

Clippings

Brief bits of news from in and around the golf business. . .

In what was probably one of the worst cases of bad manners on the golf course, Thomas Shortridge of Bedford, Ohio, pleaded guilty to felony when he struck a golf ball that hit Carol Rothgery, 62, in the mouth and required 2 and one-half hours of surgery and 22 stitches to repair. Mrs. Rothgery and her husband were on the green preparing to putt when Shortridge hit onto the green. Mr. Rothgery, 70, knocked the ball from the green and Shortridge pushed him to the ground. Mrs. Rothgery was preparing to tee-off from the women's tee of the sixth, 25 feet in front of the men's tee where Shortridge hit from. Shortridge could get six months to five years.

Scientists with USDA-SEA, in cooperation with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station are experimenting with punch planting perennial grasses in the Southern Great Plains. The conventional practice is to seed about 1/2-inch deep and cover. Punch planting puts a seed in a small diameter hole left open to the atmosphere. Under drying conditions, five different grasses produced satisfactory stands, but few or none with conventional planting.

The U.S. average price for all types of gasoline was \$1.006 in October. This reflected a monthly change of 0.8 cents, compared to the 3.7 and 3.1 cent increases of August and September, respectively. Released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the figures show prices of leaded regular gasoline to have averaged 98.2 cents in October. In the 28 cities for which gas-

oline prices are published, prices of all types of gasoline averaged highest in Honolulu, Chicago, and Anchorage. Prices averaged lowest in Dallas and Houston.

The American Society of Golf Course Architects says that, generally speaking, there is an acute shortage of municipal golf courses in the U.S. Market. Research by the NGF indicated a municipality can seriously consider the development of an 18-hole facility anytime there are 20,000 to 25,000 persons in a given area not served properly by a daily fee facility. ASGCA President, Jack Kidwell notes that about 150 acres are needed to build a regulation 18-hole course, but many excellent municipal courses have been built on less. Irregular-shaped tracts can be used, and in many cases, provide for more interesting design and play, he adds.

The City of Edinburgh in Scotland will establish a link between their Muirfield and Muirfield Village in Dublin, Ohio. Since 1744, the City of Edinburgh has presented three Silver Putters to the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers to mark their long association. The Council decided to present a similar putter to the U.S. Muirfield this year. In a cablegram to Jack Nicklaus, the City of Edinburgh stated, via its Director of Administration Malcolm Duncan, that in making the presentation to Muirfield Village, it would also recognize "the outstanding contributions which you, the President and architect of that course, have made to the game of golf."

Robert J. Youngblood is acting

executive director of the National Sporting Goods Association following the death of G. Marvin Shutt, executive director for over 30 years. The Board of Directors has established the criteria by which the vacated position will be filled. NSGA President John Monetta has asked that all interested applicants contact and forward resumes to Mr. Robert J. Youngblood, National Sporting Goods Association, 717 No. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611, 312944-0205.

Golf Course Architect Ronald Fream has moved his office from Los Gatos, California to Santa Rosa, just north of San Francisco. Recent increases in the number of golf course architectural projects received by Fream prompted the move to larger quarters. An office is being established in Singapore also to provide local service and attention to the several projects which the firm has in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.

Porter Brothers, Inc., based in Shelby, N.C., has been named 1979 "Distributor of the Year" by Weed Eater. Porter Brothers was selected from 55 Weed Eater distributors.

The Colgate-Palmolive Company has reached an agreement in principle to sell Ram Golf Corporation to the Hansberger Corporation, a company owned by the Hansberger family from whom Colgate acquired Ram Golf in 1974. Ram sales in 1978 were approximately \$20 million, compared with an overall \$4.3 billion for the Colgate-Palmolive Co. Ram is expected to show a loss in 1979, as compared with a slight profit in 1978.

The turf for the Rose Bowl and Super Bowl was Derby perennial ryegrass. The Orange Bowl was Derby mixed with Highlight Chewings-type fine fescue.

The Toro Company has been awarded the 1979 Honored Company Award from the Harvard Business School Club of Minnesota. Selection is made on the basis of the company's financial results, social responsibilities and how it has met the challenges of its marketplace. The 250-member Harvard Business School Club of Minnesota is an association of area Harvard Business School alumni.

The Sensation Corporation has announced five new distributors. Cherokee Sales, Arkansas City, Kansas will distribute throughout Kansas and Oklahoma. Wiggert Brothers in LaCrosse, Wisconsin will cover southern Wisconsin. C. Bunde

Company in Toledo, Ohio will distribute in the surrounding area, and the Green Thumb Lawn Equipment Company will distribute in the Columbus, Ohio area. JAYCO Distributing, Inc., will handle Sensation for the states of Oregon and Washington.

Porter Brothers also announced the promotions of Hugh E. Graham to manager of warehouses, Charles D. McKee as assistant manager of warehouse, and J. Haskell Bell as director of purchasing. All are based in Shelby.

Rain Bird has named two new district managers. Dick Kneip will be responsible for the geographical area of Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri and southern Illinois. Dick Schaeffer will cover Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, northern Illinois and Kentucky. Carole Reed Allaway has been named communications manager for Rain Bird. She will be responsible for implementing advertising and public relations programs.

C. Robert Staib has been promoted to Product Manager—Turf and Horticulture for Boots Hercules Agrochemicals Co. Staib joined Hercules in 1959 as a nitrogen products technical sales representative. He later became a turf specialist for the company and most recently served as account supervisor for agricultural chemicals in Des Moines, Iowa. Staib will be in Hercules headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware.

Scott D. Prueter has been appointed Product Manager for Polaris E-Z-Go Textron. His responsibilities will include the development and implementation of product marketing plans for their golf car and GT-7 turf vehicle, among others.

Excel Industries has announced several promotions and additions to the staff. Promotions include: Paul Wiens to Turf Sales Manager from Marketing Manager; John Harrison to Marketing Manager from Distribution Manager; David Welfelt to Advertising and Promotion Manager from Product Manager; and John Austin, to Service Coordinator from service technician. New staff includes Randy Hagen as Sales Order Supervisor and Vance Truskett as Service Parts Manager, a new position.

The Toro Company's Irrigation Group has appointed Robert Emmerich and John MacLaughlin to newly created positions of regional sales managers. Emmerich is now Eastern region sales manager. MacLaughlin is Western Sales Manager.



Arnold Palmer will promote Lofts Pedigreed Seed during 1980. Peter Loft, Chairman, Palmer and Rich Hurley, Lofts Research Director pause during shootings for a commercial at Palmer's La Trobe, Penn. course.