



Swinging around golf

by Herb Graffis

A tribute to Mike O'Grady

With his personality, ability and energy, the late **Michal J. O'Grady**, 46 years superintendent, Country Club of New Bedford, Mass., in another department of golf might have been a famous multi-millionaire journeyman pro. But Mike was unselfish and dedicated and his joy and reward was in pleasing his members and their guests. He was rough in some ways, demanding that others work as hard as he. But Mike was also kind, helpful and a genuinely religious man.

He started in golf course work under his uncle, Thomas Galvin, at the Rhode Island CC. Mike had been a charter member and president of GCSA of New England and at his death was president, Rhode Island GCSA. He was born in County Mayo, Ireland, 65 years ago. The ripple of the lakes of Mayo echoed in his talk. One time at a GCSAA convention I was with Mike and Eb Steiniger, superintendent of Pine Valley. Some California superintendent (I forget whether it was Fred Bove or Walter Boyesen) joined us. After Mike and Eb finished talking about their members and jobs and courses, the other fellow and I wondered if all the noted people in golf got nearly as much happiness and respect in their work as O'Grady and Steiniger.

Mike went out on the high note of generosity that keyed his life. He asked, "Please, no flowers when I go; give it to the Ouimet caddie fund."

You may be sure golf Christmas gift promotions at pro shops this year will be greater than ever, for three reasons: professionals get better as businessmen each year; there's an increased desire for Christmas golf gifts and winter golf trips; because of the rainy spring and early summer weather in many areas, pros must make a strong finish in sales or run behind 1968.

The big, bright surprise in pro business this year has been the increase of buying and playing by women. **Curley Williamson**, pro at Forest Hills CC, Rockford, Ill., voices the same judgement as other professionals: "Our ladies this season have played considerably more than during any previous year. They have not been discouraged by unpleasant weather. The standard of women's scoring has definitely improved and their shopping has been very active. Women are good buyers. Any pro or assistant learns something about merchandising every time he sells to a woman golfer."

Denny McCammon, Springfield (Va.) G&CC superintendent, asks in the Mid-Atlantic GCSA News Letter, which he

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edits: "Wouldn't it be better to submit the budget when the course looks its best instead of at the end of most clubs' fiscal year when the grass is dormant and so are the golfers?" McCammon also mentions the budget problem

of "fringe benefits," including retirement and pension plans, which many clubs have to face or risk losing valuable men to other employers. Looks as if there's far less difficulty in getting a fairly good pro or clubhouse manager now than there is in getting a good golf course manager. The good superintendents

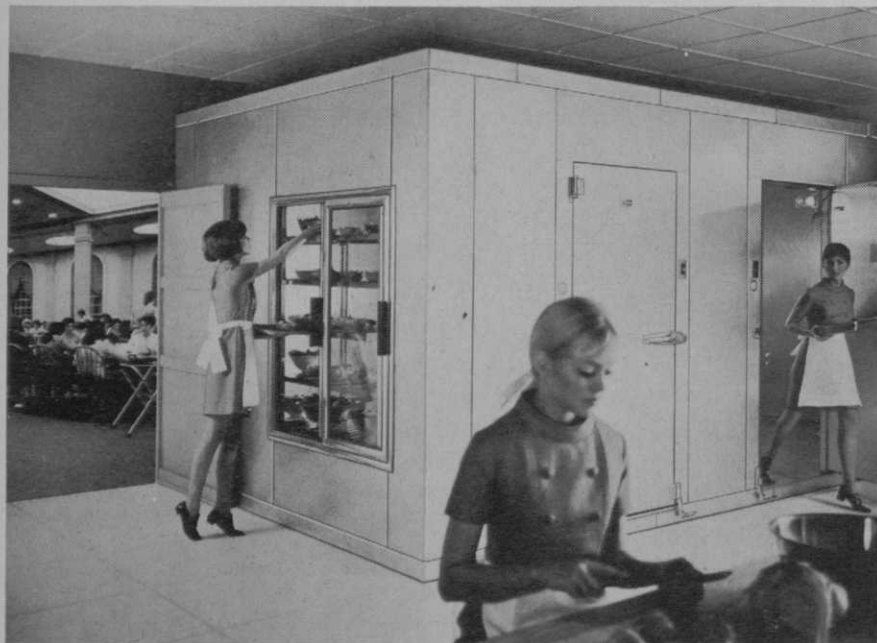
have to be lured away from another club and for something more than money—meaning fringe benefits.

British Profession Golfers' Assn. announces a **Club Pro of the Year** annual award. First winner to be named this winter.

There have been many very funny pieces written about the rumors of high money being paid by clothing makers to pro golfers who couldn't break 120 as male mannequins, but the quickest crack of all was made by **Tommy Bolt** concerning a colleague who boasts of having a large and colorful wardrobe. Said our Tommy, "My caddie is better dressed."

Preserved in a scrapbook of the late **Tom McNamara** was this item from the London Illustrated Times. The picture showed men and women on a British dunes course and mentions an event not heard of for years.

The English magazine caption read: "Converted into a 'Social' Pastime: The Royal and Ancient Game in Its Newest Form." The copy of the story: "Golf in its classic form is emphatically not a 'social' pastime, but since the English 'buddie' has taken to the game, he has set out to brighten it up. The serious 'gowffer' from north of the Tweed may shudder at the idea of a team game, in which each club in the bag is allotted to a special player, but it makes an amusing variant of golf. Six is the usual number for each team, so that there is one driver, one brassie or cleek player, one iron player, one mashie expert, one niblick operator and one putter. The captain of the side decides which weapon is to be brought into action according to the lie and position of the ball. Mixed teams of three men and three women a side are usually employed, and our artist illustrates a match of this kind in progress at St. Enodoc, North Cornwall, where a series of team games has been played." □



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