Pro Merchandiser

continued from page 58

summer—\$3,000 in his pocket and a new car—Lombardo headed west for what he thought would be a vacation. As it turned out, it was the second stage of his golf business career.

During a visit with in-laws in the San Joaquin Valley of California, he learned that a group in Kingsburg was planning to build a nine-hole course and form a club in connection with it.

It was a little like Hickory Hills all over again when Lombardo was hired by this group. He designed and built the course, sold memberships, managed the public and membership relations program, and worked shoulder to shoulder with members on the end of a shovel and behind the wheel of a tractor, shaping and grading fairways and greens.

Before construction was complete, Lombardo was operating a golf shop in the

garage of his home, proof of a golf wife's patience. Later, the shop was moved into a vacant building in downtown Kingsburg and he kept pumping the merchandise through it, and pumping up golf interest at the same time. By the time the course opened, the number of well-equipped golfers was so high that heavy play and increasing interest was just inevitable.

At Kingsburg, Lombardo specified from the first that he was to receive a salary from the club in addition to the profits from the pro shop, lessons, the restaurant and the practice range. That was, he explains, so that he would give his first allegiance to the members and the club and affairs of their club.

Although the Kingsburg course experienced steady growth (the second nine was added later) and the pro shop sales increased each year, the dream of building his own course lured Lombardo from this small rural community. Fresno is the



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For more information circle number 201 on card

Pro Merchandiser

continued from page 60

closest population center and it was natural that he should look in that direction. When he made arrangements to build his own golf course there it was the third major step of his golf career.

Thus, Fig Garden became a reality in 1958. Equipment sales rocketed and Lombardo managed the pro shop and the course's heavy play with time left over. When an arm ailment kept him from playing regularly he found that he had time on his hands.

He then formed a team in 1960 with his brother-in-law, Gordon Knott, another former Chicagoan who is one of the partners in the Fig Garden course. Together they opened a sporting goods store in 1962. Once it was open, he couldn't resist the temptation to sell, sell, sell. Volume and profits began to reflect his sales talent and the store become very profitable,

The call to Del Monte, his fourth step up the golf ladder, came after Lombardo had a firm grip on the sporting goods

store as well as Fig Garden.

At Monterey, most of the sales are what you would expect in a vacation area: balls, wearing apparel, and specialty items. Lombardo carries 600 pairs of shoes and is finding that they can be sold briskly at Monterey, especially some of the sportier styles and two-tones. He expects to move golf bags actively, too. His inventory is about \$30,000 wholesale, larger than he prefers but, "having plenty on hand, is the price you pay for the tourist trade," he says.

Some merchandise, he finds, will move well at Fresno, but not at Monterey. This gives him a chance to transfer stock from one branch of his shop to the other.

Lombardo appears not to be able to get enough of golf—it's obvious he loves it.

"If anyone had told me when I first got into golf," he says, "that I'd be making the money that I make today and enjoying the life that I have, I wouldn't have believed him. In fact, I would have told him he was crazy.



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For more information circle number 137 on card

Sizing Up Golfwear

continued from page 40

The crest may be sewn onto the blazer pocket by hand or may be fastened with a clip device on the back.

Croston, whose blazers are handled by its pro shop sales agent, Ernie Sabayrac, Inc., of Miami Springs, Fla., suggests another method of starting a blazer program. For a shop at a small club, the pro may buy two created blazers. He wears one and displays the other in the clubhouse or pro shop.

In addition, Croston, who manufactures pockets with the crests directly embroidered on them, suggests the pro carry six or seven such pockets.

When members order blazers, the proforwards the pockets to Croston along with the blazer sizes. The pockets are sewn on and the blazers are delivered in a few days, depending on the location of the club.

Croston's most popular model for club blazers is a three-button, natural shoulder jacket with patch pockets and metal buttons in a Dacron and wool tropical fabric. This style also is available in pure worsteded wool, doeskin and worsted flannel.

The company's president notes, however, that Croston's two-button models are more widely accepted on the West Coast, while the East Coast favors the more traditional three-button model. Croston also manufactures a women's blazer. The top three colors in order of popularity are navy, Dartmouth green (a forest green) and marine blue (a medium blue). Six other colors also are available.

Suggested retail price for Croston's hand-tailored blazer with hand-made crest is \$79.50. Croston will design the crest for a club.

Both Etonic and Croston offer pros quantity discounts on the crest, but jackets wholesale for a set price regardless of quantity ordered.

Approval for a club blazer varies, Bill Croston says. Some pros take it upon themselves to establish a club blazer, while others must seek the approval of the president, golf committee or board of governors before doing so.

Manufacturers point out that blazer alterations present few problems for the pros. Generally, the proper fit for a blazer is more casual than that for a suit coat, and extensive tailoring is rarely required.

For minor alterations, pros may make arrangements with local tailors. Chuck Cumming estimates that some 600 pro shops already have arrangements for fast alterations. A few even have tailors on the premises.

Many pros have discovered a side advantage to blazer sales. They seem to stimulate slack sales. In fact, some smart merchandisers are displaying blazers with coordinated slacks.

In pointing out the bright future for blazers in pro shops, Cumming says some pros are finding they have no choice in the matter of selling club blazers. More and more members want to be identified with their clubs today, and are practically forcing pros into the business •

B & W

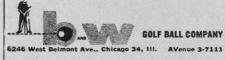
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NEW PRODUCTS



The Riddell Company came out with a new practice device called the Swing Trainer. It is guaranteed not to break or wear out and can be used by right or left handed players. Retail price, \$12.50.

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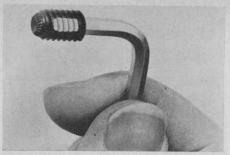
Polymer Corp. Ltd., has a synthetic replacement, Taklene 1220, for natural rubber. It is used by manufacturers for the solid center in a lb balls.

For more information circle number 211 on card



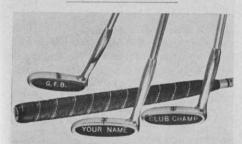
Hoffco, Inc., introduces the HD-52 Brushcutter. It levels all brush, brambles and trees up to 6" in diameter.

For more information circle number 212 on card



Standard Pressed Steel Co., Jenkintown, Pa., has new self-locking set screws for use in golf carts. The Unbrako/Loc-Wel® stays tight despite continuous vibration and can take maximum tightening torque, the Co. states.

For more information circle number 213 on card



Axaline, Inc., announces novel personalized putter featuring golf anodized aluminum alloy shafts and brass heads. Available in three lengths at \$24.95.

For more information circle number 214 on card



Toro Manufacturing Corp., has new 11-station hydraulic Custom Controller designed for indoor installation. It features a 14-day clock, 24-hour selector dial and 11-station fast indexing.

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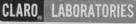


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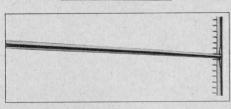
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NEW PRODUCTS



Mobilelectric Div. of Royal Industries announces new Turf Rider V metal body golf car. It features removable body panels that can be replaced in case of damage. Available in single or two-tone colors with several top speed selections.

For more information circle number 216 on card



Leveler, new sand trap rake features curved head permitting pushing sand as well as pulling it. Available with 21" head, 72" handle and 15" head, 54" handle.

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Coming Events

Club Management Workshop in Food and Beverage, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, September 6-8.

Agronomy Field Day, Plant Research Farm, Fairland, Maryland, September 7.

Annual Turfgrass Short Course, Auburn University, Auburn, Ala., September 7-8.

Mississippi Valley Golf Superintendent's Association, Norwood Hills C.C., St. Louis, Missouri, September 12.

Club Management Workshop in Building and Property Management, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, September 18-20.

Arizona Turfgrass Conference, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, September 25.

15th Annual Florida Turfgrass Management Conference, Ramada Inn, Gainesville, Florida, September 26-28.

Mississippi Valley Golf Superintendent's Association, Meadowbrook C.C., St. Louis, Missouri, October 3.

National Hotel and Motel Exposition, the Coliseum, N.Y.C., November 6-9.

Mississippi Valley Golf Superintendent's Association, Sunset Hills C.C., St. Louis, Missouri, November 7.

22nd Annual Texas Turfgrass Conference, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, December 4-6.



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People in the News

Frank J. Schackel has been promoted to manager of process chemicals for Mallinckrodt Chemical Works.

Gene Littler has been signed to endorse Day's golf slacks and walking shorts plus the company's golf jackets (H&L BLOCK).

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William P. "Monk" Abbott has been appointed vice president-director of merchandise of W. J. Voit Rubber Corp.





Abbott

Finn

Joe Finn ended one of the longest sales careers in the golf industry when he retired from Wilson Sporting Goods Company, after his 48th year.





Julien

Kina

John Julien was named export sales manager and Joseph L. King assistant domestic sales manager for Wisconsin Motor Corp., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Stanley J. Stephenson has been elected president and chief executive officer of AMF Western Tool, Inc.



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