

#### PUSH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TURF RESEARCH

Turf Research Advisory committee of cooperative work at University of California, Los Angeles. Lower row, (L to R): Colin C. Simpson, chmn.; William Bell, architect; William W. Stewart, supt., Hillcrest CC. Upper row, (L to R): Fred W. Roewekamp, LA Dept. Recreation and Parks; Verne Wickham, LA County Parks and Recreation dept.; Prof. V. T. Stoutemyer, div. of Ornamental Horticulture, UCLA; E. B. Marzolf, Northrup King & Co.; William Beresford, supt. LA CC and Pres., SC-Greenkeeping Supts. Assn. First annual fall field day was held at UCLA campus with 140 attending, representing clubs from San Diego to San Francisco. Grass nutrition, chemical weed killers, sod webworm, national cooperative turf fungicide trial program, grass strains suitable to California and soil conditioning were subjects of practical lectures, demonstrations and reports of research progress at the session. Edward Roach, graduate student of UCLA and now supt., Rio Hondo GC, reported on turf survey of 12 LA district courses, telling of indications that excellent turf may be grown on types of soil considered to be unfavorable. A spring field day is planned. Very satisfactory and promising results of the first year's program were evident.

texture, its deep-rooting, and droughttolerant qualities, its freedom from disease and insects, and its ability to provide near-perfect turf throughout the growing season, with the minimum of irrigation. It is highly favored for golf course tees, athletic fields and other places where heavy wear is common and where rapid recovery and healing is of paramount importance. Japanese lawngrass has all the qualities of U-3 bermuda grass except the rapid healing. It has one advantage, which is ability to produce seed. Its final place in the turf picture has not been completely determined but it appears as if it will be used on many turf areas where low-cost maintenance is required.

#### **B-27 Bluegrass Tests Favorable**

One of the more striking demonstrations was the performance of B-27 bluegrass in comparison with commercial bluegrass. The B-27 bluegrass stands out

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as superior in both spring seedings and fall seedings. B-27 bluegrass has thrived under continual mowing with the mowers set at 1/2-inch without supplemental irrigation. It is much more resistant to weed-invasion than commercial bluegrass. It looks as if this new bluegrass will give golf courses and home owners, fairway and lawn turf which can be cut closely and still have a good turf. One of the features of B-27 bluegrass is its ability to grow and persist in combination with bermuda grass and Japanese lawngrass, giving the turf excellent fall, winter and spring color when these summer-growing grasses are dormant and brown. This study of combinations of warm-season grasses to resist crabgrass and cool-season grasses to give color to the turf has been one of the outstanding contributions of the Green Section to turf throughout the crabgrass belt.

During the past several years the Green Section has collected bentgrass selections from all over the country and has tested them at Beltsville under a system of no irrigation, using no fungicides or insecticides and mowing them at  $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch. Out of more than 150 strains only 3 or 4 have survived and prospered sufficiently to warrant further work with them. One comes from Ohio, one comes from Washington, D. C., one comes from Atlantic City, and one comes from Virginia. Several selections from Oklahoma show promise. This is the most brutal treatment that can be accorded bentgrasses, which popularly are supposed to require a great deal of attention. These have had the minimum of care and have thrived in spite of it.

There was a great deal of interest in the zoysia breeding and testing project which is being developed between the USGA Green Section and the Division of Forage Crops and Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry. Hundreds of new strains of zoysia have been developed through breeding. Many new strains are being tested under various heights of mowing, alone and in combination with various cool-season grasses. In the trials thus far the top performing cool-season grasses are B-27 bluegrass, Alta fescue, and Penn State Chewings fescue.

It was interesting to note that it was difficult to get the crowd away from a demonstration of cutting plugs from Z-52 turf with specially designed plug-cutters fitted to the F. G. Aerifier. It appears that this may be a rapid, low-cost method of taking plugs from a nursery bed and inserting them into fairways in play without interfering in any way with the play.

Most of the greenkeepers were surprised to find that U-3 bermuda grass which invaded the bentgrasses maintained at putting green height did not materially affect putting quality or appearance.

Many of the visitors went home with 2-inch plugs of Z-52 zoysia in their pockets and a bag of U-3 bermuda grass under their arm. Since seed of B-27 bluegrass is practically non-existent at the present time, creeping grasses which can be planted vegetatively represent the greatest interest at the present time. It should be pointed out that most of the 1949 production of B-27 bluegrass is being used to plant additional acreage for seed production. Even though seed is not available at the present time steps are being taken to insure ample supplies in the future. A great deal of criticism was voiced because B-27 bluegrass looks so good and yet there is no seed. It must be understood that whenever anything superior is finally proven there always will

be a lag or gap between the demand and the available supply. It is inevitable and unavoidable.

Some of the work which was not shown to the group include a cooperative testing program of the new fescue strains developed by breeding and selection at the Pennsylvania Experiment Station. Another was the testing of some 50 strains of bermuda grass in bluegrass turf. Studies of nurse grasses and renovation trials made recently received little attention because the turf had not as yet matured. Also there were demonstrations of establishing turf from seed of different zoysiagrasses.

The Third Annual National Turf Field Day will be held on October 16 and 17, 1950. One day will be devoted to the inspection of local golf courses where new grasses and practices are being used under heavy play. One day will be devoted to inspection of the plots at the Beltsville Turf Gardens and discussions of the various points of interest. Another student get-together will be planned, probably for Sunday night, October 15.

#### **Golf Writer Fred Proctor Dies**

Fred W. Proctor, for 40 years one of golf's most devoted workers, died November 28, in Chicago at the age of 74 following lengthy illness. A veteran Chicago golf writer, most of the more recent of his 40 years as a newspaper reporter were spent with the Chicago Herald-American from which he was pensioned in 1946. Fred Proctor's service to the game began when there were less than 500 golf courses in the country; today there are 5,000, with the number in the greater Chicago dis-trict increasing almost 10 fold during the period he so enthusiastically worked to generate interest in the game. He is survived by his widow, Louise, two sisters, two step-daughters and a stepson. Three of the Walsh brothers of golf fame, Tom, Frank and Marty, Fred Snite, Chick Evans and Frank Mate served as pallbearers.

#### Midwestern Shade Tree Conference

The fifth annual meeting of the Midwestern Chapter of the National Shade Tree Conference will be held February 15-16-17, 1950, at the LaSalle Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. The two-and-a-half day meeting is open to all persons interested in trees, and it is anticipated that more than 300 members of the Conference and guests will attend. A short discussion period will follow the presentation of each paper, and additional opportunity for questions and discussion will be provided in the Plant Forum session. Problems of concern to arborits, particularly to those located in the midwestern region, will be discussed by able speakers.



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Golf Grip

## Sale of Club by Ghost Vote Warns Need of By-laws Study

## by JOHN M. BRENNAN

Dozens of golf clubs in the New York Metropolitan district have either amended their constitutions, or are planning such action, in the wake of the bizarre sale of the 29-year-old Pomonok CC in Flushing.

It was a ghost vote that disposed of the valuable Pomonok tract of 140 acres at a meeting of the stockholders last May 27 at the Flushing club. More than 200 of the 400 votes cast were those of deceased members whose stock certificates in the Flushing Country Club Land Corp., owner of the property, passed on to their estates.

"Such a condition should never have existed in the first place," William S. Buchanan, pres. Pomonok and the Flushing CC Land Corp., said after the stockholders, the majority represented by proxy votes, decided to sell the club, which, ironically, experienced its finest season, financially, during 1948 and was on the way to another magnificent season when the ghost vote permitted the roof to fall in.

"Of course the bid was attractive, even fabulous, for the property and one can't blame some of these persons who inherited the certificates, the majority of whom don't know the difference between a mashie and brassie," observed Pres. Buchanan. "But, the control of the club should never have passed from the hands of the current members the way it did. If I had my way long years ago, it would have been compulsory for persons applying for membership in the golf club to purchase certificates in the land holding corporation. What can one expect when it comes to a vote, although it was necessary to get two-thirds to sell the club? Golf clubs in other sections can learn a valuable lesson from what happened to Pomonok CC."

#### Few Holders of Land

Buchanan pointed out that fewer than 20 per cent of the current members of Pomonok CC, which passed out of existence in November, held stock in the land corporation. Some of the stock, possibly 10 per cent, was held by heirs of charter members, or pioneer members still living, but no longer active in the golf club.

Actually, the property will be turned over to two groups. The Flushing CC Land Corp., when title is passed, will collect \$1,238,172 from Local 3 of the AFL Electrical Workers for 103 acres (the greater portion of the course) and more than \$580,000 from New York City for a housing development. The latter project still must be approved by the city fathers, but officials have expressed the opinion that the proposal will be favorably acted upon by the Board of Estimate before the winter.

The union plans a \$20,000,000 garden apartment colony to house 2,000 families. About 60 acres of the course will be used, the remainder being set aside for a streamlined shopping center.

Lyle T. Alverson, prominent attorney and an adviser to Franklin D. Roosevelt during his first two terms in the White House, was chairman of the real estate committee that was in favor of selling the Pomonok property in view of the attractive offer.

Alverson pointed out that taxes in Queens County, which is part of New York City, are due to rise and that the Pomonok property is facing an assessment of more than \$100,000 for the recent construction of the vast Corridor sewer through most of Flushing. Smaller, but quite heavy assessments, are due and should prove burdensome on the golf club members who, in the event of continuing the club, would be compelled to pay higher membership fees.

#### **Could Handle Assessment**

Municipal Court Justice Mario J. Cariello of Long Island City, a veteran Pomonok member and stockholder, was loud in his protest of the sale. Judge Cariello said: "The Pomonok club showed a good profit last season, realizing its largest sum in history, and is well on its way to even better figures this season. Furthermore the Corridor sewer assessments will be spread over 15 years and could easily be absorbed by the flourishing club."

Commissioner Cornelius G. De Loca. another active member strongly opposed to the sale in spite of the big figure, was one of the last speakers at the stormy meeting. "What can we expect holding so few votes," reasoned De Loca. "This club is being sold by the ghost votes of deceased members. What do these persons care about golf; they probably have never been out to the club in the first place. It's a really tragic situation, letting such a lovely club die with a filled membership roster."

Martin J. Lyons, director of the nearby Oakland GC, one of the oldest layouts in the country, decried the plight of the Pomonok CC, but hinted the members were themselves to blame. All, when admitted to Pomonok, were asked to purchase stock but were reluctant to do so. "So, who's to blame?" asked Lyons with a shrug of his shoulders.

Staid Oakland, one of the few clubs in the country that never carried a mortgage and has always operated along conservative lines, has an advantage over Pomonok, the latter having a mortgage of a quarter million dollars. Then, too, Pomonok being nearer the city and business districts, was taxed a lot heavier.

#### **Constitutional Differences**

At Oakland, it is compulsory to purchase stock in the land company and the same condition exists at most of the private clubs in the New York Metropolitan area that takes in Westchester, New Jersey and parts of Connecticut.

North Hills, purchased by the membership from the Federated Bank and Trust Company for approximately \$475,-000, is another private course located in Queens. Its constitution, Pres. J. T. (Pat) Clancy advises, provides that any member holding stock in the club who resigns loses voting power on any club matters. That, of course, would nullify the stock in the event of a vote on an offer for the property.

Probably the finest constitution ever conceived by a golf club was devised by the founders of the old Queens Valley GC, which was located on the fringe of the old World Fair.

Briefly, Queens Valley's constitution permitted a member to resign and continue as a stockholder, but he was compelled to pay full dues, plus assessments. Few ever continued holding stock after quitting the club. All debts to the club at the time of a member's resignation, in the event of not being satisfied, would be deducted from the sale of his stock.

Supreme Court Justice Thomas Cuff, a member of the Hempstead GC, pointed out that the golf-minded members of that organization quickly got control of the stock when the news of Pomonok's demise leaked out.

"Hempstead, while far removed from New York City, is a progressive, fastgrowing town and it would not be surprising if we were to get an offer for the course, which is only a few blocks from the main business district," Judge Cuff asserted. "In order to protect the club, we managed to collect enough of the stock to preclude any sale, in the event of an attractive offer."

Pomonok was the first of dozens of courses that mushroomed on Long Island after World War I. A group of Flushing businessmen founded Pomonok. A number of the pioneer members quit the Old Country Club in Flushing, another course built before the turn of the century.

Pomonok went along in high gear until the depression days, when the mistake was made of taking in associate members in too large numbers. While the associates provided the club with sufficient revenue to carry on during the lean years of the early 30's, they soon formed the major portion of the Pomonok CC, eventually paving the way for the sale of the property.

The Pomonok club was the setting of the National PGA when Henry Picard beat Byron Nelson in an extra-hole final. The tournament, promoted by Corkly O'Keefe was marred by the first "sitdown strike" in the history of the sport. A faction of PGA members, resenting the action of the executive committee over the banning of Denny Shute for his failing to post his entry on time, organized the "sitdown strike" that held up the start of the tournament and almost led to the calling off of the event.

With virtually all Long Island private clubs boasting of waiting lists, the future of the more than 300 male and 135 female members of Pomonok is none too bright. A possible solution to the enigma will be for Pomonok's members to purchase one of the Nassau clubs, Pres. Buchanan revealed, following a recent informal meeting of the members to sound them out on the purchase of another club.

"If we do succeed in acquiring another club, you can bet there won't be any more associate members," cautioned Buchanan. "We'll have only one kind of member stock-holding, and the price of the stock will be frozen, with no fluctuations like at the old club."

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## Harmon Helps Himself by Helping the Member Most

### **By HERB GRAFFIS**

It certainly is no accident—and it certainly isn't luck—that Claude Harmon has two of the best pro jobs in the country. He's at Winged Foot in the summer and at Seminole in the winter. Both are clubs of wealthy and active golfers who are not adverse to spending money in enjoying golf. The members are successful businessmen who insist on having a successful pro and regard it as logical that a pro who handles their golf business with initiative, diligence and ability should earn an income warranted by superior performance.

With some knowledge of club figures and credit reports I'd say that Harmon comes about as close as anybody else in pro golf to earning the fancy figures that pros in good club jobs are reputed to earn —but don't, when their expenses of doing business are subtracted. You can be sure that Claude Harmon as a club pro has a larger net annual income than is earned by more than three tournament circuit pros during very good years. That, of course, accounts for the canny young Harmon passing up the tournament circuit grind notwithstanding his Masters' victory and other stellar demonstrations showing that he could take his show on the road with a profit.

#### **Pleasant "Strictly Business" Policy**

At Winged Foot during the Walker Cup matches I had a chance to talk about pro department business again with Claude. Sitting in his office in one corner of a compact, neat and judiciously stocked shop, I recalled to myself the first time I'd seen him operate as a kid assistant in a pro shop. As I remember it was at Northmoor in the Chicago district when Claude was an assistant to Ky Laffoon. The young man was going over some wood heads on display with a polishing cloth and shifting some clubs around. When I came into the shop he acted very pleased, although I don't think he'd ever seen me before, or I had seen him.

His manner was that of a fellow who's genuinely happy about somebody coming into the shop because the visitor is giving him a chance to be of some help. Claude still has that great asset, plus a quiet air of authority that gives the visitor to the shop confidence that he's in care of a man who knows his business. And Claude does know his business. He knows how clubs and balls are designed and made and what every big buyer and salesman should know about all other merchandise in the shop. He knows teaching and he knows merchandising.

Craig Wood, a fine pro businessman himself, appraised the pro business qualities in Harmon when Claude was Craig's assistant, and recommended him as his successor at Winged Foot. Craig always has been a great one for carefully selecting and training assistants and Claude's an expert in that part of the job now with a well-balanced staff of experienced men and highly promising youngsters. The Winged Foot pro shop is small,

The Winged Foot pro shop is small, considering the volume of business done in it. But there is ingenious use made of space. One of the ideas that many pro shops can use is that of storage space behind the club displays on the walls. Back of the displayed clubs is a sliding panel which opens onto spaces for storage of clubs and other shop stock. Ball reserve stocks are kept in locked steel files in back of the shop.

Winged Foot members entertain their trade groups often and that means a large



Professional Claude Harmon makes careful check of new stock before putting in shop display. His ready knowledge of the fine points of club manufacture builds buyer confidence that leads to sales.

volume of pro shop merchandise as prizes. One stunt the boys in the Winged Foot shop use is frequent change of sets of woods and irons in one of the choice bags "I sincerely believe that my new irons,

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in stock. This ensemble shows the latest in a complete golf outfit and people who might feel like buying a new set of woods or irons look over the whole outfit and buy woods, irons and bag.

In a small shop there has to be some circus display—otherwise it's just another small shop. Harmon spent \$300 for a lighted display of color photographs which are frequently changed. A member who is one of the famed commercial photographers supplies Claude with the photographs.

#### **Innovation in Picture Teaching**

So far as we know Harmon was the first pro to use the Polaroid-Land camera in instruction. That's the camera which delivers prints in about a minute after the trigger is pressed. It shoots fast enough to get action pictures of a golf swing.

Claude says it's amazing what these Polaroid-Land prints have done in helping him and his assistants show pupils exactly how their swings are and make corrections on the basis of clear appreciation of what actually is being done. Harmon also uses motion pictures ex-tensively in his teaching. He has over \$1000 invested in Bell and Howell motion picture equipment. He's been using screen projection of pictures of the pupils' swings but believes that the small outfit described by Jules Platte in GOLFDOM enables the instructor to get sharper concentration from the pupil and by retaining any frame of the movie for careful study, represents an improvement on the screen showing. Anything that provides a possible improvement in methods you can bet Harmon tests without delay.

Study of the customer is the foundation of Harmon's successful operation. He was taught how to study his own game when he was under the direction of such able analysts as Wood, Laffoon and Harry Cooper. He sees to it that his assistants are thoroughly schooled in his own type of teaching the fundamentals but must understand the principles so clearly that they can make such adaptations as are sound to fit the sound basic elements to each individual. Harmon did that himself in arriving at his somewhat unique grip. He believes that experimentation with the typical golf pupil must be very cautious and limited, yet is necessary to make the most of the physical and temperamental qualifications of various pupils.

#### **Keeps Reminding the Customers**

Harmon is strong for attractive printed matter to keep his members reminded that he and his staff are on the job serving each individual who belongs to the club. His gift certificate is a neat job on a green sheet. He sends out lesson reminder cards and a card advising that there is a pro shop merchandise credit, to winners on the weekly "kickers' handicap" event. When he has to order merchandise that isn't in stock he pushes delivery and immediately on receipt of the merchandise advises the buyer on an attractive card.

Harmon says that certainly in his own case teaching doesn't interfere with his playing, except to the extent that he needs to regain the "feel." With form sound he can get back his "feel" and his competitive attitude after a few rounds of play. He maintains that it would be far worse for a pro to lose the feel of wanting to be helpful to each member's game than for the pro to lose his own putting touch temporarily.

"Anything a pro can think of to help his members score better helps the pro's own game," according to Harmon. He says his experience has been that a pro gets a lot of confidence in himself by mastering the problems of fellows who come to him to be taught. The pupils get a lot of confidence in Harmon, too. When he makes their swings better he can tell them what clubs they ought to have to help them still more. The lesson tee is practically a part of his shop.

### Betty Hicks Co-Author of New Teaching Manual

Betty Hicks, 1941 Women's National champion, and teacher of golf classes at Pomona college, University of Iowa and Iowa State university, together with Ellen J. Griffin, asst. prof. physical education, Women's college of the University of North Carolina, have written A Golf Manual for Teachers, published by C. V. Mosby Co., 3207 Washington blvd., St. Louis, Mo. The 312 page book sells for \$3.50.

The girls have done a good job on this book which is intended to help physical education teachers give their classes the rudiments of golf and then some. The Ernest Jones technique is basis of the instruction principle and nobody can go far wrong on that. Jones gets them into the swing simply and whether one advocates swing or hit, to get the pupils swinging the club is an achievement. And don't let anybody tell you that Betty isn't a pretty good teacher and a well qualified student of instruction methods. Numerous women physical educators and several men P.E. authorities advised in making the book.

The methods of class set-up and operation are particularly interesting and helpful. The physical educators' view of golf