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Swinging  
around golf

by Herb Graffis

Looking back

Walter Hagen, Frank Belwood and Jimmy Crossan are the three surviving charter members of the Professional Golfers' Assn. As near as I can learn, Walter spent the winter at his home in Palm Springs; Crossan's residence, according to PGA records, is in New York state, but the last time I heard about and from him, he was teaching at a range around Los Angeles. Jimmy was featuring teaching putting, of all things, and his pupils, pros and amateurs, said he was remarkably effective. Frank Belwood, a beloved pioneer of American pro golf, suffered bad health about 10 years ago, after retiring as pro at Garden City (N.Y.) G.C.; he is an invalid now.

Tom McNamara, when he was with Wanamaker's pro golf department, got the various pro golf groups in the East together in 1916 to organize the PGA nationally. (Tom had been playing in the Open as far back as 1903.) Freddie McLeod, then pro at Rockford (Ill.) C.C., played in that National Open, too, and was doing fairly well until the last round when he went sky-high with a 91, which is worse than he scores now when he and Jock Hutchison lead the field in starting the Masters tournament. McNamara retired as a PGA organizer because of a conflict of interest between his pro and manufacturers' rep relations. Tom was with Wilson's when he died some years ago. His son, Leo, is national field director of the

Walter Hagen Golf Company.

Mike Brady who, with his charming wife Grace, is a resident of Dunedin, Fla., is another of the great pioneers who's in fine health in every way. Mike lost the 1911 National Open in a 307 play-off that finished with John McDermott at 80, Brady at 82, and George Simpson of Wheaton at 85. That championship was played at the Chicago G.C., Wheaton.

John J. McDermott, first American-born winner of the U.S. Open, won in 1911 and 1912. He is a patient in a sanitarium near Philadelphia. He is in good physical health, but suffered a breakdown shortly after his second Open victory. The gentle-spoken McDermott is said to have brooded over vicious criticism of his calm forecast that after he'd won the Open, the reign of foreign-born players was ended. He has been a spectator at championships in the Philadelphia area for the past 40 years, accompanied by some of his old pals in pro golf.

The reason for this backswing at golf history is that I am now stuck with the responsibility of writing a history of the PGA and of pro golf. For years I have been saying pro golf in the United States should have its history recorded because never before has a professional sport had such tremendous social and economic effect on a nation as professional golfers have had in developing the "country club" style of living, clothing fashions and transportation, the residential real estate

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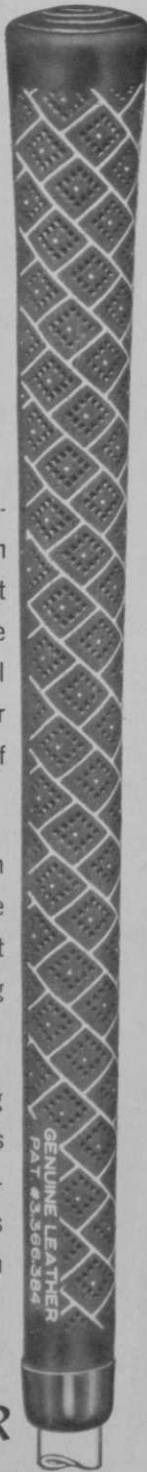
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## Graffis

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expansion and municipal recreation.

I should have kept my mouth shut; now I have been commissioned by the PGA to do the job. There wasn't much ink used about golf in its earlier years, and the tedious task of exploring backward and digging has begun.

The work is getting fairly well organized and help from those acquainted with the early days of professional golf and the PGA will be valuable and appreciated.

Soon, letters will be sent to PGA veterans asking for information, and various other amateur golfers will be asked for historical data.

Please send me your data on national and sectional PGA history, early pro golf and some of your personal history and recollections if you've been in pro golf 25 years or more. I'll see that material you want returned is returned. Other pro historic material will be given (with your permission) to a famous library of sports, where it will be carefully preserved for reference.

Please send to: Herb Graffis, 3 Little Carlos Lane, Fort Myer Beach, Florida 33931.

Lee Redman switches to superintendent at Bellerive CC, Creve Coeur, Mo. from Crofton Golf Club, Lanham, Md. . . Francis Miller now pro at Culpepper (Va.) CC. . . Johnny Bulla to be pro at new Camelback Inn course at Scottsdale, Ariz. Robert (Red) Lawrence is architect. . . Frank Gilham begins his 40th year as pro at Highland CC, Attleboro, Mass.

William E. Corcoran, 53, died recently in Baker Memorial at Boston following illness of months. Billy, a merry, competent and golf-wise man, had been executive secretary of the Massachusetts GA for 24 years. He followed his brothers Fred and John in that job.

Peter Hatfield goes to pro post at Augusta (Me.) CC from Bath (Me.) CC, succeeding Allan Fox . . . Royce Abbott switches from pro job at Val Halla CC, Comberland Center, Me., to join the Bath CC spot. . . Don Brown now pro

at Sea Palms Golf & CC, St. Simons Island, Ga. He came down from Piping Rock Club, Locust Valley, N.Y.

Mike Schnarr now pro at Dell View CC, Lake Delton, Wisc. He was assistant to Paul Lemcke at Tuckaway CC, Milwaukee. . . Bob Jones, formerly in pro positions at Concord CC and Wissahickon CC and then with Spalding, has been engaged as executive director of the Philadelphia section PGA, with offices at 354 Lancaster Ave., Haverford, Pa. The section has 320 regular members and 50 associates. John F. Hayes, Riverton (N.J.) CC pro is Philadelphia section president.

Dan Desmond now pro at Pala Mesa CC, Fallbrook, Calif. Via Verde CC, under construction at San Dismas, Calif., to have Darrell Hickock as pro.

Allie Russo, Palm Beach Lakes GC, West Palm Beach, Fla. and his members again were far ahead of the rest of the field in 1968 National Golf Day fund raising. . . Joe Phillips in his 35th year as pro at Links GC, Roslyn, N.Y.

PGA Assistants' Assn. of Northern California has a tournament and business educational program which should set a profitable pattern for assistants in other parts of the country. . . Dick Rautman is president. . . Bob Joyce, formerly assistant to George Lewis at Lee-wood GC, Eastchester, N.Y., now is a pro at Southampton GC, Southampton, N.Y. . . Craig Shankland is new pro at Middle Gay CC, Oceanside, N.Y.

Harold Dawson retires as secretary, Southern California GC and joins his brother John in golf development and management in the Palm Springs area. John is the fellow who began the development of the Palm Springs area and made untold millions for other and has done well for himself in community building. He was the best golfer of the four brothers, although the late George won the US and Western Seniors and innumerable other tournaments, and brothers Harold and Warren were excellent amateurs.

Bill Gressick, now pro at Pleasant View GC, Freehold, N.Y.,

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changing from Catskill (N.Y.) CC. Francis Duane was designer of the Pleasant View course which is a well-equipped resort establishment . . . Joe Taggart changes to pro job at CC of Charleston, S.C.

More assistants promoted to pro jobs in New Jersey, among them Walter Lilley formerly assistant to Ron Reiner at Fairmount CC, Chatham, N.J., and now at Scotch Hills municipal course, Scotch Plains, succeeding Mike deLuca who resigned. . . Vince Harmon succeeded his mentor, Ken Rutherford, at Roselle (N.J.) GC when Ken resigned. . . George Schneider, who's been assistant to his father, Charley, in LuLu Temple CC, North Hills, Pa. for 21 years, has succeeded his dad as pro. Charley Schneider started in golf in 1917 under Dave Cuthbert at Huntingdon Valley CC. He has two other sons who are pros: Charles, Jr., at Malvern (Pa.) CC and Herman at Hercules CC, Wilmington, Del.

Jack Phelps now pro-superintendent at Maple Hill CC, Hemlock, Mich. His wife, Lois, is his teaching assistant. . . Rex Baxter, Jr., leaves tournament circuit to take a pro post at Beechmont CC, Cleveland, O. . . Joe Tally becomes pro at Kirtland CC, Wiloughby, O. . . Gary Mathie now pro at Pocatello (Ida.) CC. He graduated into the Pocatello job from position as assistant to Terry Malan at Willow Creek CC, Sandy, Utah.

Norman C. Johnson, in 1954, the 18th president of the Golf Course Superintendents' Assn. died in Fort Myers, Fla., following a coronary attack. Norm had bounced back from several operations for cancer, and following his resignation as superintendent of Fort Myers CC in 1965, played considerable golf.

Fred Grau a prime mover in the H.B. Musser Turfgrass Fellowship memorial, is confident \$1 million can be raised from those involved in grass business. Dr. Joseph Duich is co-chairman of a committee of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council (R.D. Krigger, president), planning the memorial fellowships. □



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