

Teaching the Teachers Is Job Well Done at PGA

By HERB GRAFFIS

This is the longest news story GOLFDOM has run in any issue in its 28 years. The best and most progressive teaching pros will read every word of it. They will find it the most complete and concise survey of golf instruction activity that's ever appeared in print.

Pros who need to be informed and stimulated in their own thinking about teaching possibly will not have the time to learn of the significant points of the PGA annual meeting teaching program. That'll be their tough luck—ad that of their pupils.

The sessions represented an immense investment in teaching experience, and thousands of dollars of the PGA's money.

The program was well worth the heavy expense in the constructive influence it will have in speeding the advance in golf instruction.

THE PGA annual meeting's Teaching program, under the direction of PGA Teaching committee chairman Harold Sargent, kept 150 delegates and visitors deeply interested for six hours.

Pros pronounced it the best golf teaching conference ever held in the extent and clarity of advanced ideas in instruction.

Lester Bolstad, golf coach of the University of Minnesota, opened the session with a description of his group instruction methods and an outline of his effective methods in teaching women.

Bolstad, after doing very well in amateur golf competition, winning the Public Links championship in 1926, was a club and tournament pro for 10 years and the past eight years has been Minnesota golf coach.

He said group instruction at schools is producing fine golfers because the kids get into the game young and right. Facilities to provide for application of good instruction are essential, Les remarked, and told of the Minnesota equipment of 10

nets under football stands, two practice putting greens, a chipping area, and brush mats for wood and iron shots, as the indoor set-up.

His class lessons are an hour long. The first lesson is entirely talk, giving students a basic explanation of the pattern and objectives of the course.

After that there never is more than 15 minutes of talk during the hour. The students learn by doing under Bolstad supervision.

He is an advocate of learning and practice with the Sarazen heavy training club. He emphasizes that the swing is a matter of the muscles pulling, rather than pushing. He starts students in with a sequence that teaches them a routine of getting the correct grip, then an orderly method of properly standing to the ball. He is strong on the proper posture at address and rhythm in the swing.

Bolstad says that when the students get set right, understand about body control and then get their feet moving, excellent swings result.

Varsity Squad in Exercises

He had three of his university golf squad demonstrating his four exercises, one with the left hand, two with the right hand and one with both hands on the club.

He says his classes do better when they start indoors with full swings.

Bolstad said that nothing else helped straighten out his pupils as well as Frank Walsh's counterclockwise theory, presented in detail in *Golfing*. He pointed out that as the player moves into the ball the body opens the clubface and the last three fingers of the left hand must close it.

He also said that Joe Novak's ideas on balance during the swing (another *Golfing* feature), had been very helpful in instruction.

Bolstad's pupils are taught to observe closely. He said learning goes along with the power to observe.

Tells Women To Swing Hard

There isn't much about teaching women that's different from teaching men, Les declared. Women usually stand with their feet too close together, and are disposed to stand too close to the ball. Women's grips are inclined to be soft and weak so Les accents two-handed swinging by women while trying to build up their left hands. He also stresses swinging hard which he says doesn't have much risk in getting women to overdo it because most of them swing too easily.

He noted that elementary drills of girls' classes are highly effective as girls and women are more amenable to instruction than the male of the species.

Teaching Lags Behind Playing

Joe Novak reviewed his study of teaching which he said began in July, 1915 when he started teaching and which he wouldn't dare — or want to — stop. Joe doesn't think that teaching has kept pace with playing progress. Novak is of the opinion that teaching progress has been retarded by a conflict of theories and as there have been about as many theories as pros a lot of golfers have become confused and lost confidence in pro instruction.

He thinks the trend has changed. As a result of pros taking an investigative, unprejudiced and constructive view of each other's instruction ideas public confidence in pro instruction is rising rapidly and results are impressive.

One of Joe Mozel's automatic electric tees was on the stage. Novak and other pros hit shots in illustrating their talks.

Group Teaching Spurs Progress

In Novak's opinion the PGA Teaching committee headed by Harold Sargent and the Dunedin winter weekly conferences on teaching set up by Emil Beck and Irvin Schloss have tremendously advanced golf instruction. Joe also said that group instruction has spurred teaching progress.

He told that at UCLA he has half his class watching while the other half takes the lesson. He likes to have the next student for an individual lesson waiting on the bench while he's giving a lesson. He says this gives the pupils helpful warm-ups of their eyes and brains.

He observed that almost all good players have:

(1) Body motion that swings the club. This is based on live footwork that shifts weight to the right foot in the upswing and the left foot in the downswing. The forward press, in almost all cases, starts the weight shifting, with the relaxing right knee shifting the weight to the left foot and getting the body into motion.

(2) Hand action that manipulates the clubface into position and keeps it in correct position thruout the swing.

Joe remarked that too many golf pupils take a vise-like grip with the left hand instead of any easy controlling hold of the club with fingers and palm of the left hand which becomes firmer almost automatically and helps speed the club on the downswing.

Novak referred to nation-wide interest aroused by his *Golfing* magazine article on balance. Instructors and pupils alike told him of difficulties in preventing loss of balance in pivoting. His article, he said, boiled down to holding the left hip in correct position on the way up and the right hip in the correct position on the way down.

He added that failure to maintain correct balance accounted for about 3 out of 4 putts being missed to the left.

Joe spoke of the head as the center of swing and the seat of the pants as the center of weight.

Littler's Swing Simplest

There was a lively discussion following Novak's talk, with Bill Wotherspoon, Jim Fogertey, Les Bolstad and others giving clinical attention to Joe's ideas. This session brought out Joe's statement that Gene Littler had the simplest swing Novak ever had seen. Littler has no forward press, Joe said, but has his balance on his right foot about half-way into his swing when he starts. He gets a big body turn



STRONG SELLING DISPLAY IN LOU STRONG'S SHOP

Lou Strong in his pro shop at Park Ridge (Ill.) CC makes striking displays on a wall of his shop by using a "pin-up" board.

Many shops effectively use the display board in smaller areas but Strong gives it a big punch, changing displays often to keep the area fresh in its attractiveness.

with his left knee bent about as much on his backswing as his right knee is in coming at the ball.

The observation was made that most good golfers are slightly pigeon-toed, which undoubtedly controls their stance.

Question "One-Piece Swing"

Bolstad and Novak agreed that the "one-piece" swing was incorrectly named. The good swing has the pieces coordinated. There are balanced pushes and pulls in the feet, hands and body.

The customary subject of Hogan's "secret" came up with another guess being that the slight and controlled fade which set Ben on a phenomenal winning streak was, to a considerable measure, the result of clubs made slightly toed-out to get the fade result with Hogan's swing.

Putting Magic Shown

The most amazing putting demonstration pros ever saw was put on by John B. Hawley, jr., multi-millionaire president of the Northern Pump Co. As Bolstad testified in the Hawley introduction, the golfing executive has excelled many pro stars at putting on courses around the country.

Hawley demonstrated his putting method on a long aluminum-based putting strip covered with material simulating a keen grass green. On this device, he and fellow workers at Northern Pump putt

after lunch. He's so good at putting the ball into the hole he plugged up the hole and putted to a line marking the hole and stopped most of the balls exactly on the line.

Hawley figured out in his engineering brain the speed formula for a putt on an "inch-pound" basis determining how far a certain weight of putter would have to move in stroking the ball to get the required distance on greens of varying speed.

He said the flat arc of the putter was similar to that of a broom sweeping into a dustpan. His right arm is held close to his body and he putts with his arms precisely coordinated with his wrists. He has his right thumb on a flat place on the grip pointing straight down in line with the putter face. He putts with his right hand and arm mainly, and doesn't hold the club tightly in his fingers.

Keeps Weight on Left Foot

Hawley emphasized keeping the weight on the left foot during putting. He says a major fault in putting is weight going onto the right leg and that throws all balance and control out of gear.

When the putt is pushed instead of hit crisply it doesn't get or hold the line, Hawley noted. He said plenty of the stars who think they know how to putt damage

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This meeting of Miami Valley Golf Course Superintendents' Assn. at the Moraine Country Club, Dayton, O., is typical of the many gatherings in the summer where superintendents work on course maintenance problems and compare notes with the host supt. and their other colleagues.

Superintendents Set for Their Biggest Meeting

PROGRAM for the 26th national Turfgrass conference and exhibit of the Golf Course Superintendents' Assn. will open Monday, Jan. 17 with informal "get acquainted" sessions, a tour of St. Louis golf courses and setting up of manufacturers' exhibits.

The Educational conference will start at 2 p.m. Tuesday and conclude with a Friday morning session.

The conferences and equipment and material exhibits will be in Hotel Jefferson, St. Louis, Mo.

An interesting program of entertainment has been set for the wives of superintendents.

Numerous committee meetings are scheduled. Substantial progress has been registered by the GCSA during the administration of Pres. Norman Johnson. Matters mainly of organization policy and procedure will come before committees, according to the association's secretary, Agar M. Brown.

Educational committee operations have been especially lively and constructive this year. Publicity of the association also has been organized on a basis comparable with the GCSA high standard in other respects.

The program for the Educational conference:

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1955

CLARENCE PLEIN, Chairman
Superintendent, Lakeside Golf Course,
St. Louis, Mo.

(Representing Mississippi Valley Golf Superintendents' Assn.)

Theme: Club Relations.

WHAT WE CAN DO FOR EACH OTHER

James D. Fogertey, Vp, P.G.A., and Professional, Sunset CC, Sappington, Mo.

Thomas C. McGuffey, President, Club Managers Assn. of America, St. Louis, Mo.

Ward Cornwell, Superintendent, Lochmoor Club, Grosse Pointe, Mich.

J. Porter Henry, Green Committee, Algonquin GC, Webster Groves, Mo.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1955

ETHAN KIRKHART, Chairman
Superintendent, Youngstown CC,
Youngstown, Ohio

(Representing Cleveland District of the Golf Course Supts. Assn.)

Theme: Business Management By The Golf Course Superintendent.

WHY DO WE NEED REPORTS AND RECORDS?

Gordon W. Brinkworth, Superintendent, Brookwood CC, Addison, Ill.

THE MOST NECESSARY REPORTS AND RECORDS

Beryl S. Taylor, Superintendent, Iowa State College Golf Course, Ames, Iowa.

COST KEEPING AND MAINTENANCE RECORDS

James E. Thomas, Superintendent Army-Navy CC, Arlington, Virginia.

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM

Dr. O. J. Noer, The Sewerage Commission, Milwaukee, Wis.

DIPLOMACY ON THE JOB

ACT 1: A DISGRUNTLED GOLFER MEETS THE SUPERINTENDENT.

ACT 2: THE SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS TO THE CHAIRMAN.

Stanley Graves and his Cleveland District "Little Theatre."

SUMMARY

Charles G. Wilson, Western Regional Director, USGA Green Section, Davis, Calif.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1955

MORNING

Henry Elmer, Chairman
Superintendent, Indian Hills CC
Kansas City, Mo.

Theme: Turf Maintenance in the Northern Climate

DISEASES IN GRASS

Dr. Frank L. Howard, Head Dept. of Plant Pathology-Entomology, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I.

POA ANNUA CAN BE LICKED

Dr. William H. Daniel, Agronomy Dept., Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.

COOL SEASON GRASSES—BLUEGRASS, FESCUE AND BENT

Prof. Harvey L. Lantz, Iowa State College, Ames, Ia.

SUMMARY

Alexander M. Radko, Northeastern Regional Director, USGA Green Section, New Brunswick, N. J.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1955

AFTERNOON

GEORGE LANPHEAR, Chairman
Superintendent, Riviera Country Club
Pacific Palisades, Calif.

Theme: Turfgrass Maintenance in the Southern Climate.

TURFGRASS IN THE SOUTH AND BORDERLINE AREAS

Dr. James R. Watson, Chief Agronomist, Toro Mfg. Corp., Minneapolis, Minn.

WARM SEASON GRASSES OF TODAY AND TOMORROW

WHAT'S BEST TODAY—WHAT'S NEW

Dr. J. C. Harper, II, Research Agronomist, Field Corps Research Branch, U.S.D.A., Beltsville, Md.

SOIL STRUCTURE AND AMENDMENTS

Dr. Fred V. Grau, West Point Products Corp., West Point, Pa.

SUMMARY

Dr. B. P. Robinson, Southeastern Regional Director, USGA Green Section, Tifton, Ga.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1955

GEORGE PRIESKORN, Chairman
Superintendent, Burroughs Farms CC,
Brighton, Mich.
(Representing Michigan & Border Cities
Golf Course Supts. Assn.)

Theme: Plant Nutrition.

WHAT'S IN THE FERTILIZER BAG?

Malcolm H. McVickar, National Fertilizer Association, Washington, D. C.

HOW THE PLANTS USE NITROGEN, PHOSPHOROUS AND POTASH

Dr. Frank A. Crane, Asst. Prof. of Pharmacognosy, University of Illinois, College of Pharmacy, Chicago, Ill.

THE LIVING SOIL

Dr. W. Albrecht, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.

GETTING MOST OUT OF FERTILIZER

Prof. H. B. Musser, Dept. of Agronomy, Pennsylvania State College.

SUMMARY

Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, Southwestern Regional Director, USGA Green Section, Texas A & M College, College Station.

Questions and discussion period will conclude each session.

Almost 50 makers of golf course maintenance equipment and supplies will exhibit and their salesmen will present approximately \$500,000 in maintenance goods for the examination of an expected attendance of about 1000 superintendents from the U. S., Canada, Hawaii and Mexico.

Beresford Nominated for Presidency

The GCSA Nominating committee — Warren Bidwell, chmn., and Everitt A. Shields, Malcolm E. McLaren and John Gray — presented the following nominees for consideration:

President—

William Beresford

(Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of S. Calif.), Los Angeles CC.

Vice-President—One to be elected for one year.

Ward Cornwell

(Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Assn.), Lochmoor Club, Grosse Pointe, Michigan

The



right start to better golf is in a better club!

New Spalding TOP-FLITEs for '55!

THIS year's TOP-FLITE® SYNCHRO-DYNED® clubs have a new True-Temper Rocket shaft precisely made to Spalding's specifications and precision manufactured to within hundredths of an ounce.

This new Rocket shaft is *exclusively* a Spalding improvement designed to improve the SYNCHRO-DYNED clubs—and it's really been a success!

Here are golf's finest clubs with the most convincing sales story ever. SYNCHRO-DYNED clubs have *lowered handicaps* as much as a *third!* What more could your customers ask for than better golf!

And now golf is more fun because it's easier. You add confidence by

recommending SYNCHRO-DYNED clubs because it's the *truly scientific* golf club.

Here's what SYNCHRO-DYNED clubs offer: A coordinated relationship between clubs that practically eliminates compensation on different shots. You get an identical "feel" with *each club* in a set. All this adds up to better playability, more *consistently* good shots than ever before, better golf on every round.

Here is something your customers ought to know about—it's an ideal way to sell more clubs and keep everybody playing better golf! And if you need more proof, try SYNCHRO-DYNED clubs yourself!

SPALDING

SYNCHRO-DYNED REGISTERED WOODS AND IRONS

Frank P. Dunlap
(Cleveland District of the Golf Course
Superintendents Assn.), Chagrin
Falls, Ohio

Directors—Three to be elected for two-
year terms.

Paul F. Leix
(Golf Course Superintendents Assn.
of Western Pennsylvania), Allegheny
CC, Sewickley, Pa.

Donald G. Strand
(Midwest Assn. of Golf Course Su-
perintendents), Westmoreland CC,
Wilmette, Ill.

Samuel S. Mitchell
(Greenkeepers Club of New Eng-
land), Ponkapoag Golf Course, Can-
ton, Mass.

James E. Thomas
(Mid-Atlantic Assn. of Golf Course
Superintendents), Army-Navy CC,
Arlington, Va.

Carl E. Anderson
(Minnesota Golf Course Superintend-
ents Assn.), Woodhill CC, Wayzata,
Minn.

Henson Maples
(Carolinas Golf Course Superintend-
ents Assn.), Pinehurst (N. C.) CC.

Additional nominations for all officers
can be made from the floor at the proper
time during the Annual Meeting.

The 1956 GCSA meeting has been
awarded to Long Beach, Calif.

Fall Turf Conferences Report Year's Work

FALL turf conferences last year were
featured by big attendance and expert
reports of the application of turf
research station recommendations on golf
courses last year.

At the Midwest conference, held at Pur-
due university Dr. W. H. (Bill) Daniel
reported that the new creeping bentgrass
originated by Dr. Musser of Pennsylvania
State University — Pennlu — is an excel-
lent performer. While other bents were
showing dollar spot, the rich-looking
green Pennlu wasn't. This was true even
3 to 4 weeks after disease treatments had
ceased. This was in comparison with 11
other bents. Five Bermudas under obser-
vation in Hoosierland have a stubby
coarseness that makes them inferior to
bents for putting surfaces in the Midwest,
Daniel said.

The past year saw much chance to
evaluate dollarspot but not brownpatch.

Daniel also said that what seems ideal
turfgrass fertilizer for irrigated turf is a

4-1-2 ratio and for dryland turfgrass a
2-1-2. Grass doesn't need much phosphor-
ous, he declared.

The hot, dry summer showed that it is
important to keep greens cool. Noonday
dampening of a green on windy, hot days
may cut soil temperatures by 10 degrees
F., thereby reducing the 3 p.m. peak tem-
perature. Take a damp green with the
wind at 10 miles an hour. The soil is
about the same temperature as the air 1
inch above the green. But dry soil means
trouble! A soil temperature device bur-
ied ½-inch below the surface of the cam-
pus putting green at Purdue brought this
out.

A new approach to prevent crabgrass
from growing is being tried at Purdue,
Bill Daniel reported.

Aiding Bill Daniel is Dr. R. O. Ham-
mons, another Purdue agronomist. He's
helping screen 80 individual selections of
new bluegrasses. These are in 1-ft.
squares and under test on the Purdue
Agronomy Farm northwest of U. S. 52.
Also being tested are 180 bents and 18
zoysias.

Southern California Drew 129

The 129 at the 1954 Southern California
turf conference, held at Los Angeles Elks'
Club under co-sponsorship of UCLA Col-
lege of Agriculture and UCLA Extension,
and the USGA Green section, accented ir-
rigation problems. The program was well
balanced with reports on newer grasses
being used on Southern California
courses, fertilization, disease and insect
control results.

Southern California's conference had in
addition to its all-star battery of regional
authorities (Stoutemyer, Wilson, Hagan,
Simpson, et al) the roving experts, Noer,
Grau, Watson and Hallowell.

Grau also teamed with Bill Daniel, Mar-
vin Ferguson, Bert Musser and Ray Ger-
ber as visiting authorities at the Central
Plains Turfgrass Foundation conference
at Kansas State college.

Fred contributed to the Central Plains
hunt for drought and heat-resistant golf
turf the suggestion that a practical com-
bination of warm and cool-season grasses
be determined so the warm-season grasses
would insulate and protect the cool-season
grasses against killing heat.

Daniel said that most greens have an ex-
cessive amount of phosphorous and gen-
erally the addition of phosphorous is a
waste.

Seek Dry-Country Grass

Prolonged drought in the Central Plains



INSPECT GRASS AND TREATMENTS ON PURDUE GREEN

Midwest Turf Foundation fall meeting group inspects Purdue practice putting green containing 12 bent strains being tested under play. Box-like apparatus at right is for applying various chemical treatments to sharply defined areas of the green.

area has emphasized the need of revaluation of turf management practices, Chester Billings of the University of Nebraska told the conference.

William F. Pickett, Kansas State turf authority who has been pushing research for turfgrass to economically meet requirements in arid hot areas of the Central Plains recalled experiences with trees during the drought of the '30s when dikes were built around trees on the K-State campus. The tree area was thoroughly soaked two or three times a year. Those trees were brought through. Trees that were lost were drought-weakened trees that succumbed to insect attacks Pickett said.

Musser viewed a phase of the problem as that of providing "a constant and adequate supply of available nutrients." Grau said that with better and cheaper fertilizers now on the market the worry about fertility was reduced but there still remained the baffling puzzle that Musser outlined, of making the fertilizer available to grass.

Grau recommended "hardening" grasses if possible, prior to periods of extreme stress, withholding water in the late spring when grass is growing vigorously and, particularly in the case of bluegrass, waiting until the bluegrass needs moisture badly.

The conference at College Station, Tex., drew more than 100 from Texas and Oklahoma courses, and gave especially thorough and practical treatment to pest control and hit insects, weeds, diseases and lack of needed budgets as plagues that accounted for superintendents' ulcers.

James L. O'Keefe Elected Western Golf Assn. President

JAMES L. O'KEEFE, prominent Chicago attorney, was elected president of Western Golf Assn. at its 56th annual meeting.

O'Keefe succeeds Stanley J. McGiveran of Toledo as president of WGA. Under McGiveran the association experienced a record year of achievements, topped by the awarding of 204 college scholarships to deserving caddies under the program of the Evans Scholars Foundation.

A former national inter-scholastic fancy diving champion and captain of the Northwestern University water polo team, O'Keefe has long been prominent in Chicago golf as a member of the Evanston (Ill.) GC, of which he is a director. He was president of the North Shore Golf League in 1949, and last year was runner-up for the Evanston club championship.

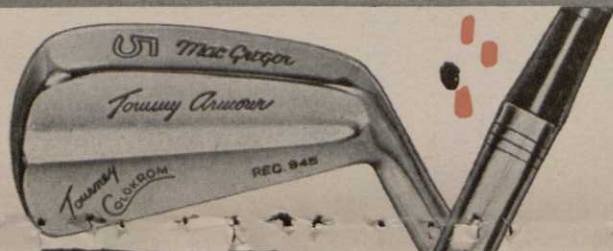
Elected with O'Keefe as 1955 officers of the Association were: Vps Cameron Eddy, Chicago; Frank H. Hoy, Milwaukee; Harold A. Moore, Chicago, and George K. Whyte, St. Louis; Secretary—A. R. Carman, Jr., Chicago; Treasurer—Walter W. Cruttenden, Chicago, and General Counsel — Robert McDougal, Jr., of Chicago.

Newly-elected directors of the WGA are: Norman G. Copland, Chicago; Andrew C. Cowan, Chicago; Terrence J. Dillon, Chicago; Harold E. Foreman, Jr., Chicago; Hubert E. Howard, Chicago; Frank E. Kenney, Detroit; David M. Lilly, Minneapolis, Robert E. Maxwell, Chicago; Bernard H. Ridder, Jr., Duluth; James M. Royer, Chicago; William F. Souder, Jr., Indianapolis.

Happy New Year **TO GOLF!** everything's new for '55 with MacGregor



New Two-Color Grip—
Finest quality calfskin in two-tone combinations form a smart spiral pattern for a good "looks" and tacky "feel."



New Shaft Identification—
MacGregor offers greatest variety of shaft flexes available—exactly right for every swing. Each flex is identified by a different colored band on the shaft!