how to improve the playing of golf were as soundly organized and conducted as the golf turf research, would most of us be playing in the mid-80s and playing more?

There's talk around Chicago about the possibility of getting the offices of the Chicago District Golf Assn., the National Golf Foundation, the Golf Course Supts. Assn., the Illinois section PGA, Midwestern div. of USGA Green Section, Midwest GCSA, Midwest Turf Foundation and a golf research and reference library and museum in one building. □



Controls more of the problem weeds and grasses found in established turf, golf course greens and fairways... with greater safety... than any other selective herbicide on the market today!



Fumigates soil completely for renovation or establishment of turf... controls soil-borne pests... promotes thick, vigorous turf growth by controlling weeds, germinating weed seed, soil fungi and nematodes.

For your supply of **BETASAN®** selective herbicide and **VAPAM®** soil fumigant, contact your distributor. Ask him for complete details or write to Stauffer Chemical Company, Agricultural Chemical Division, Dept. HD, 299 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017.



STAUFFER CHEMICALS... at work everywhere

For more information circle number 268 on card