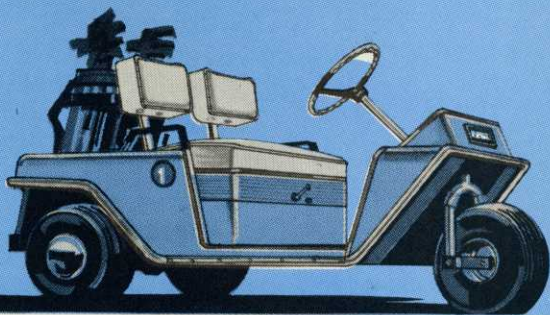




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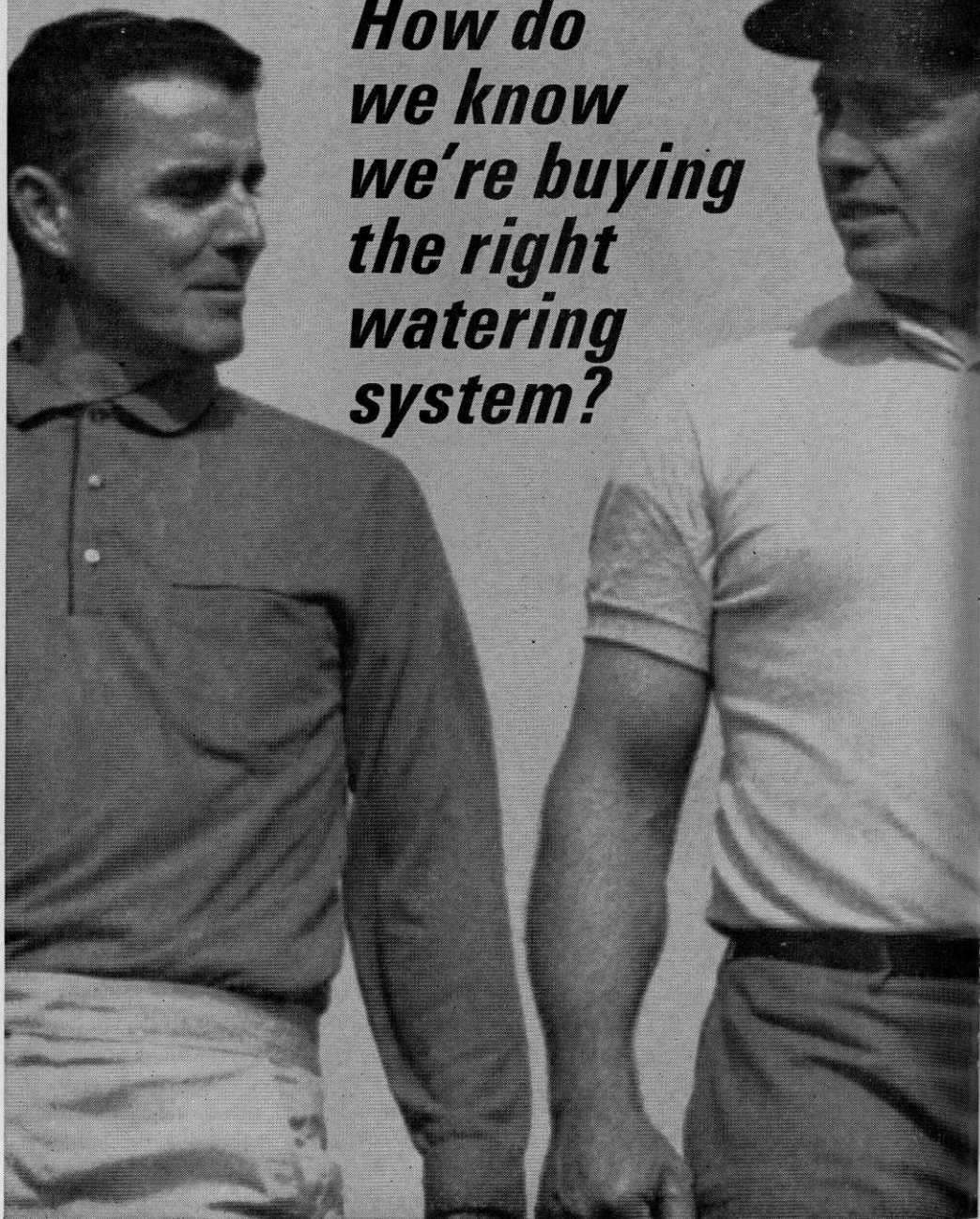
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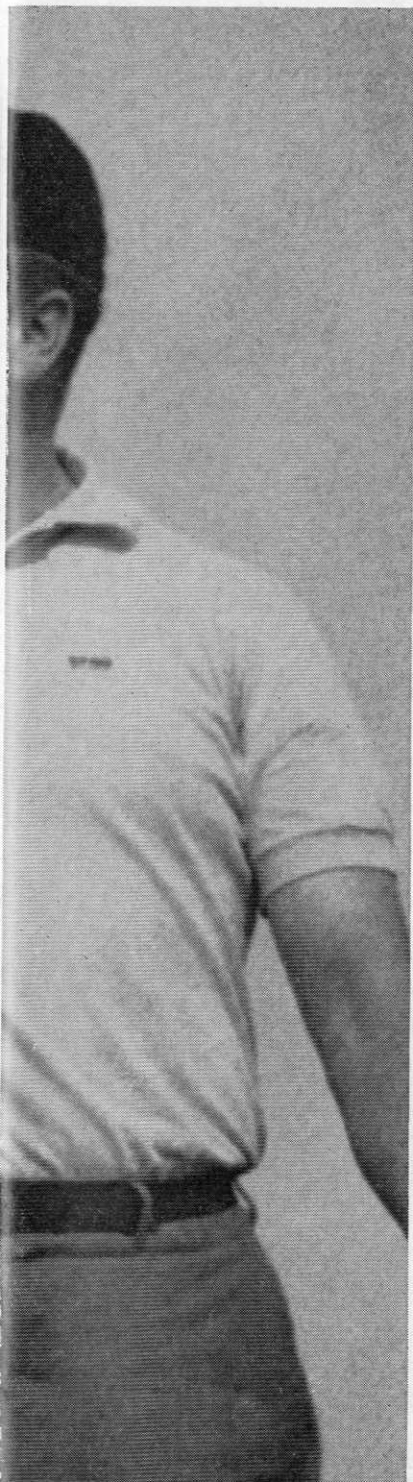


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Swinging around golf

By HERB GRAFFIS

News of the Golf World in brief



The PGA annual meeting this year certainly won't be the place or the time for some tournament players to pop out with news about seceding from the parent body and establishing a "Mexican league" because of hurting feelings over the "veto power" of the PGA . . . With the first 25 of the PGA tournament money winners this year going over \$50,000 the amateur golfers who provide the money aren't going to have much sympathy for the journeymen pro complainers . . . A tournament circuit the PGA built to around \$4,000,000 plus millions more in fringe benefits doesn't seem to be a bad job of the PGA taking great care of playing pro interests.

Tournament business picture for 1968 already has so many dangerous spots developing that the tournament committee ought to be sensibly relieved to have the PGA officers share the responsibilities and the blame . . . Date conflicts already are getting the PGA tournament operations in boiling water . . . Western Open date, customarily the same week as the All Star football game between pro champions and collegiate stars and promoted by Chicago Tribune charities, is threatened with a switch to late September a conflict with pro football and a gallery of autumn leaves, by the PGA giving usual Western Open date to a tournament paying slightly higher prize money. Western Open tournament net revenue finances Evans caddie scholarships, the biggest organized public service by golf and immensely influential . . . Any playing pro group willing to second rate the Western GA event for caddie scholar-

ships needs business education itself.

Sports writers assembled by the All Star game generally take in the Western Open . . . Pro golf needs plenty of development work done among these men according to a recent poll of sports editors which had pro golf tournaments rather weak as a subject of reader interest . . . Another of the problems of the tournament fellows is the demand of the International Golf Sponsors Association that the PGA players' committee guarantee top players as long as the sponsors have to guarantee big money . . . Another warning that the tournament fellows better be smart about and not be in the backhouse of a house divided is the decision of a television network to reduce its golf coverage to part of the last round of a tournament instead of part of the last two rounds as is customary now.

Home pros, the strength of the PGA who really built the tournament circuit, have sensed the ground swell of resentment of club members who have contributed tremendous amounts of mental and physical effort *free* in putting on tournaments out of which they get nothing in cash and seldom, in their opinion, adequate expression of thanks from the tourney participants.

When Jack Nicklaus said that, with a \$200,000 tournament in Milwaukee conflicting with the British Open date, he'd play the British Open he got cheers from many, except, of course, the Milwaukee Open sponsors who were caught in an embarrassing spot, if \$200,000 can be embarrassed . . . And to contribute further to murdering public interest in pro

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