

Swinging around golf

by Herb Graffis

A tribute to Mike O'Grady

With his personality, ability and energy, the late Michal J. O'Grady, 46 years superintendent, Country Club of New Bedford, Mass., in another department of golf might have been a famous multi-millionaire journeyman pro. But Mike was unselfish and dedicated and his joy and reward was in pleasing his members and their guests. He was rough in some ways, demanding that others work as hard as he. But Mike was also kind, helpful and a genuinely religious man.

He started in golf course work under his uncle, Thomas Galvin, at the Rhode Island CC. Mike had been a charter member and president of GCSA of New England and at his death was president, Rhode Island GCSA. He was born in County Mayo, Ireland, 65 years ago. The ripple of the lakes of Mayo echoed in his talk. One time at a GCSAA convention I was with Mike and Eb Steiniger, superintendent of Pine Valley. Some California superintendent (I forget whether it was Fred Bove or Walter Boysen) joined us. After Mike and Eb finished talking about their members and jobs and courses, the other fellow and I wondered if all the noted people in golf got nearly as much happiness and respect in their work as O'Grady and Steiniger.

Mike went out on the high note of generosity that keyed his life. He asked, "Please, no flowers when I go; give it to the Ouimet caddie fund."

You may be sure golf Christmas gift promotions at pro shops this year will be greater than ever, for three reasons: professionals get better as businessmen each year; there's an increased desire for Christmas golf gifts and winter golf trips; because of the rainy spring and early summer weather in many areas, pros must make a strong finish in sales or run behind 1968.

The big, bright surprise in pro business this year has been the increase of buying and playing by women. Curley Williamson, pro at Forest Hills CC, Rockford, Ill., voices the same judgement as other professionals: "Our ladies this season have played considerably more than during any previous year. They have not been discouraged by unpleasant weather. The standard of women's scoring has definitely improved and their shopping has been very active. Women are good buyers. Any pro or assistant learns something about merchandising every time he sells to a woman golfer."

Denny McCammon, Springfield (Va.) G&CC superintendent, asks in the Mid-Atlantic GCSA News Letter, which he *continued on page 34*



Golf Slacks par excellence with DACRON[®]

"As crisp on the eighteenth as they were on the first."

"Wrinkle-free after those brushes with water hazard and cloudburst."

"They feel good, look well tailored and they travel great!"

If this is what the members of your club ask of a pair of golf slacks, then sell them Thomson Golf Slacks—par excellence—of 50% Dacron* polyester and 50% worsted. Now in a self belt, full top golf pocket model in both checks and plaids.

Ask George Cook Ltd., Pro Shop Representatives

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GOLFDOM/1969 OCT .- NOV. • 31

Easy Rider

New smooth-riding Cushman Turf Minute-Miser

The Superintendent's dream come true! Now he can have a personal vehicle all his own that takes him smoothly and quickly to the most remote spot on the course, with plenty of room for small hand tools to keep his crews busy. To smooth out the bumps, the Cushman Minute-Miser now has trailing link coil spring suspension in the front fork, so the Superintendent rides comfortably from place to place. With its light weight and 6.50 x 8 turf tires, the Minute-Miser leaves no mark on the precious turf.

Cushman Motors, 901 N. 21st Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 6850 Yes, I am interested in the Turf Minute-Miser.				
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It turns on a dime and puts you exactly where you want to be at speeds up to 15 miles per hour.

The Cushman Minute-Miser operates on a 6-hp aircooled 4-cycle engine. It has unlimited range and can work around the clock when necessary. It is easy to service; the entire deck lifts up in an instant for easy access to the engine and all working parts.

A cargo box and tandem seat for another rider are optional accessories as are head and taillight, horn and side rub rails.

Get there in a hurry with the easy-riding Cushman Turf Minute-Miser...it's the personal transportation the Superintendent needs now, more than ever! See your Cushman Dealer for a free demonstration on your own course or send the coupon today!



Lincoln, Nebraska A Division of Outboard Marine Corp.



Hard Worker

New Four-Wheel Cushman Turf-Truckster

Put two passengers in front, and a big 1,000-pound payload in the rear, and turn this hard-working Cushman Turf-Truckster loose on your turf maintenance jobs.

Two mowers easily fit in the big box in the rear; with the easy-to-use loading ramp the mowers can be loaded or unloaded in a jiffy. As a matter of fact, two mowers plus two additional passengers fit easily in the rear; that's four men and two mowers traveling around the course at speeds up to 22 miles per hour.

The Turf-Truckster can do dozens of jobs around a golf course. It can easily tow a three-gang mower; the six-speed dual-range transmission and variable-speed fast-acting governor make it operate like a tractor, with engine speed and ground speed continuously adjusted for terrain and load factors. With the optional power take-off, the Turf-Truckster can become a mobile power



A Division of Outboard Marine Corp.

source; add a specially-designed spray rig and you've got a fairway sprayer with hand gun. Add the 16-foot boom and the Turf-Truckster becomes an economical, ultra-useful greens sprayer. The big 8.50 x 8 terra tires won't hurt even the finest turf.

The Four-Wheel Turf-Truckster is available with a stationary bed or manually-dumping bed that allows it to be used as a low-cost top dresser.

See this new Four-Wheeler in operation on your own course! Get in touch with your Cushman Dealer or return the coupon today for all the information.

This vehicle is not intended as a licensable on-street vehicle.

Cushman Mot	ors, 901 No. 21 Street, Linc	oln, Nebraska 68501			
Yes, I'd like to know more about the Four-Wheel Turf-Truckster					
Name					
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GRAFFIS

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edits: "Wouldn't it be better to submit the budget when the course looks its best instead of at the end of most clubs' fiscal year when the grass is dormant and so are the golfers?" McCammon also mentions the budget problem of "fringe benefits," including retirement and pension plans, which many clubs have to face or risk losing valuable men to other employers. Looks as if there's far less difficulty in getting a fairly good pro or clubhouse manager now than there is in getting a good golf course manager. The good superintendents



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Use modular panels to assemble any size Bally prefab to fit available kitchen space. Four inch "foamed-in-place" urethane suitable for temperatures as low as minus 10°F, makes it possible to convert a cooler to a freezer by a simple refrigeration equipment change. Easy to add additional sections to increase size... disassembly for relocation is equally easy.

Bally Walk-Ins are the accepted industry standard of high quality. They are constructed with unique and advantageous features for today's evolution in mass feeding. Send to Bally Case and Cooler, Inc., Bally, Pennsylvania 19503 for free 32-page catalog and urethane wall sample.



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have to be lured away from another club and for something more than money—meaning fringe benefits.

British Profession Golfers' Assn. announces a **Club Pro of the Year** annual award. First winner to be named this winter.

There have been many very funny pieces written about the rumors of high money being paid by clothing makers to pro golfers who couldn't break 120 as male mannequins, but the quickest crack of all was made by **Tommy Bolt** concerning a colleague who boasts of having a large and colorful wardrobe. Said our Tommy, "My caddie is better dressed."

Preserved in a scrapbook of the late **Tom McNamara** was this item from the London Illustrated Times. The picture showed men and women on a British dunes course and mentions an event not heard of for years.

The English magazine caption read: "Converted into a 'Social' Pastime: The Royal and Ancient Game in Its Newest Form." The copy of the story: "Golf in its classic form is emphatically not a 'social' pastime, but since the English 'buddie' has taken to the game, he has set out to brighten it up. The serious 'gowffer' from north of the Tweed may shudder at the idea of a team game, in which each club in the bag is allotted to a special player, but it makes an amusing variant of golf. Six is the usual number for each team, so that there is one driver, one brassie or cleek player, one iron player, one mashie expert, one niblick operator and one putter. The captain of the side decides which weapon is to be brought into action according to the lie and position of the ball. Mixed teams of three men and three women a side are usually employed, and our artist illustrates a match of this kind in progress at St. Enodoc, North Cornwall, where a series of team games has been played."

For more information circle number 233 on card

ncreasing interest in skiing by managers of golf clubs in the snow belt areas has developed both as a means of expanding the recreational program for club members, and as a method of encouraging year around use of club facilities. Obviously, any club considering a ski program must have minimum basic physical assets that can be developed, but the tendency of most clubs is to over-estimate what is needed.

The two necessary ingredients a golf course must have to even consider skiing are suitable terrain and either enough natural snow for skiing or low enough temperatures to make manufacturing snow feasible.

In considering the available terrain, keep in mind the fact that no skiers will be expecting to find a major mountain on your golf course. The appeal of a golf course site for skiing would be in its accessibility; the major use would be by beginning skiers and the more experienced looking for a handy place to practice. The slope doesn't have to be long or steep. What it does need is northern exposure to protect it from direct sun so the snow will last.

As far as snow is concerned, the more natural snow the better. Not only does natural snow offer the best skiing, it's free. Yet within the past 10 years, artificial snow making has become a much more sophisticated art and major ski resorts all over the United States with a good record of natural snowfall have been adding snow making equipment to assure adequate snow for skiing regardless of nature.

Making artificial snow is expensive, but most golf clubs will have some built-in advantages over most ski areas. First, golf clubs normally have adequate water supplies and readily available power sources. A second advantage is that the area a club might be expected to cover with artificial snow would logically be

By BILL TANLER

much smaller than the average commercial ski area.

In considering snow making, remember that snow can be produced at night when temperatures fall below freezing. Temperatures in the 20's are best for efficient snow making. Artificial snow can survive several days of above freezing weather.

Golf course ski areas, whether private or public courses, have some surprising competitive advantages over regular commercial ski areas. Although resort-type ski areas like Stowe, Stratton and



Aspen are well publicized, the average ski area is a weekend area. While they may operate seven days a week, weekends produce more than two thirds of the business.

The reason why most ski areas are weekend areas is that they are not readily accessible to major population areas and one-day mid-week ski trips are impossible for most skiers. The golf course ski area may not be able to match the facilities offered at many regular commercial ski areas, but the advantage the golf course has is that more often than not, it is located in a populated area and, obviously, reachable by its members. This makes a golf course with even a modest ski program able to offer morning ladies' programs, after-school children's programs and even night skiing for all club members with a minimum night lighting program.

Beginners find a golf course area a logical place to learn the essentials of technique while more experienced skiers can use the facilities to brush up and prepare for longer weekend ski trips or their ski vacations.

What about lifts? We favor the Mitey Mite, naturally, but invite any golf club interested in a ski program to investigate all other lifts available. We believe an objective look into the available lifts will only support the case for a Mitey Mite lift.

The Mitey Mite's best qualification for golf course use is its versatility. For example, it's a heavy-duty sophisticated surface lift, yet requires no foundations or other structure that could damage turf. It's available in electric or gas models, making location not dependent on power supply. It can be extended to any length up to 1,000 feet, if suitable terrain is available. However, even at major ski resorts Mitey Mites are used most efficiently at 500 to 700 feet.

The Mitey Mite uses a ¼-inch cable with handles permanently attached. This makes it easy to ride and even small children have little trouble holding on for the uphill ride. The length can be adjusted to meet the requirements of terrain and the cable can be spliced easily using the simple nico press sleeve and clamp provided with each lift.

While the lift is essential to any ski program, there are other matters the club must consider. It is definitely advisable to put the ski program in the hands of a qualified professional much as you do your golf and tennis programs.

You might consider utilizing an instructor affiliated with a major weekend area who might organize weekday programs for your golf club. Not only does this expand the work and income possibilities for the pro, it also helps develop weekend business for his ski area and ski school in the mountains.

Fortunately, many of the club's facilities can double for winter use including the obvious ones like pro shop, restaurant and bar and locker room. One of the advantages to developing a winter program is to use more efficiently the club facilities through what might normally be a dead season. This may well reflect in the club's annual financial report.

There is also the possibility of better utilizing club employees. You may find a ski program requires enough manpower to retain club employees you normally would expect to let go when the golfing year ended. There are obvious advantages to being able to offer year-around employment to keep qualified employees.

Aside from lifts and possible snow making equipment, you also have to anticipate a minimum supply of rental equipment skis, boots and poles with good bindings mounted on the skis. Fortunately, while ski equipment is expensive, the quality of rental equipment has been improving in recent years and it's possible to purchase durable, yet fine quality boots, bindings, skis and poles.

A ski program that involves the establishing of what amounts to a whole ski area, regardless of its modest size, requires experienced help. For additional details about developing your ski program, contact Ski Facilities, Inc. Ski Facilities personnel are experienced in ski area operation and development and will be pleased to co-operate in helping you plan ski area development.

Bill Tanler is vice president of Ski Facilities, Inc., and former editor of Ski Area Management magazine and marketing director for the Jackson Hole Ski Corporation. Ski Facilities, Inc., personnel are capable of answering specific questions about installation of golf course ski areas and area operation.

Mitey Mite ski lift general specifications . . .

Capacity: Up to 800 per hour, depending on length and steepness of slope.

Speed: Both gas and electric models feature variable speed controls. Normal operating speed from 300 to 360 feet per minute.

Drive Terminal: Components include rubber-lined drive wheel, 5 feet in diameter; special speed gear reducer with automatic backstop locking device; all necessary electrical switches including thermostatic safety at motor for automatic shutoff in case of overloading; low voltage transformer switch (24 volts) connected to a safety gate at the top of the slope. All electrical equipment is installed in a weatherproof metal box with lock.

Transport System: Galvanized 1/4inch wire rope, 2,000 feet, furnished with 25 special tow handles that are permanently attached. Cable with handles runs continuously around two terminals with no intermediate support. A guide guarantees an absolutely safe and trouble-free passing of tow handles around both wheels. Rotation is clockwise or counterclockwise.

Weight: Complete package, including 2,000 feet of wire rope, 1,785 pounds.

Upper Terminal: Vertical, easily adjustable pipe frame structure; one welded wheel 3 feet in diameter; handle guide and stabilizing equipment.

Portability: Components can be carried in pickup truck. Two-man crew can disassemble and install lift in new location in approximately four hours.

How the Lift is Ridden: Skier faces uphill, poles in the hand away from the lift. With his other hand, he catches passing handle and is pulled uphill. When moving, skier may slip handle behind him, like half a T-bar.

Operation: The Mitey Mite can be operated by one man standing by the drive unit. The lift is equipped with a remote pushbutton control station.

Safety Features: The Mitey Mite utilizes a "fail safe" type safety gate system. When power fails, a locking device prevents roll-back.

Cable Splicing: Splicing is reduced to a few minutes by use of a nicopress sleeve and tool furnished with lift. Lift line length can be adjusted to meet requirements of terrain.

Delivery: Lifts are normally obtainable from stock in Seattle, Washington.

I'm interested in		
ski lift. Please se	end details.	
ski lift. Please se Name	and details.	
Name Golf Club		

Does your golf club have any business in the ski business?



This is the drive unit of a Mitey Mite ski lift. Combine this with modestly hilly terrain and some natural snowfall (or you can make your own) and you have the ingredients for a full winter ski program at your golf club.



Mitey Mite ski lifts weren't designed specifically for golf course use, but can you imagine a ski lift better suited to the special needs of a golf club? Consider these features:

- 1. Mitey Mite lifts arrive in one complete package ready to install.
- 2. Installation requires no foundations or structural work — so there is no danger of damaging turf.
- 3. The lift can be moved from one location to another to take advantage of terrain, exposure and snow conditions.
- 4. Mitey Mites are available with either electric or gasoline engine drive, your choice depending on the

availability of power.

5. In the spring, the Mitey Mite can be packed up and stored out of the way and out of the weather—ready for many more winter seasons.

Mitey Mite lifts are heavy-duty, surface lifts built to provide years of effective use. The lift is the most versatile ski lift available anywhere. It can be installed on any slope up to 1,000 feet in length. It's an easy lift for children and beginners to ride —more than 70 Mitey Mites are in operation today at ski areas in all parts of the United States. These lifts provide uphill transportation for all classes of skiers absolute beginners to racers who use Mitey Mites to accelerate training programs.

Ski Facilities, Inc., 2740 Fourth Ave. So., Seattle, Wash. 98134 (206) 624-7561

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Duich honored

Beltsville Turfgrass the At Field Day in August Dr. Joseph M. Duich of Penn State was presented with an honorary membership in the Merion Bluegrass Assn. Margaret Herbst made the presentation assisted by this writer who sketched a brief background of Dr. Duich's contributions to turf and particularly to Merion Kentucky bluegrass.

The first honorary members were: Joseph Valentine, Professor H. B. Musser and Fred V. Grau. The passing of Valentine and Musser created a vacancy which now has been filled by a man who is particularly deserving of the honor.

Dr. Duich's work with Merion helped to develop new and improved bluegrasses, which along with Merion, are basic to the entire turfgrass industry wherever bluegrasses are grown. The development of Merion led to the development of the infant sod industry. The rooting charactercontinued on page 38 Looking for The **Turf Equipment Activity Center?**

Since moving into our new plant and service center many customers and turf industry groups have visited our large display floor where the latest in turf equipment is exhibited . . . Our conference rooms and irrigation design department have provided our customers with a single place for all their equipment and irrigation needs. Truly the center of turf equipment activity in Southern California is B. Hayman. Visit us!



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When the name of the game is a better putting surface... the name on the green is West Point

Good golf requires perfect greens. And perfect greens require care — the kind of care West Point Products provide. Precision equipment like this threesome — just part of West Point's Complete Line designed to prove that we really care for your course.

The West Point VC-5 Verti-Cut® (right) is a precision vertical mowing machine developed by West Point as the ultimate <u>solution</u> to "grain" and thatch development. Thirty razor-sharp vertical blades (60 cutting tips) revolving at high speed slice flattened, grainproducing grass blades in 19" swaths. And, this popular machine also promotes finer turfgrass by helping control weeds and diseases . . . by making fertilizers and top dressing more effective. A unique anti-scalping roller permits micro-depth adjustment of the blades. <u>Request</u> <u>Bulletin 6840 for complete</u> details.

■ The West Point MC-5A Vertifiertm (left) is the ideal aerifier for relieving green compaction. It cuts clean cores at a good clip—100 feet per minute in 16" swaths—so that you can easily cover 10,000 square feet in an hour. High speed tines cut and remove cores while special rubber "flexi-pads" prevent turf damage. The catcher attach-

ment keeps cores off the green and, to speed the job, a hydraulic lifting device permits rapid, even turning without scuffing the turf. Request Bulletin 6891 for complete details.

■ The West Point PD-2 Power Dragt^m is a real time-saver for matting top dressing into greens. This three-gang rig makes it possible for one man to mat a green in ½ the time, taking a wide 9½' swath. Each mat is made of flexible ribbon steel, heavily galvanized in a unique continuous crimp pattern. This special design provides an exclusive swirling action that works top dressing

.

and fertilizer right down to the soil surface. And, the mats fold together conveniently for easy transportation and storage. <u>Request Bulletin 6858 for com-</u> plete details.



BY HAHN LAWN AND TURF PRODUCTS A Division of Kearney-National, Inc. EVANSVILLE, INDIANA 47717



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GRAU

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istics of Merion, with its ability to tolerate close mowing and elite appearance, gave the sod growers a tremendous sales pitch, of which they quickly took advantage. Today we talk in terms of blends but rarely is there a blend without Merion. It imparts a quality found in no other bluegrass.

Thus, the award presented to Dr. Duich is an expression of gratitude for the important part he has played in building a firm foundation not only for Merion Kentucky bluegrass, but also for the entire bluegrass industry.

Q.—For a number of years we have heard about systemics in relation to Dutch Elm disease, to grass diseases and to insecticides. The popular version was "when the bug bites the plant, the plant bites back." Has there been progress with systemics? (Ohio)

A.—Yes, there have been definite breakthroughs in systemic control of diseases and insects. One has to do with stripe smut on grasses. Another controls dollarspot and brownpatch. I am sorry I cannot catalog the various developments—some are still being developed to the point where they can have an approval label. Watch for releases from experiment stations and from firms which manufacture and sell the products. They are well worth waiting for.

Q.—We have an 18-hole golf course near Cadiz in southern Spain. There is very little water during summer; no rain falls from early spring through the fall. We must either irrigate (when water is available) or develop turf that will survive throughout the summer with little water. Soil tests show that we lack nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. A program is under way to correct these deficiencies.

What is the potential of Merion, Fylking and common bluegrass? We now have a variety of grasses including winter rye. Our greatest desire is to develop a good bed of turf that will take our dry summers with minimum water. What can you suggest? (Spain)

A.—The situation that you describe is familiar. Once, long ago, we had to produce playable turf without irrigation. At that time we did not have improved grasses, fertilizers that adjust to conditions and machines to help rainfall soak into the turf. Today, with better grasses, better fertilizers, improved tools and sophisticated chemicals, we should be able to do a much better job of giving the golfer a

LAWN SPREADER

MODEL 100

decent turf with little or no irrigation.

Considering everything, you will do well to consider establishing turf with a blend of the best bluegrasses available. Plan the time of seeding when natural rainfall provides the best opportunity for establishment. Incorporate adequate nutrients, including slow release nitrogen, into the seed bed in sufficient quantity to carry the turf over the dry season into the next rainy period.

Merion and Fylking Kentucky bluegrasses should be the basis for your blend. Use Pennstar bluegrass also if it becomes available when you get ready to plant. Prato is one that deserves to be included—also South Dakota Common (Certified). For a perennial ryegrass companion for quick starting you should consider Pelo or Manhattan.

At this point and at this dis-

tance I hesitate to outline a complete program. Additional information on soils, soil tests, climate, weeds and other vegetation would be helpful.

Q.—Have the new turf-type ryegrasses lived up to their promises? Can we look forward to newer and better ones?

(Maryland)

A.—In my estimation the new ryegrasses have, in many cases, exceeded expectations. Growers have not been able to produce enough to meet the amazing demand. In a few cases they have been disappointing but due principally to misuse or mismanagement. Look for the announcement shortly of the release of a new synthetic turf ryegrass from a northeastern university. I've seen the plots and the quality is there. This continued on page 42

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The rugged Grounds Groomer attaches to a tractor with a 3-pt. hitch and PTO. It is designed to power rake thatch and "blow" it into the big 5-cubic yard hopper. Along with thatch it picks up leaves, twigs, cans... even pine needles and eucalyptus leaves. An acre of turf grass can be handsomely groomed in an hour.

Its 5-ft.-wide reel has four alternating rows of vertical slicing and paddle blades. The intense air turbulence caused by the paddle blades blows the loose thatch and debris up and back into the hopper. For flail mowing, the reel converts easily to all mowing blades. It does a beautiful job of flail mowing "rough" grass areas.

Use the versatile Grounds Groomer year 'round for general turf maintenance. It's the only way to groom an acre of turf or more! For more information about this and other fine Ryan products, write for the Turf Equipment catalog.





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