



by Herb Graffis

SWINGING AROUND GOLF

Good manners pay off

Desirable clubs are chilling fast to hosting open tournaments. Club members, who pay heavily in time, money and effort to stage open tournaments, regard a touring pro's criticism of their course as about par in touring pro gratitude and etiquette.

Hazeltine National members spent 35,000 hours of their valuable time putting on the 1970 National Open. **Dave Hill** won second money of \$15,000 playing the National Open course. His Players Division fine of \$150 was a cheap charge for the damage he did to the reputation of touring professionals for decent manners as guests.

On the other side of the tournament etiquette display was the performance of **Tony Jacklin** whose manners made him a highly popular champion with Americans who pay for their golf.

A tournament player's criticism sharply diminishes his credibility and his reputation. As a result, the touring pros' bad manners have been much discussed by sales and advertising managers lately. They know the enduring value of the public appeal of a fellow like the late and great Walter Hagen who played some of his exhibitions on what were poor pastures pretending to be golf courses. Walter would lie and tell the members, "A swell sporty course you've got here."

As champions in admirable man-

ners know, sports writers usually select three professional golfers among gentlemen in all sports. Julius Boros and Arnold Palmer are in a photo-finish for first and Gary Player is a good second. How Jacklin will stand up only time and innate quality will tell.

Golf writers at Hazeltine were talking about the miserable manners of several tournament players which writers were expected to accept as standard operating procedure. An interesting part of this discussion were tributes to the graciousness of wives of the same professionals not noted for uniformly pleasant relations with the working press.

What no golf writer has mentioned in telling about the social deficiencies of some prominent pros, is the brilliant contrast of the good manners of club professionals, superintendents and managers. Can you imagine the well-bred **Don Waryan**, professional at Hazeltine National, commenting on the course the way touring professionals do? He would be out of a job the next day, contract or no contract. And Waryan isn't paid \$15,000 for four day's play on the course.

Touring pros should learn the cultured and commercial amenities of the club professionals, managers and superintendents. Journeyman pros are ruining a pleasant, opulent occupation whose survival depends on the approval and support of people to whom manners are important.

Superintendents are receiving recognition from amateur associations for getting courses into fine condition for championships. **Paul C. Frankowski**, superintendent of Beverly CC, Chicago, was presented with a plaque by the Western Golf Assn. and officers of his own club for his work in grooming Beverly for the 1970 Western Open. Part of the job called for strenuous help by members in draining cloudburst pools from the course one night between tournament rounds. **Ron Helming**, superintendent of Hazeltine National GC, was lauded by **Paul Strubing**, United States Golf Assn. president, and **Totten Heffelfinger**, Hazeltine president, for "outstanding achievement" in condi-

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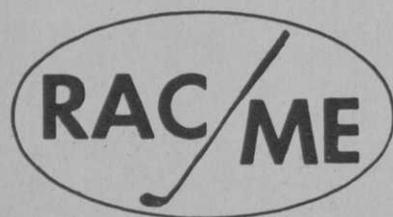
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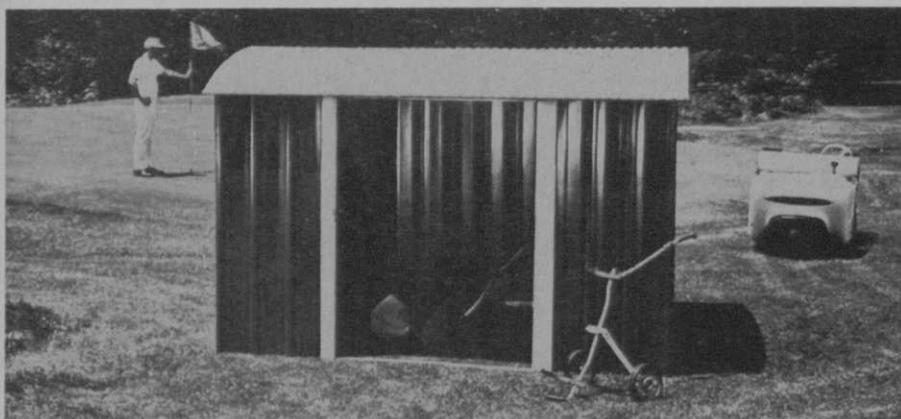
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tioning the course for the 1970 National Open. **Norman Kramer**, president of Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of America, participated in the ceremonies at both clubs.

Oscar W. Bowman retires as superintendent of Old Warson CC, Webster Groves, Mo., where he has been since the club was built about 25 years ago. He was with other St. Louis district clubs previously . . . **Walter Ragan** retires as superintendent at Greenbriar Hills, Kirkwood, Mo., after 37 years. Mississippi Valley GCSA awarded Bowman and Ragan honorary memberships. They deserve grateful recognition from golfers for keeping courses in the St. Louis area in excellent condition and remaining calm, competent and collected, if not always cool at their work.

Members of GCSA of New England, headed by president **Richard Blake**, superintendent of Mt. Pleasant CC, Boylston, Mass., are to tour courses in England, Scotland and Ireland from November 7 to 21. **Leon St. Pierre**, superintendent of Longmeadow CC, arranged the tour, which will be highlighted with a visit to St. Andrews where they'll be welcomed by **John Campbell** in charge of St. Andrews' maintenance.

Among pros in jobs at new clubs are **Charles DeLuca** at Hollybrook CC, Hollywood, Fla. He switched from Kings Bay CC, Miami, Fla., where he was succeeded by **Norman Francis** from CC of Orlando, Fla. . . . **Luke Thompson** goes to Panorama CC, Rio Rancho Estates, Albuquerque, N.M., from Coronado G&CC, El Paso, Tex. . . . **Gary Loustalot** is now professional at the Santa Cruz, Calif., new municipal course, Laveaga CC . . . **Jay Hebert** of that fine brother team which has starred on the tournament circuit, moved to the new year-round resort club, Mission Village, Wenatchee, Wash.

Club Managers Assn. of America, which will hold its 1971 conference in London, England, January 17 to 23, will have registration fees of \$125 for each man
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and \$75 for his wife. An extensive tour of eating, drinking and scenic spots is planned.

When **Tom Robbins**, 77, died of cancer at Pinehurst, he left hundreds of golfers richer with merry memories and bright instances of fine sportsmanship. Tom was a Texan who started golf by taking lessons from Jim Devlin when Robbins was working in Puerto Rico. He was breaking 80 three months after lesson one.

Tom won the US Seniors' championship twice, the USGA Seniors' championship in 1958 when he was 65, and numerous other cheerful tournaments. And he'd make a 100-shooter feel like a champion playing with him.

Tom and Ruth used to put on historically funny chili parties at their farm near West End, N.C. He is survived by his widow, his son T.C. Jr. (Pete), who is with Spalding, and his daughter Mrs. Margaret Davis of New York.

Ladies PGA main office is now at 1776 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Ga.

Among others lately identified as a director of golf is **Jackson Bradley** now with Elkins Lake Company, Huntsville, Tex. He is also manager of Elkins Lake's Houston office. He was formerly pro at River Oaks CC, Houston, and had been with Texas and Illinois clubs.

Eliminating the United States Golf Assn. Amateur Status rule which took amateur standing from golfers who might have the intent of becoming professionals opens the way for a tremendous development in the training of potential professionals. Some years ago the late **George Dawson**, then a Spalding executive, proposed that short-term schooling for superintendents or longer schools like those in course maintenance and club management, be presented at several universities. What prevented consideration of that education was the unrealistic amateur code section now discarded.

George, one of the four brothers widely known as amateurs, was a University of Illinois graduate, playing football as a teammate of Red Grange until a knee injury put

George off the gridiron. He and I worked out a preliminary plan for potential professional collegiate training, intending to talk it over with Dave Williams, golf coach at University of Houston, then well into a string of NCAA victories, (he won 12 out of the past 15 years). We got scared by the "intent" rule and dropped the matter rather than run the risk of getting Williams and his school in dutch by trying to help kids make an honest living competently serving golf and golfers.

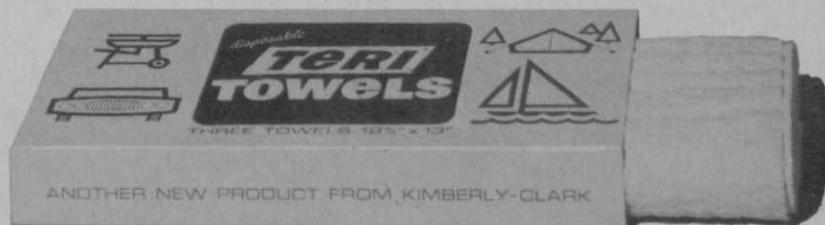
Anyway, the new USGA ruling opens the way for an immensely valuable extension of the PGA's

educational program under the direction of able Pat Williams.

Rescinding the "intent" rule reminds us of the 1954 National Amateur championship at CC of Detroit. Before the final in which he beat Bob Sweeny one up, Arnold Palmer told golf writers that he intended to be a professional. So writers queried Joe Dey about the "intent" rule and Palmer's frank remark. Joe did a masterly job of ducking the punches of reporters who wanted him to take a stand on the rule as it applied to Palmer. Golf writers agreed the Palmer kid shouldn't be penalized for being honest. □

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