

to give boost to women's pro golf in Britain.

Panama Golfer, published by J. C. MacMurray, appears ... Feature of first issue is story on Panama golf history which began with 6-hole Gatun GC, organized by late Maj. Gen. J. J. Morrow in 1915 ... YMCA put up \$1000 for constructing course ... Isthmus now has 7 courses and 1700 players, most of them playing year around ... Bob Lombroia, formerly of Montclair and Glenridge clubs in New Jersey, made his first visit to Panama in 1920 ... He's dean of Panama pros and has been with Ft. Amador GC since 1928 ... MacMurray says plane travel has given big boost to Caribbean golf.

Arthur Lacey named non-playing captain and mgr. of British Ryder Cup team ... He is brother of Charley, pro at Rancho, Los Angeles ... Elmer Reed on pro staff at College Park course, Atlanta, Ga., when he's not flying for Eastern Airlines ... George Calderwood, North Hills, elected Wisconsin PGA pres. for eighth consecutive year ... Washington (D.C.) junior golfers and Canadian juniors to play team match at Columbia CC, Washington, June 3 ... Each team will be of 8 juniors, 2 from each 14-17 age group ... Robert Simpson Co., Ltd., Canadian merchants, sponsoring matches on home-and-home basis.

Lou Diegel, 52, lost the decision May 8 at North Hollywood, Calif. ... He had been



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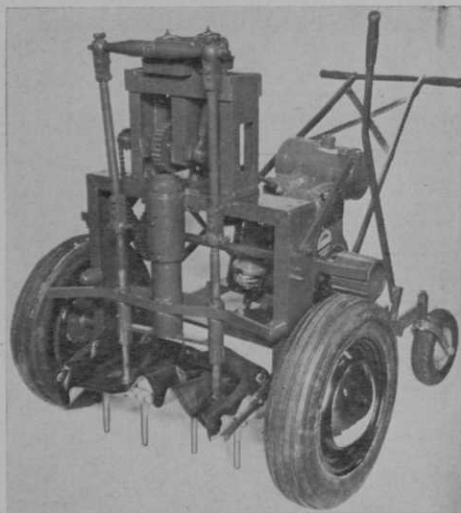


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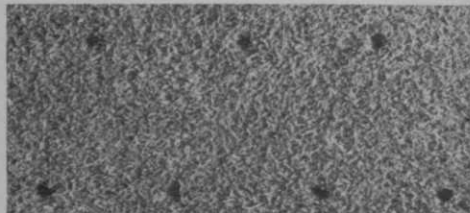
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suffering from lung cancer for two years ... He never lost his cheerful spirit ... Leo was PGA champion in 1928 and 1929 ... He finished second in British Open of 1930, tied for second in 1920 US Open, won Canadian Opens of 1924-25-28-29, was on US Ryder Cup teams of 1927, 29, 31 and 33 and won or finished well in many competitions between 1920 and 1936 when injury forced his retirement from competitive golf ... He was pro at clubs in Detroit, Philadelphia, Chicago, New Orleans, Agua Caliente and Tuscon and was private pro to E. B. McLean, Adolph Zukor and Joe Schenck ... He was a constant student of golf and a persistent experimenter ... He conquered a jittery temperament to become a great player ... There are a thousand stories of good laughs the veterans can tell about Leo experiments and his lively nature, and every one of them is good clean fun ... He was born in Detroit, Mich. April 27, 1899 ... He is survived by his widow, Violet, with whom he made one of the most delightful teams in contributing to their friends' enjoyment.

20 boys assured two weeks vacation at American Boys Camp, Coloma, Wisc. this summer when Stanley Van Dyk, pres. Chicago Dist. Golf Assn., presented check to Past Commanders Club of the American Legion, operators of the camp ... Funds were part of \$10,203 raised by last year's CDGA Veterans Day blind bogey for benefit of hospitalized vets and their families ... Veterans Day this year, July 21-22 again sponsored by CDGA, Chicago Women's DGA and Ill. Sect. PGA.

Clayton Aleridge now pro at Brynwood CC (Milwaukee dist.) ... Jerry Gianferante, highly rated by N. E. pros as teacher and businessman, signed as pro by Merrimack Valley GC, Methuen, Mass. ... Dave Tinsley, former asst. at Myers Park CC, Charlotte, N.C., named pro at the club ... Johnny Inglis elected Metropolitan PGA pres. for 27th consecutive term.

Jimmy Demaret starred in Life Magazine May 14 feature as "Best Dressed Golfer" ... Pictures show part of Jimmy's 75 pairs of lurid slacks, 60 sport coats, 40 pairs of shoes, 150 shirts, 35 caps ... Big testimonial dinner to Jimmy at Toots Shor's in NYC June 5 ... Tickets \$25 per ... Jimmy has provided bright colors and laughs at dinners to others ... Now it's his well-deserved turn.

Byron Nelson still The Mechanical Man on his exhibitions ... Broke Olympia (Wash.) C&G record with 61 ... Included was a 28 that broke his own 9-hole record ... Old Chuck (Curley) Congdon, the Tacoma Giant Killer, knocked Byron off in a Seattle exhibition ... Chuck also beat Bobby Locke when Bobby was hot and touring the Pacific Northwest ... Chuck plays tournament golf once in a while as a busman's holiday deal ... He never frets

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Aids in the prevention of large brown patch.

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\*Trade Mark

about it enough to be one of the wonders but he certainly can whip the ball around . . . Northern California PGA giving as first prize for its assistants' tournament expense money for four tournaments in western sector of tournament circuit.

Englewood, Tam O'Shanter and Highland, Canton (O.) fee courses give special rates to high school golfers . . . Joe Novak PGA of America pres., made honorary pres. Canadian PGA . . . Novak thru as PGA pres., after this term . . . He's been doing a great job in steering the pro organization ahead thru some delicate situations . . . He's got the PGA in condition to again release a detailed financial statement in case the members want to know.

Earl Dowell, supt., LaFayette (Ind.) CC seriously injured when tractor turned over on him during course work . . . Fifth annual Junior tournament of City of Tallahassee, June 21 and 22 at Tallahassee (Fla.) CC . . . Five age groups, from 10 and under to 17 and 18 . . . It's a great junior promotion by Sonny Hay and Nee West with cooperation of Tallahassee Men's Golf Assn. and Florida State University athletic dept. . . Local newspapers, merchants, and movie houses donate prizes.

Jimmy Johnson now pro at Tam O'Shanter CC (Detroit dist.) . . . Glen Oaks in Detroit dist. now county course with Ted Maged as pro . . . Larry Pentiuik now pro at Washtenaw CC, Ypsilanti, Mich. . . Bob Millar in his 26th year as pro at Milham Park, Kalamazoo, Mich. . . Bob MacAndrew, veteran New England pro and inventor of the MacAndrew seeder, died recently.

Air photos in Detroit Free Press and

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comment by Marshall Dann on Oakland Hills CC course toughening by architect Robert Trent Jones shouldn't be seen by fellows who'll play in the National Open ... The pictures alone will scare the boys ... Montclair (N.J.) GC to sell 45 acres and build 9 new holes ... Plans selling present No. 2 9-holes because of light play, heavy taxes (\$3000 per year) and maintenance cost (\$10,000 a year.)

Francis Ouimet, now the American captain of Royal and Ancient, is an American ambassador of sport of whom we can really be proud ... Francis has come a long way since 1913 when as a 20-year-old kid he threw in a 72 at Brookline to beat Vardon by 5 strokes and Ray by 6 in the National Open play-off ... U.S. National Open victories of Johnnie McDermott in 1911 and 1912 had informed the British, American pro golf was getting good but they didn't think an American kid amateur was good enough to beat Britain's best pros ... More ambassadors like Ouimet and the world wouldn't be brawling.

### Pros Help Jaycee Junior Golf Through Radio

A series of 5-minute radio transcriptions slanted toward increasing participation in the U.S. Jaycee National Junior golf pro-

(Continued on page 82)

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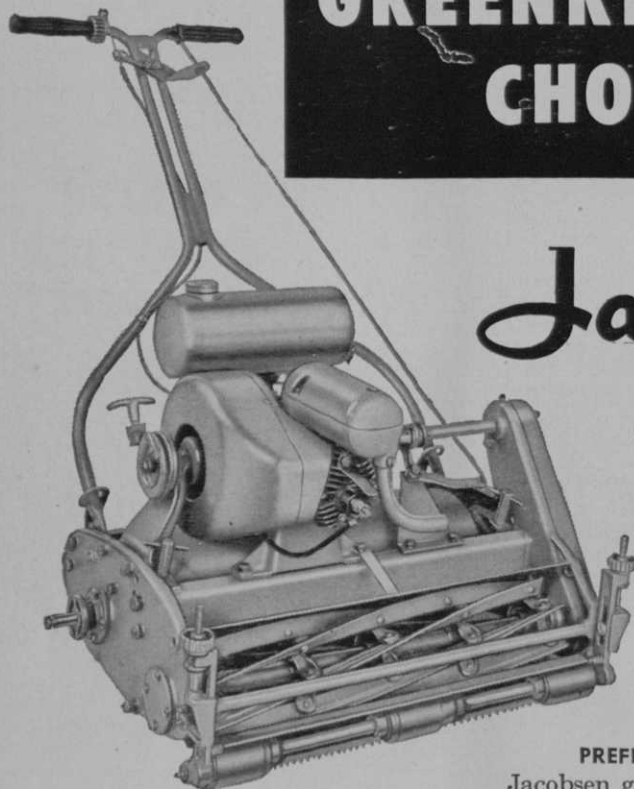
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JUNE • 1951

# Assistant's Training Is Mark of A Good Pro

By JOE GRAFFIS

An interesting situation has developed in pro golf. This year, there has been no difficulty in getting numerous applications for fair to good pro jobs but there is a decided shortage of desirable assistants. The draft is taking some young men who are qualified as first class assistants, others are enlisting to get military service out of the way and be able to stay in golf careers when they return, and quite a few assistants who are World War II veterans have graduated into pro jobs.

Experienced club officials hiring young pros are learning to ask about what backgrounds the candidates have as assistants. Training as an assistant under capable master pros definitely outranks tournament performance as a factor in getting a pretty fair pro job at most clubs. The club officials put some weight on tournament performance but not too much; they wonder whether the lad with the tournament bug will be inclined to spend time at the club on his own game at the expense of the members' games. Pros who look for dependable assistants also have that matter of the youngsters' tournament ambitions in mind. The pros want assistants to work for the club, not primarily for tournament honors.

## Have to Work at Golf

There is no trouble in filling assistants' jobs with youngsters who want to play at golf. The trouble is in getting lads who are willing to work at golf. Work for the members and work on an assistant's own game can be successfully combined by a young fellow who has sound judgment and willingness to put in long hours. That has been plainly demonstrated by younger players who have done well on the tournament circuit the past two winters. But almost without exception these younger fellows worked for competent master pros who made certain that the assistants worked on their own games before and after they'd taken care of the members.

The late Bob Barnett had a policy that most successful professionals apply. Bob used to tell his assistants that they could give all the time they needed to their own games before 9 a.m. and after members'

play was over in the afternoon. That policy, reinforced by the top pro's presence in the morning helping his assistants with their golf, has contributed greatly to the development of some fine younger players and teachers.

Club officials seldom know much about hiring pros. They often settle their hiring problem by getting an experienced man away from another club, getting a youngster with a pleasing personality who happens to register favorably with several members of the hiring committee, or depending on the judgment of an impartial outsider who is expected to have a sound idea of what the club needs and who would be best qualified to fill that need. Ability, dependability, personality, credit rating and indications of business judgment are qualities considered but some of these qualities are difficult to appraise accurately.

## Who Taught the Pro?

In the case of the younger fellows who apply for jobs undoubtedly the strongest element in getting a job when knowing officials are doing the hiring is "who trained him as a pro?" During the past several months GOLFDOM has received numerous letters from club officials asking what sort of training young applicants for pro jobs may have received under pros whose names they gave as former employers. Obviously the club officials knew that if the young men had been well trained by competent professionals and had satisfied these professionals the youngsters were qualified to graduate into pro jobs of their own.

Assistant selection and training always has been one of the important parts of a good pro's job at a good club. You probably have heard tales about pros holding back on development of assistants for fear the assistants would become good enough to get the older pro's job. During 30 years I have seen comparatively few assistants forcing out the pros who hired them and have rather marvelled at there being so few cases considering the politics that often account for curious actions at golf clubs. There have been many cases

of assistants succeeding pros at jobs where the older men have moved to better jobs, retired or died.

In the vast majority of cases the better assistant a pro has the more secure he is in his job.

What club officials don't often realize, but every first class pro knows, is that a shop where's there's \$4000 to \$8000 worth of merchandise and the pro must spend a lot of time on the lesson tee a first class assistant and an alert and competent shop boy must be on the job. The pro wouldn't dare take a chance with help he couldn't trust to provide a satisfactory substitute for the expert personal attention he gives in making a profit out of his shop and serving his members satisfactorily.

### Being Taught to Teach

Then there's the essential of teaching. This exacting job requires much more pro training of assistants than members ever imagine is done in the well conducted pro department. Learning to teach golf properly is something that requires much time, the development of keen observation and mastery of practical psychology which quite often defeats the young pro or assistant who is trying to instruct an old, muscle-bound male member or a woman pupil who seems to be athletically almost hopeless. There is enough variation in teaching techniques to have average golfers confused and further confusion from a variation between a pro and his assistants is something that destroys the confidence pupils could be expected to have in golf instruction. The assistant who has been taught to teach by a man

who knows how always has an edge in applying for a job where informed officials are doing the hiring.

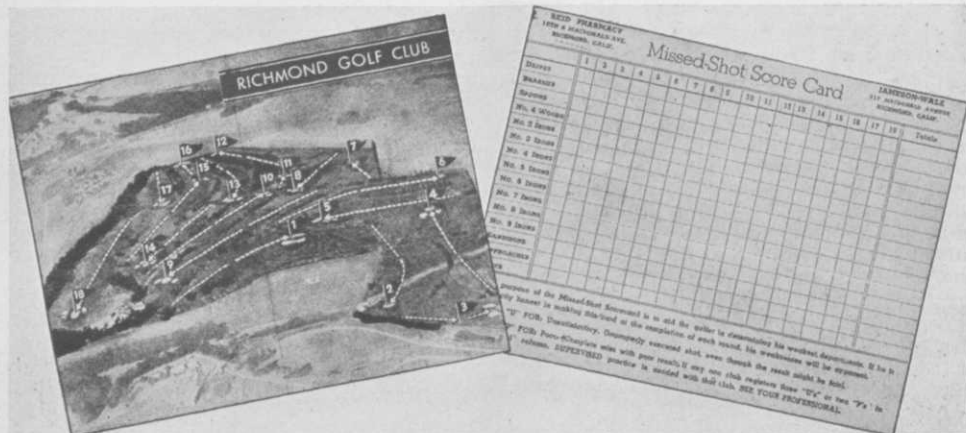
Some youngsters who want assistant jobs don't have the first requirements of neatness and initiative. They are careless about their own appearance, dress too sloppy to be around a shop where golf apparel is to be sold, hand out merchandise with their fingernails filthy, and have to be frequently reminded to keep the shop stock arranged attractively and the whole shop immaculately clean. When such assistants are in shops they reflect on the pros who hire them and keep them.

But the assistant who looks, thinks and acts like he is on his way to having a pro job of his own is one who mirrors the character of the successful pro who has hired him and is training him. He doesn't have to be taught everything about the business. He looks around him and learns by seeing where he can help without being told.

The pro has to direct and encourage this sort of interest by the assistant. The better the assistant turns out to be, the higher the pro who trained him is rated.

With the publicity accent on tournament golf the younger fellows sometimes may be inclined to think all there is to holding a pro job is to win a few tournaments. But they learn the hard way when they have to satisfy 300 members who are paying dues, not for the privilege of associating with the winner of tournament prize money but for getting their own money's worth out of the club.

## SCORECARDS TELL THE STORY



Left: Front of Richmond (Calif.) GC scorecard shows aerial photograph of course with holes diagrammed. This view aids outsiders who are allowed to play this private club at times during the week, and allows all players who are so disposed to point out exactly where their shots went. (In case anybody can be made to listen or gives a damn.) Right: A missed shot scorecard supplied by two Richmond (Calif.) merchants helps players determine just what are weak department of their games. Richmond pro Pat Markovich says this card tips off players when they need lessons and in what shots.



# Avoid Trouble With Greens by Studying Fertilizer Needs\*

By O. J. NOER

What kills clover is a frequent query. The question is asked by small courses in small communities rather than in metropolitan centers. Clover can be killed with ammonium sulfate, ferrous sulfate, sodium arsenite, and other chemicals. I always feel that chemical control is not the sole answer. The man who asks the question should not worry so much about getting some chemical panacea because clover control goes deeper than just finding a method to kill it. Sound maintenance practices are far better than a quick palliative.

The greens on a course in Mexico City were changed from Bermuda to bent and ended up with clover and weeds. When surfaces became unplayable they were re-sodded with bent turf from a turf nursery. That satisfied the members for several years or until clover and weeds predominated again. The club was doing three bad things. Greens were being starved because they were afraid to use fertilizer. They thought the peons would kill all the grass. Top-dressing was used very much as before on the Bermuda greens. It was not uncommon to apply three or four yards of top-dressing on a green that did not average over 4,000 square feet. The heavy top-dressing smothered the grass during the warmer seasons of the year. After the turf got thin the greens were overwatered continually in order to make them hold the ball. Instead of rebuilding, the club was induced to adopt a sensible maintenance program including the right kind of watering, the right top-dressing methods. Weeds and clover have disappeared and the greens are now satisfactory for play. It was not necessary to plow because basically the soil was all right, the surface drainage was satisfactory, and underdrainage was adequate.

Last week I saw some Bermuda grass in south Florida of one of the newer, finer strains of Bermuda. The grass on some of them was not as satisfactory as it should be. It was stubby and coarse, and a few seed heads were in evidence. I ventured the opinion that the nitrogen level was too low and that they might be overdosing phosphate and potash. They certainly were underfeeding with respect to nitrogen. It was the normal and

natural thing for them to do in that area because they are always confronted with the possibility of a warm spell, which reactivates the Bermuda grass. When this happens the common, ordinary strains of Bermuda become very stemmy and the greens become bumpy as a result. As a consequence, it has been the practice in the past to withhold nitrogen to the point where it will keep the ryegrass growing and not unduly stimulate the Bermuda. On these newer greens of dense, fine-textured Bermuda grass feeding methods must be revised to produce greens which will be satisfactory for play.

Day before yesterday these views were vindicated at a golf course in Palm Beach. The Superintendent had a turf nursery of Gene Tift Bermuda which is a fine-textured strain. He was testing fertilizer rates and practices on that strain. I noticed that a certain strip showed no evidence of stemminess or throwing seed heads. I asked him what the difference was in the fertilizer practice on the different strips. Where the Bermuda was best for play, the grass was getting three times more nitrogen than on the plots where the grass tended to be stemmy.

## Feeding Practices

I know that fertilizer practices have a bearing on the performance of the grass in many ways. This is true not only of southern grasses but also of bent grass in the North. For one thing, feeding practices affect the frequency and amount of disease. I believe it is well established now that dollar spot is accentuated by too low levels of nitrogen, just as well as by too much. The low levels are even worse than a bit too much nitrogen with respect to this disease. We see many instances of this fact. Dave Bell in Pittsburgh seldom has dollar spot. He may have some brown patch in the summer. It is not uncommon for him to use 200 and 300 pounds of fertilizer per green in the summertime. You will concede that is no small amount of fertilizer.

So far as brown patch is concerned, high levels of nitrogen, particularly if it tends to make the leaves soft and lush, accentuate this disease. So in many districts, especially in the belt from Philadelphia across to Kansas City, nitrogen levels must be high enough in the spring and fall to minimize dollar spot. Then they should be reduced for summer be-

\* (Digest of an address at Rutgers Turf Conference)

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