Jimmy Demaret TV show, with many big names in golf, other sports, and entertainment as guests of Jaunty James, now being offered by Milton Salzburg of Award Films, 1501 Broadway, N.Y.C. . . . First series of 13 completed . . . Another 26 being made . . . Instruction and interesting patter . . . Bob Brumby is writing the shows . . . Paul Hahn, busiest of the trick shotmakers, in return engagement as curtain-raiser to Yankee ball game.

Big party for Al Watrous, given by Oakland Hills CC (Detroit dist.) celebrating Al's 25 years as the club's pro . . . Members gave Al and his wife trip to England to play in British Open . . . Mrs. Watrous and the five Watrous kids, co-starred at club dinner with Al.

Bonnie View CC, Baltimore, Md., set aside week of June 25 to honor Robert L. Scott, Jr., club's supt. . . . Entry fees of men's and women's club tournaments for the week were given to Bob . . . His dad is supt., Baltimore CC; his uncle Richard is supt., Rolling Roads CC in Baltimore dist.; and uncle Bill was pro at Baltimore CC for many years . . . Bob, Jr., is sec., Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Supts. Assn.

Oglebay Park Caddy Camp at Wheeling, W. Va., again operating this summer . . . Started in 1939 . . . Thirty to 40 boys enrolled for 10-week period at camp . . . Cost $14 a week per boy for food and supervision at camp . . . Each kid required to pay $7 a week from fees earned caddying at Oglebay Park course, and is given chance to earn additional $7 by doing park tasks . . . Rest of financing is done by Oglebay Park Golf Assn. and other citizens.

Despite bad weather first two days Western Open at Kenwood CC, Cincinnati, drew about 20,000 . . . Tournament very ably handled by Kenwood staff of George Miller, mgr.; Marion Mendenhall, supt.; and Bill Hook, pro . . . Valleydale A. C., sponsors of Western GA 51st Open, did smooth, competent job of gallery control . . . Players paid high tribute to condition of course.

New Bern (N. C.) G&CC course remodeled by Ellis Maples . . . First 9 redesigned and second 9 added . . . New layout to be

(Continued on page 63)

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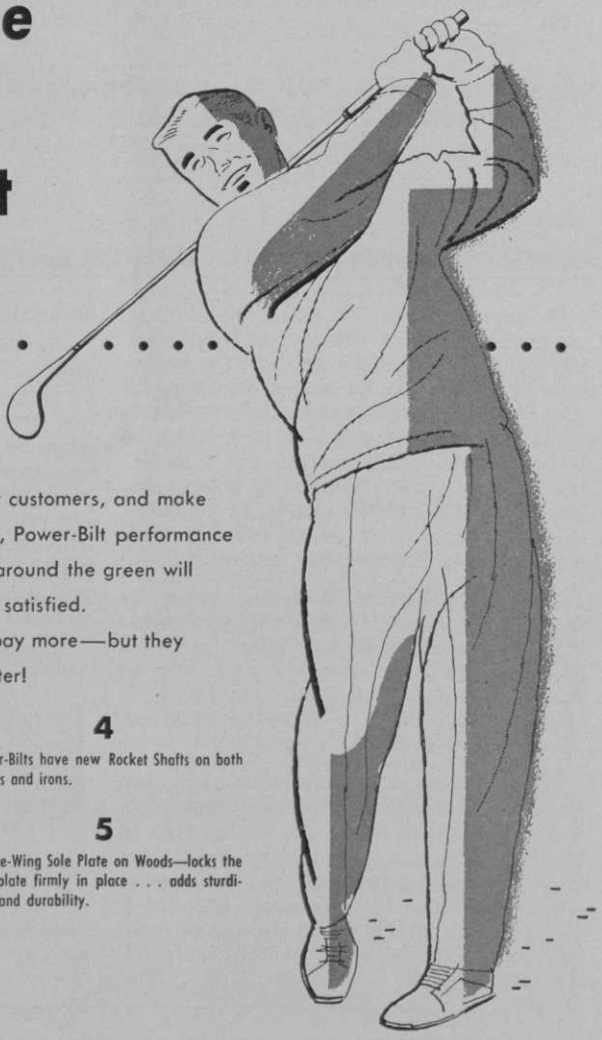

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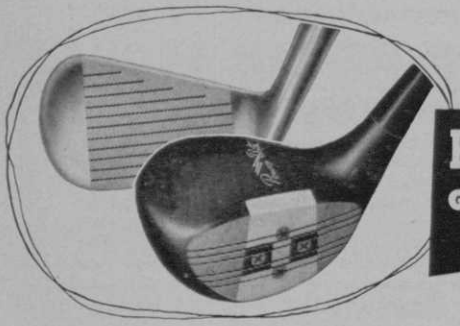

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THE BUSINESS JOURNAL OF GOLF

AUGUST • 1954

Turfgrass Questions Answered

By FRED V. GRAU

Dr. Grau, former director of the USGA Green Section and now agronomist of West Point Products Corp., in this department of GOLFDOM answers questions asked by those in golf course maintenance work.

Dr. Grau's extensive contacts among golf course superintendents at their courses and at turfgrass conferences, and his close association with the men at experiment stations, give him an authoritative close-up on sound course maintenance.

You are invited to submit questions which Dr. Grau will be happy to answer, basing his solutions to your problems on a vast fund of late and nation-wide information which he has available.

Address your questions to Fred V. Grau, Turfgrass Q&A, Golfdom, 407 S. Dearborn, Chicago 5, Ill.

Progress in the turfgrass industry is moving along quickly. New products, and with them, new methods of turfgrass maintenance, are being introduced in rapid succession. There are new machines, new chemicals, new grasses. How to use these new products to best advantage brings many questions to mind.

My work gives me the opportunity to meet with many golf course superintendents who are trying out new products and new methods on their own courses. I am able to attend the many turfgrass conferences throughout the country. And I meet with the men at the experiment stations, where new products and methods are being tested. The information gained from these various contacts may be helpful to superintendents trying out a new product or procedure. The purpose of this column is to pass along the information to those who can use it.

You are invited to submit questions, and we shall be happy to supply the answers based upon the latest information we have available.

Q—Can Merion bluegrass be seeded into our fairways when we renovate this fall? (Ohio)

A—Merion can be seeded into established fairways but it is likely to be several years before the effect of seeding is noticed because Merion seedlings will have a difficult time competing with Poa annua and bent and other grasses. The earlier in the fall it can be seeded the better, in order to get good germination before Poa annua competes.

Q—We have an area of Merion turf, and there are places in it that are turning brown and throw off a brown dust when mowed. What is the trouble? (Maryland)

A—The Merion is suffering from rust. It is agreed by research scientists that the rust is favored by lack of nitrogen and shortage of water, both of which imply slow growth. Test plots at various locations show that rust occurs only where Merion turf is dry and hungry. The Merion is not harmed and when it is supplied with adequate water and nitrogen it should become beautiful again.

Q—Four years ago we tried to establish bent in our fairways. By now the fairways are mostly native bermuda and crabgrass. How can we obtain better fairways? (Calif.)

A—Encourage the bermuda, which is one of the better fairway grasses when properly fed, cultivated and mowed. Crabgrass ceases to be a problem in well-fed bermuda turf; adequate nitrogen fertilizer is especially important with bermuda. Bermuda responds to cultivation and requires a minimum of water.

Q—We were unable to fertilize the fairways as we should, and as a result have a bad clover problem. What is the best way to check the clover before we begin with a good fertilizer program? (Iowa)

A—Chances are in your area you have basically a bluegrass sod. Clover may have been the result of leafspot injury as well as inadequate feeding. The best clover control that we now have is 2,4,5-T. If there are broad-leaved weeds, a 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T mixture, commonly sold as "brush-killer" is the preferred material. The mixture should provide one pound 2,4,5-T (actual acid) and ½ pound 2,4-D per acre. Early fall is a good time to treat clover, just prior to aerifying and fertilizing.

Q—We get a lot of snowmold through the winter which ruins our Poa annua and most bents. Is there a bent for putting greens that is resistant? (Canada)

A—Congressional bent (C-19) is recommended.

Q—We wish to develop a polycross bent nursery. Where can we get seed? (New York)

A—There is no polycross bent seed available this year. It has been promised for 1955 in very limited quantities. The true name for polycross bent now is Penncross.

Q—We wish to establish an improved bermuda on tees. Is it too late to plant it this year? (Illinois)

A—Mid to late August is about the limit for sprigging an adapted bermuda in the area through the central midwest and southern Pennsylvania. Solid sodding, which is highly recommended on tees, can be done through September.

Q—We have a heavily shaded tee, and have been unable to keep grass on it. We would like to improve it this fall. What would you suggest? (Massachusetts)

A—Thoroughly cultivate and fertilize to prepare the soil for seeding. Seed with a mixture of Poa trivialis and Astoria bent.

Q—We have a lot of weeds coming into our turf that are not affected by ordinary herbicides. The weed has a small leaf with a reddish spot in the center and it has a milky juice. What is the weed and what is a possible control? (Indiana)

A—The weed probably is milk purslane, also called spotted spurge. To date the best material we know of to control it is sodium chlorate. This material is a fire hazard if the spray is allowed to fall on clothing and allowed to dry. It can be used with safety mixed with sand and applied dry. Eight to 12 oz. to 1000 sq. ft. is a good starting point. This may need to be increased somewhat. Dinitro compounds have given good results in some cases. Follow the manufacturers' instructions for use.

Q—We would like to establish a good grass in the roughs; one which will do a good job of reducing weeds. What grass do you suggest? (Pa.)

A—One of the favorite grasses is sheep fescue, but it is difficult to obtain. Many golf courses are introducing Alta or Kentucky 31 fescue into roughs where they feel the need for a sturdy grass to produce real rough. Sow seed in late summer or early fall. Seed must be placed deeply in the soil. Excellent results have been obtained by aerifying the old sod several times over before seeding. Tall fescues should be seeded at the rate of about 200 lbs. to the acre to produce a solid turf.

Q—What is the Verti-cut designed to do?

A—The Verti-cut is designed to be operated like a greens mower, taking off small portions of runners and old leaves each time it is used. It is intended for frequent, regular use. The Verti-cut is a maintenance machine, not a renovator.

Q—How often should the Verti-cut be used?

A—It varies. Once a week is an average interval. In some cases, Verti-cutting can be done every other week. And we know of superintendents who are Verti-cutting greens twice each week.

Q—Why the difference in frequency of use?

A—The once-a-week or once every-other-week use is adequate to control grain. Whether Verti-cutting to control grain is needed every week or every two weeks depends upon the kind of grass and how vigorously it is growing. Where weeds or seedheads are a problem, Verti-cutting twice a week is needed to maintain a smooth, even putting surface.

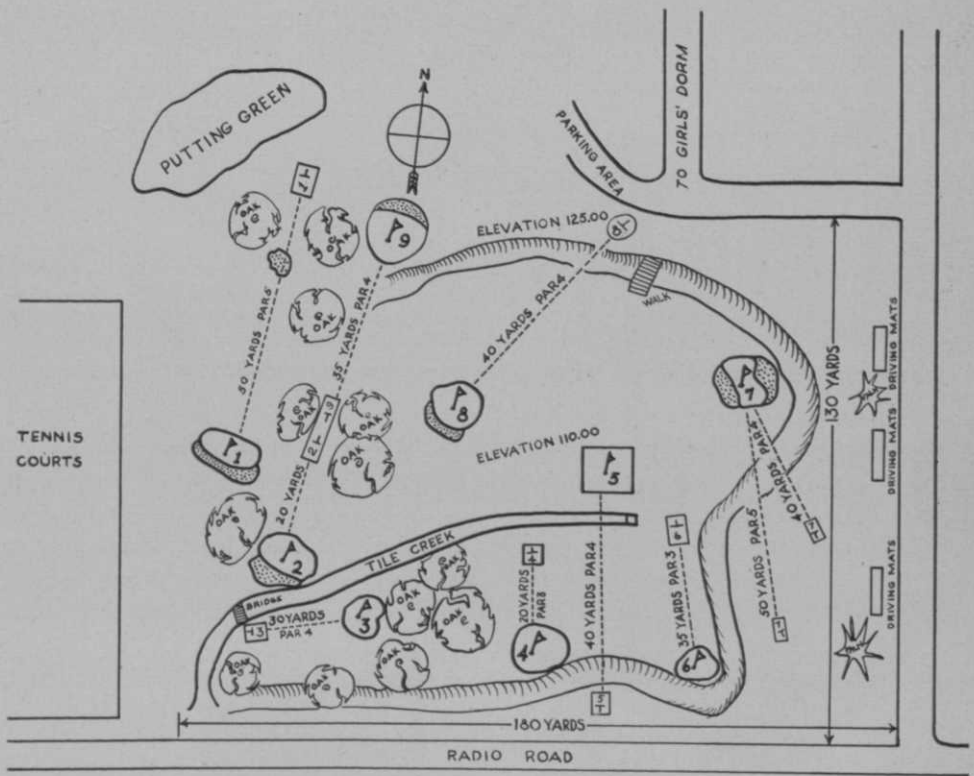
U of Florida Builds Par 3 Course on Waste Land

By CONRAD H. REHLING
Golf Chmn., University of Florida College of Physical Education and Health

GOLF has grown greatly in physical education programs and due to the demand of students wanting to take golf instruction, colleges and universities are being compelled to provide golf facilities.

School administrations generally recognize the important place of golf in a program of physical education that will be of value to students during their school years and long after graduation. But schools usually have many pressing problems of shortage of facilities so lack of golf facilities is but one of the needs listed somewhere on building programs. However, the heavy use of courses at more than 100 colleges and universities has created a situation that makes golf facilities pretty much an essential in the physical education and recreation program at the first-class modern school.

One of the answers to the requirement of golf facilities we have found at the University of Florida where we have from 1000 to 1200 taking golf each year and with facilities for instruction and practice sharply limited. Like many other universities we had an idle and unsightly area that was almost a school dump. This desolate and very rugged terrain located near the girls' dormitories presented an ugly contrast to the beautiful surroundings of the new dormitories. The dormitories are surrounded by palm trees and



Compact layout with safety factor and natural hazards feature University of Florida par-3 course.

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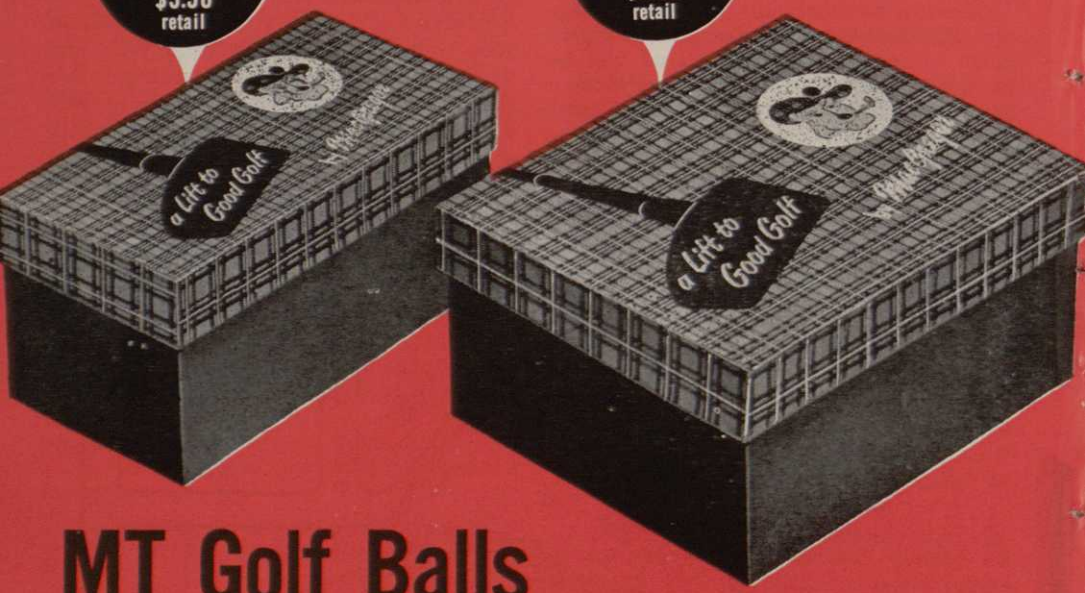

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landscaped with all types of southern shrubs and flowers.

At the rear of the dorms there is an area about 180 yds. long and about 150 yds. wide. Around this area, there is a 10 to 15 ft. drop from the level of the ground. Actually this plot of land was a vast sinkhole. Since the university has been undergoing a large building program, this particular area was being used as a catch-all for the refuse of the many construction companies building on the campus. About 500 yds. north of this plot the elevation is 40 ft. higher, which means that most all the drainage was coming into this sinkhole.

South of the area is a large Veteran's housing project and many of their children used this sinkhole as a playground although this land was mostly under water and covered with bamboo and other vegetation that thrives in a damp area.

Reclaiming A Sinkhole

Looking over this plot of land it seemed that it could not be used for anything. The idea of making a golf facility of this land seemed impossible; however, by careful planning, Dean D. K. Stanley, Dean of the College of Physical Education, decided it could be converted from almost a swamp into a miniature golf course.

Upon recognizing the vast job it would be, many other departments were called on to help create this golf facility. The University of Florida is fortunate in having a large Building and Grounds department. Joe Crevasse, director, and Dr. Gene Nutter, Head Turf Research man for the state of Florida, were called on to help guide the project. Using these men as technical advisors, Dean Stanley then called on Conrad H. Rehling, Golf Chairman for the College of Physical Education, to draw up tentative plans for the layout of the course.

Planning a golf course under these conditions presented many difficult problems in its construction. Some of the major factors encountered were the filling of marsh land, insuring proper drainage to the creek that went through the center of the plot, extending storm sewer lines to a central manhole, and proper terracing of higher land to prevent erosion.

The first step taken was plotting the whole area in 20 ft. squares; this aided in determining the length and location of tentative tees and greens. Locating the tees and greens was a major problem because of the necessity of having proper elevation to prevent coverage of water during heavy rains. This was necessary because much of the water from the campus and the girls' dormitories area would flow across the golf course during heavy rains.

After locating the greens and tees in a tentative location the next step was clearing the area. It was amazing what was found in clearing this plot of land. A three-foot alligator, seven snakes, eight rabbits, uncharted or forgotten storm sewers which were either broken or not functioning as they should, were discovered. Certainly these items are most unusual in the construction of a golf course. Many mothers residing in the Veteran's project were glad to see this area cleared for the sake of the safety of their children.

When the area was cleared, it was again re-plotted, using the 20 ft. squares to help in making spot checks to determine how the area was to be drained. Through the center of the area was discovered a small creek which was fed by various storm sewers and by the surface drainage coming from the higher land north of the area. This creek had one main artery with three key veins running into it. It was necessary to take these three small veins and tile them with 6 in. to 24 in. tile. The tile was then covered with the fill dirt with the veins running into the main artery. Three main storm sewers were found not functioning, and these were cleaned out and retiled and directed into the main creek.

After a month of drainage it was discovered one half of the area was still too low to have proper drainage into the main creek. This meant fill dirt had to be brought in to raise the low area up to a point where proper drainage could be maintained. Over 500 cu. yds. of fill dirt was brought in to take care of this problem.

Once this was accomplished consideration had to be given to the turfing of the area to help in proper drainage. The whole area, except those areas designed for tees and greens, was sprigged with centipede grass. The banks around the area had to be sodded to get fast coverage to prevent erosion and improper drainage into the entire area.

The next step was the actual laying out of the proposed course. As in all golf course construction, the principles of space, contour, trees, drainage, and water systems had to have major consideration. This plot had 14 oak trees located close together on the west and south of the

area. These oaks were about 20 to 40 ft. high. These were natural hazards determining locations of some greens and tees. Also their locations contributed greatly to the safety factor in the layout of the course. The bank, creek, and other trees also offered great possibilities as natural hazards.

The next consideration was the closest location point for the equipment to be brought to the area. This meant the practice putting green, first tee, and ninth green had to be located in the same approximate area. The putting green, first tee, and ninth green were located within a 50 yd. range.

It was also necessary to plan where the proposed driving cages could be placed. The cages are also located within this 50 yd. radius. This gives the instructor control over a large number of students, at the same time allowing adequate space necessary for play and practice. These cages were located northwest of the putting green.

The practice putting green is located about 30 yds. from the first tee, and 40 yds. from the 9th green. This green contains about 2500 sq. ft. The driving cages are to be located 20 yds. west of the putting green, with the cages facing north and south. It is planned to landscape the edge of the putting green with shrubs and flowers. There are two service roads into this area.

The course area is completely irrigated; the lines are approximately 65 ft. apart. Buckner sprinklers are used. The pump house for this area is located nearly 500 yds. from the course area. The course water supply is on the main line of the campus irrigation system.

Dr. Gene Nutter provided the 13 different strains of Bermuda for the greens. It was decided that this would be an ideal location for experimentation to learn about the performance of the various strains. These grasses were brought from the turf nurseries of the state experimental station.

The Plant and Ground department sprigged the fairways with centipede grass. The entire area is under a close planned maintenance program, with Dr. Nutter acting as the technical advisor. The tees were also planted with several different strands of Bermuda. These tees offered also an excellent chance for determining the desirability of the various grasses.

From a class teaching point of view, this course offers many possibilities for golf instruction. For example, take a class of 30: 10 of the class could be putting; 10 could be using the driving cages; 10 could be playing the course. Decentralization of the group will be simple, and yet since the area is small, the instructor will have control over the whole group. From the edge of the driving area to the line of oaks is about 190 yds. Most beginning women golfers will not hit any shot much farther than this. The trees offer an excellent protection for those who are putting or hitting short shots.

National Golf Day Field 127,000 Against Hogan

Officers of National Golf Fund, Inc., after their meeting at St. Paul during the PGA championship announced that more than 127,000 played on National Golf Day, June 5, against Ben Hogan's round at Baltusrol the following Saturday. Illness prevented Hogan's play on the day originally set for his round on the 1954 National Open course.

More than 2500 players on the 2,449 courses thus far reporting National Golf Day results turned in net scores beating Hogan's remarkable 64. Hogan's 64 was played over Baltusrol's lower course from tees that made the course only about 200 yds. shorter than during the Open.

Hogan's round was so low that the sponsors of National Golf Day, Life magazine and the PGA, have about 8500 "I Beat Hogan" medals left over.

J. Edward King, vp of Time, Inc., who presided at the St. Paul meeting said that National Golf Day this year had about 20 per cent greater play than in 1953 when it was the nation's golfers against the reigning National Open champion Julius Boros.

Officers of the Fund discussed distribution of National Golf Day Funds to qualified projects associated with golf. Golf charitable or educational projects that can qualify according to internal revenue dept. regulations are asked to present their applications to Fred L. Riggin, Pres., National Golf Fund, Port Huron, Mich.

Returns of 1954 National Golf Day are incomplete. Income from the entry fees are divided 50-50 between the USO and National Golf Fund.

PGA Pres. Horton Smith, an officer of the Fund, spoke of the valued cooperation of members of the PGA and press and wireless sportswriters and sportscasters. Fund officers passed a resolution of sympathy to the family of the late Grantland Rice, one of the Fund's directors.