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SWINGING AROUND GOLF

NEWS OF THE GOLF WORLD IN BRIEF



By HERB GRAFFIS

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Switch of PGA headquarters from Dunedin to Palm Beach will mean a loss of "approximately a quarter-million dollars annually dumped by the many professionals who come here in their off season," according to estimate of Bill Currie, sports editor, Clearwater Sun . . . Sun said that announcement of PGA's moving to John D. MacArthur's new development in Palm Beach Gardens, was "like a 50-megaton bomb falling on Dunedin."

PGA offices have been in Dunedin since 1956 when it was moved from Chicago . . . The offices recently were moved six miles north of the National course into a building originally intended for a supermarket . . . PGA says it will stay there until 1964 when its lease expires, then move to Palm Beach Gardens . . . Members and employees who have homes and investments in the Dunedin area are moaning, but there's nothing they can do about the transfer.

The National course at Dunedin was remodelled by Dick Wilson and conditioned by a committee headed by Paul Erath and a staff under direction of Frank Sprogell . . . It finally became something the PGA did not have to apologize for . . . In the past couple years players in the PGA Seniors talked so favorably about the course that members west of the Rockies diminished their yowls about being charged for maintenance of a course only a few of them got to use for a few days a year.

The PGA move to West Palm Beach where there will be two 18-hole courses, revived western pros' talk about a PGA course in the southwest . . . Not a chance of that despite the great increase of courses in the west . . . There's a lot of winter play in that area, something that

doesn't exist in the central and mid-Atlantic states and northeast.

Sam Davis, Dunedin mayor, upon hearing of the PGA decision to move, said: "We got along before the PGA came here and will get along just as well after they leave." . . . To be realistic, town of Dunedin will be better off in one way after the PGA sojourn than before because the organization spent well over a half million dollars on improvement and maintenance of the course that reverts to Dunedin.

Golfers often are confused by reference to golf "carts" which are a bag-wheeling devices (called "trolleys" in Britain) and golf "cars" which carry golfers as passengers and their playing equipment . . . A news item that golf carts had been banned from Nov. 14 until late next spring from the Old Course at St. Andrews had some Americans believing that cars were rolling golfers around the Old Course . . . Turf wear of cart traffic at the Old Course needs a lot of repairing . . . It's remarkable how U. S. supts. have devised maintenance programs to protect against damage done by cart and car traffic . . . Architects also have done some clever designing to scatter this traffic.

Ed Kringle, operator of Lincoln Park range and lighted Par 3 course on Hudson County (Jersey City) Park Commission land, wants to build 18-hole regulation for public course near Pulaski skyway . . . Hudson is only one of New Jersey's 21 counties without a full size golf course . . . Peter Thomson and Kel Nagle were burned up when an Australian tournament sponsor offered appearance money to Player and Palmer but not to them . . . PGA lifting of racial restriction on membership puts the next move



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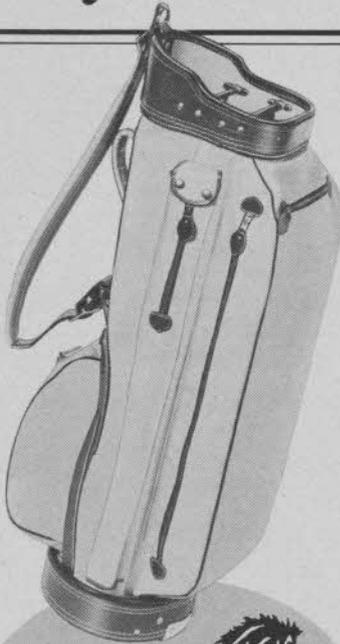


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up to rich and prominent Negro Americans, according to comment at PGA annual meeting . . . Without a first class, private Negro club sponsoring a big tournament the American Negro is not integrating himself into the golf picture, said a sponsor of the resolution to abolish the PGA "Caucasian" clause.

Success of the first Champions Cup tournament, two-man team 72-hole best-ball, stroke play, amateur event at the Champions GC, Houston, has Jackie Burke and Jimmy Demaret working diligently on the second annual affair which will be played at their club the week of St. Patrick's Day . . . Invitations are limited to teams from 50 clubs . . . Demaret and Burke got into this affair because they believe the slump in amateur golf interest is dangerous for golf in general and to club and tournament pro business.

Lester Rice, for many years before his retirement one of the top American golf writers, asks those who say Jack Nicklaus is the "greatest since Jones" if they ever heard of Lawson Little? . . . Little at the PGA meeting at Hollywood, Fla., to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, looked fine and well recovered from a

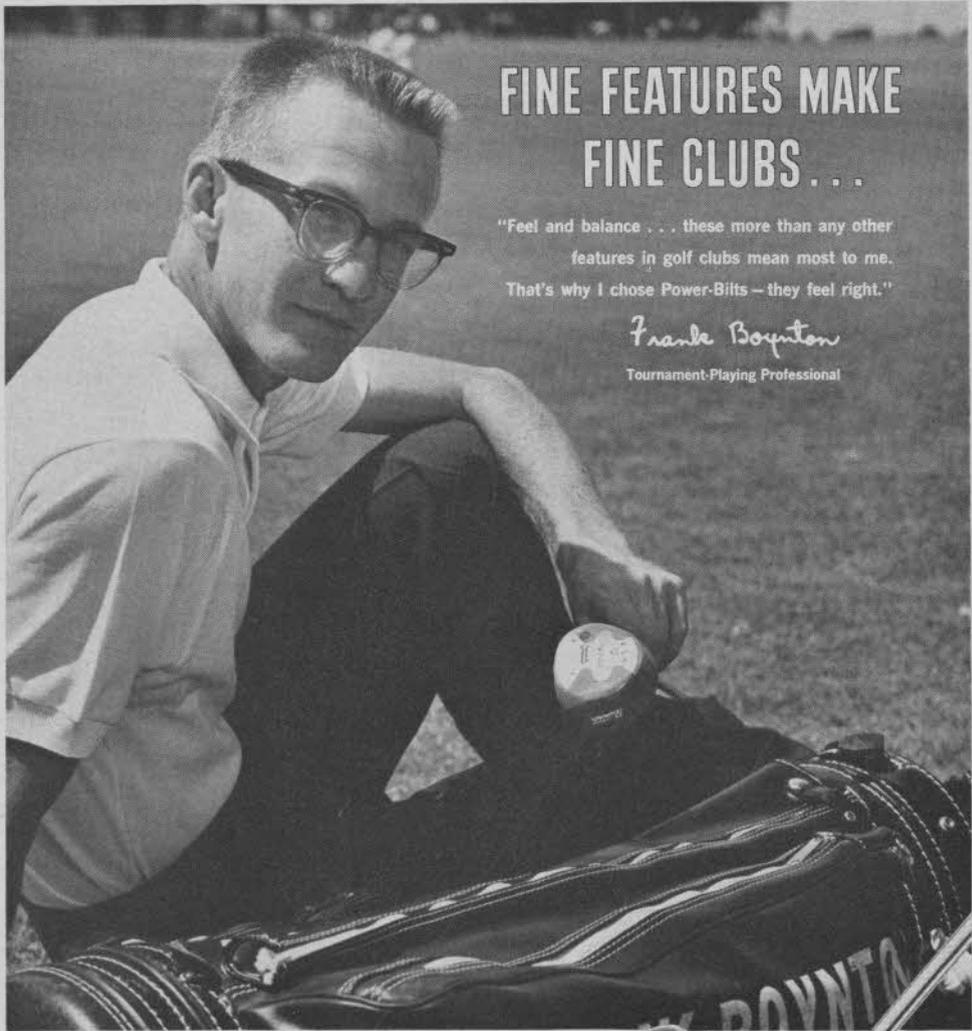
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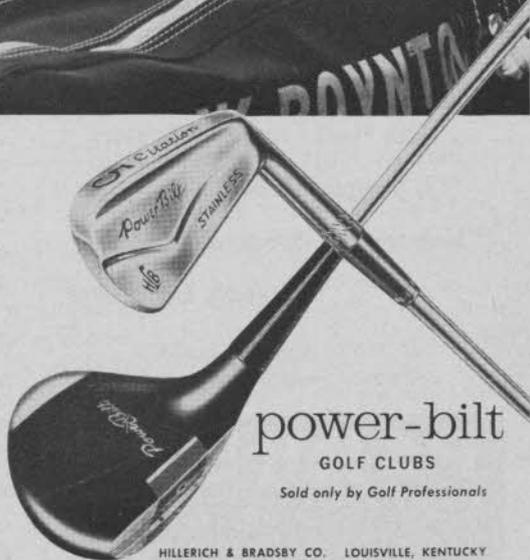
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heart attack . . . Little's victories in the 1934 and 1935 U.S. and British Amateur championships were feats that even Jones didn't match . . . His U. S. Open title in 1940 and his 1936 Canadian Open victory, shortly after he turned pro, underscored his rating as one of the game's best . . . He also tied Billy Burke for third in the 1939 Masters.

A. G. McKay, Morristown, Tenn., course architect and builder, is planning 9 for the Gay Hill CC in Tennessee and has on the boards a design for a course at Whitehaven in suburban Memphis . . . Gerald Hall resigned as pro at Willowick CC, Santa Ana, Calif., to take pro post at Santa Ana CC . . . George Griffith, mgr., Harry Nash, teaching pro, and George Shouse to divide Hall's duties at Willowick.

Darwin Curtis, 21 Indian Hill Rd., Winnetka, Ill., has data on curling as winter sport at country clubs showing that amount of play, bar and restaurant business makes curling a good deal in the clubs' year-around operation plan . . . Tom Fergusson, veteran golf writer for Virginian-Pilot, mourned by golfers in



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Portsmouth and Norfolk area . . . Tom was a pleasant and helpful authority and did a lot for amateur and pro golf not only in Virginia but in the rest of the country.

Dick Wilson architect of 18 for Redoubt CC, Garrison, N. Y., private club organized by Perry Osborne and others . . . Construction is completed with seeding in the spring . . . Maurie Luxford, assigned by Bing Crosby to screen candidates for the 40 open amateur spots in Bing's Clambake entry list, had narrowed the list of applicants to 7,212 in November . . . From then on it's a brutal job for Bing who likes everybody except hopeless heels.

Metropolitan Toronto, with a population of 1,500,000, is one of the liveliest sports areas in North America and golf shares top billing with bowling there . . . There are 60 courses (31 private and 29 pay-play, including two municipal) . . . Lot of golf ranges and Par 3 courses in the district . . . There's clamor for more public courses . . . Ben Shore and associates building Glen Eagle semi-private 18 in Toronto suburb of Bolton . . . Reme Muillard was architect . . . Bill

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