

# Swinging around golf

by Herb Graffis



**A** bright spot will be missing at major golf tournaments now that *Charley Bartlett* is gone . . . Presence of the very able, beloved golf writer of the *Chicago Tribune*, made a tournament a major affair . . . I had the great luck to know Charley as a very warm friend and an admirable fellow worker in golf since he began covering the game in 1931 . . . In all that time I never heard him say an unkind word about anybody . . . With his ability, his consideration and his immense memory and knowledge of golf he was most valuable to his colleagues; the veterans and the youngsters, alike . . . He was versatile in sports coverage, a keen observer and a writer whose stories took you with him . . . His service as secretary of the Golf Writers' Association since its founding in 1946, and as its treasurer until two years ago, was immeasurably valuable to the golf writers, their readers and the players . . . His box score gave significant detail of a difficult game to cover and involved much work which he faithfully did . . . In score by strokes Charley wasn't a good golfer but in scoring as a human he was one of the very greatest . . . He will be cheerfully at home in the Green Pastures.

Weather is bound to be better for golf business in many districts this year, say optimists who survived the bad days of 1967 . . . In parts of New England last spring and summer, there were 11 consecutive weekends of rain . . . Fee course revenue in wet areas was off 40 per cent . . . You can imagine what happened to pro shop sales and sales of modern irrigation equipment . . . With weather being the main factor in pro shop, restaurant, bar and pay-play ticket sales at golf clubs, it's strange there isn't much record-

ing and study of the effect of weather on golf business revenue. There is, however, a lot of record-keeping and study concerning rainfall and temperature effect in course maintenance work.

There have been shocking surprises on taxes demanded by the government on checks and other gifts given to pros at their "retirement parties." . . . There have been pained yowls from famous athletes who've had to pay taxes on automobiles, belts, etc., awarded them . . . Reminds me that some years ago Tommy Armour spent plenty trying to get Washington to give pro athletes a break on the order of the depletion allowance given oil and other natural resource companies . . . PGA, pro baseball and football player organizations were deaf and dumb when it was suggested that they go along and work with tax experts and favorably inclined Washington people Tommy and *Stell Armour* knew well . . . Now the big thing in management of athletes is ducking taxes like real rich men.

Looking at golf in the old-fashioned way when the biggest man was the one who put the most in: *Chick Evans* has been sick and in

bed for weeks after returning to his home in Chicago from the international senior amateur tournament at Colorado Springs . . . Chick played 11 consecutive days in 5,980 ft. altitude . . . At 77, he couldn't take it.

Somehow when we hear the belly-aching about three-putting (including our own) and lousy greens and changing the rules for players with early starting times we happen to think of *Charley Boswell*, who again won the Blind Golfers Association annual championship . . . Boswell shot 108-101 at Edgemont GC, Media, Pa., to win by one stroke from *Claude Pattemore*, five-time Canadian blind champion . . . Boswell has won the U.S. title umpteen times . . . He was blinded in the Battle of the Bulge.

Women's Western GA decision to drop Women's Western Open from the WWGA calendar could be a tip to manufacturers who have girl pros on their staffs and who have a lot to gain from development of women's golf . . . The Ladies PGA could use a lot of the same sort of advice and support it got from leading manufacturers in the days when the organization was new.

Randy Smith and wife have bought Oakville CC, Sterling, Ill., from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hartman and are improving the course . . . John Marschall, assistant to Jack Bell at Medinah (Ill.) GC for two years moved up to the boss job when the personable Bell resigned to go in another business . . . There's talk about a PGA memorial award in appreciation of the services to the association and its members of the late *Warren Cantrell* . . . Cantrell's judgment, foresight and courage during the difficult years of his presidency straightened out the PGA National Golf Club and course deal.

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World Senior Amateur team championship which brought teams of three or four players from 11 countries to Pinehurst for the first play of the new title event, is the result of a conversation between the late Shun Normura, Japan Golf Association head, and Juan Trippe, a director of the International Golf Association during the Canada Cup tournament near Tokyo in 1957 . . . Mr. Nomura proposed a match between high handicap golfers of Japan and the United States, as an amateur expression of the international "friendship through golf" idea John Jay Hopkins had when he founded the IGA with its pro team and individual competitions . . . Nomura, an oil man, asked Trippe, head of Pan American airlines, to see what the USGA thought of the proposal . . . The result was the world-wide senior amateur tourney started last year . . . That 1957 Canada Cup (now World Cup) competition also was the beginning of the Japanese golf boom . . . The IGA tournament return to Mexico last November where the 1958 Canada Cup event had been played was in an Olympic Games atmosphere with teams of 40 nations playing in the event.

Benefit tournament staged by Illinois section for scholarship fund of Christine Whalen, daughter of the late Danny Whalen and his widow, Gerda, was a substantial success . . . Better financially than most such affairs are . . . Whalen was killed in an auto accident while on the Latin-American tour . . . Gerda, fraulein who met and married Danny when he was a GI in Germany, now is assistant to Earl Puckett, pro at Northmoor GC, Highland Park, Ill. . . Paul Hahn contributed his services to the benefit . . . Hahn shows in far more benefits than any other fellow we've ever known in golf . . . Must cost him plenty in passed-up cash fees and inconvenience and expenses . . . Hahn scored another international success with his show at the Alcan tourney at St. Andrews.

Ralph Hutchison, pro at Saucon Valley GC, Bethlehem, Pa. and at Cotton Bay Club, Eleuthera, Bahamas, in winter had a set of Spalding Elite irons uniquely marked; driving iron, mid-iron, mid-mashie,

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wedge and niblick . . . When you see close-up and in the field the absolutely great job the PGA has done for tournament golf and its public with the Approved Tournament Players training program, you are more than ever convinced it would be a costly, knuckle-headed thing if the tourney players ever would split from the basic PGA.

Largest lighted course we know of is new Westlake Village 100 acre, 4750 yd. course in Ventura County, Calif. . . . It's in an American-Hawaiian Steamship Co. community development . . . Clint Airey is promgr. . . . R. Albert Anderson is architect of 18 under construction at Terra du Lac in St. Louis area for Fred Weber, St. Louis road contractor . . . Anderson also designed Tower-Tee par-3 nine at St. Louis . . . Big winter golf tourist season forecast by the Fifth Annual Jamaica Jamboree tournament at Montego Bay, Jamaica, Jan. 2-14 . . . John Derr, veteran golf radio and TV broadcaster, conducts this event . . . Invitations are issued to USGA and Royal Canadian GC member clubs . . . This year, members of clubs from Scotland, England and Sweden also were accepted . . . By October, entry limit had been reached and applications from 17 clubs had to be turned down.

Robert B. Kiersky, former USGA Senior champion, has a suggestion about speeding play that seems to make good sense . . . Bob says uniformity in standing off the greens of par-3 holes while following players hit off the tee would save time on four holes per round . . . Now there is no uniformity in procedure at the par-3 holes . . . Nobody knows just what to do and only courtesy or local rule, sometimes observed, suggest the time-saving order . . . Maybe suggestion by the USGA or a local rule might help.

Bobby Cruickshank being elected as 38th man in PGA Hall of Fame gets loud cheers and glasses lifted on high from us . . . Wee Bobby is one of the really big men we have ever met in sports or other sectors of public life . . . With Frank Walsh, I heard Bobby and Sandy

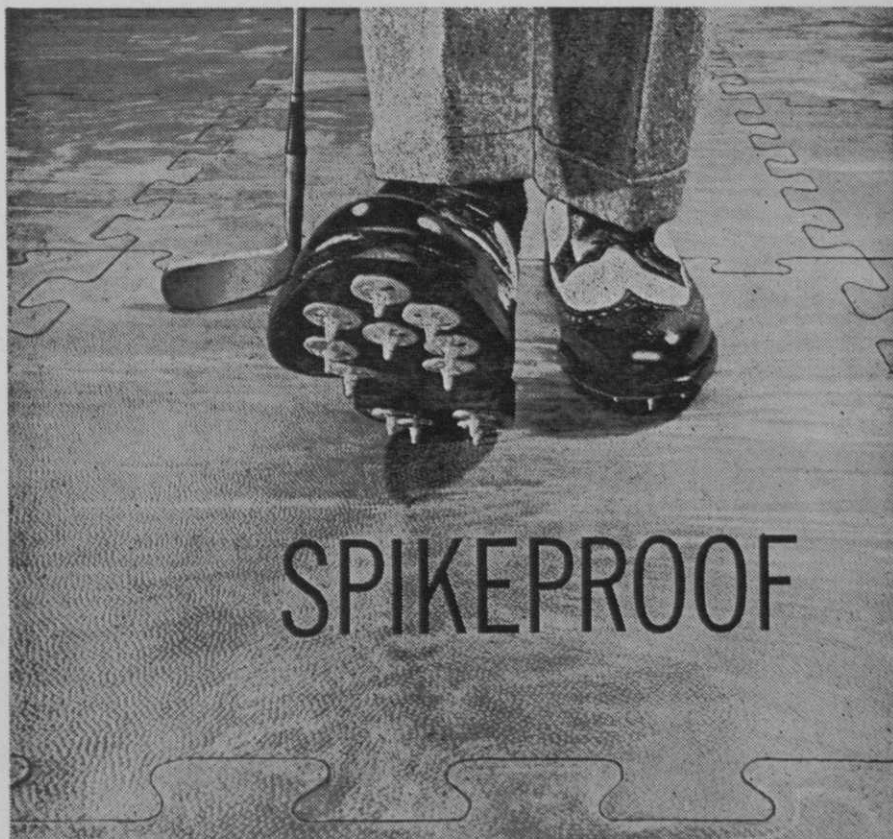
and Tommy Armour talk about World War I when Cruicky and Sandy were prisoners in the same camp . . . That was a rare performance; the only time I'd heard them on the subject . . . Cruicky almost broke the heart of the PW commandant by getting the German guards and prisoner detail on a burial assignment blind, roaring, roughhousing stoned . . . When Cruicky blew himself out of a National Open at Oakland Hills at a critical time, I asked him how come? He replied,

"I have been playing golf for 3,967 \*+#!& years and asked a five-year old caddie what club to use."

I thought I'd heard everything when a pro told me he had a member who had bought a set of cut-price woods "down town", then asked the pro for a trade-in on a used set of head-covers.

Just as sure as teeing up, public course fees this year will be raised in many cities . . . Demand for higher maintenance standards as

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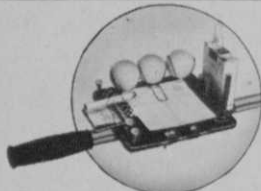
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**GRAFFIS** continued from page 89  
well as higher costs force the fees  
up . . . New Mexico Tech's 18 at  
Socorro has been remodeled and de-  
cidedly improved, although it should  
play easier than the old course, says  
pro LeRoy Olson . . . Well, why  
shouldn't you have fun out of play-  
ing a course instead of pounding  
your brains out? . . . Horace Ervin,  
formerly Carolina amateur cham-  
pion, now pro at new Falling Creek  
CC, Kingston, N.C. . . . Although  
short course (not always par-3s)  
construction has fallen off sharply, it  
seems that most of them recently  
built are first class in design and con-  
struction . . . They are working out  
well as features of superior real es-  
tate developments.

Joe Frasca named Carolinas Pro-  
of-the-Year after he had retired from  
Parris Island (S.C.) CC where he had  
been pro for the Marines for 19 years  
. . . Trans-Mississippi GA \$400  
awards to turf management students  
at Texas Tech made to Billy Burk  
Johnson, Plainview; Andrew H. San-  
som, Lake Jackson; Paul Milton Lef-  
forge, Corpus Christi and Clarence  
W. DeWitt, Hobbs, N.M.

John Ezzo to rebuild his Mahoning  
CC Clubhouse, Girard, O., destroy-  
ed by \$200,000 fire . . . Don Street  
resigns as pro at Delaware CC, Mun-  
cie, Ind., to be pro at Oaklandon  
(Ind.) CC where he is part owner  
. . . Ellis Brown resigns as pro at  
Westbrook CC, Muncie, Ind. . . .  
Joe Mihelich, pro-mgr. at Enumclaw  
(Wash.) CC for 12 years has bought  
(with Carl DeGross) nine-hole River-  
side GC, Chehalis, Wash.

Tom Talbot, for 16 years pro at  
Grandview muni course, Spring-  
field, Mo., goes to pro job at Jun-  
ction City (Ks.) CC, succeeding Ron  
Folger who switched to the pro post  
at Manhattan (Ks.) CC . . . Talbot,  
in Springfield, Mo., pro work since  
1931, was credited by the late Hor-  
ton Smith as being the man who  
taught Horton "how to learn golf."  
. . . Lin Storti, pro-mgr., Polson  
(Mont.) GC for 10 years, resigns to  
go to Whispering Lakes GC, Ontario,  
Calif., on a course renovation proj-  
ect . . . Storti, a former major  
league baseball player, has been pro  
at Montana clubs since 1946 . . .  
John Pappas now general manager  
Sunol Valley Golf and Recreation  
Co., is building 36 on 650 acres near

Hayward, Calif. . . . Werner Al-  
brecht now manager CC of Roches-  
ter, N.Y., succeeds the late Edwin  
Johannisson.

Started building Makaha Inn & CC  
on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. . . .  
It's a \$6 million project financed by  
Capital Investment Co., and Weyer-  
haeuser interests and will be oper-  
ated by Western International Hotels.

Ron Hoetmer, for 8 years assistant  
to his father at Sand Point (Wash.)  
G&CC named pro at new Fairwood  
G&CC, a residential-golf develop-  
ment in suburban Seattle, Wash. . . .  
Fairwood's first nine scheduled to  
open in January.

Not many golf club managers get  
the editorial praise such as Jay De  
France got in the Bend (Ore.) Bul-  
letin when DeFrance left Bend GC  
for club management in Tacoma . . .  
Bend Bulletin said "Golf club mem-  
bership increased about one-third in  
the relatively short time since De  
France was here. A lot of that in-  
crease must have been due to the  
way the place was run and the qual-  
ity of food and service furnished."

Another newspaper tribute to a  
manager appeared in Marion (Ill.)  
Republican which commented  
"Things are coming up roses at the  
Southern Illinois G&CC under the  
new management of Robert W.  
Duncan."

Looks as though the management  
element of the house manager, pro  
and grounds superintendents jobs is  
being accented by hiring this year  
. . . There is a definite up-swing in  
pro-manager-superintendent jobs at  
smaller clubs with well qualified  
combination men being selected and  
being paid enough to make the job  
worthwhile at places where three  
separate jobs wouldn't pay enough  
to attract needed men . . . In a few  
cases, club officials have the hunch  
the club may have jumped in too  
strong for loans on the FHA deals  
and better get efficient management  
in charge of operating and develop-  
ing the property . . . Obviously the  
successful man in charge of a major  
department at a golf club has to  
know enough about his associates'  
jobs to cooperate for the general  
good and profit.

Livonia, Mich., in Detroit metro-  
politan area, recently completed  
sale of \$4.4 million bonds for buying  
park land and for recreation devel-

opment . . . Thus far \$895,285 has been spent in building Livonia's Whispering Willows course . . . Village of Orono, Minn., took option to buy the nine hole Orono course for \$150,000 . . . Leo J. Feser, long prominent in GCSA activities, owns Orono GC.

New Mexico State Park and Recreation Commission makes five-year contract with Richard Blackburn of Conchas to operate new Conchas Lake course . . . Wilkes-Barre (Pa.) engages Frank J. Davitt, Bridgeton, N.J., as supt. of Wilkes-Barre course under construction . . . Swartz Creek 27-holes course to get \$556,000 from State of Michigan for renovation job . . . James A. Bruce, Flint (Mich.) superintendent of Recreation and Parks, is in charge.

James Wallace, former U. of Montana golf star, now is pro at Hamilton (Mont.) GC . . . Dennis Collins, switched to Pautipaug CC, Baltic, Conn., pro job from Norwich (Conn.) GC where he's been pro for three years . . . Bill Blanton now pro and golf director at Forest Cove CC, in Houston, Texas area

. . . He was pro at Century CC, Scottsdale, Ariz. . . Rock Island, Ill., new Highland Springs muni course hired Wendell Boken as superintendent . . . Boken expects to have the course open in good condition this spring.

Fieldstone G&CC, Conyers, Ga., opened late last fall, has Harold Zink as pro . . . Ken Slough is pro at new Colonial Greens par-3 18 recently opened at Salinas, Calif. . . Joe Fleming, new owner of Willowbrook CC, Huntsville, Ala., is spending \$150,000 on improvement program on 27-holes course and clubhouse . . . Marty Cromb at the big party they gave him at Toledo (O.) CC when he retired after 40 years as pro, said he and his wife next year are going back to Monifieth, Scotland, whence he came to the U.S. in 1923, and he is going to take a shot at the British Open on his return trip . . . Bill Wotherspoon, for years pro at Southern Hills CC, Tulsa, Okla., and several other lads who've done a great deal for American golf and golfers, came from that wee village, Monifieth.

Bobby Nichols gets seven-year contract from Shangri-Isle, \$6 million club being built on Sister Key in Sarasota Bay, Fla. . . Construction hasn't started on the course . . . James Froehlich, president of the development says Nichols "will receive only a token payment for the first two years of the contract while the course is being built, and then \$50,000 a year for the remaining five years of the seven year contract." . . . Honest? You ain't kidding, mister? . . . It couldn't go to a finer young man.

Dick Watson of Miami, Fla., in three and a half years has built an annual business of more than 25 million printed tees; about a third of all the printed advertising novelty tee business in the country . . . There are about 100 million additional plain tees used a year . . . Most of Watson's advertising tee business is done through pros . . . One pro last year sold more than \$4,000 worth of the advertising tees to members for their company advertising and promotion. □



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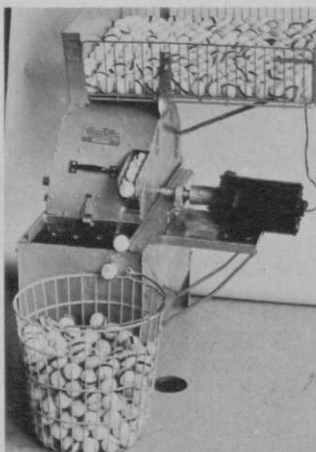
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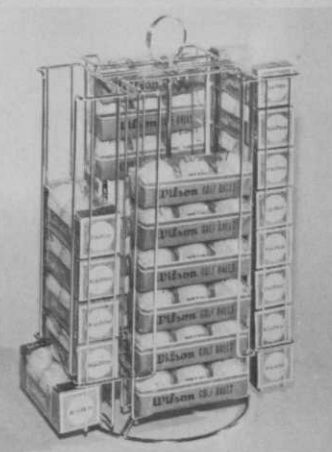
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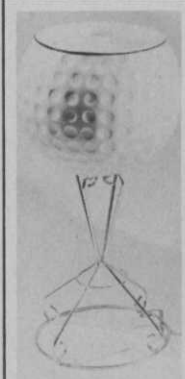
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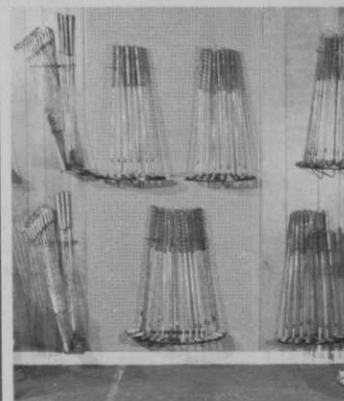
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