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Prairie Dunes Salutes Veteran Ross Wilson

Ross Wilson, who started on the job at \$50 a month, recently was honored by Prairie Dunes CC, Hutchinson, Kans., upon completion of his 35th year as professional at the club. At a testimonial dinner it was recalled that Wilson, a club making artist of the old school, had once proclaimed that "steel shafts never will replace hickory," but those who testified to his great record as a teacher, player and man who has done so much for Prairie Dunes, emphasized that this probably was the only inaccurate statement Ross ever made.

Congratulatory letters and telegrams were sent to Wilson from practically around the world since many Naval officers, stationed at the Hutchinson Air Station at some time during their careers, had become acquainted with him. Bob Jones, Johnny Dawson and other golf notables also sent their congratulations.

Caddied in 1914

Wilson started in golf as a caddie at Milburn CC in Kansas City in 1914 and



Among gitts Ross Wilson received was sterling silver trophy presented by W.D.P. Carey, co-founder of Prairie Dunes and lifetime dir. of Trans-Miss GA.

five years later became assistant to the late Harry Robb, Sr. there. At that time there were only five clubs in the K.C. area. Wilson transferred to Prairie Dunes in 1925 as head pro.

In reviewing his long career in the game, Wilson said that golf's popular appeal to people in all walks of life undoubtedly was the most significant development he had witnessed. He added that he has been amazed by the way wo-



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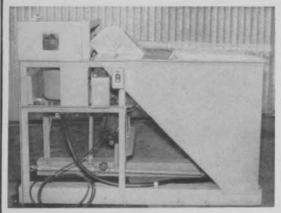


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men have gone in for golf, especially in recent years, and he thinks that the advent of the "college trained pro" has been one of the best things that has happened to the sport. As for playing styles, the Prairie Dunes golfmaster thinks the trend to the more upright stance has stood out more than anything else. "It's undoubtedly because people are considerably taller now than they were 30 or 40 years ago," Wilson observed. Continuing, he said: "Another significant thing is that players nowadays are taught to hit squarely into the ball rather than roll the wrists or pronate as they were taught to do by the old-guard pros."

USGA Women's Amateur to be Played in Tulsa

The USGA's Women Amateur will be played, Aug. 22-27 at Tulsa (Okla.) CC Entries are open to women amateurs with handicaps not exceeding six strokes. The field will be limited to 128 players with places being determined on the basis of lowest handicaps. Entries must be received by the USGA by Aug. 3rd.

The tournament will be entirely at match play. All matches will be at 18 holes

except the final, which is a 36-hole affair. Barbara McIntire, Lake Park, Fla., who recently won the British Women's Championship, is defending Amateur champion.

Men's Amateur Scheduled for St. Louis CC

The 1960 Men's Amateur will be played Sept. 12-17 at St. Louis CC, Clayton, Mo. Entries are open to players with handicaps not exceeding four strokes and applications must be received by the USGA not later than Aug. 10th. Thirty-six hole sectional qualifying rounds are scheduled for 37 locations in the U. S. on Aug. 29-30.

The Championship will be entirely at

match over eight rounds.

Jack Nicklaus, who defeated Charlie Coe in the 1959 final at Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, is defending champion.

Electric Car Tax Ruling

Limited uses of a battery-driven electric car don't keep it from being subject to the manufacturers' excise tax applied to autos generally, the Internal Revenue Service has ruled. The fact that the vehicle is too light for highway use doesn't make it tax-free non-highway equipment, says IRS.

Att: GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS



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The True Answer to Height-of-Season Aerification of Greens

Yes, you can count on the West Point JR Model Aerifier® to get you through the difficult height-of-the-season period when golf play is at its heaviest . . . when the weather is at its fiercest . . . and when compaction has turfgrass roots dangerously in its grip.

Here are the two key reasons why so many Golf Course Superintendents have been turning to the JR Model Aerifier this year:

- CULTIVATING ACTION Only the Aerifier gives cultivating action. Only the Aerifier offers a choice of ¼" and ½" Open and Thatch Spoons. And only the Aerifier provides narrowed neck Flexi-Press to fit the ¼" Spoons and the ½" Spoons.
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In addition to everything else, the JR Model is versatile. When special spot treatment is desired, there's no need to purchase expensive equipment for these now-and-then jobs. A puncher attachment, a spiker attachment and a roller attachment are all available for the JR.

You'll be talking with your West Point Products distributor soon, won't you?

West Point Products Corporation

West Point, Pa.

July, 1960 75

Golf Car Operating Costs

(Continued from page 34)

I've got to keep an inventory of parts, some spare tires and rims and an air compressor for tire service and car cleaning. Every winter we do a thorough job of overhauling our cars and restoring them to A-1 condition.

The car is highly valuable and it will add to the pro's income, but it certainly won't yield any of those fantastic net

earnings I hear mentioned.

Salesman's Rebuttal

Car Salesman—Let's take your troubles, point by point. One man can take care of all maintenance work on a fleet of 30 cars. On a smaller number maybe it would be better to have the supt. work out a maintenance program, if possible, using the part-time service of his mechanics.

You'd better revise your system about car reservations. This phase should involve no more trouble than handling your les-

son calendar.

Putting the bags on the cars and taking them off is a simple job for a caddie. The garage man should be able to handle the supply of a reasonable number of cars to the first tee and getting them from the 18th green or lockerroom entrance to the

garage.

Damages while the car is in use are as much a matter of the user's liability as damages to Hertz, Avis, National or other rental cars and should be covered by insurance. One operator of a leased fleet of golf cars gives the golfer the option of paying 50 cents a round for full coverage insurance or taking the car with the understanding that he will be charged for any damage.

The pro at a private club had better have full coverage insurance cost included in his car charges because the pro seldom is in position to argue about car damage.

Winter overhauling of the golf car is a perfectly normal item of expense to be figured into the charge for use of the car. One of the biggest golf car leasing companies completely refurbishes each car of its fleet once a year (excluding battery replacements) at a nominal cost. Batteries are replaced every two years.

Annual Fee Basis

The practice of members renting cars on a flat annual fee basis is growing and already is showing increased clubhouse



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609 West Lake Street P. O. Box 547 Peoria, Illinois

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and pro shop revenue, particularly for 'twilight" 9-hole use.

Seldom are there cases such as that at Tam O'Shanter in Chicago where George S. May owns the club and doesn't mind if a few cars are stuck in the mud and leave "ground under repair" areas, if enough cars get through and produce revenue. At private clubs organized "not for profit" and owned by all members, the majority wouldn't countenance damage to the course by mired cars so the pro really hasn't much of a problem in passing along the "wet grounds" edict forbidding golf car use.

The pro problems with golf cars are nothing that good bookkeeping, member understanding of the rightful cost of first class modern car service, and a few years of experience and education won't solve

with profit for all concerned.

Girls' Junior Championship

The USGA Girls' Junior Championship will be played Aug. 15-19 at The Oaks CC, Tulsa. Entries must be received by the USGA by July 29th. Girl amateurs who haven't reached their 18th birthdays by Aug. 19 and have handicaps not exceeding 36 strokes are eligible to compete.

GCSA Starts Work on 1961 **Educational Program**

Education committeemen of the GCSA has held meetings in various cities throughout the country and in Canada drawing up preliminary plans for the program that will be presented at the 1961 national conference which will be held in Toronto, Jan. 29-Feb. 4. The following have been in charge of these meetings: David Moote, Toronto; Art Twombly, James Baird GC, Pleasant Valley, N. Y.; Joe B. Williams, Santa Ana (Calif.) CC; Tom Leonard, River Oaks, Houston; and Roy Nelson, Ravisloe CC, Homewood, Ill. The latter is national chmn. of the committee.

The education committee has been in close touch with all GCSA chapters to determine what is most wanted on the 1961 program. Suggested subjects are being reviewed by the above named men and their sub-committees, each of which will submit a program agenda for final adoption when the national education committee meets shortly before next year's convention. It has been agreed that the education program will be composed of these four sections: Personnel, Management, Technical and Miscellaneous.

July, 1960

BOOK REVIEW

NEW ANGLES ON PUTTING AND CHIP SHOTS by Robert Cromie. Reilly & Lee Co., Chicago, publishers. Price \$2.50.

This is an adept and sound modernization of a couple classics, now out of print, on the Mark G. Harris method of the

short game.

Bob Cromie, book editor of the Chicago Tribune, formerly of its sports staff, an intense student of the game, a clear writer and one of the foremost golf book collectors, brought the Harris book up to the minute in text and illustration. Cromie



Bob Cromie (r) discusses his new book with a pair of golf fans in a Chicago bookstore.

made it a "must" text book for the golfer who wants to make his putting better.

The late Mark G. Harris, a prominent men's clothing designer and tailor, was forced by ill health to retire from business in the early 1930's. He was about 65 years old then. In that era, before the present tremendous activity in Senior golf was even imagined, he stoutly maintained, after he watched golfers on a practice green, that older men could putt and chip as well as younger stars. His statement was ridiculed by golfing friends so he took up the short game, figured out some basic geometry and yip-proof physiology and psychology and became an astonishing short-game player.

Although ably instructed by the late Bob Macdonald and assiduous at practice, Harris couldn't hit a wood or an iron much more than 150 yards due to physical handicaps. But within 50 yards of the pin he would get down in 2, two times out of three. He made a movie short that was

so good it was hard to believe.

The great putters of today and yesteryear confirm the Harris findings. Lloyd Mangrum writes the foreword to Cromie's excellent revision of the Harris standard. Helen MacDonald, prominent teaching professional, tells of phenomenal performances that exhibited the Harris mastery of the short game. The book is very helpfully illustrated.

Women's View of the Course

(Continued from page 43)

ceptions are made by cultivating around them and posting a sign permitting players to lift without penalty. These areas should be filled in and the local rule rescinded as soon as growth of the tree makes it feasible.

Obstructions, too, should be clearly defined. These are just some of the more basic requirements in preparing a course for competition and many tournaments are won or lost by their proper application.

When Women and Course Work Clash
I imagine right now most of you are saying a little prayer that no woman will ever
be placed in a position of authority at
your course but it might not be too bad.
For one thing, on weekdays you wouldn't
have to come to work until about one
o'clock at which time we are through

playing. While we are quite willing to offer suggestions for the grooming and maintenance of a golf course we would be most reluctant to sacrifice any playing privileges in order to facilitate their accomplishment. A course, though perfect in each detail, is of little value unless it is available for play. Justifiable or not, I believe this quite accurately reflects our attitude, especially concerning our Ladies' Day.

Perhaps on other days even we concede your work program must take precedence. However, there is a definite need for better communication between the women players and their superintendent. You should be fully informed of the women's golf schedule, especially Guest days and other out of the ordinary events.

When you have some extensive maintenance problem an explanation to the Women's Golf chairman would promote excellent relations and she in turn could explain your position to the members.

If, when women have arranged an event, conditions dictate protecting the course from play, call the chmn. early in the morning (she'll be up) and through her telephone committee she can notify all the players. In areas where you are doing extensive work, for instance, repairing a pipe line, if you properly designated it ground under repair, both workers and players would benefit.

There are many rules directly associated with your work and numerous changes have been made this year so I would like to recommend that you have reference to a Rules of Golf book. There are two other pamphlets I think you would find helpful; one is the Conduct of Women's Golf and the other is the USGA bulletin on preparing a course for competition.

One final word, all the Minnesota Women's Golf Assn. (private) courses have now been rated to comply with the USGA

handicapping system.

Nothing Like A New Shop

(Continued from page 32)

quite transparent, is very effective, probably because the ego of a golfer is the

easiest in the world to inflate.

Schacht, who in spite of his relaxed manand the relaxed shop he operates has an ulcer, uses a favorite catch line in dealing with persons who are wavering between top quality and medium price merchandise. It is simply: "Why shouldn't you have the best clubs? You drive a Cadillac, don't you?" It seems that there are enough members at Ridge in the Cadillac class to make these queries salesworthy.

Plenty of Activity

To return to the neighborhood theme and the great amount of golfing activity that goes on at Ridge throughout the season: Because there are so many persons who live within roughly No. 1 wood distance of the club, there is perhaps as much twilight golf played at the Ridge course as anywhere in the Chicago district. There's also great emphasis on husband and wife competition and because of their proximity to the club, the women descend on it to put in a great deal more playing time than the customary Ladies Day calls for.

Through the efforts of Joe Para, Ridge's sports and pastime chmn., with whom Elmer Schacht closely cooperates, there is, in fact, something going on in a golfing way at the club all the time. The entire season's schedule is planned well in advance of May 1st and it is printed in booklet form for distribution to all players. A perusal of it shows that there are very few open dates during the May-September period. When there isn't a man or women's club or interclub tournament going on, you can bet there's a fish derby, driving contest, sweepstakes or some other equally interesting event to fill in.



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Nematodes Out at Firestone

(Continued from page 28)

Since then the material has been widely used by growers of tobacco, vegetables, small fruit, etc.

Bill Lyons had a broad agricultural background before joining the Firestone CC 18 years ago and was familiar with the nematode problem. He had seen celery yields tripled through the use of soil fumigants and suspected that some of the problems that occurred in lawns might be caused by nematodes.

Huddle with Valentine

While attending a meeting at Pennsylvania State College early in 1959, he discussed the problem of turf nematodes with Joe Valentine, supt. at Merion in Ardmore, Pa. Valentine had used a new Shell prod-



. . . here is the enemy

uct, Nemagon (R) soil fumigant, with excellent success. Not only did it control nematodes, but it appeared to suppress fungi as well. On the basis of these results, Lyons arranged to apply a combination of the nematocide for nematode control and dieldrin for soil insect control to all the established greens and to two new greens that had been designed by Jones. Nemagon was selected because it could be used as both a pre-planting nematocide and for treatment to existing turf without danger of injury to the plants. The material was applied with a regular 200 gal.