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Sikora Works All Year to Live Up to Name of Golf's Busiest Promoter

AT approximately the minute the year's last shot is fired at Andy Sikora's home station, Beacon Hill CC, Atlantic Highlands, N. J., Andy launches a winter's campaign that includes clinics, classes, a TV show, lectures to civic and business groups and similar assignments, and doesn't end until the swallows return to Beacon Hill in the spring.

To give an idea of just how full a typical Sikora winter schedule is, here is a play by play account: Supervises a series of lessons for a Perth Amboy Knights of Columbus council; runs a clinic for a group of Asbury Park CC members; works with local and district high school officials in making plans for continuance of girls' school league; instructs girls at Highland Manor school so they can make their league debut this year; teaches girls at Star of the Sea Academy; conducts five different classes at YMCA and teaches at two other high schools; stars on a weekly TV show; helps to raise money for polio, heart and other funds whenever called upon (which is often) by putting on golf exhibitions; and is a regular speaker on the Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary and Boosters club noonday lunch-circuit.

Most pros, upon contemplating the foregoing lineup, would conclude that it's a relief for Sikora to get back to his club in April. But enough of the above activities are continuing ones and he has so much work to do at his pro shop that it's no trick for him to keep on a solid 12-hour a day schedule right through the summer.

This one-man beehive probably hasn't let a day go by since he was 12 years old and started out as a caddie at Crestmount CC, West Orange, without making at least a small contribution to the game with which he has become so infatuated. Appropriately enough, Ed Savidge, golf chairman of Beacon Hill, has called Andy "golf's busiest promoter."



Andy Sikora

After toting a bag for four years, Sikora worked as a shop boy for Alex Simpson, then graduated to assistant caddiemaster and starter for Danny Williams, now pro at The Knoll CC, Boonton, N. J. Whether Williams realized it or not, he did the golf industry a great service by teaching Andy the fundamentals of handling publicity and then turning him loose to drum up enthusiasm whenever a tournament was in the offing.

Army Uses Talents

In 1941, Andy took an assistant pro job at Maplewood CC and stayed here for two years until the Army exercised its option. After surviving 17 weeks of infantry training, Sikora was transferred to the medical corps. Within a year somebody chanced to check Andy's service record, noted that he was a golf pro, and in untypical Army fashion, arranged to take advantage of his talent. Sikora was transferred to Camp Gordon and later Ft. Monmouth where he served as a golf instructor in medical rehabilitation work.

Following his release from service, Sikora opened a driving range at Middleton, and proving that he was still tireless as ever, ran it for a year after he took over as head man at Beacon Hill. Today, he will tell you, though, that he wouldn't have undertaken the double burden without the assistance of his wife, who managed the range during the daytime.

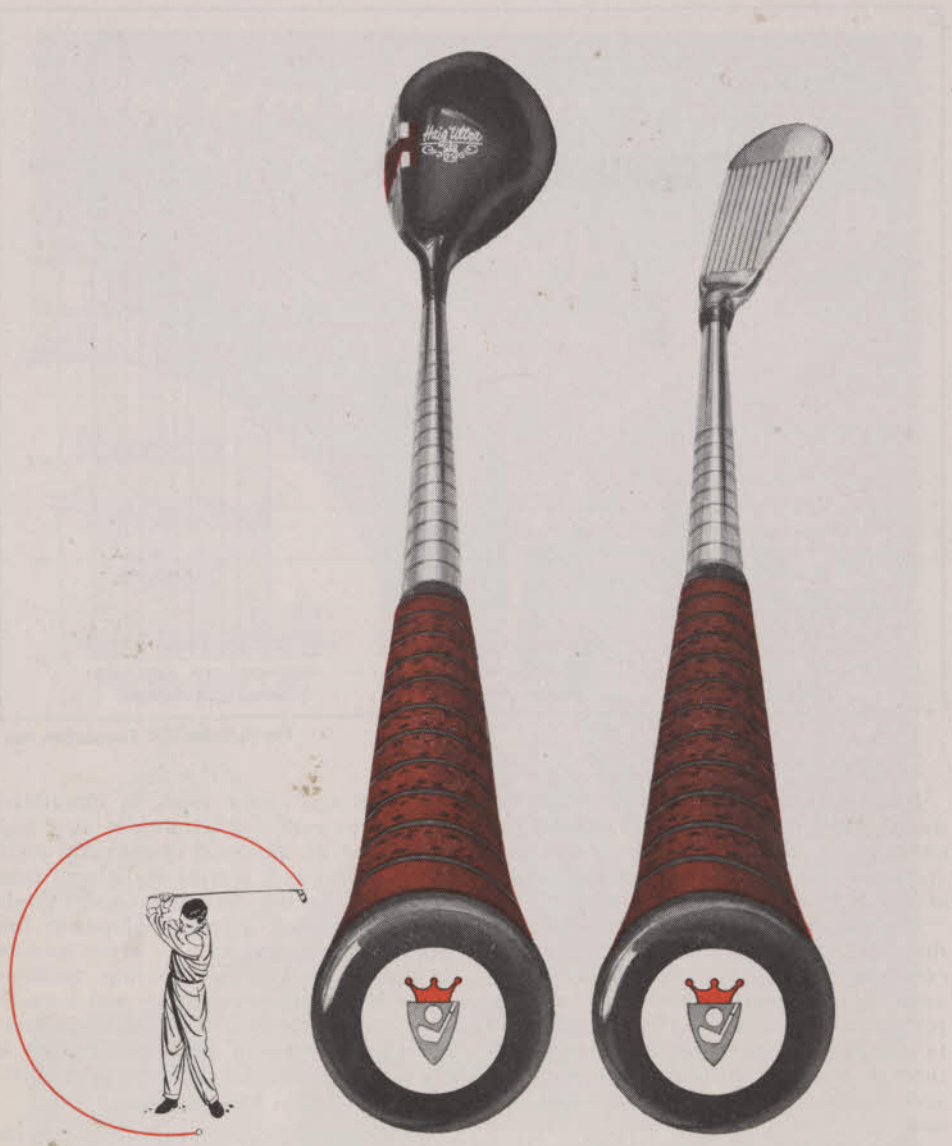
Mrs. Sikora, incidentally, is the greatest of Andy's many boosters, and even though her husband modestly disapproves of it, will show you a fat scrapbook of his accomplishments at almost any given moment with only a little urging.

One of Andy's most interesting promotions was a "Beat Your Pro" tournament played for the benefit of the Monmouth County Heart Fund. He played with a woman member of Beacon Hill who'd returned to golf after having been incapacitated as a cardiac victim for several years. Her net of 76 beat Andy's gross by a stroke. The whipping didn't displease Andy at all as more than \$100 was raised for the fund.

Clubs Displayed Horizontally

At the Thunderbird Ranch & CC shop Eddie Susalla has in one corner a display of golf clubs made with the clubs shelved horizontally with only the heads showing. The display contains 36 sets of clubs and, Susalla says, seems to get golfers handling the clubs more than the conventional displays do.


510 Million Invested in Research 1954



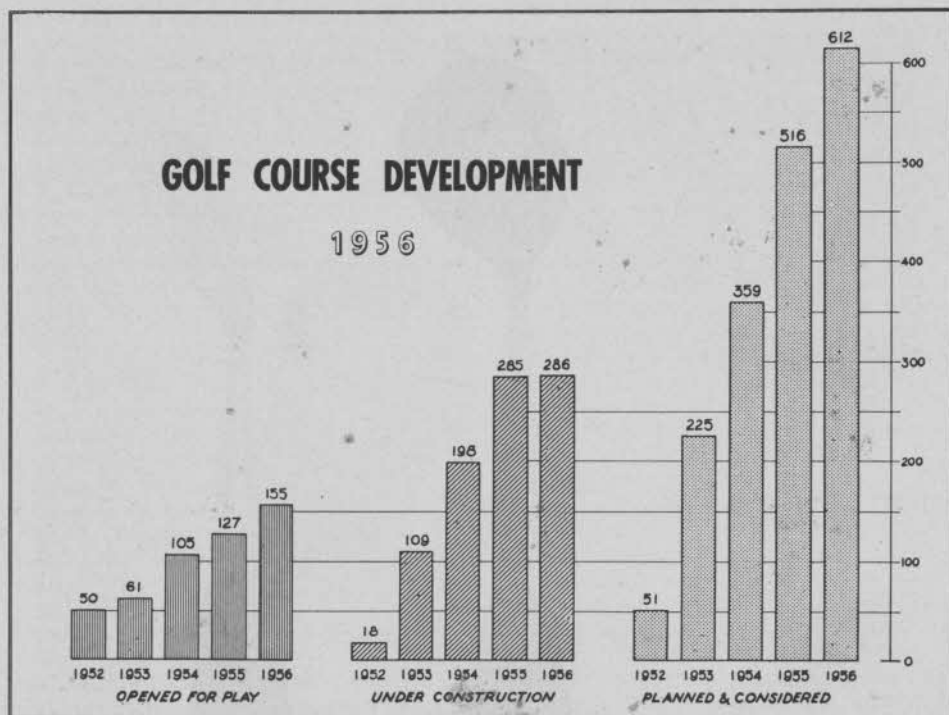
ULTRA: beyond what is common. Just as craftsmanship is the reason for the superior quality of a fine watch, so "Ultra" products like these stand as leaders in their fields. Walter Hagen ultra-powered irons and woods are the finest golf clubs you can buy. Try them and see for yourself.

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\$10 Million Invested in Courses in 1956



The National Golf Foundation, Inc.

More than \$10 million has been invested during 1956 in 155 new golf courses and additions to courses now open for play, according to the current annual report of the National Golf Foundation.

Foundation president, Joe Graffis, said that the new golf courses represent an estimated additional \$2¼ million investment in new course equipment and supplies and that these courses are expected to generate a continuing annual expenditure of over \$½ million in maintenance and supply costs, exclusive of labor. He said:

Catching Up with Deficit

"This brings the current national total of golf courses up to 5,360, still 496 short of the all-time high of 5,856 courses in 1930 when the national population was 122,775,000. Today the population is up 30% and our golf courses are still down 10% compared to 1930 — but we are catching up rapidly with the deficit which should be wiped out about 1959.

"The grass-roots help of the golf pro-

fessionals and course supts. in stimulating interest in golf and keeping it at a high pitch, and the financial sponsorship mainly of leading golf playing equipment manufacturers in the National Golf Foundation's expanding course development program can only add up to a steady increase in much needed golf playing facilities. With this continued support and cooperation, the National Golf Foundation hopes to report a total of 6,000 golf courses in operation in the United States by 1960."

612 in Planning Stage

Graffis pointed out that most of the 286 new courses now under construction will be in use within the next year and that the 612 new courses now in the planning stage represent the highest level of active interest in new course development since pre-war years. The Foundation president continued:

"It all adds up to more and better golf for more Americans with more leisure time and the means to satisfy a growing desire for healthful outdoor recreation."

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\$35.00 — 12-inch wheels

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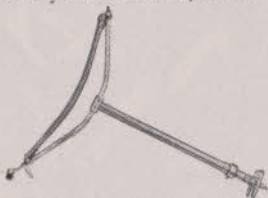
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Turfrider Caddy Cart D9952 Folds to compact unit, rolls when folded. Fits any bag. Semi-pneumatic tires with ball bearing wheels. Choice of red, blue or green on upper bracket and yoke. Each—\$36.00



Turfrider Seat Cane D9940 Light, sturdy and compact. In beautiful chrome-plated aluminum with adjustable height, tanned leather seat, ground point and guard. Each—\$12.00



Golf Bag D0632 Red Vinyl with embossed black strap leather trim, large clothing and ball pockets. Bound zipper edges with detachable hood and umbrella holder. Each—\$35.00

for better play in comfort



Rain Jacket D9465 Rubber-coated nylon designed on the Free-For-All pattern. Pull-over with turtle neck and short zipper. Ribbed collar, cuffs and bottom. In maize, tan, navy, white, red. Each—\$10.00



Rain Pants D9466 Rubber-coated with elastic waist and hip pocket. Snap adjustment at cuffs. In natural, red, maize, navy. Each—\$8.00

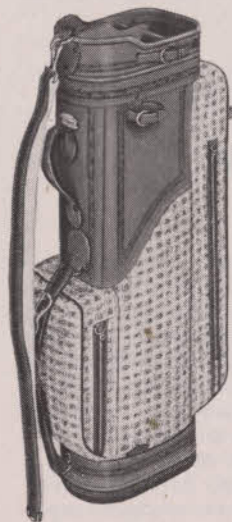


Golf Umbrella D9905 Equally good against rain or a hot sun. Eight-ribbed, 30-inch double stretcher umbrella. Made of cotton plaid in red, blue, or green. Versilan case. Each—\$8.95

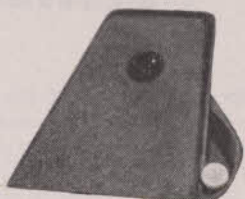
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Carry All D0940 New model of white cameo vinyl in 18" x 10" size. Matches D0602 bag in black and gold cameo pattern. Plastic-lined side pocket with molded plastic handles and name plate. Each—\$12.95



Golf Bag D0602 Good-looking white cameo vinyl with London strap leather trim. Country Club styling with black and gold cameo pattern. Roomy clothing and ball pockets with detachable hood. Each—\$65.00

Kumbak Putting Device D9812 Set on angle to compensate for resistance of grass. Ball returns automatically after each putt. Ideal for home practice. Each—\$4.95



Triple-Duty Wedge D8684 A valuable addition to every golfer's set. This 3-D wedge features a heavy, wide flange, off-set blade. Also has a True Temper Rocket shaft and calfskin Reminder grip. Each—\$13.95



No. 5 Woods D8500 For working out of trouble. Ebony-finished Strata-Bloc head with Rocket shaft. Black and white fiber face insert and calfskin grip. Men's RH. Each—\$22.50



Winsum Putter D8810 New goose-neck putter features a two-tone chrome and brass head, flange back, True Temper Rocket shaft, and calfskin pistol grip. Right hand only. Each—\$13.95

Tam Putter D8813 Mallet-type putter. Rocket shaft with pistol grip in calfskin, perforated for firm, comfortable control. Right hand only. Each—\$13.95

Augusta Putter D8833 Real fluid-feel. Bright chrome head finish with brass face for softer feel. Perforated pistol grip in calfskin. Rocket shaft running clear through head to sole. For either right or left hand. Each—\$13.95

The "Man," More Than Anything Else, Is The Big Factor in Turfgrass Management

By FRED V. GRAU

THIS IS a Roundup of the year's progress in course maintenance, an assessment and evaluation of our present position and some predictions.

The "Man" in Manager today is the most important single factor in the turfgrass world. This trend will continue. All these years we have tried to lift ourselves by our bootstraps professionally and financially by growing better turf. The supts. and the scientists were not among those who profited financially. Regardless of improved playing conditions in every department there are far too many "green-

★

The second article in this series by Grau and Noer will appear in January GOLFDOM.

★

keepers" who still push mowers, too many who are stuck down in the barn without an office, too many who know nothing of their club's finances let alone their own budgets. The salaries of far too many are still less than a bricklayer can make — and the bricklayer is through at 5 o'clock.

Simultaneously we hear, "We need higher salaries" and "We are desperately short of trained men to fill the position of supt." We don't know which came first, the hen or the egg, but we are reasonably certain that: 1. There will always be a shortage of trained men to manage courses until the salary scale and other benefits are attractive to good men who are competent to accept the responsibility and willing to take the punishment.

2. Salary scales will rise and other benefits gradually will be granted in direct proportion to the supt's business ability.

I have given up the idea I once had that a super-knowledge of turf and the ability to produce the finest championship turf was the "Open Sesame" to raises and other benefits. Now I am convinced

that a needed key to the superintendent's progress is a thorough knowledge of business methods and finances.

The successful supt. of tomorrow is the man who understands business and finance so well that he will be an indispensable party not only at committee meetings but at board meetings.

Money Is A Mystery

For instance, surveys have been conducted in a given area wherein supt's salaries, golf course budgets and maintenance practices are reviewed and compared. It has happened that a chmn. couldn't understand why his course operated with a budget \$20,000 higher than a similar club close by. Naturally, he wanted the supt. to cut expenses on the course. Almost a complete lack of uniformity in business methods was revealed. At the neighboring club the supt's salary wasn't included in the golf course budget. At the home club the maintenance of clubhouse grounds, garbage disposal and caddy-master's salary were on the course budget.

I am sure that I need go no further into detail. In order to compare budgets and salaries there must be uniform accounting methods.

There is the nearly universal complaint: "The club spent \$125,000 this year on a new pool and I couldn't even get a new set of mowers that I needed." It seems that if there is that much money to spend there should be enough to properly equip the course for first-class maintenance.

Or: "The new locker rooms cost nearly \$200,000 and I can't even have a decent soil shed. My machinery has to set out in the weather."

Have we kidded ourselves into thinking that the golf course is the most important function of a golf club? Or have these apparent inequities come about as a result of poor business management?

(Continued on page 80)

New Blood Needed; Snowmold Complications; The South Develops Selective Grasses

By O. J. NOER

After the disastrous summer of 1955 it is only right that a good one follows. Excepting for local spots, the season of 1956 will be remembered as one of the best for golf course turf. One supt. made a very apt statement. He said: "This year has been the easiest one in ten years for me". Troubles occurred during brief spells of bad weather in localized areas or were the result of faulty management* mostly associated with water usage.

The need for good young men to replace aging supts. is acute. It is difficult now to locate the right kind of man and will become impossible before long unless clubs make the supt's position more attractive. The salary must be commensurate with positions of equal responsibility in industry. Provision for retirement pay is also necessary. Not until then can a golf club expect to attract an ambitious young man. The same is true to some extent of the foreman and key workmen. It is impossible to keep grass during a trying year like 1955 with irresponsible or inexperienced temporary help. Every club needs a core of permanent employees, assured of year around work, at a pay scale* comparable with industry. Then, it becomes feasible to augment the force with college students for summertime work. They can be used for less exacting jobs so trained personnel can concentrate on the exacting ones — watering, fertilization, fungicide, insecticide and herbicidal applications.

Constructive action to better working conditions is not likely except at a few clubs. The rapid turnover in club officials makes it impossible. The GCSA, PGA, and Club Managers Assn. might help bring it about by forming a permanent committee from their respective membership to explore the problem and arrive at a workable plan. Some official of the USGA who is experienced in these matters could

render valuable service to such a committee. The final plan must be fair to everyone, both the employer and the employee; otherwise, it will fail of adoption or soon become inoperative.

The winter was a very severe one in some places, particularly in the Prairie Provinces of Canada. *Poa annua* took a terrific beating there and was very slow coming back. Greens were bad until the first half of July and many were not really good until the end of that month or later. Snowmold was especially bad. The causal organism is said to be of a different and more virulent type. In normal years phenyl mercurials, Tersan, etc., have been effective in combatting snowmold. This year Calo-Clor and straight Corrosive Sublimate seemed better with a slight preference for the latter.

There was snowmold in other regions. The old true strain of Washington came through in good shape and Congressional (C-19) gave a good account of itself. On the creeping bent nursery at Royal Ottawa Golf Club Toronto bent (C-15) was not attacked, but snowmold was moderately severe on Pennlu for the second straight year. Both strains got preventative treatments of Calo-Clor in the late fall at identical rates and at the same time.

One club in Minnesota never controlled snowmold effectively on its Seaside bent greens until this past winter. Seaside is one of the more susceptible bent grasses. The club adopted one of Dr. J. R. Watson, Jr.'s methods, evolved on the experimental green at the Toro Research center. Calo-Clor was used dry in November mixed with an activated sludge, and at 25 to 30 per cent more than the usual dosage. Anybody wanting more information about Dr. Watson's snowmold work should consult his article on page 88 of this issue of GOLFDOM.

A superintendent in Toronto failed to treat until after greens were covered with snow. Calo-Clor was applied dry mixed with sand. Disease control was good, but the workman's



(Left) R. F. Lawrence converts Indian Creek fairways to Ormond strain of Bermudagrass. He gets planting stock by permitting extra growth in strip along edge of fairway. A Javi sicklebar machine cuts close, clippings are scattered across fairway and cut in with a disc. (Right) Lloyd Scott looks over Merion Bluegrass tee at his club that is five years old. His secret: Fertilize generously once a month; water sparingly.

footprints burned the grass. Recovery in the spring was late. The application was made during a temporary thaw. Burn was caused by the wet snow. The same thing has been done many times without any burn. The fungicide was applied on top of dry snow.

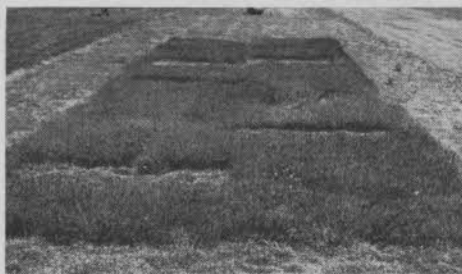
Ice Removal Secrets

At a "bull session" during a Minnesota Turf Conference, an Eau Claire Wis. supt. mentioned his secret of ice removal from greens. When honeycombing and melting starts he scatters a hundred pounds of activated sludge over the green. The ice disappears in no time at all. J. L. Haines of Denver does the same thing with powdered charcoal; so it looks like a heat exchange phenomena.

Several new grasses have appeared . . . some for the cool season regions and others for the South. They include Penncross, Pennlawn, and in the South selections such as

(Continued on page 69)

These Photos Suggest Some Do's and Dont's for the Supt.



Maleic hydrazide stopped seedhead formation in creeping bent plots at Purdue University irrespective of rate used.



(Left) Footprint injury was result of applying corrosive sublimate for snowmold control on green covered with melting snow. (Right) Soil sterilization is carried out with Vapam. It is important to water the material in immediately after application.