



SHAFT PIONEER RETIRES

Gurdon Leslie has retired as vice president and general manager of True Temper's golf shaft division. He started out with the company in 1928 working for Win Withington and Bob Cowdrey in a little barn of a plant at Geneva, Ohio. Steel shafts were an adventure then. Breakage was common and dangerous. Bristol, now gone, had pioneered with steel after experimenting with steel fishing rods. Then American Fork and Hoe, now True Temper, got in as a sideline to its farm and garden tool business. Then came Union Hardware, which remains, and Kroyden and Heddon which have departed from the golf shaft business.

Leslie had a genius for molding mechanics, metallurgists and club-making experts into the development of the steel shaft. Leslie's unusual talent in translating feel into mechanics was demonstrated early when he made steel shafts for Billy Burke who won a U.S. Open championship with them in 1931.

An award should go to *Sunset Ridge CC*, Winnetka, Ill., for staging a major championship (the Western Open) as though the gallery were guests instead of customers. You don't get that often these days as golf is big business instead of entertainment. Sunset Ridge was founded 50 years ago by young men who couldn't afford to join the clubs where their fathers were members.

The Western Open was a financial success this year. The champion, Jim Jamieson, gave \$2,000 of his prize money to the Western's Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship Fund, the beneficiary of the event. Now, the Western Open, which should be one of the top championships of the year, is sandwiched be-

tween the U.S. Open and the PGA, and the scheduling of the Tournament Players' Division of the PGA, has downgraded the event even more. The Western Open in 1975 will be in Chicago at Paul Butler's new course, Butler National, which George Fazio designed and built. The U.S. Open will be at Medinah, a few miles away. At this writing, the Western Golf Assn. has heard nothing from the PGA or the United States Golf Assn. about the coordination of dates.

Half of the slightly more than 9,600 golf courses of the conventional type in this country are nine holes. Of the nine-hole courses, 2,133 are at private clubs; 2,135 at daily-fee courses and 556 at municipal courses in 1971, according to the *National Golf Foundation* count. The count gave Texas the most nine-hole courses with 287. At the NCAA and smaller college championships, many lads said, "I started to play on a little nine hole course in . . ." and name a town you've never heard of. You begin wondering if better junior golf promotion isn't being done at little country courses than at most of the larger private and public city courses. Now and then you may come across amazing jobs of course maintenance done by the pro, superintendent or manager who is maintaining a nine-hole course and running a small clubhouse. Not a dollar is wasted. Yet, rarely do you hear of anybody getting credit for what's being done for golf at a nine-hole course.

Formally "certifying" managers, superintendents and professionals is logical, important and essential now as a guide to hiring in these times. Often I wonder if certifying the job isn't also far more important than is recognized. Through

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Companies that manufacture agricultural pesticides spend time extensively testing and comparing their chemicals before and after they are put on the market. From these tests, efficacy data is taken and usually filed. Universities and other research facilities that perform comparison tests and hold field days often publish the results. Superintendents can ask their universities or chemical suppliers for these results, especially if they are using a product for the first time. With a little effort, the individual superintendent can collect this data. Or the local superintendents' associations could collect and print up in a binder the comparative data on products used in their area. Most distributors and suppliers would be willing to supply copies of their comparative data.

By comparing test results from several years, the superintendent can determine the one or two products that have performed consistent-

ly well in his area. This helps eliminate the guesswork out of selecting the best product for the job.

Finally, the terms ecology, environment and pollution have all become part of our daily vocabulary, and rightly so. Everyone is concerned about the increasing problem of pollution as the world's population continues to rise. However, reason needs to be applied in some areas. In some cases we must decide what kind of pollution is least desirous rather than think in terms of no pollution. For example, aren't mosquitoes a form of pollution, especially to those people sensitive to mosquito bites? How about dead turf from a disease or insect damage? What about a significant reduction in food production that could result if various pests are not controlled? However, the misuse of chemicals to control the above forms of pollution also is a hazard, and this is just one more very important reason to closely follow label directions. □

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agricultural college short courses, superintendents' regional meetings and the Green Section, superintendents have had an unusually good and voluntary training program for nearly 50 years. Club managers have had excellent schooling at Cornell, Michigan State, Houston and Denver universities for years and a valuable program of regional workshops. Beginning in the '50s, the PGA had winter short courses at Dunedin, Fla., and in California. These schools developed the seminars and other educational sessions over the past few years. Sectionally, there have been many practical spring business sessions for golf professionals and their assistants.

There has been very little along these lines for officials of private, public and daily-fee courses that employ the pros, superintendents and managers. You can't expect a private club official who is giving his time and successful business experience to take any special schooling for a job that is a sacrifice and that he will hold only a year or two.

For golf jobs that will be open in 1973, there will probably be more good men available than there will be good jobs. What the answer is to

the imbalance between jobs and men I don't know, but I believe that finding the answer is going to test the value of the general management policy of golf club operation.

By the way, isn't the United States Golf Assn. Green Section's *Turf Management* more than overdue for a revision and up-dating? The first edition, edited and largely written by the late H. Burton Musser, was published in 1950. I recall there was one revised edition published. Progress in golf course methods, materials and management soon made parts of the revision museum pieces.

During the past several years there have been many changes in construction methods, machinery, pesticide, fungicide and herbicide use, grass strains, automatic watering and other areas.

The Green Section staff already has about three times the work an expert team of this sort could be expected to handle, but it always seems to take emergencies in stride.

With so many students now being schooled for the management of golf courses and other fine turf areas and the GCSAA certification program calling for a standard up-to-the minute manual, a revision is urgently needed. □