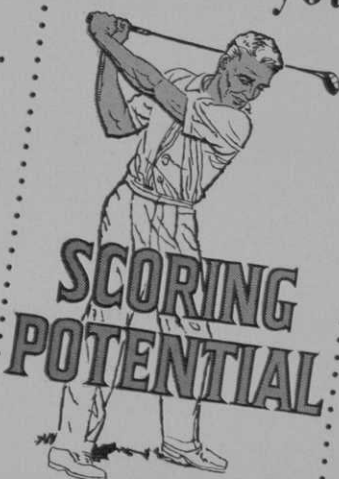


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## How Pros Teach

# Methods Vary But Aims Are The Same

IN describing what he thinks is the most helpful teaching device or idea he has used in trying to transmit the touch or feel to his pupils, Bill Markham of Saginaw (Mich.) CC says that he has stressed the action that initiates the downswing; on the other hand, Reggie Myles, another Michigan headmaster, who presides at the Walnut Hills club in East Lansing, puts greatest emphasis on the backswing; meanwhile, Bud Williamson of the Country Club of Lincoln, Neb., drills his charges in attaining proper balance; Howie Atten, Dubuque (Ia.) G & CC pro, teaches by proceeding in what is widely, but by no means totally accepted, as the orthodox routine, from grip to stance to backswing, etc.; while Joe Cannon of Farmington CC, Charlottesville, Va., concentrates on getting his players to know or sense what they have to do to bring their hands into the ball.

### Look for Guaranteed Method

So, you have five different men giving as many different versions of what approach the game should be taught from. If a dozen were queried, perhaps there would be a dozen different answers. Probably the same thing would be true for 20.

Since the teaching of golf is more art than science the day probably never will



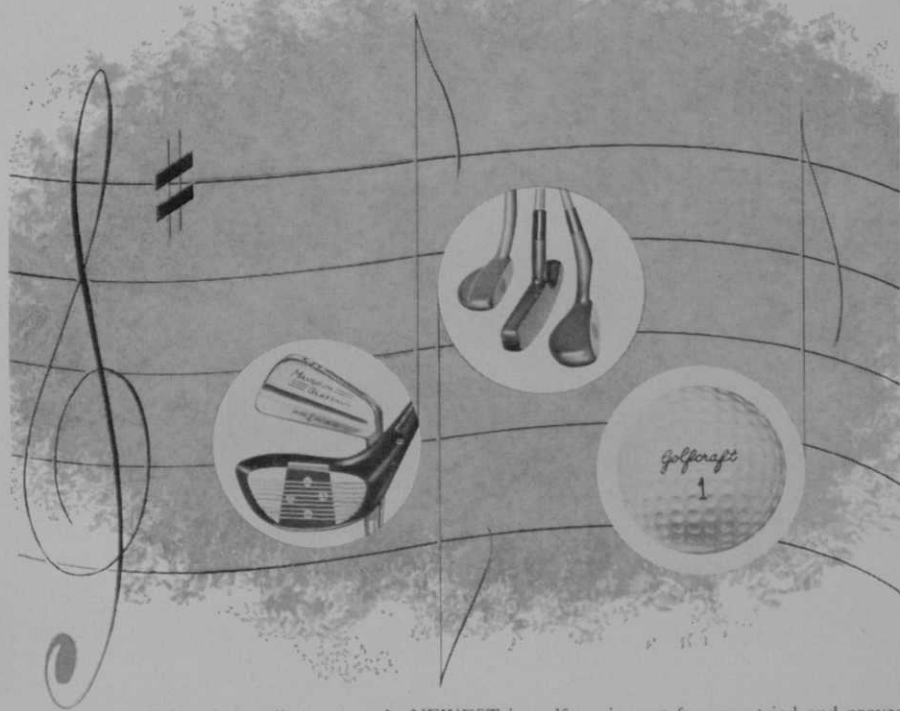
Let's see now — that should be about loose enough!

come when there is anything like unanimity among pros as to what procedure should be followed in teaching it. The endless quest for the guaranteed method of showing the athletic as well as the unathletic how to hit a golf ball with a reasonable degree of authority may be the real reason why the pro continues to return to his shop every spring. The adoption of new theories of instruction, their rejection when it is seen that they aren't living up to their promise and the further search for methods that will work is an intriguing part of the pro's business.

But, as Joe Cannon maintains, a pro can carry his theories on teaching too far — to the point where he theorizes himself out of business.

"Every pro," says Cannon, "should make a constant study of teaching, observe the other fellow when he gets a chance, occasionally sit down and try to figure out how he can improve his own methods or procedures, but sooner or later he has to adopt a set formula for teaching. If he goes on and on trying out new theories he's going to reach the point where he is completely confused, his players are going to recognize it and his value as a teacher is going to become greatly diminished. Probably to the extent where the club

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starts looking around for another pro."

Joe goes on to say that perhaps teaching will become more standardized when the pro doesn't look to his own methods of getting the lessons across so much as to what he is trying to accomplish. "And that," Cannon says, "really is simple enough. It comes down to the fact that 95 per cent of the golfers want to hit the ball reasonably straight and the other five per cent want to hit it with precision."

### **Can Hit Sitting Down**

That is why the Farmington pro bases all his lessons on the simple expedient of trying to get the golfer to put the club and ball together. To do this, he says, a person must have conception of what the hands are doing to bring them into the ball. Cannon preaches that the golfer, any golfer for that matter, can hit while sitting down because the body should only move slightly from the original position or stance and such movement is nothing more than the result of or is caused by hand action.

Bill Markham, who has some fine players at Saginaw, decided years ago that most golfers run into the greatest difficulty in the downswing and he has made a mission of trying to correct this failing. "The trouble is," Markham points out, "is that when the average golfer starts turning his left hip back to the left, he wants to bring his left shoulder along with it. He doesn't have to and that is the thing I stress. When he commits this fault, the player gets outside the ball and the result is an ugly pull to the left or a bad slice. So, every chance I get," Bill continues, "I stick in my pat line about delaying the left shoulder so that at impact the hips are open and shoulders square to the line."

### **Establishes Rhythm**

In contrast to Markham, Reggie Myles avers that if the golfer can get his backswing started correctly he is reasonably sure of hitting the ball well. The idea is that the backswing establishes the rhythm for the shot with the final result depending on how well this segment of the swing is executed.

"I work hard to get this point across," says Myles. "When I am giving a lesson I concentrate in getting the pupil to take the club back with the face square to the ball. I emphasize that the left hand must remain in control all the way and I very closely check the action of the left knee. These are the only three things I stress until I am positive that the person taking the lesson either has them mastered or

understands why I put so much emphasis on them. Once good rhythm is established in the early part of the swing," Myles continues, "the rest just kind of flows along."

In Bud Williamson's estimation, a player's game never gets any better than his ability to strike and maintain proper balance. And balance, Williamson often repeats, means only body balance. All other things, the movement of the arms, the action of the hands, etc. are secondary to the turning of the body.

"When I am teaching," the Lincoln pro explains, "I place the pupil, whether he is a beginner or an old hand at the game, in what I consider a well balanced position. I keep telling him that the steady head is the one and only thing that will enable him to maintain balance. Then, by questioning and close observation, I determine whether the person feels comfortable. If he doesn't, I keep making adjustments in his position until he feels, and it is apparent, that he is ready to swing with confidence and smoothness."

### **Teaches By the Book**

Probably one of the most methodical instructors in the pro field is Howie Atten, the Dubuque golf professor, who teacher by the book. In this case, it is the "Atten book." Every phase of the swing has been carefully broken down and outlined by Atten and is reproduced on mimeographed sheets which Howie gives to his pupils for study and review after each practice session.

Atten's series has been developed over a period of years. In the session covering the grip, for example, Atten proceeds to teach in exactly the same sequence as shown on the mimeographed sheet given the pupil following the lesson. Atten feels that by tying the actual lesson and the review together, the pupil can better assimilate what has been taught because he always has the paper handy as a kind of jog for his muscle memory. In addition, if the pupil conscientiously reviews what he has learned between instruction sessions he is better prepared to go on to something new at the next lesson.

### **Golf Writers Tournament**

Sixth Golf Writers tournament will be played at The Dunes Golf & Beach Club, Myrtle Beach, S. C., Mar. 30. Ed Campbell, Charleston (S. C.) News & Courier, defending champion, has won the title twice. Other winners have been the late Bob Harlow, Des Sullivan and Jimmy Mann.

# The ROCKER...a shoe with *"Feel!"*

Golf is a game of "feel" from the grip on the shaft to the grip of the feet in the stance. The "Rocker" is a shoe with "feel," features a built-in curve that follows the shape of the foot in action . . . a comfortable and realistic approach to good golf.



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# SO YOU'RE THE NEW GREEN CHAIRMAN

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*You'll Have to Scrounge for Money,  
All the Members Won't Love You —  
But You'll Enjoy the Experience*

---

**C**ONGRATULATIONS! You have just been made the head of the most important committee at your club.

I know that there may be some who won't agree to this rating, but if you've got a bad course you won't have a golf club that's worth a hoot and the other officers and committee heads won't be able to make much of a success of their work.

My hope is that the club will keep you as its green chmn. for a long time; that is, assuming that you're the fellow for the job and can benefit from the experience of others. Some of this experience I'll try to pass along to you.

To be of value to your club and make your job easier for yourself, you should start out by meeting your supt. and going fully over the situation with him. He is the man whose ability, understanding and resourcefulness will determine the success of your administration.

## **Learn from the Superintendent**

You will be the liason man between the supt., the board and members. Probably the less you have to do the better off you, your supt. and the club may be.

Get to know your supt. well, getting his practical ideas just as soon as you can.

Keep your eyes and ears open and you'll soon wind up with a sound semi-technical education in turf maintainance

practices that has taken him years to obtain. He is going to be mighty happy to meet and know you too, especially if you have read and taken my advice, for you will be the kind of greens chmn. that he has been hoping, even praying, he might have.

In the area of the country club that I am most familiar with, your biggest problem (also the supt's) will be money. You will learn that nearly all of your club members expect their club condition to be equal to, or better than other clubs in the vicinity, yet, oddly enough, it will not occur to many of them that this takes money, and more money, among other things, to achieve this goal.

## **Treat Your Supt. Right**

I'm assuming that your club is now paying your supt. a salary in line with other good qualified men in your area. You'd better check on this, for if you are not you may wake up one morning and find that you will need a new supt. Good men in the field are hard to find. Some form of life and accident insurance for him, plus a yearly bonus for especially good services will help to keep him with you and happy.

The club should also pay for the supt's dues in local and national turf associations, as well as the expense involved in attending the annual meetings of these

groups. The knowledge gained from such meetings will certainly be reflected in better conditions at lower costs in your own club.

Early in your new association with the supt. find out if he has been operating on a budget. If not, you, the directors and the supt. should work up one.

### Find Out About Costs

The club treasurer can supply you with information on previous years' costs. Many items are quite uniformly needed in normal years. Labor costs will vary from year to year due to minimum wage standards, labor union scales and local commercial competition for labor. Extra manual work will add to your labor budget but will pay off in improved looks and playability of your course.

When you do find time to play golf on your new job, you might do it partially as a roving reporter for your supt.

You may miss a putt now and then trying to figure if a green needs aerification, verti-cutting or some other treatment. Remember, you're not an expert on green maintenance yet, so the technical decisions rest with your experienced supt.

You may get a fair share of complaints and suggestions but you can give as well as take. You are an educator now. You can talk or shame your fellow members into always replacing divots, smoothing out prints in traps, and making sure that paper and other rubbish is placed in the containers at the tees rather than scattered around where that ever-expensive labor force must waste time picking up after them.

### You Set the Example

Allow no one to put a golf bag down on a green, or drag a caddy cart across the corner of the green on the easy way to the next tee. Be tough about these things, but cooperative also. Do the right things yourself at all times. The Sunday golfers will begin to have more respect for your suggestions and your judgment along these lines and your course will show more and more improvement.

If possible, ask for and get men of your own choice to serve with you on the Green committee and make sure they are as improvement-minded as you are.

A last suggestion to make the work of your supt. more pleasant and efficient is to teach and insist that the members make all their suggestions or complaints about the course maintenance to you or the committee. No man can do a good job trying to please a multitude of bosses.



Wade Stith (left), manager of Lynde & Rowsey Turf Nursery, Muskogee, Okla., was given an Award of Merit recently by the Oklahoma Turfgrass Assn. for outstanding work in turf management. Tom Leonard, OTA's outgoing pres. made the award.

### Illinois Greenmaster Says Supt. Scores with the Eyes

We assume that we have given the golfer the best possible turf to play on and from there we must score in eye appeal. The supt. is the artist who must paint a picture in beautiful surroundings. This he can do in many ways, varying from the simple dressing up of an ugly spot or two to a complete long-range program of dressing up every hole on the course.

By dressing up we mean the planting of living, growing appeal to the eye. This ranges from ornamental flowers to ornamental and functional trees and shrubs.

The touch of the true artist makes the course beautiful appear as though it had been done by Mother Nature instead of by Father Supt.

*Roy W. Nelson*

*Supt., Ravisloe CC, Homewood, Ill.*

### Kansas Turfgrass Officers

New pres. of the Kansas Turfgrass Assn. is Tom Andrews, supt., Elks CC, Salinas. Dwain Nelson is vp and Robert E. Lester, secy.-treas. Directors are L. E. Lambert, Robert Funk and Robert Gossard.

### Midwest GCSA Officers

Midwest GCSA has elected Ray Gerber pres. for 1959. Norman Kramer and Al Johnson are vps. Secy.-treas. is Don Gerber. Directors include: Bert Rost, Herman Woehle, Marvin Gruening, Ed Stewart, Wes Updegraff and Ben Kronn.



## Discuss Course Renovation and Its Financing at USGA Green Section Meeting

USGA green section education program, which was held in New York, Jan. 30th, in conjunction with the parent group's annual meeting, dwelled on two vital maintenance phases — course rebuilding and remodelling, and design, financing and timeliness in the rebuilding operation. William C. Chapin, Oak Hill CC, Rochester, was chmn. and Edwin Hoyt, Wee Burn CC, Darien, Conn., vice chmn., of the program.

William H. Bengeyfield was moderator of the remodelling and rebuilding session, which was slanted toward supts. His speakers lineup included A. M. Radko, Eastern dir. of the green section; Ralph E. Engel, Rutgers University turf management specialist; Marvin H. Ferguson, dir. of green section research activity and its Mid-continent representative; H. B. Musser, Penn State agronomy professor; and James M. Latham and James L. Holmes, agronomists with the green section.

Radko discussed overall renovation of the course and brought up the question as to what extent it is going to be carried out to justify its undertaking. Engel, speaking on drainage, said it is unwise to go ahead and tear out the old system before determining the deleterious effect it has had on soil without deciding just what advantages are going to be realized in installing a replacement system. Ferguson, covering the subject of soil, discussed it from the demands placed on it through its use as a putting green and listed the characteristics of a good soil mixture. Musser spoke on the different strains of grass available for course use and suggested what has to be done to establish and maintain them. Latham and Holmes presided at the question and answer period that followed the speeches.

The afternoon session, of special interest to green chmn., was presided over by Charles K. Hallowell, Mid-Atlantic dir. of the green section. Speakers were Robert Trent Jones and William F. Gordon, architects; Dr. Andrew P. Virtuoso, green chmn. of the Whippoorwill Club, Armonk, N. Y. and T. T. Taylor, USGA green section Northeast agronomist. Latham and Holmes also handled the question and answer session in the afternoon.

Jones dwelled on the esthetic and strategic factors in course design while Bill Gordon spoke on design in relation to fu-



Planned for Antioch, Ill., is a multimillion dollar recreation center being financed by George Diamond, Chicago restaurant owner. It is being built around the former Chain O'Lakes CC course (at rear, left). When the project is completed it will have a hotel, theater, ice rink, restaurant, stables, bridle path, fishing and boating facilities and swimming pools.

ture maintenance ease. Virtuoso's topic was financing of the remodelling job. He suggested several ways of raising the money to handle large scale undertakings and also outlined methods for remodelling in stages that are comparatively easy on the club budget. Taylor, speaking on the time element in revamping the course, told how many alterations can be made without seriously interfering with play.

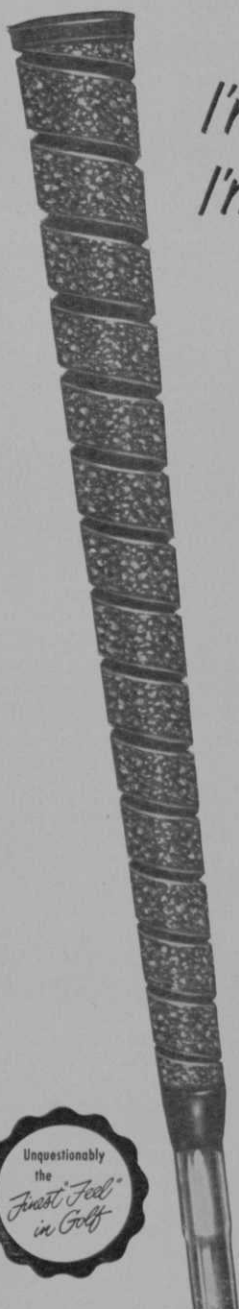
## Leading Turf Men Speak at 12th Cornell Meeting

Twelfth Cornell University turf conference, held in Ithaca, N. Y., Feb. 23-26, featured as speakers a number of leading agronomists, researchers and other turf experts. These included John G. Seeley, John F. Cornman, James R. Kollett, A. M. Radko, Houston Couch, Robert G. Mower, Jesse A. DeFrance, Tom Mascaro, Hal Purdy, L. L. Hill and C. Richard Skogley. Temple Burling of Cornell's Industrial & Labor Relations dept., spoke on economic and personnel matters. All meetings were held in the Statler Hotel which also was the scene of the conference's annual banquet.

## New England GCSA Slate

Albert Allen has been elected pres. of New England GCSA. VPs are N. J. Sperandio, Joseph Butler and Raymond Brigham. William Ash is secy. and Arthur Cody, treas. Michael O'Grady has been elected a 3-year trustee. Richard Silvar is educational chmn., Guy Tedesco heads the golf committee and auditors are Arthur Anderson and Philip Cassidy.





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Joe Valentine (r) tells of all the good things he knows about Burt Musser at testimonial dinner.

## 300 Turfmen Honor Burt Musser at Penn State Dinner

By GEORGE A. VAN HORN

H. Burton Musser, pioneer turfgrass researcher for the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station, received the plaudits of 300 turf associates, students, and friends at a testimonial dinner in his honor Feb. 18, at University Park, Pa. The dinner highlighted the 28th annual Turfgrass Conference at Penn State.

Prof. Musser was honored with gifts from a score of organizations in tribute to his 30 years of outstanding research and teaching. He retires June 30.

Burt responded to the gifts and accolades by saying he had known "Burt Musser a good many years and I don't think he deserves this kind of show. I'm proud of the personal relationships with you people," Musser continued. "I'm proud that Penn State has had the marvelous support of people we've tried to serve."

Gifts received by Musser included a plaque from the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, two doz. golf balls from students in his winter turf management school, a billfold from the USGA green section, a photo album recording scenes from Penn State's field days and GCSA golf tourna-

ments and meetings, a plaque from the GCSA, a duffel bag from Iowa GCSA, two albums of letters from Musser's friends in the industry and a very sizeable check from Burt's many well wishers.

The gifts were presented by Joseph J. Gackebach for the Turfgrass Council, Fred C. Snyder for the students, Charles K. Hallowell for the green section, O. J. Noer and Paul E. Weiss for the GCSA, Harold Glissman for the Iowa GCSA and Tom Mascaro for the golf industry. Harry J. Drennan presented the check, substantial enough to finance Musser's golf playing for a long time. One of the highlights of the dinner was a speech by Joe Valentine, Merion GC, Ardmore, Pa., dean of U. S. supts., who paid tribute to Burt's brilliant work over the years.

Burt Musser got pretty well choked up when all those gifts were showered on him at the testimonial banquet . . . Joe Duich, who made arrangements for the dinner, was on call from the maternity ward . . . Charley Hallowell of the USGA and Musser were classmates in undergrad days at Penn State . . . Scientist that Burt is, O. J. Noer pointed out that Musser always had trouble loading and unloading a camera . . . The duffel bag, mentioned above, is for Burt to carry soil samples on fishing trips . . . Joe Valentine shortened a California vacation to get back for the Musser affair . . . Harry Drennan was chmn. of the committee that raised the cash gift . . . Typically, Burt Musser said that his success over the years was not a "one-man job but the result of a long program in which he had worked with many accomplished and devoted men."

Research was the main theme at the Penn State turf meeting. J. E. Gallagher of Amchem Products, Inc., predicted that 1959 will be a good year for weed control. Several pre-emergent crabgrass controls are or will be on the market and more information is being made available on arsenicals and chlordanes in control work. W. H. Daniel of Purdue, who agreed with Gallagher that control of crabgrass and poa annua is the biggest problem facing turfmen, described tests made at Lafayette with arsenicals. He told of the effect of arsenic in stopping seedling growth of crabgrass, chickweed and witchgrass.

Penn State studies on the effect of 2-4-D on seedlings of bluegrass, bent and fescue were discussed by Richard E. Schimdt while Houston B. Couch, also of Penn State, described basic greenhouse