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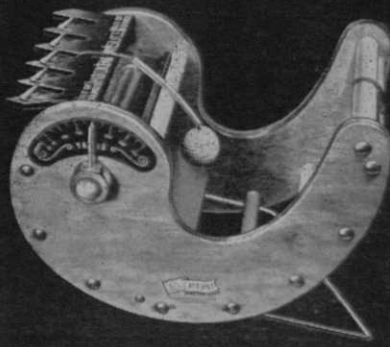
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The Teaching Pro Learns the Hard Way

By PETE MORAN

At last some recognition is being given to the golf teacher.

I read a recent article in *Golfing*, "Who's Golf's Greatest Teacher?" That, of course, is a matter of opinion. I have been teaching golf for 35 years, five of which I believe I accepted lesson money under false pretenses. I tried to be nice and patient with those who enlisted my aid, and I think because of this I was considered a good teacher. I could play a good game but I knew little about the teaching fundamentals of golf.

There is a saying, "One must invest in experience before one can hope to receive dividends." How true!

David Forgan's eulogy on golf starts: "Golf is a science, the study of a life time in which you may exhaust the pupil but never the subject." I find that golf pupils' enthusiasm runs hot and cold, mostly cold! Maybe they're exhausted. Pros all over the land hear pupils say, "What's the matter with me? I'm slicing my drives." The average golfers put too much stress on the drives as far as hitting a long ball. They are not happy with a straight hit down the middle that stops at the 180 yard mark. Oh no, they are like the fellow who is angry because he holds only one ticket on a \$200 dollar daily double. "I shudda had two tickets on it," he says to the one who is within hearing distance.

We all know the idea in golf is to get the ball into the cup in the fewest number of strokes but no, they want to murder that tee shot! Is it because they are putting on the show the minute it becomes their turn to hit their drive? I am inclined to believe so.

Build the Base First

I recall playing a match in Florida. The fellow with whom I was playing had an idea he was a long hitter. I wanted to teach him a lesson in golf psychology so I let him tee up his drive and just as he started to waggle his club, I said, "Do you mind if I hit first?" "No," he said as he picked up his ball. I teed up and hit the ball down the fairway. As I stepped back I remarked, "You hit them so far you make me press." Well, he did just as I thought he would, he really powdered the ball because of the audience and my seemingly innocent remark. "Out of bounds" came the cry of the caddie and he then realized that I had purposefully played on his ego.

I have given a lot of golf lessons and I believe in building a good foundation before I expect the pupil to be able to play a good game of golf. I know from experience it is easier to sink a 3-foot putt more often than a 30-foot putt and I know it is easier to start with a No. 7 iron and work up than it is to take one of the hardest-to-use clubs (the driver) for a beginner and expect the pupil to learn the basic fundamentals at the same time trying to hit a straight ball. In learning to operate an automobile, one must learn to start the car smoothly and gradually accelerate the speed as the car rolls along. I believe the golf swing moves in the same tempo!

I feel sorry for some pupils who try to learn to play golf. In the first place, it is not a sissy's game as so many think and in order to be a good or even fair player you must be physically able to walk nine holes and still be able to fight old man fatigue and, at the same time, hit the ball. The first tournament I won (I got a \$200 check—my big thrill!) I actually trained for it by doing road work and watched my diet carefully. Some of my pupils are all tuckered out after hitting a dozen balls.

The good golfers fix their clubs so they "feel" good. The fellow just starting to play gets a set of clubs from the clerk in some department store who thinks Sam Snead is a jockey who rode at Hialeah. They know absolutely nothing about the game of golf and little about selecting clubs. The result is Mr. Freshman Golfer looks around for a pro to give him a lesson with his new set of window weights. The pro looks the clubs over. "What do you think of them?" he asks the pro. The new golfer waits for the jury to give the verdict and he burns up when the pro finally says, "You've been taken!" "Oh! the pro is sore because I didn't get my clubs from him," thinks our friend. He is not sore, he feels sorry for the pupil. The pro spends a bad half hour, knowing his job is hopeless.

Know-It-All A Nuisance

One of the big headaches the pro has to contend with is Mr. Know-it-all who reads an article by someone who makes sarcastic remarks about the teaching methods the pro employs. Mr. Know-it-all secretly thinks he knows more about golf than the pro and prods the pro into a debate about the golf swing, etc., taking up the pro's

time and making himself the pro's problem child.

The tournament player has one game to worry about, his own! But the club pro, all season long gets "What makes me slice my drives?" or "What causes me to shank?" Who is the best teacher, the top star who wins the tournaments or the teaching pro who is like the country doctor, treating all types of cases, or the doctor who is a specialist (this is supposed to represent the good playing pro) who demands top fees for his advice? I saw two of the better known playing pros trying to correct a brother player whose shots had suddenly turned sour. They finally gave him up before they became infected.

You read syndicated articles on golf by name players in your daily newspapers. The public may reason if the reputed writer plays so well he must be able to help my game. The name players can explain a shot should be played a certain way but can any doctor or doctors prescribe a blanket cure for everyone who suddenly becomes ill? I don't think they can, any more than the top playing pro can say to all golfers you must play it this way.

Mr. Necktie Salesman and Mr. Weight

Lifter and so many other types all have to be taught according to their physical conditions. If a person is nervous and does things quickly, try to teach him to slow up his swing tempo and brother, you've got a disgusted pupil.

Remember the good tournament pros practice daily. I've seen them shoot low scores. Where are they when they have the time? On the practice tee, that's right, for at least two or three hours! Can you get a pupil to do that? No, but they can't understand why they don't play better. I wish all of us club pros could measure our members for swings that fit them, and to forget name players' swings. I remember a player asking me one time to show him my swing. I did and when I got through swinging he said, "I didn't see anything, you swung so fast."

A leading pro has an article on putting in a syndicated newspaper article, yet I think this pro putts poorly. Is he a pattern to follow? I can't agree that he is any more than trying to copy his long drives at which he probably excels. There are a lot of singers, yet there are two or three outstanding. If you wanted to sing, do you think you could copy their voice or style to any de-

JUST LIKE BIG GUYS' TOURNAMENTS



Photo Florida State News Bureau

The Sixth Annual All-South Junior Golf Tournament held recently in Tallahassee drew a field of 90 competitors. These were paired in groups of ten years and younger, up to the 17-18-year-old bracket.

The event was handled exactly as the Senior tournaments are, and the youngsters loved it. The boys were called to the tee over the PA system. They were given instruction cards, a book of rules and a ball.

In the picture are: Charles Dubley, of Havana, Fla.; the sponsoring club pro, C. E. (Sonny) Hay; Frank Pepper, announcer, and Jett Monroe, scorekeeper. The under ten group played 9 holes each day; 11 and up, 18.

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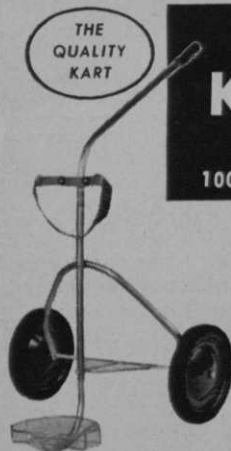
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gree of success or even approach it?

Golf has swept the country in the past few years like a giant forest fire and it has engulfed a lot of beginners who are hungry for advice. I never get anything much for nothing and I don't think the readers of free golf advice expect to sidetrack the local pro for golf lessons that are given free in newspapers. But those lessons may get pupils coming to me.

I had the good fortune to get hold of a pupil who came to me and asked me if I would agree to teach him the game. After three months of teaching and training, he dropped his game from 120 to 80. He thought I was the greatest teacher he had ever had and I knew he was the best pupil I ever had because he let me build a game for him by coming out and practicing the things I thought would help his game. He shanked the ball at times. I said nothing. I wept with him when he had a bad day and if he had a good day at golf, he radiated sunshine. If he played some shots poorly, he wanted to be alone in his misery but he didn't give up and finally he made it. Today he's as cocky as a rooster. Before that he was as meek as a lamb because he couldn't get a game with the boys with the 120 score staring him in the face every time he teed off.

If I get a tip at the race track that wins, I'm looking for the guy who gave it to me. If the horse finished out of the money, I forget my tipster. If a pro can show a pupil how to play a good game, the pupil will stay with him, but, like the tipster, if the pro can't help the pupil the pupil will look for a pro who can.

Once in a while a "natural" comes along and the pro gets the credit for making a good player. For every natural, there are a thousand hackers. Who's the Greatest Teacher? The Pro who helps his customer's game is the answer. But the pupil has to stay with him and give him a fair chance to do the job. If the pupil had double pneumonia, he wouldn't expect the doctor to have him out of the hospital the same day. There are plenty of golfers with double pneumonia swings who think the pro has a magic formula he carries around with him to be used at a moment's notice.

Smith Suggests Improvement in Reporting Score Details

Horton Smith, PGA pres., came up with a good idea to Harry Gage, golf writer for Dallas Morning News.

Smith proposed:

"Instead of measuring a player's game by the number of 1-putt greens, take the footage of all greens where only one putt is needed and establish an average. Then average the length of putts on other greens where more than one putt is needed to get the ball in and compare these two figures.

"This will give you an idea of how well a player is doing with his approaching, and will prevent a false impression of a tremendous putting game just because a player had eight or nine 1-putt greens.

"Many times writers make a big play of the 1-putt greens. If you would take time to determine the length of these putts you would find that the player had a much better short iron game than he did on the green."

Smith confessed that many persons had a false impression of his putting ability because he could usually get the ball close to the cup with his chip and short iron shots.

Mark Cox, Wilson Sporting Goods publicity mgr., arranged the first detailed "box score" of golf tournament coverage, at the National Open in 1949. The material, compiled on performances of the leading players in the field, gave the golfing public the best data it's ever had on how tournament scores are made.

Eventually, with the golfing public's interest in scoring details keen and constantly increasing, the USGA, PGA and other associations will have to modernize score information service.

Preston Childers Re-elected Arizona Supts.' President

Members of the Arizona Greenkeepers' Assn. met recently at the Wickenburg CC as guests of the superintendent, J. W. Hanley and Henry Sheldon, green chmn.

After golf on a picturesque course and very fine greens, an excellent chicken dinner was served by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bishop, who have taken over the management of the clubhouse.

The meeting was called to order by Acting President, Preston E. Childers of the Phoenix Municipal course. Officers were elected for the coming year. Childers was retained as president with W. H. Stanley of the Yuma CC as VP. Charles J. Treacy, supt., Phoenix CC, was elected Sec.-Treas.

It was unanimously voted to change the name of the association from its present name of Arizona Greenkeepers Assn. to the Arizona Golf Course Superintendents Assn. to conform with the name of the national association.

A considerable step forward was a decision by all present that the associations' By-Laws be amended to include Associate members, consisting of equipment dealers, nurserymen, cemetery associations, superintendents of parks and all others interested in fine turfs.

Elmo B. Oshannon, asst. supt., Wickenburg CC was taken in as an active member. Two new associate members were accepted: Glenn Shaw of the Shaw Lawn Mowing Equipment Co. of Phoenix, and Silas E. Damon of the Damon Fertilizer Co. of Phoenix.

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Why Aerifying Has Become Standard Practice

By TOM MASCARO

(Paper at Pennsylvania Academy of Science)

When we speak of aerification of soils we refer specifically to the cultivation of soil under permanent sod. The term has come into use rather recently because it is only recently that tools have been designed for the specialized work of cultivating soil under sod.

Aerification or cultivation of soil where row crops are grown has long been practiced. Even primitive farming methods include the use of the crude plow pulled by oxen. Men of the soil have long recognized the need for mechanical loosening of the soil. Early farmers did not know why plowing produced beneficial effects. No studies had been made, no theories advanced, but practical usage demonstrated its importance.

Rational-minded people demand reasons for their activities. Why do we plow soil for row crops? What effects does it produce? We know that rainfall and traffic make a crust on top of the soil and compact the soil beneath the surface. Cultivation breaks up the soil, restores the physical condition. The compact mass of soil is broken into particles. The soil is made open and porous. The porous structure allows water to percolate through the soil; it permits plant foods to move down to plant roots; it provides pore space for the free movement of air through the soil.

Soil Compaction Increases

Just as these soil conditions are essential for the growth of row crops, so are they necessary where grass is grown. Lawns, permanent pastures, special purpose turf areas show plainly the increasingly poor quality of the grass as the soil deteriorates. Compaction of soil under turf is a greater problem today than it was in the past. Our modern mechanized equipment is much heavier than the tools used in the past. Efficient irrigation systems allow us to water turf areas so easily that watering often is done to excess. And overwatering is a big factor in causing soil compaction.

The job of loosening soil without destroying the grass cover presents a problem. It is interesting to look back at the evolution of the tools to loosen soil under sod. E. R. Steiniger, Superintendent at Pine Valley GC, has a very complete collection of these tools, collected through the years. The simplest was just nails driven through a board. A similar tool employed sword-like

spikes. The hollow-tine fork, imported from England around 1926, came a little closer to the present day concept of aerating tools. Needless to say, all these early tools were slow to use. So spikes were mounted on discs or drums to cover more ground. These were pushed or pulled by one or two men and were mighty strenuous to use. The hollow tined principle also was enlarged upon. Hollow tines were mounted on a hollow drum. The idea was that the hollow tines would remove cores of soil and drop them into the drum, which could be emptied out after use. This did not work out because the hollow tines became clogged with soil.

The next step was toward mechanized tools. One of these was a piston-type machine, with hollow-tines that punched out soil cores as the machine moved forward under its own power. Another method was a drilling machine. These machines required less strenuous labor than the old implements, but they still operated so slowly as to be practical only on limited areas.

The Aerifier was developed to meet the need for a rapid, effective tool to cultivate soil under sod. It was first marketed in 1946. It cultivates by means of curved, open "spoons". The concave spoons remove soil as the full-round hollow tine does, but the open spoons have the advantage that they can't block up with soil. Spoons are curved to minimize tearing as they enter and leave the turf. The spoons are mounted on discs. Larger models are pulled by a tractor; a self-powered model moves forward at comfortable walking speed. Speed is obtained with this type of apparatus. The pasture model Aerifier is equipped with 1½" diameter spoons which cultivate to a maximum depth of 6 inches. Smaller models may be equipped with ½", ¾" or 1" diameter spoons which cultivate to a maximum depth of four inches.

Not only greater speed, but also greater effectiveness is obtained with the new principle. Tools with solid spikes make holes by displacing soil around the spikes. Soil around the holes is compacted even more than before it was spiked. Hollow tines are an improvement in that they make holes by removing cores of soil. However, the straight in and out punching of the holes glazes the walls of the openings. Hollow

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The purpose behind the offering of the new Trophy is to strengthen international bonds through fine sportsmanship, and to further the interests of golf in both the United States and Canada.

The United States team, chosen through the Professional Golfers Association of America, will be one of the finest groups to play on any course in 1952. The Canadian team, chosen by the Canadian Professional Golfers Association, will comprise a number of top Canadian golfers and picked ranking players from other countries.

Direction of the International Golf Trophy competition rests with trustees representing the two golfing associations, and play is under the rules governing match play in the host country.

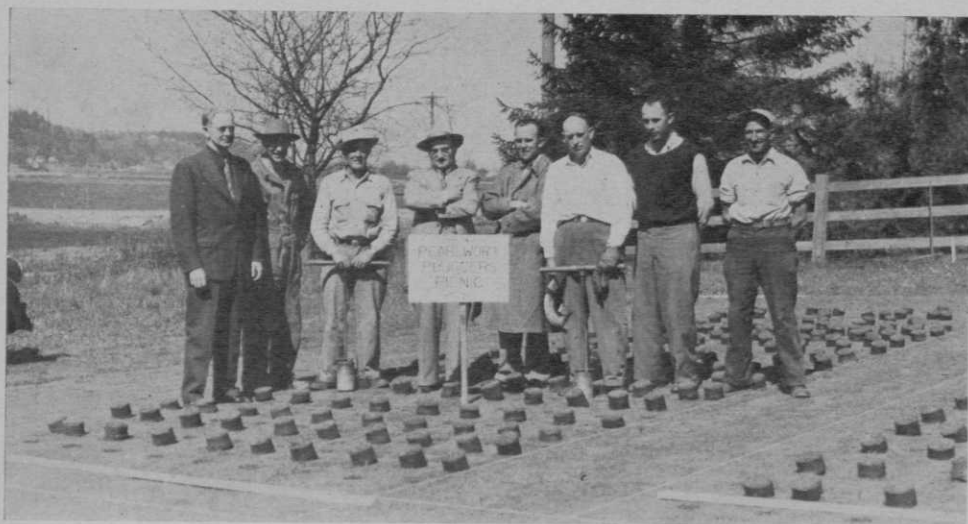


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Chairman and President of General Dynamics Corporation of New York, and Chairman and Managing Director of Canadair Limited of Montreal, who is the initiator of the matches and donor of the Trophy.

For further information, write: The Committee,
INTERNATIONAL GOLF TROPHY
P.O. Box 6087, Montreal, Canada.





"PEARLWORT PLUGGERS' PICNIC"

Members of Northwest Golf Course Supts'. Assn. brought 1120 plugs of pearlwort to experimental station at Puyallup, Wash., and plugged into a station plot the weedy infestation everybody would like to eliminate. The experiment was launched by the group shown above. (L to R) Ivan W. Lee of Ivan W. Lee Equipment Co., Seattle, and pres., Northwest Turf Assn.; Dr. Maynard Grunder, agronomist of Western Washington Experimental station at Puyallup; Louis Smith, asst. supt., Tacoma (Wash.) C&GC; Charles G. Wilson, USGA Green Section; Henry Land, supt., Tacoma (Wash.) C&GC; Glen Proctor, supt., Rainier G&CC, Seattle, Wash., and pres., Northwestern Golf Course Supts. Assn.; and Joe Greco, supt., Brookdale GC, Tacoma, Wash. While Charley Wilson was in the area the Northwest Turf Assn. and the Northwest GCSA held a joint meeting at the Seattle G&CC. The Northwest GCSA now has 35 members and having a busy year with two USGA championships

tines make openings from the surface downward, but the slicked, impervious walls prevent horizontal movement of air and water. The Aerifier spoons are moved forward at the same time they go down into the soil. This provides a "cultivating action" beneath the surface. The open spoons scoop out the soil cores, leaving loose-walled, easily-penetrated openings.

The difference in these types of treatment was shown with wax casts. Openings into soil were made with (1) a drill, (2) a hollow tube and (3) an Aerifier spoon. Melted wax was poured into the openings. Wax in the drilled and punched openings was confined within the slick walls of the cavities. Wax spread out into the loosened soil surrounding the Aerifier cavity.

The practical significance of this is demonstrated by the difference in root growth. One such demonstration was conducted on a putting green at a golf course. Half the green was cultivated by hollow tining. The other half was aerified with the Aerifier. Root growth on the hollow tined side was limited to a slender column of roots confined within the walls of the openings. Extensive roots grew in the Aerifier holes and spread out fanwise in the surrounding soil.

Aerification isn't a cure-all. Naturally, there are many causes of poor turf. Unadapted grasses, low fertility, too much water, disease and insects, poor air drainage—any of these may cause poor turf. But often poor turf is the result of poor physical soil conditions. These are the conditions that can be corrected through aerification.

Samples of the soil profile will reveal whether aerification is the answer. If the soil profile sample reveals heavy soil, compacted at the surface with root growth confined to the surface layer, aerification is needed. A blue color in the soil beneath the surface is caused by poor aeration. In the presence of adequate oxygen, iron in the soil is in the ferric state and gives a red color to the soil. In the absence of adequate oxygen, iron is in the ferrous state, which gives the characteristic blue color to the soil. Again, aerification will make openings to allow oxygen to move into the soil beneath the surface.

A soil profile sample will show if improper mixing of soil is a factor in causing poor turf. In the past, topdressing of plain sand or humus often was used on golf courses and athletic fields. These materials, applied without being worked into the soil,