

got too much water while nearby ones escaped.

Summertime loss of fairway turf was bad in 1959 for the first time on a wholesale scale. *Poa annua* succumbed generally and other grasses suffered. Brown-patch attacked some fairways. On others, where turf was heavily matted, algae appeared after extensive loss of grass from disease or from the ills associated with overwetness accompanied by heat.

The natural reaction in a year like this is to condemn the grass and turn to something else. This may be the best answer for some but not necessarily for everybody. An assessment of grass performance and careful scrutiny of management practices is justified. The examples of fairway turf survival in every part of the afflicted areas may furnish the clue to the answer. Just to mention a few examples, there is good bent fairway turf at Milwaukee CC, at Calumet in Chicago, Scioto in Ohio, Baltusrol in New Jersey, and Woodmere on Long Island. Bob O'Link (Chicago) fairways of bent and *poa annua* survived exceptionally well. Their management may be a helpful guide to others with that kind of grass herbage.

#### Bob O'Link Program

Briefly, the Bob O'Link summer program included aerification twice — on June 25 and on July 27. Chlordane was used at 1 gal. per acre on July 20. Activated sewage sludge fertilizer was applied three times at approximately 200 lbs. per acre each time on July 3, Aug. 5, and Sept. 4. A phenyl mercury acetate fungicide was used six times — at  $\frac{1}{2}$  quarts per acre on July 20, Aug. 5, and Aug. 20; and then at just under a qt. per acre on August 17, 25, and 28. Ferrous sulphate was used along with the fungicide on Aug. 5 and Aug. 20 at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. per acre, and on Aug. 17, 25, and 28 at 3 lbs. per acre. The response from its use was marked during the heavy, rainy weather. Fairway turf, including most of the *poa*, came through the bad weather exceptionally well. Players were happy and the cost was less than renovation and seeding in all probability.

Comments about winterkill in 1958-1959 were made in early spring. Now it is possible to assess them and remark briefly about prospects for lessening the chances of recurrence in the future.

The cold winter got the blame. But inclement spring weather was the real culprit in most places.

There was snow mold on some fairways but not sufficient to cause permanent



Leo Previti shows group the common Bermuda turf at Philadelphia Municipal Stadium, Seeded in June, 80 lbs. per acre. Photo taken Sept. 23.

damage. Recovery took place rapidly when weather became satisfactory. Otherwise fairway turf was not hurt by the cold. Fungicide use on fairways is not necessary excepting on some approaches, where conditions are especially favorable for severe attacks, and on the aprons around the green.

#### Tricky Fungicide Treatment

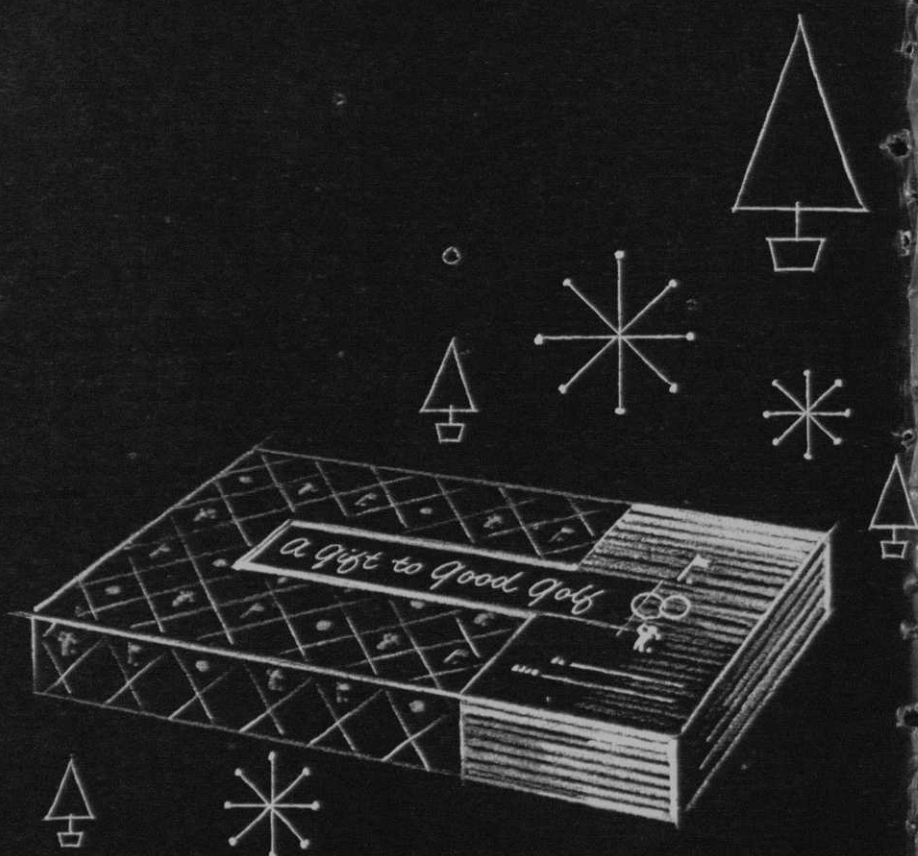
Snow mold was bad on some greens which did not get adequate fungicide protection. Rates were light or the fungicide was not sufficiently potent. Failure to treat again in spring after snow melted brought a snow mold attack in some localities.

Corrosive sublimate alone, or the mixture of two parts calomel and 1 part corrosive have been the preferred treatment for snow mold prevention for many years. Customary rates have been in the range of 3 to 4 ozs. per 1,000 sq. ft. in late fall, and half that amount in spring. Presently mercury is high priced. Some of the newer fungicides have given good control, especially in years when attacks have been mild. They should be evaluated in comparison with the standard calomel-corrosive mixture over several years by research workers in regions where snow mold is bad. That is the only way to find a lower priced equally effective fungicide for snow mold prevention.

#### Suggests Arsenical Investigation

Actually, much of the winter injury on greens occurred in late winter or early spring and was not due to the unseasonably cold winter. Greens in the Midwest looked good in early Mar. Three to four

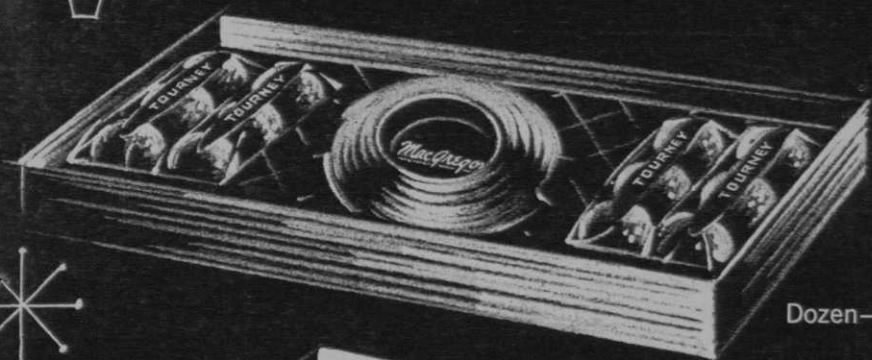
(Continued on page 92)



## MacGregor Tourney

### A GIFT THAT GOLFERS WANT

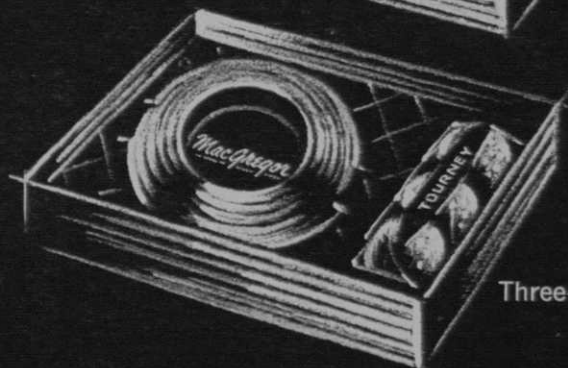
Here's a Christmas gift that's golf all the way. New liquid-center Tourneys in a "ready-for-giving" package with all-season putting cup. Complete units sell for the price of the Tourneys alone. On all individual orders of a dozen or more, Tourneys will be personalized free. This perfect combination will help fill your Christmas stocking with extra profits. Better make sure you have an ample supply of Tourney Christmas Packs now.



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## GCSA Draws Up Schedule for Houston Conference

The schedule and program for the GCSA's 31st conference, to be held in the Shamrock Hilton Hotel, Houston, Tex., next Jan 27-Feb. 6, generally have been drawn up with details yet to be filled in.

The conference will be preceded by the GCSA annual golf tournament on Jan. 28-29. The executive committee will meet the following day. Sunday, the 31st, and Monday will be set aside for registration and setting up of exhibits with the educational conference also getting underway on Monday. The educational sessions will continue through Thursday, Feb. 4th. Various committee meetings will be held between Monday and Thursday. The Get-Acquainted hour will be held on Monday evening and the annual banquet is scheduled for Thursday evening. Friday, Feb. 5th, has been set aside for a tour of Houston area golf courses and the following day, the newly elected executive committee will meet.

Exhibit space information can be obtained by writing Conference, GCSA, PO Box 1385, Jacksonville Beach, Fla.

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A feature of Penncross, not covered by any known research, came to light on a trip that ended just in time to prepare this copy. Two complaints of "puffiness" were discussed in meetings. Both cases were investigated. There was a fear that the vigorous parent, Pennlu, was giving this undesirable trait to Penncross. Upon thorough investigation and sharp questioning (a form of research), it was discovered that an excessively high rate of seeding had caused the condition. There was not room for all the seedlings to grow and expand so, the only thing they could do was to try to grow upward. This caused the "puffiness".

The exact rate of seeding could not be determined with finality but it could safely be assumed to be in excess of 5 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. This is in distinct contrast to research and demonstration results where  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 lb. per 1,000 sq. ft. gave best turf in shortest time. Heavy rates of seeding greatly delay the time when the turf can be made ready for play. Also, they deny others the opportunity to use this grass since there is not enough seed to go around. Anything more than one lb. is sheer waste and a detriment to good turf.

The severe winter, plus the extremes of temperatures during the pollination period, caused the shortest seed crop of Penncross and other improved grasses ever experienced. Users are asked to have patience for another year or two. Meanwhile, those who have some seed are asked to use as little as possible (as low as  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. rate) and to share it with others. By establishing nurseries, limited stocks can be stretched greatly.

### Use of Water

Water use research has yielded limited data but, when combined with practical experience, it added up to a significant factor in producing high-quality turf this past season. In every case where the supt. was successful in holding turf against heavy odds, it was intelligent water management that helped turn the trick. True, in some cases, heavy constant rain cancelled out careful water use. Even in this event, good water management showed in quicker recovery of damaged turf. Those who combined sprinkler irrigation with judicious hand watering came thru in much better shape. The worst of all were those who allowed set sprinklers to run for hours at a time every night, whether water was needed or not.

Hand in hand with watering is the factor of drainage. Where drainage was lacking turf was destroyed even under careful watering practices. Drainage and turf quality have not been identified thru data obtained in research projects but every supt. knows the necessity for excellent drainage. Well-drained soil is a well-aerated soil. Beneficial organisms flourish in soils that are able to breathe. Many of the poisons applied to correct the effects of poor construction accumulate in poorly-drained soils and actually help kill turf-grasses. In open, porous soils these same poisons are rendered harmless after they have done their work.

### Build Them Right

It is regrettable that data is not at hand whereby a golf club, contemplating building a new course, could present figures to the architect and say, "Here is evidence to support our desire to have the best possible drainage built into our greens and other areas so that our course in the future will be easy to maintain even under the most severe extremes of weather conditions." Then the architect would be under bond to build trouble-free greens. It is all too evident that drainage systems appear to be by-passed in order to save some money. It has raised the question: "Why

(Continued on page 96)



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**H**ERE'S a Christmas bonus for you and your customers. Famous long-flying Spalding **DISTANCE DOTS**® in handsome gift boxes with free name imprinting (18 letters and spaces) on the dozen size.

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dozen or one half dozen size boxes. Display and push these attractive Christmas gift boxes and order early to be assured of prompt delivery of your personalized orders. Available through you, the golf professional only!

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## **Amend Excise Tax to Include Exemption of Initiation Fees**

**T**HE Excise Tax Technical Changes Act, which became effective Jan. 1, 1959, (GOLFDOM, October, 1958, p. 36) has been amended by the House and Senate to clarify ambiguities which had arisen in the interpretation of the Act and to provide additional exemptions. The bill in which the amendments were incorporated was signed by President Eisenhower on September 21.

As passed by Congress in August, 1958, the Technical Changes Act provided removal of the 20 per cent federal tax on assessments for capital improvements involving construction or reconstruction of clubhouses, golf courses, maintenance and other buildings, swimming pools and tennis courts.

Experience under the exemption, however, suggested the desirability of several refinements. Reference only to exemptions for "assessments" for capital improve-

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Copies of Sec. 4243 which explains the Capital Improvements exemptions under the Excise Tax Technical Changes Act can be obtained by writing the National Golf Foundation, 407 S. Dearborn st., Chicago 5, Ill.

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ments limited application of the exemption to dues since the term "dues" is defined as including any assessment.

Initiation fees set aside for construction or reconstruction, however, were not specifically exempted in the 1958 Act.

The new amendment provides an exemption for amounts set aside for capital improvements from initiation or membership fees as well as dues or assessments.

### **Additional Exemptions**

The 1959 amendment also provides additional exemptions for certain furnishings and fixtures (including installation costs) bought in conjunction with capital improvements. Such furnishings and fixtures must be required by reason of the construction or reconstruction for use of the facility upon completion of the work. For example, these would include required

furniture, drapes, carpeting, refrigerators, etc. for a new facility, or for a new addition, such as to a clubhouse.

The new amendment to the Excise Tax Act also stipulates that funds set aside from dues or initiation fees for capital improvements as well as for required furnishings and fixtures to be spent for such purposes within three years after date of payment by the club member. The 20 per cent tax on amounts not so spent becomes immediately payable after expiration of the three-year period. In such cases the tax is payable by the club rather than the member.

The club's liability for the tax under the three-year provision was written into the law because of the difficulties which would arise in attempting to determine and locate persons who had been members of a club three years earlier.

When the Excise Tax Technical Changes Act was written last year, exemption was not provided for the purchase of land for building courses, nor did it apply to purchase of existing facilities. This portion of the Act is the same as when it went into effect on Jan. 1, 1959.

Clarification of the Excise Tax Act was brought about partly through the efforts of the National Golf Foundation which brought the ambiguities in the 1958 Act to the attention of Rep. Thomas Curtis of Missouri, original sponsor of the bill to relieve courses of the capital improvements tax. Tax accountants as well as internal revenue officials were of the opinion that the 1958 version of the Act did not specifically exempt capital improvement funds set aside from initiation fees and anticipated rejection of claims on this score.

### **Massachusetts Winter School**

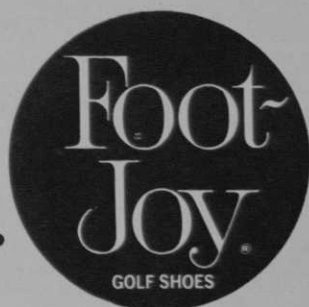
University of Massachusetts' 8-week Turf Management winter school will be held from Jan. 18 through March 11. A leaflet describing the school's curriculum may be obtained from Dean Fred P. Jeffrey, dir. of short courses, U of M, Amherst, Mass. A new addition to the winter school staff is Geoffrey S. Cornish, S. Amherst architect who, at one time, was a teacher and investigator in the field of Agrostology (grasses) at the University.

### **Cancel Atlantic City Seniors**

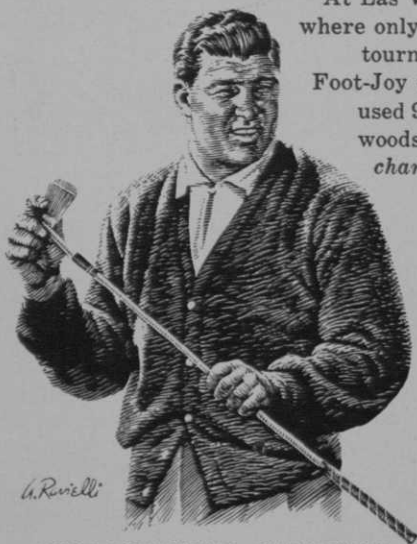
The Atlantic City Seniors Open has been cancelled for 1959. However, it will be resumed in 1960, according to Leo Fraser, pres. of Atlantic City CC, Northfield, N. J.

AT THE TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

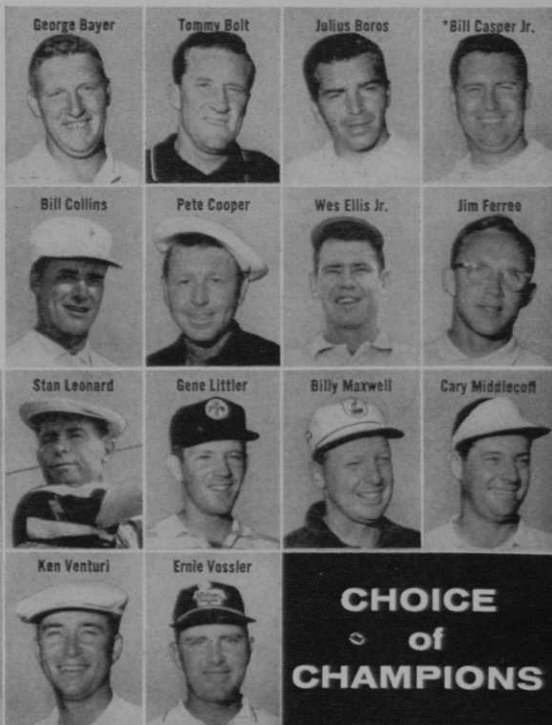
# 21 out of 26 Champions wore...



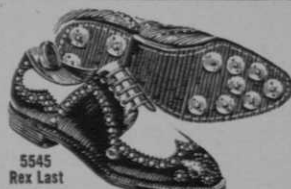
At Las Vegas Tournament of Champions where only those Pros who have won a P.G.A. tournament during the previous year qualify, the Foot-Joy story was dramatically retold. The 26 champions used 9 different makes of irons, 12 different makes of woods and 8 different brands of balls. But of the 26 top champion pros, 21 wore Foot-Joy Shoes, choice of 9 out of 10 home and touring pros year after year.



**MIKE SOUCHAK, CHAMPION  
OF CHAMPIONS at Las Vegas**



\*Winner  
of 1959  
Open



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**Do you think some kind of a Season Ticket arrangement would help business at your range?**

## What's Your Opinion ?

**George Boznos, 4G Practice Fairway, Morton Grove, Ill.** — We've built our business on promotion, good service and good equipment. We are willing to go along on that. I don't think a Season Ticket setup would help us. We have numerous regular customers who use the range four or five nights a week and if we were to give them Season Ticket prices, we'd lose a good deal of money on their business. A fellow who is getting started in the range business might use the Season Ticket as a gimmick to build up a following, but he'd be smart to ease out of it in two or three years.

**Bill Barton, Bill's Driving Range, Huntsville, Ala.** — As an off-season business stimulator, I think it would be a good idea. I have all the business I can handle in the spring and pretty well through the summer and fall. But winter's a different matter. I'd like to step up play between Christmas and early March. I'm considering offering a block of 10 tickets for \$7.50 during this period. This would give the player 10 large buckets of balls to hit. The tickets would have to be used between say Dec. 1 and Mar. 1. The revenue from this setup should more than meet range expenses during our slow period.

**Finch Lewis, Pete Thomas Golf Range, Hillside, Ill.** — What would you charge and still not take too much of a beating? If you were to get \$40 for a Season Ticket you can bet the golfer would hit \$80 worth of balls. You couldn't make out on such an arrangement, especially if you

had a large number of ticket holders. The way to keep them coming back to a range is to give them good balls to hit. This is much more important than providing good clubs because most people who come to a range bring their own equipment.

**Walter Ruesch, Ruesch Golf Range, Northbrook, Ill.** — I tried it once and it wasn't very successful. It didn't step up the volume of play, it reduced our revenue and, of course, our expenses were the same. We depend more on transient trade than regulars and therefore it's to our advantage to get the full price. A Season Ticket might possibly increase play at some ranges during weekday daylight hours when things normally are rather slow, but after 6 p.m. the operator should get the full price when traffic is heaviest.

**Floyd March, March Golf Center, Lima, Ohio** — Since I'm comparatively new in the range business, I am faced with the task of promoting my operation whenever and wherever possible. I've done quite a bit of work in getting industrial league golfers to use my range and Par 3, but I'm still on the lookout for other ways of bringing them in. Possibly next year I will use a system whereby the player can buy a \$20 ticket which will give him the privilege of hitting 50 buckets of balls. I charge 50 cents a bucket. That means I'd lose \$5 on each deal of this kind but I might stand to gain a great deal from a patronage standpoint. I have given coupons entitling the player to an extra bucket from time to time, but I can't say this idea ever worked out very successfully.





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## Eastern Figures Point to Big Increase in Municipal Golf

By HARRY C. ECKHOFF

That 1959 will see the heaviest golf play in history on Eastern Area municipal courses is indicated by preliminary reports which show increases ranging from 10 to almost 50 per cent over 1958.

Washington, D.C.'s five 18-hole courses had a total of over 120,000 18-hole rounds played in 1959 by June 30. The figure for the same period in 1958 was about 100,000. Says S. G. Leoffler, Jr., of Leoffler Inc., lessee of Washington's courses: "During July we had 19,033 customers at our East Potomac course (36 holes); in 1958 during the same month there were 17,938. Overall, our golf play is up about 16 per cent this year over last."

Comparative statistics for golf play on Philadelphia's five 18-hole municipal courses for the first quarter of 1958 and 1959 show a gain of more than 18,000 18-hole rounds of play (over \$20,000 in receipts) in 1959 over 1958. According to Garry Renn, city dir. of golf, rounds played in the first quarter of 1959 were 55,535; in 1958 — 37,138. Golf play has been increasing consistently each year in Philadelphia, according to William Capman, secy. of Fairmount Park Commission. Total play in 1958 was 210,649 rounds; in 1957 — 200,740 rounds; in 1956 — 181,616; in 1955 — 161,300. Total receipts for 1958 were \$239,273 and for 1957, \$226,247.

### Range for Waiting Players

In commenting on this year's golf play at Westchester County's (N. Y.) five 18-hole golf courses, Charles E. Pound, general supt., says, "New 4th of July weekend golf play records were established with 5,738 rounds being played during the 3-day holiday. At mid point of the current season, 182,191 rounds had been played on the five courses; last year's total at the same time was 169,233 rounds. This is justification for including in the future park development program additional golf facilities. This year at the Mohansic golf course, we have opened a golf driving range limited to golfers awaiting their turn at the first tee. It has proved very



Don Lachez (r), Borger, Tex., who won driving contest at Jaycee Junior tournament, Elizabeth Manor CC, Portsmouth, Va., gets Spalding trophy from Bob Hughes, company sales rep. Young Lachez's prize winning blow measured 268 yards.

successful and satisfying to golfers." Westchester County's golf courses had 261,960 rounds of play in 1958. Total for 1957 was 238,595 rounds.

Ernie Smith, mgr. of Binghamton, New York's Ely Park 18-hole course, reports that golf play this year is up 25 per cent over last. In Rochester, N.Y., municipal courses (total 54 holes) had grossed \$67,166 by Aug. 15 of this year. Total receipts for 1958 were \$90,690. Rochester probably has the lowest green fees in the entire Eastern Area: \$1.00 any day of the week and a \$10 season ticket good on weekdays only; also a \$10 season ticket good on weekends only and a \$20.00 season ticket with no limit on play.

Increasing golf play has been consistent on Portland, Me. 18-hole Riverside course for several years, says Karl Switzer, city parks and recreation dir. As of June 30, receipts exceeded those of a year ago by \$3,742. Season memberships have also reached an all time high of 350. There were 315 in 1958. Average daily play during the past four seasons has increased as follows: 1955—124; 1956—142; 1957—200; 1958—205.

According to National Golf Foundation's ten year (1948-58) golf growth statistics, there has been an increase of 16 per cent in the number of the nation's municipal golf courses. There are now 855 in play. While these courses comprise only about 15 per cent of the total course (5745) in the U.S. they handle about 40 per cent of the nation's play. U.S. population has increased 19 per cent in the last decade. Golfers have increased 44.8 per cent during the same period.