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way to get a pupil to have a clear understanding of what I tell him is to learn the pupil's hobby—if any. Then I try to find the common denominators of his hobby and golf so I can get him thinking of the golf stroke lines that he can understand and receive most easily. Baseball, tennis, football, horses, dancing, and swimming all supply vivid parallels for golf.

"I get them telling me what are the fundamentals of, for instance, riding. The rider will tell me about the seat, the knees, the hands in controlling the horse, and about the necessity of balance and confidence when one is on a horse.

"Then, after 3 or 4 lessons without a club, the pupil is deeply interested in demonstrating to me the application of the principles of good horsemanship to good golf. I have got the pupil as my partner. In some cases, of course, the pro's personality can be so dominating he can become Svengali to the pupil and virtually hypnotize the pupil into becoming a good mechanical golfer. But my members all are men and women of strong personalities and the logical policy for me is to apply the power of their personalities in getting them to learn golf.

Use Other Pros' Help

"Of course I can't succeed in all cases. Can any doctor cure all his patients? I have no hesitancy in sending pupils who do not respond to my treatment to another pro whose method of treatment I believe may help. What the pupil comes to me for is to learn to play consistently up to somewhere near the limit of his possibilities, and not just to have the pleasure of my company on the lesson tee. It is entirely within the realm of reason that there are cases other competent instructors will solve without much trouble after I've been baffled.

"So to be honest with the pupil why not send him to a professional colleague who may help? Isn't it more of a truly professional attitude for a pro to recommend another good pro than to have the pupil have to wander around and come to the conclusion there is narrow-mindedness and jealousy on the highest level of pro instruction?

"Pupils come to me after other pros haven't been able to teach these pupils because of some psychological or technical gears that don't mesh. And I know that these pros who have not had good results in these particular cases have been responsible for the development of sound games in thousands of other cases.

"I have the highest respect for these pros. I have talked golf instruction with them for hours and have a far better knowledge of their excellence as instruc-

tors than any amateur pupil could have. For the good of golf instruction, which means my own good, shouldn't I make use of the talents of these men in helping pupils who, for some reason or another, baffle me?

"I think it's a great thing for all golf instruction to have Ernest Jones strongly publicized. I have sent pupils to him, willingly and hopefully, just for the same reason that I would expect a good doctor, in case I had a prolonged and perplexing illness, to send me to another authority.

"What would greatly benefit pro golf would be a disposition toward building up the general public reputation of more instructors instead of a narrow and negative attitude. We all have a rather complex job of sports instruction and considering the nature of our task probably have a far more commendable percent of good results than we realize. Certainly we do much better than the public generally appreciates.

Pro Patience Essential

"The pro's temperamental essential is absolute self-control. He can't show impatience. He is constantly challenged by the problem of dramatizing his teaching. I've had—and so have other pros had—pupils who were booked for a half hour or an hour, but the pupil and I have stayed on the tee for 5 hours, so fascinating and mutually informative has been the lesson. The reverse also has been true. I've had half hours that have seemed much longer. Then the matter of keeping one's interest keen and fresh is about as tough as any instructor can get.

"One of the most difficult problems I've had in teaching was that of a youngster whose parents insisted that he learn golf. The approach was wrong. The lad was defiant. The attitude probably accounts for boys being pushed into piano lessons and resisting instruction until the teacher and the parent finally give up. Years later the youngster wishes he'd been kept at the lessons.

"It took me almost a year's patient work to get that youngster interested. Now he's a keen and fine young golfer. But how trying that experience was for me! I learned plenty about the psychology of teaching from that case.

Finding Key to the Pupil

"Another case that was a challenge was that of a diplomatic corps man who had not been able to get much out of instruction although he was eager to learn, not only because of the exercise but because of the contacts the game opened to him. In this case, as in others, I didn't

(Continued on page 26)



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Not Merely a Slogan . . . A FACT

take the pupil to the tee cold. We discussed the background and foundation of the game while I was looking for angles to which the pupil would be most responsive. I got talking about the driving machine and found the pupil intensely interested. He was an engineer. So, with the driving machine idea in mind as the model, this pupil put the picture of the swing into his mind.

"Where I think we pros can change our general teaching policy in saving time is in encouraging the pupils to get an idea of the ABC of the game from instruction books. We've spent 30 years or more arguing over the ABCs of golf and I think we'd better put an end to the controversy and agree publicly on the simple starting points. I've found that by selling Nelson's book at my shop and helping my pupils correctly interpret it I've enlarged their understanding and given myself a more responsive field for my teaching.

"We might as well admit that we can't avoid being somewhat puzzled by the mechanics of the finer details of the swing. That is inevitable. It is a spur to progress. We must remember that it took Nelson about 6 years to rebuild his game, and Hogan 3 years for an overhauling of his game. Yet we, as pros, have the work of rebuilding the game of many of those who come to us and expect great results in a few weeks. Because of that we are restricted much of the time to implanting deeply just a few fundamentals so the pupil can go a good part of the rest of the way himself.

"I have learned a lot about playing and teaching golf by playing with my worst-scoring pupils. I wondered why they kept at it. They were responsibilities of mine because they are my friends and I want them to enjoy golf to the fullest. I found that they considered golf on a relative basis. The 85 shooter among men of 45 or over is a big shot in his group of businessmen, and he is justifiably so considering the comparatively little time he has to play. What pros can do to improve his score is one of their challenging jobs. He may be so set in his possibly peculiar but effective manner of hitting the ball that suggestions of changing his unorthodox style may be dangerous.

"Every Friday afternoon I keep free for playing with my pupils. It is not a paying session in cash. The pupil I invite arranges the rest of the foursome or, if he wishes, I'll do it. If the players ask for advice about making a shot I'm glad to give it. Sometimes, when I can do it discreetly without interjecting any note that may make a man conscious of an instruction rather than a primarily pleasure angle to the game, I will make a suggestion about his swing.

"The strictly golf swing part of our teaching is not the most difficult part of our job. But the matter of adjusting our personalities to those of our pupils is the study that never will end for the pro."

"So you think that at this stage of the PGA campaign to raise the general level of pro instruction it might be wise to put more accent on the psychology of instruction instead of dealing almost altogether with the swing mechanics?" I asked.

"I definitely do," the veteran declared. "Look around and you'll see that the best golf teachers are pretty smart psychologists rather than experts in mechanics."

PGA SIGNS CORCORAN AND MOORE

Fred Corcoran's contract as tournament bureau mgr. of the PGA was renewed for 3 years at a PGA executive committee meeting held during the pro association's championship at Portland. Corcoran now handles the interests of Ted Williams, Boston Red Sox star. Corcoran will make his headquarters in New York and continue making high spots on the tourna-



Gerry Moore

ment circuit which has become a big money and complicated problem since the great development of the tournaments during his administration as bureau chief. Gerry Moore, late of the Boston Globe, treas., Boston Chapter of the Baseball Writers Assn., and formerly golf writer for the Globe, has been engaged by the PGA as Corcoran's assistant and will make all tournaments. The tournament bureau, with Corcoran and Moore both on the job, plans expansion of publicity and other services that were beyond the capacity of any one man.

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So. California Greenkeepers Ask Turf Research Aid

Southern California golf course superintendents are urging the state legislature to provide funds for establishing at the University of California, Los Angeles, turf research comparable to that conducted by the state colleges of Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Iowa, Purdue university and other educational institutions in eastern and central states.

But the campaign, so far, apparently has found the legislature indifferent and the UCLA administration not particularly receptive. UCLA has in its dept. of agriculture Dr. V. T. Stoutemyer, formerly in charge of turf research at Iowa State college and richly experienced in making an effective tie-up between a state university and commercial and home turf interests. In the person of Stoutemyer UCLA has one of the best qualified men in the country for inaugurating the sort of a turf research program the southern California greenkeepers seek, nevertheless there's been no appreciable response to the greenkeepers' requests thus far.

Southern California greenkeepers are at a loss to account for the failure of the state legislature and UCLA to give them a hand in solving an extensive and unique array of turf problems. The only explanation they can advance is that the demands of the citrus fruit industry are so predominant and forcibly lobbied that other agricultural interests run out of the money.

Greenkeepers all along the Pacific coast comment on the backwardness of California, Oregon and Washington state schools and legislatures in bringing turf research anyway near to the standard maintained in central and eastern states. This deficiency is especially surprising in the northwest where bent turf grasses constitute a substantially profitable crop.

Limited finances of the USGA Green Section and membership of less than 60 clubs in a territory experiencing a tremendous golf boom also have been factors in throwing Pacific Coast greenkeepers pretty much on their own in turf research work. This weakness, some say, reflects unawareness of Pacific Coast green chairmen in the possibilities of extensive turf research and may account for their not participating vigorously with the greenkeepers in putting the case for

turf research before state universities and legislatures.

Home Owners Share Research Need

In the case of southern California, especially, the private lawn owners are paying heavy penalty of not having turf research advanced on a comprehensive basis. The greenkeepers, through their individual and association research and exchange of experience, have done an impressive job of solving turf problems peculiar to that area. But with the passing of the Jap gardeners private lawns have deteriorated seriously.

The Jap-made lawns generally were put in with seed the Japs bought at their co-ops and it was definitely not weed-free. The fertilization applied was of no great help in reducing weeds nor, in many cases, was the watering. Weeding was by hand and that meant more pay to the gardeners, hence weeds were the lawn owners' tough luck. Expense of hand-weeding in prewar days wasn't too much but now is stiff.

Establishment and extension of sound standard practice in developing and maintaining weed-free healthy turf would be a reasonably early result of state university cooperation with the greenkeepers, so the greenkeepers declare, and would be of vast value to residence property in the Pacific slope.

Pacific Turf Problems Many

Considering the high standard of maintenance at the better clubs on the Pacific slope the average member probably doesn't realize what the greenkeeper has to contend with in growing conditions that are favorable to weeds as well as grass. By far the greater part of the golf turf weed control methods on the Pacific slope have been worked out by the greenkeepers' own research. They have not had such assistance as state colleges and the Green Section have provided, in the case of 2,4-D for instance, by close-up association with golf course superintendents. The result, according to pros who've played many courses this year, is that Pacific slope fairways and rough are not up to the general standard of turf at better clubs in central and eastern states although west coast greens at the good clubs are superb.

Pacific slope green-chairmen with whom the greenkeepers' plea for organized turf research has been discussed are convinced that the greenkeepers generally are operating their courses on the lowest possible budget compatible with good turf condition, but some greenkeepers hesitate to concede that there is the utmost economy in course operation. They base their doubts on the possibility of turf research pointing out substantial economies, especially in southern California, by developing a strain of fairway grass that will require less water, as just one of the opportunities for saving. The reluctance of the Southern California greenkeepers to say that they have attained the ultimate economy in high grade course maintenance is evidence of an ambitious and inquiring attitude that's a strong element in accounting for the high standing these men hold with club officials and members.

Among golf course equipment and supply men one hears that if research or anything else can effect economies without lowering the maintenance standard, first application of the saving should be devoted to an increase in course superintendents' salaries which have not gone up

commensurate with the increase in living costs in numerous areas along the Pacific slope.

The Pacific slope boasts that it has a generally higher standard of golf course architecture than that prevailing in other sections of the country. Now the greenkeepers of that part of the nation want the best grade of expert help in doing the research work required to have the turf on these fine courses of comparable excellence.

So. Cal. Supt's. Case

In setting forth its case to the UCLA the Golf Course Supts. Assn. of Southern California said:

"We come here with a request to have you consider in your postwar plans the extension of your activities in ornamental horticulture and floriculture, to include the establishment of a turf garden at UCLA.

"The purpose of this turf garden is to further the best interests of the taxpayers of this state. It would eliminate an enormous waste of money each year by determining the proper selection and maintenance of turf for airports, athletic

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CANTERBURY CONTOURING GIVES SPECTATOR BREAK

Third hole at Canterbury during 1946 Open. This shows how golf course architecture that gives spectators vantage points for witnessing play on or near greens contributes greatly to gallery enjoyment of the competition. With galleries now growing so large comparatively few can see strokes made, the qualifications of a "championship" course may have to consider spectator factors as well as golf testing elements. Marshaling of a stampeding golf gallery can't be done perfectly. The incident of Byron Nelson's caddie having to elbow through the gallery and kicking Nelson's ball for a stroke penalty that cost Nelson the National Open title is evidence of the impossibility of crowd control even by marshaling that was much above the average.

O. J. Noer Photo





View of Wichita (Kans.) C.C. showing practice green, golf shop and clubhouse in background.

Greenkeeper's Wartime Work Worked Wonders at Wichita

By **TED GREEN**

A standout story typical of the achievements of greenkeepers working under adverse conditions of wartime is that of the improvement effected at the Wichita (Kan.) CC by W. E. (Wess) Updegraff. After the four years he's been on the job the club's members marvel at the improvement in condition of the course. The course was quite badly run down when Updegraff came on the job, and now, according to the members and the club's pro and its manager, it'll stack up with any in the state for condition.

There haven't been many days when Updegraff wasn't at work on the course during the playing seasons and for weeks prior and after play is active. Considerable of the work he's had to do himself but he has been able to train some new help to assist him and his regulars in giving the course a grooming that has been subject of state-wide comment.

Wichita gets some rather tough extremes of weather and when it does get

hot there it's said that the local chickens laid their eggs fried.

Updegraff tells of high spots of the work he's done in developing good turf on the course:

"The fairways had all been planted in Bermuda in 1938. In the spring of 1942 all of them were dead. It was so late in the season that nothing could be planted but Bermuda. We planted all of the fairways at the rate of 50 lbs. per acre. With the help of about 20 boys weeding fairways we got a fairly good start before fall.

"September 1, 1942 we started a 3 year program of seeding all fairways at the rate of 50 lbs. per acre. This we did the first week of September each year of 1942-'43-'44. The first year 30 lbs. of blue grass, 10 lbs. of bent and 10 lbs. of red top were sown also. We got an almost complete coverage that fall. The Bermuda was extremely heavy in some places, but after the first frost the other grasses came up. The second and third year we