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reasons for the points of etiquette that each gentleman and lady golfer is expected to observe. Wayne considers this a highly valuable part of any juvenile program for the simple reason that youngsters uninformed in golf manners are apt to become nuisances in their enthusiasm at play, thus cause criticism and restraint by members who will have valid reason for complaint, and possibly nullify the eager interest the kids have been showing in golf.

By dropping the etiquette instruction into the program after the youngsters are kindled in desire to play Wayne notes that it is not difficult to get into a kid's mind that observance of golf etiquette makes golf more, instead of less, fun. The general idea of etiquette also makes the instruction of the pupils more effective. Timberman, like other pros who have successfully conducted juvenile programs, realizes that there is bound to be a certain vigorous, frolicsome and mischievous element in any group of youngsters. To get that lively element to contribute to the generally pepping up of class interest and action without having it disturb the general tenor of the lessons is a diplomatic task of the pro which can be made comparatively easy by smooth and interesting reference to the ritual and reason of golf etiquette.

Timberman and Meridian Hills members and officials are certain that the juvenile program has been not only a very definite factor in establishing an excellent group of future members but has done much to solve the summer recreation problem of the youngsters.

These Meridian Hills young golfers have developed form that frequently reminds the observer of swings of today's adult stars. Some of the kids are scoring in figures that indicate those who say there'll not be another amateur win the National Open may have spoken prematurely. Pete Burkholder, 13, present Meridian Hills Junior champion and quarter-finalist in the Indianapolis City tournament for boys up to 18, started in these classes 4 years ago at the age of 9. Pete shoots consistently from 76 to 84 on the 6774 yard Meridian Hills course. Billy Kerr, an 89 pound, 4 ft. 8 in. 12 year old, in class since 1942, has shot an 84 on Meridian Hills.

Donna Mae Knox, 12, in her 3rd year in the class, qualified in the 1946 club tournament with a 92 and is consistently shooting in the 90's.

Each year a Junior club tournament is held and appropriate awards are presented to the best golfers among the boys, also among the girls in the group up through 10 years of age who play 9 holes. Those 10 through 14 play 18 holes and appropriate awards are given to the winners in both the boys and girls groups.

For the past two years Meridian Hills has sponsored a Juvenile Invitation Tournament.

At the close of the season Meridian Hills Juniors, under the supervision of Timberman, put on an exhibition for club members. Following that a dinner for Junior golfers is held at which time awards won during the season are presented. At the exhibition movies are taken which are presented at the following year's dinner.

PEPS UP PUTTING EVENTS—Britton (S.D.) GC, like other sand green courses wasn't able to get many entries in its putting tournaments. R. F. Comstock of the club devised a method of distance variation and scoring that made putting events very popular. The Britton method consists of putting four balls alongside each other and stroking them at the cup first from 2 ft. distance, then from 4, 6, 8 and 10 ft. Comstock found that, by having the distances these lengths, scoring was such that players were encouraged. If a ball stops before it reaches the cup the player may lift it. The placement of balls alongside each other and separated by several inches gives different putting angles. One point is scored for each ball holed from 2 ft., 3 for each holed from 4 ft.; 5 for each holed from 6 ft.; 7 for each holed from 8 ft. and 9 for each of the 4 balls holed from 10 ft. Highest possible score is 100.

Comstock says that another putting game called "Horse shoe" also has become popular at Britton and other of the sand green clubs in the section. Three points are scored for a "ringer" or a putt holed out and one point for the ball nearest the hole. In the case of 4 players as 2 teams, 2 opponents shoot from one side of the cup and 2 from the other.

TEXAS BOOSTS BOY GOLFERS—

Texas expects its present schoolboys to brighten the state's already brilliant golfing fame. Pros are coaching high school golf teams all over Texas and winter has seen no let-down in practice although January in Texas was unusually severe. Typical of local encouragement is a story in an Abilene sports section lauding the Maxwell twins, Bill and Bob and Gervis McGraw. Morgan Hampton, pro-mgr. of the Abilene CC since his return from the army, is coaching the Abilene high school golf team.

NEED SUPPLIES? SEE PAGE 69

Putting On a "Front" For the Greenkeeper's Big Job

By **HERB GRAFFIS**

A down-east greenkeeper dropped into a supply dealer's office and began unbosoming himself of his reflections after calling on a greenkeeper at a good club. The dealer's visitor was not in a pleasant mood.

He blurted out:

"I've just been to see X. I was glad to chat with him again for he certainly knows how to grow grass. But what he doesn't know about people! If I'd been a stranger I wouldn't have picked out X as the head man from among the laborers on the course. He was very much overdue on a shave and in every other way looked like a guy who could be picked up at one of those places where they recruit railroad track gangs.

"I know he's short of help and has to pitch in. I don't expect him or any other greenkeeper to strut around in knife-creased trousers, a stiff white collar and a Sulka tie, but I do think it wouldn't hurt X any to look like the man responsible for a first-class job.

"X is in an ideal spot to look, act and think in every way so he'd be helping himself and all the greenkeepers, but will he do that? Hell, no! It seems that he deliberately tries to down-grade himself and be just another peasant. Then we wonder why it's so hard to get golf course maintenance established in public opinion as an important, exacting profession.

"Well, we've chewed this over too many times and always have ended up just where we began; deciding that if greenkeepers won't look the part of valuable men they can't expect to be regarded as such.

Club in Great Shape — BUT

"I suppose I'll keep on growling about greenkeeping. I've been doing it for 17 years. But after what I saw when I was out at X's club I'm getting stronger in my determination to cut loose from the business. His club has been having its best year of the past 15 and never was in better financial condition. Still he's had to let half his men go. Those who have stayed demanded more money and got it. X has been at about the same salary for there's no telling how long. He doesn't look or act as though he was worth more."

The supply man waited for an opening in the indignant recital then cited another case.

"There used to be a repairman for a club in this district. When the war came along

he quit and went to work in a war plant as a millwright. He is a good mechanic. He was called a 'grease ball' for his clothes were greasy and grimy. One day during the war he came in to see me and I was astonished. He had on a white shirt, was clean-shaved and looked like a solid businessman. In the course of our conversation he told me that he'd decided one day to come onto the job looking neat. Before long other men on the job came to him asking for advice on work to be done. They thought from his appearance that he must have some boss rating.

"The superintendent of the plant noticed fellows coming to this former golf equipment mechanic and promoted him. Now he's night foreman of the millwrights in a big plant."

After other exchange of observations the greenkeeper and the supply man agreed that a costly neglect of greenkeepers is failure to "put on a front" at their jobs. There are so many of them who don't that the whole profession is penalized. The pros long ago learned the profit of dressing for their jobs. Walter Hagen taught them that and it was by no means the least of the contributions the pros' Great Emancipator made in raising the standards for the pro golfers.

Look the Boss Part

It's a sure thing that the superintendent of the course can't go at his job often dressed as dapper as a pro or a manager, but in thinking about this conversation between the greenkeeper and the supply man I honestly think the fellows have got something in their opinion that greenkeepers generally have to pay more attention to looking the part of a responsible executive rather than going around looking like just another one of the maintenance workmen. Outside work makes a man inclined to dress for comfort and doing manual labor rather than for show, but there's a happy medium for the greenkeeper in appearing as the chief who, if needs be, can do any job better than any of his staff.

It's a delicate subject to bring up. There are numerous exceptions of course, superintendents who do dress the part. But the majority don't and I'm certain that their failure is in a large measure the cause of the general lack of appreciation for the greenkeeper and his work. Most club members are city people and put a high rating on "front." To "put up a front" is the

reason a lot of people belong to private clubs.

For 36 years I've been in the magazine and newspaper business meeting "the most interesting people," many thousands of average Americans and Europeans and a large number of dummies. In that work, naturally, a fellow meets a lot of important people—some who really are and others who pretend they are. But among people of practically all occupations and professions the class I've met who are least inclined to make any show of their genuine value are the greenkeepers. A great many times during the past 25 years I've had the privilege of knowing some greenkeepers intimately, on their jobs, in their homes, at meetings and about everywhere else men can get well acquainted.

Greenkeepers Under-rate Themselves

I have seen them at moments of normal human cussedness and frailty as well as at their tops. I have seen them exhibit most of the faults of mankind except one. I never have seen a greenkeeper guilty of vanity. Maybe that isn't the endorsement of greenkeepers it should be. I have seen thousands in other lines—in business, sports, professional and war—who made conspicuous successes of themselves by acting more impressive than their qualifications actually justified. But I can't recall one greenkeeper who over-acted his role.

Yet, with the exception of war-accelerated progress in industry and the rapid advances made in the newer science-based businesses such as radio and automotive industries I doubt that any other business, big, medium or small, can show progress such as that the greenkeepers have brought to the aid of golf. True, the progress has been due in a large measure to the help of several state agricultural schools and partially due to the USGA Green section but in the latter respect nobody knows any better than USGA officials who have headed the Green Section that the chief factor in the Section's great and increasing value has been the intensely interest collaboration of the greenkeepers.

There hasn't been anything else done in golf, or in many other businesses having the salary scale of greenkeepers, comparable with the improvements and economies effected in course maintenance as the result of the greenkeeper short courses and association meetings. Yet until just before the war it generally was the practice at clubs to let the greenkeeper pay his own expenses to these affairs which benefited the clubs so positively.

Greenkeeper's Work Takes Time

A serious handicap to the greenkeeper's achievement being recognized is the gradual rate at which the results of his

work show. A course can be amazingly improved from one season to the next but due to the time it takes for nature to do its part of the job members don't see a sudden and impressive transformation. Yet, if the average of club members' scores had been reduced from one season to the next by 10 strokes, which would be about as phenomenal as some transformations made in course condition in a year the scoring improvement would be the subject of nationwide sports section and magazine pieces and the pro would become famous—as he should be—for his feat.

It has been surprising to me that greenkeepers haven't acquired the capacity for making themselves at least locally noted. Maybe they are rather content to be out of the limelight knowing that what they have to contend with in nature's vagaries, limited budgets and whims of committees makes a man of some prominence a brighter target for blame when anything goes wrong for reasons beyond his control.

In native good judgment, in education and specialized training the greenkeeper at the majority of first-class clubs is generally a pretty well qualified man. I could name you many of college education. In this respect they are on a par with pros and managers. Many are landscape artists and expert horticultural as well as turf men. Their qualifications in this respect are higher than many who are making an income of from \$10,000 to \$18,000 in the landscaping business. Some greenkeepers have been experts with famed botanical gardens in this country and abroad. Others have had successful experience as engineers. Quite a number of them are very well read and scholarly men, although how these fellows are able to get the time to read as extensively as I've found they do I haven't been able to figure out. The greenkeepers' hours usually are long and uncertain. His is no portal-to-portal job but one that keeps him handy most times during the playing season.

Independent to What Extent?

Generally he is an independent character, possibly as the result of being confronted by so many problems he has to solve by his own resourcefulness. Efforts to organize greenkeepers on a union basis have been unsuccessful because, according to several explanations I've received from greenkeepers, the greenkeeper rarely is of the temperament to submit to union officials' dictation. Yet that explanation doesn't stand up when you consider the arbitrary attitude of some green-chairmen and other officials with whom greenkeepers get along quite well.

But regardless of how independent the greenkeeper may feel like being he rarely

(Continued on page 66)

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Pro's Study of Tourney Stars Dramatizes His Teaching

By LES BOLSTAD

Professional, Golden Valley Golf Club

ONE phase of the tournament circuit that is of value to the pro when he is not playing in tournaments but has to be teaching at his club, is the opportunity of studying the swings of the expert performers. It is a refreshing change from the homeclub pro's necessary continuous study of the inexpert swings of his students. This positive factor I know helps the instructor in his work with and for his pupils.

Then, too, as I have noticed from my own experience, one is more apt to be impressed by the salient points of the swings of the stars when you see them only once a year than one is when travelling the circuit with them and seeing them often.

I recently reviewed the notes I made in 1943 and 1944 when the big shots were in Minneapolis for the Golden Valley invitation tournament. In 1943 I'd seen none but club golfers for a year hence the features of the experts' games were especially conspicuous.

First I was struck by the bold way the stars went for their long putts. The putts were stroked with daring, with imagination, and with an eye to getting the ball into the hole rather than just coming close to make the next putt easy. The attitude of the players was positive. They were out to make something happen and not waiting for something to happen to them.

To a man the head was held "steady". The record of hitting past the chin was 100%. They stayed in position for the blow and then released the head to let it move forward with the swing.

A less than full swing with the woods was noticeable in Nelson, Demaret, Wood and Cooper. The drive was one shot that seemed to be taken for granted. Nelson and Wood never missed a shot to the left of the course. If a shot went askew it flew straight or to the right.

Hand action predominated. There was no body swing, no right side interference and no fast body action.



Les Bolstad gives pointers to Beverly Hanson, center, and Dot Kiely, two of the many fine players who have developed under his guidance.

Most of the swings were definitely grooved. There were very few off-balance swings and only a few jerky swings. Some action photographs made of Wood showed his positions remarkably duplicated, even to the tilt of his cigarette. This, you'll bear in mind, was when Craig was enjoying a temporary respite from the back injury that continues to afflict him.

Gallery Likes Punch Shots

The low punch iron from a half swing was extensively used. The gallery liked this shot.

The explosion shot, that bane of the average golfer, was no trouble at all to the tournament stars and usually went dead to the pin.

The iron shots were hit for the flag. You could see that in the player's set at address, in his attitude.

Revolta's firmness on all short approaches was outstanding. To see him smack those short ones was like getting a dash of cold water in the face. That's what has kept Johnny in the money for almost 15 years.

Some of my friends commented on the shortened holds taken on the club and the tendency to slug the drive, but I had other eyes.

The short swing for irons was particularly noticeable in Hogan, Nelson and McSpaden. That makes for a swell con-

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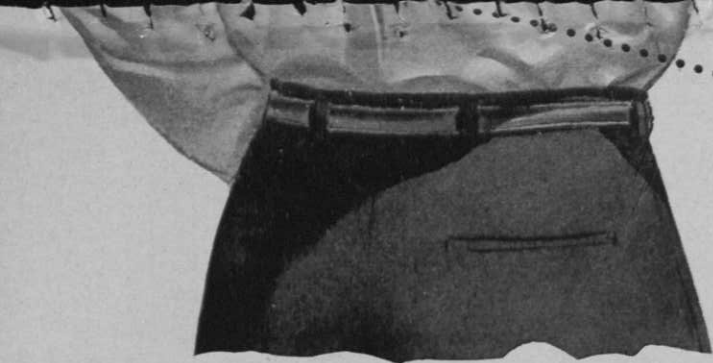
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trolled shot—usually a low one—and with no loss of distance.

The better performers made a distinct swing through the ball, with plenty of use of the right hand. I was impressed by this swing out after the ball. The backswing and the body action seemed subservient to this swing through. Form and detail didn't appear to matter too much if this swing through was accomplished.

Notes on Nelson

Nelson's best shot was his tee shot. Several players remarked that although By was noted as an iron player, he'd actually had the best drive in golf for the past five years. The same thing used to be the case with Armour when he was in his playing prime. He was famed as the iron master but has said that his wood play then was distinctly better than his irons.

Nelson was using more of a palm grip with his left hand. His left thumb was extended down the shaft and half on the side. He said this thumb position steadied and balanced the club at the top of the backswing. He made other meaty statements: "I hold onto the club with my left hand and hit with my right. I try to lead the swing with my left hand and arm and to control the path of the swing with the left. With the right hand I feel the club and make the blow."

There was the usual array of curious putters, indicating the desperation of even the stars in trying to discover the baffling secret of consistently good putting.

One point of coordination and control was prominent: the right arm was always moving forward close to the side of the body.

Ben Hogan, especially, was a great subject for study. His position at address was alive with potential power. He was always in motion. His weight was on his left leg. It was remarkable the long, low iron he could hit using only a brief swing. Then, in contrast, pictures showed him to have the balance and the control to use a longer swing and a more generous move on the drive than anyone else in the field.

Sam Byrd had a new putting stroke (probably in an attempt to minimize tournament tension). He played the ball well forward of his body and used an arm stroke with no wrist action. I doubt if Sam putts this way now, but the point is that he was open-minded and alert to change and suggestion. Sam is one of the smartest pros in golf with a wealth of ideas on how to swing. He didn't get those healthy ideas by resisting change. No sir, he's always changing, experimenting, and building.

The dubs in golf have a fear and mistrust of change. They are sure that any attempt

at introducing new swing technique will disrupt their existing habit patterns and leave them with nothing.

My notes on that tournament read: "McSpaden was deadly in scoring but Nelson and Hamilton seemed to be standouts in execution." That was the week before the PGA at Spokane where Hamilton defeated Nelson in the finals.

Pro Sees for Pupil

Such random notations have been invaluable to me in keeping lessons interesting with reference to golf personalities. While it is certainly true that the pupil's own game is infinitely more important to him than the game of any of the stars, it does help get the instruction story across by bringing in some point of an outstanding player's game that dramatizes the detail you want to emphasize.

It also develops keener attitude toward study and practice on the part of the pupil. Instinctively he gets to associating himself with good golf rather than being entirely overwhelmed by the problems and discouragement of his own game.

Then, too, this plan of passing along your observations is bound to give your pupils the impression that you are forever on the job trying to acquire something that can be used in improving their play. It may encourage them to develop a habit of watching the tournament players' swings themselves instead of merely rushing around wildly to see where the ball goes. Their interpretations may be wide of the mark but you can correct that confusion and error. The profit will come to them as a result of their greater interest in good golf. A pupil who is "swing smart" learns faster.

CHICAGO PROS AND OFFICIALS STUDY LESSON SITUATION

Officials and pros of Chicago district clubs have been informally discussing the instruction situation in the district, not with any idea of recommending standard practice but for the purpose of getting a district-wide basic picture. Lesson fees range from \$2 to \$5 a half-hour, with \$4 and \$5 being the usual charge at the private clubs. In the course of discussions the matter of half-hour periods as customary for lessons was questioned. Some pros expressed opinion that 15 minute or 45 minute lessons would fit individual cases better than the arbitrary half-hour sessions.

Also examined was the greens fee range which extended at private clubs from \$1 week-days at a few clubs to \$8 for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Other subject considered was playing hours for women which became a hotly controversial subject at some clubs last year.