

Runnefeldt in charge of the Skokie Play-field course.

Pocono Turf Assn., with membership mostly in northeastern Pa., has elected Ted C. Weisser, CC of Scranton, Clarks Summit, Pa., pres.; George Patterson, Eddy's Farm, Sparrowbush, N.Y., vp.; Samuel Spencer, Irem Temple CC, Dallas, Pa., sec., and Harry Drennan, Buck Hill Falls (Pa.) Inn, treas. . . Meetings are held third month of each month from April to October, inclusive.

Cornell's 3d Turf Meet Boosts Turf Standards

An intensely practical program kept 150 course supts. in session March 15, 16, 17 at the Third Turf Conference at New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University, Ithica, N.Y. John Cornman, asst. prof. of ornamental horticulture at Cornell arranged the program in association with New York State Turf Assn.

The N.Y. state organization held its annual election during the conference. Results:

Al Schardt, Wanakah CC, Buffalo, N.Y., pres.

Art Twombly, Pelham CC, Pelham Manor, N.Y., vp.

Directors: (N.E.) Robert Mitchell, Edi-



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son Club, Rexford, N.Y., (Hudson) Gene Erickson, IBM CC, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., (Central) Wm. Mitchell, Onondaga CC, Syracuse, N.Y., (Western) Richard T. Lord, Westwood CC, Williamsburg, N.Y., (Finger Lakes) John Ling, Lake Shore CC, Rochester, N.Y., (Atlantic) Roland Schulthers, Supt., Flushing cemeteries. (Directors at Large) James Reid, Brooklea CC, Rochester; Ed Bradley, New York City Parks; W. B. Allen, Chenango Valley State Park, Binghamton.

Bill Glover gave additional data on his experience with named strains of bent under actual play. Ed Casey, Baltusrol supt., spoke on tile drainage, advocating a check-up on drainage as a major point in preventing turf trouble. H. B. Musser lectured with slides in showing how to arrive at economical and adequate watering. J. E. Dawson of Cornell detailed function of organic matter in turf production and C. H. Hadley, Chief Entomologist, USDA, gave a most useful roundup on newer insecticides in Jap beetle control. Gene C. Nutter, research assistant in turf at Cornell and John F. Cornman spoke on the N.Y. state program of research and application in golf turf improvement. Nutter showed interesting slides on mole drainage.

Ed Brady, supt. Pelham and Split Rock courses of N.Y.C. Park Dept. came

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through with much helpful material on the engineering the supt. has to do in turf management. Albert E. Cooper of Penn State College, Marvin E. Ferguson of the Green Section, Harry H. Iurka, N.Y. State Dept. of Public Works landscape artist and A. E. (Ike) Rabbit, agronomist of the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics, gave useful information on establishing turf by the newest proved methods.

Profs. J. A. Adams and J. G. Matthyse presented basic and detailed information on planning insect control.

Marshall E. Farnham, supt., Philadelphia CC, spoke on renovation of fairway turf and on experiences with southern grasses in northern turf. Farnham observation of U-3 Bermuda and the zoysias led him to advocate that each northern supt. had better test under his own conditions. He did say that U-3 Bermuda might be the answer on short hole tees where there has been trouble in keeping crabgrass out.

Jesse A. DeFrance of Rhode Island State College gave a most interesting and practical talk on performance of grass seeds under field conditions. This address appears in full in GOLFDOM.

A. W. Smith, prof., New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations,

(Continued on page 122)

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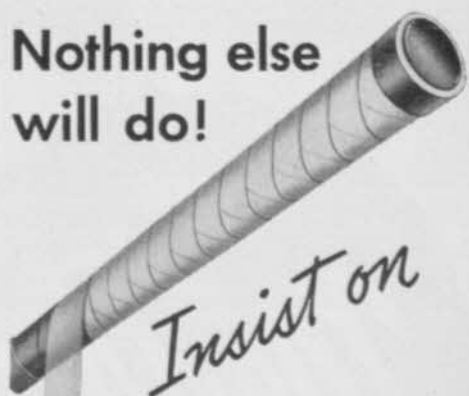
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APRIL • 1950

College Training for New Pro Careers

By DICK FORESTER

Professional, Houston (Tex.) Country Club

In these days of specialization, where the college or trade school diploma is getting to be the rule rather than the exception, the golf pro stands almost alone among professional men unschooled in his profession.

During the years when most of the pros came up from the ranks of the caddies this lack of academic training was no great problem. Then the pro generally had several years of work in the golf shop behind him. He had been exposed to the many details of a club pro's job, other than playing and teaching golf.

But now most of the professional crop is being harvested from amateur ranks— young fellows who establish a reputation in amateur tournaments before turning pro. They are almost always first-rate golfers but when they take their first job they know little or nothing of running the golf shop, managing caddies, running club tournaments and the multitude of other things that keep a club pro busy.

What is the solution? Well, why not send the boy to college?

But first, the colleges must have something to offer him. Here is where the Professional Golfers Association could help itself and hundreds of young golfers who would take such training if it were available.

Why can't the PGA outline its ideas on a college course, then have the necessary textbooks written and interest the colleges in its plan of training golf professionals?

There is no reason why a young fellow can't go to college to be a golf pro, just like he can learn to become a lawyer, a doctor, an accountant or a golf course superintendent.

Professional golf is a lifetime work and an important one that is increasing in

importance as golf extends in popularity. To protect and expand the earning power of the pro there must be a more general realization of the extent and importance of his duties.

Now there is a trend toward thinking that the main qualifications for being a pro golfer is wanting to play golf for money. I read that there were around 300 applications for pro vacancies that were open at two large Eastern clubs. That is about 15% of the master pro membership of the PGA. Certainly the majority of applicants for those jobs were not qualified for competently handling the jobs right from the start, but isn't that something that should concern able professionals as much as it does the clubs? The number of applicants and the vagueness of pro qualifications tend to reduce pro earning power and job security.

The inevitable answer to making pro golf a sound career under rapidly changing conditions is education training and identifying the right men for the more responsible pro jobs.

A four-year course could be outlined with a major in physical education and a minor in golf. The first year and part of the second could be taken up with beneficial prerequisite subjects like English, letter writing, public speaking, elementary bookkeeping, salesmanship, psychology and manual training in woodwork.

Physical education courses in anatomy would also be helpful, to aid the student in understanding how the muscles work and how the mind controls muscular function.

Then the student could go into his courses in golf, where a PGA-approved professional would be the instructor. The pro-to-be would learn the methods of

teaching and playing the game. He would learn how to handle the golf shop, how to manage caddies, how to run tournaments, how to keep handicaps, how to repair and maintain golf clubs.

Lab work would be spent on the links where the student would be able to improve his game and learn the proper methods of teaching. What young golfer would object to lab work like that?

College Years for PGA

It might be a good idea for the PGA to apply these four years of college training to the five years of apprenticeship a young pro must now serve before becoming a full-fledged PGA member. That would leave him with a year of actual in-the-shop training to complete after he received his golf degree.

There are at least a dozen colleges in the nation already well equipped to institute such training. For instance, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, Louisiana State, Cornell, Stanford, North Texas State and others where there are college-owned and operated golf links and professionals coaching the golf teams.

Such a plan as this would not only help the young pro find a job; it would help the college draw more good players for their golf teams while opening a new type of college training that has been too long neglected.

Today there's many a young amateur with a sound game who expects to turn pro sooner or later. But his objective is an elusive one. He finds it difficult to train himself for his life's work, other than developing his game.

Let's send him to college where he can take a PGA-sponsored course. He'll come out a better pro for the club and for golf and the PGA will have a better member.

The golf course maintenance education available at Massachusetts State College and Pennsylvania State College, and in short "refresher" courses at other state agricultural colleges, has been tremendously valuable to golf in general and to the personnel in course maintenance. Pros have benefitted by adopting this idea and having pro department operating conferences in several states. They are significant advances in pro golf and show adjustment to modern conditions.

But obviously these sessions of a day or two are merely indications that the veteran master professionals who learned their business the hard way are keenly aware of the necessity of constant examination of professional operations in the golf business. To train men as professionals for the big days ahead in golf requires something along the line of the procedure of training for a Physical Education degree. And, furthermore, considerable schooling in business.

"My Greatest Day in Golf" Told By 51 to Darsie

"My Greatest Day in Golf" by Darsie L. Darsie published by A. S. Barnes & Co., 101 5th Ave., New York 3, 210 pages. \$3. Darsie for many years golf editor of the Los Angeles Examiner and of the Herald and Express, tournament promoter, and a veteran insider in golf, has done a most interesting job in getting together the tales of 51 noted American men and women pros and amateurs on the days they regard as most historic in their respective golfing careers.

Darsie has provided exciting and informative material in writing the leads to the various testimonies. As the book unquestionably will become an oft-used reference work it's too bad that minor errors have slipped through. Such cases as reference to "Palms Cica" course at Tampa and "Glen Vardon" at Fort Worth in the Patty Berg and Bob Hamilton stories, respectively, are mildly disturbing examples. As entertainment the book is one that will be given very high rating by all readers. The yarns of Willie Hunter and Jimmy Thomson are choice specimens.

A SALES TALK BY REVOLTA



Where the pro must convincingly demonstrate his right to be regarded as the top man in golf goods merchandising is in the fitting and selling of clubs. He got into merchandising by making and selling clubs and balls. Now he must retain, extend and strengthen his position by knowing all there is known about the design and construction of clubs, fitting the clubs precisely to the buyer and telling the buyer why the clubs sold are the best suited to the buyer's game and purse. Johnny Revolta makes a sales talk an interesting and instructive story for Betty MacKinnon, a sweet and shining star of girl's golf.



Bermuda grass from the apron around this green had spread until the green was reduced to the dark area shown around the flag. The grass was clipped short five feet beyond the original border, fumigated with a methyl bromide formulation and replanted with bent. Picture taken immediately after fumigation.

Fumigating With Gas Controls Bermuda Grass in Greens

By W. C. ELDER

In Oklahoma as well as other states in the South the spread of Bermuda grass from the aprons into the bent grass putting greens presents a problem to greenkeepers and others responsible for the care and maintenance of golf courses.

We have been interested in Bermuda grass control for several years in Oklahoma because it is our best lawn grass. It withstands our hot dry summers, responds readily to fertilizers and can be clipped very close without injury. Bermuda grass makes a very good turf for fairways but it will quickly overrun the bent greens.

When we started a turf study in Oklahoma two years ago the control of Bermuda grass was one of the leading objectives. Our problem was to develop a fast economical method for removing Bermuda grass that had encroached into the greens and to re-establish the bent grass in affected areas and control future re-encroachment from the aprons into the greens.

We finally decided to use chemical fumigation to eradicate Bermuda grass on the greens and at the same time fumigate the aprons several feet around the edges of the

greens and reseed both greens and aprons with bent grass. This would not only improve the lie on the aprons for critical short shots but it would also improve the green around the outer edge for putting.

Before our soil fumigation tests we had used several promising chemical weed killers. The only trouble we had with them was that the soil was sterilized for 50 to 60 days after treatment, making the greens unsatisfactory to play on. Consequently, we decided to test soil fumigation with methyl bromide using a liquid formulation which, when released under pressure gasifies and kills weed seeds, vegetation, and insects. Excellent results on weed and grass control had been reported in a paper read at the North Central Weed Control Conference by Dr. W. C. Dutton of The Dow Chemical Co.

We procured a supply of the fumigant and started our experiments during the 1949 season. Cooperating with Bob Dunning-Jones, Inc., Tulsa, golf course architects, greenkeepers, professionals, the greens' committees of several golf clubs and public courses in and around Tulsa and

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see when you choose your new equipment—he knows your game and he knows what equipment is best for you . . . that's why MacGregor's Louise Suggs woods and irons have been accepted as the finest in the short time this greatest of women golfers has been a professional.



Oklahoma City, and representatives from The Dow Chemical Co., we began our tests.

Applying Fumigant

At first we started our experiments by digging up the soil and then applying the gas. Later we tried applying the fumigant on the growing grass without disturbing it as it would be very undesirable to dig up the greens. We had very good results



Close-up of part of the green and apron being fumigated to kill back Bermuda grass around a green at the Highland Golf Club, Tulsa, Oklahoma. The gas is released through saran tubes run under the cover from the one-pound cans in the foreground.

where the Bermuda grass was clipped close to the ground before fumigation. In other words, if the greens are clipped in the usual way for playing before the fumigation, the grasses are killed without digging up the greens.

During our tests we worked out a simple method for applying the fumigant. The

gas is applied by releasing it under covers placed over the areas to be fumigated. We applied the gas to the area we wanted to fumigate by releasing the fumigant into open shallow pans placed under the center of a cover. The use of the shallow pans diffuses or spreads the gas under the entire area of the blanket and prevents it from soaking too deeply into the ground at the outlet.

The fumigant we used was a formulation of methyl bromide and chloropicrin (Dowfume MC-2) which comes in handy one-pound cans. The fumigant is dispensed by means of a so-called "Jiffy" applicator, at the rate of one pound per one hundred square feet. The applicator consists of a length of saran tubing with an outlet at one end and a sharpened steel tube and clamp at the other. When the clamp is shut the steel tube penetrates the can and permits the gas to escape through the Styron tube.

Holding Gas With Paper Blanket

The gas is held in close contact with the turf by an asphalt-laminated paper blanket or other gas-impervious cover. The paper can be folded inside to fit circular greens, allowing long strips to be treated at one time. This cover is supported by boards laid on bricks, drain tile, or anything that is handy, to form a ridge pole like an army "A" tent. The edges of the cover are weighted down to the ground with soil or top dressing placed on the cover around the sides. It is important to check the edges of the cover to see that there are no gaps between the ground and the paper through which the gas may escape. We found that we could effect a satisfactory seal by pat-



Greens are ready for play immediately after fumigation. The light-colored strip behind the lady golfers shows the condition of the turf after treatment. Greens and aprons have been re-seeded with bent grass.