



by Herb Graffis

## SWINGING AROUND GOLF

### Stranahan honored

Northern Ohio PGA honored with a golf day and dinner, the first of the millionaire golf professionals, **Frank Stranahan**. Frank won 60 tournaments as amateur and pro, but never won the U.S. Amateur. He lost in 39 holes in 1950 National Amateur at Minneapolis GC to Sam Urzetta, who has become one of our admirable pros. In the first round Frankie beat Arnold Palmer, 4 and 3, and Palmer has become a well-known professional, as has Freddie Wampler, who fell to Stranahan, 4 and 3. Frankie beat Jim McHale 1 up (and Jim became a pro). Others in that field who turned pro: Mac Hunter, Al Menger, Bud Holscher, Gus Moreland, Mason Rudolph, Tom Veech, Dow Finsterwald and Billy Maxwell. So what's new about good amateurs turning pros?

Frank won the British Amateur in 1948 and 1950, the Western Amateur four times, was a stroke back of the winner in the 1947 British Open and was high amateur in British and U.S. Opens several times.

Frank won the Los Angeles Open in 1958. He won seven Tour tournaments and was second in 20. Glory fades fast and so does memory, so not many will recall that Frankie, yesteryear was rapped on account of being born, as Tom Loomis of the Toledo Blade said

"with a silver seven-iron in his mouth."

Royalty payments on clubs and balls to estates of **Walter Hagen** and **Tommy Armour** make one wonder how long the commercial value of present pro stars' names will last. Hagen's last major title win was the 1932 Western Open; Armour's last big win was the 1934 British Open. Neither The Haig nor the Silver Scot got the high-powered exploitation pro athletes get today.

Generally, "ladies' tees" are merely areas set ahead to shorten the course, but in the past few years ingenious architects have located ladies' tees where there is less demand for distance, but more interesting design variations from the playing requirements of men's tees. These testing shorter layouts call for some other name than "ladies' tees," because sometimes they're more enjoyable for men than the "mileage" holes designed for long-hitting tourney specialists.

**Ted Anderson** retires as superintendent at Ellinwood CC, Athol, Mass., after 39 years with the club. For a few years prior to going to Ellinwood Ted was with his brother Arthur at Alpine GC, Fitchburg, Mass. **Ken Mildren** is Anderson's successor at Ellinwood. The club retains Anderson as a consultant, which is a smart arrangement all around. Ellinwood was a nine-hole rock-spotted pasture when Anderson came. Athol municipality took over the course during the Depression for \$1 a year and Anderson was supplied with Works Progress Administration (WPA) labor that enabled him to transform the course. Now it's an 18-hole layout in fine condition.

This summer University of Maryland and superintendents in Mid-Atlantic GCSA territory are cooperating in a work-study program that promises to provide many of the right answers to the labor and educational requirements of course management and make available valuable summer work and schooling for the class of young talent golf needs. **G.D. Quigley**, director, Institute of Applied Agriculture, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. 20740 heads the

*(Continued on page 16)*



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## GRAFFIS

(Continued from page 14)

operation which appears destined to provide a pattern for other states.

After 35 years as pro at East Hartford (Conn.) GC **Bill Steill** resigns because of illness. **Joe Kenney** from Braintree, Mass., municipal course succeeds him. **Ken Quandt**, superintendent, Glencoe (Ill.) GC, made editor of the Chicagoland GCSA Newsletter,

a new and lively mimeographed report of the doings and views of the superintendents in the Chicago district.

Maybe **Bill Casper** isn't the foremost sparkling personality available for golf testimonials and just a very quiet admirable competent guy, but word is around that Bill's Masters victory got him more endorsement business than any golfer ever got from a championship tournament.

Fine party for **E.E. Forrester**,

professional at Hobbs (N.M.) CC for 25 years. His fellow pros in Southwest PGA put on the affair hailing Dode as New Mexico's Professional of the Decade.

An old, old gimmick that used to be put on by various promoters every year, or oftener, but never got anywhere, is being tried again. It's the deal of membership for a small fee in an "association" enabling its members to use the facilities of "member clubs" nationwide.

It ought to be obvious that no private club would make available to anybody with a cheap ticket facilities that cost plenty to members who are screened by a membership committee.

But a few fall for this promotion every year it's presented. It's another exhibit of the validity of Mencken's Law: "Nobody ever went broke underestimating the intelligence of the American public."

This is sure to be, by a long margin, the biggest year of play on college courses. Spring vacation tournaments and interest signaled a boom and early season play by students set records despite campus disturbance and some adverse weather. **Rod Myers** now pro at Ohio State University's two courses. He's been OSU golf coach for four years. Myers succeeds **Rino Della Florida** who now is pro to the new Riviera CC at Columbus, Ohio.

**Michigan State University** received a special citation for publication excellence from Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. The publication, "Your Community Can Be Beautiful," outlines how to organize programs for community beautification . . . In keeping with what he considers a developing national trend, **Philip Farina** is converting his South Shore CC course in Hingham, Mass., from a semi-private to an all-membership basis and is cancelling all daily fee play . . . **John Sperandio** is the new course superintendent of the Spring Valley CC, Sharon, Mass., course. He is one of three brothers in the profession. Narry Sperandio is superintendent at Concord, Mass., CC and Tony Sperandio, a former superintendent, is now in the grounds equipment business. □

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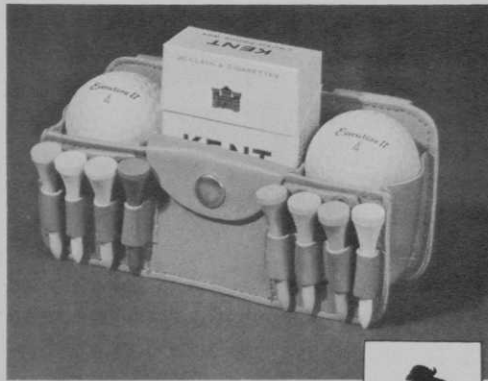
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