

NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY

Maryland legislature nixes "discrimination" tax bill

A bill which would have prohibited tax concessions and exemptions for all country clubs in Maryland which discriminate has failed to pass the **Maryland State Legislature**.

The bill (Senate Bill 132), which passed the Senate by a 36 to 0 margin on April 3d, failed to get out of the House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee. It was referred to legislative council and cannot be brought up until the next legislative session in 1972. S.B. 132 was sponsored by State Senator Verda F. Welcome. Its initiation was a result of consumer advocate **Ralph Nader's** attack on preferential tax benefits enjoyed by country clubs in Montgomery County, Md. (April GOLFDOM, p. 53).

S.B. 132 stated that no land which is actively devoted to use as a country club could have the benefits of tax exemptions—but would be assessed at its highest and best use—if the country club discriminates in any manner on the basis of race, creed, religion or national origin. One legislator on the Ways and Means Committee indicated the reason the bill failed to get out of his committee was due to unclear language on what is a good definition of discrimination, coupled with the question of whether a tax assessor is qualified to determine what is discrimination.

Nader aide Samuel A. Simon had testified before the Finance Committee of the Senate during hearings for the bill. He expressed many of the same arguments raised by Michael E. Kinsley, Harvard College student and author of the Nader report, "Preferential Property Tax Assessment of Country Clubs in Montgomery County, Maryland." Kinsley's report touched off the controversy which led to the attempted legislation.

According to Kinsley, "The effect of Maryland's present tax subsidy—which was passed in 1966 and gives preferential assessments to country clubs on the basis of the green belt

theory—is the subsidizing of institutions (country clubs) by taxpayers who cannot be accepted as members. What good is the argument (green belt) if the majority of the people have to look through barbed wire fences and 'No Trespassing' signs at the elite playing golf at these exclusive clubs?"

Opposition to the Nader report and S.B. 132 came from the Country Clubs of Montgomery County. This association maintained that S.B. 132 was a poor bill because the intricacies of taxation and the emotionalism of discrimination were combined into one issue.

Full ban on DDT refused

Pending an administrative review, the **Environmental Protection Agency** has issued a statement against nationwide banning of DDT.

According to William D. Ruckelshaus, administrator for the EPA, the pesticide DDT and herbicide 2,4 and 5-T were not "imminent" hazards to humans. A safety review will begin immediately and be completed by the end of this year to determine if these poisons should be totally banned. He also declined to suspend three chlorinated hydrocarbons—aldrin, dieldrin and mirex.

Ruckelshaus said a factor in his decision against suspension of DDT was concern that its "precipitous removal" from the market would lead some farmers to substitute parathion, a far more deadly poison and known to be responsible for the deaths of several people.

National pollution effort started

A massive effort to clean up the environment in towns and cities throughout the nation on a voluntary, co-ordinated basis is being sponsored by companies in the cleanliness business—local distributors of **Advance Floor Machine Company**.

Television star Don Knotts (left)

and Robert Pond, president of Advance are pictured kicking off the campaign. Co-sponsors for the campaign include local civic organizations, clubs, schools and city officials. Advance will aid in providing the tools, motivation and structure for individual citizens to join the fight against pollution in their towns.

Information on the program including aids and public information material is available by writing to: "Let's Keep it Clean" National Headquarters, P.O. Box 275, Spring Park, Minn. 55384.



Liquor license loss through bias?

The **United States Supreme Court** has agreed to consider whether private clubs that exclude Negroes as members or guests can hold licenses to serve liquor.

This action, which will come before the Supreme Court in October, could have an indirect affect on private country clubs containing by-laws which are discriminatory.

A Federal District Court decision contended that such clubs violate the 14th Amendment if they exclude persons on racial grounds. The lower court ruling was based on the refusal in 1968 of the Loyal Order of Moose to serve a meal and drinks to K. Leroy Irvis, the black majority leader of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Irvis brought suit contending that state regulation of liquor was so detailed and pervasive that to license a club that discriminates was the same as a state licensing discrimination (state action theory).

According to one legal observer, should the Supreme Court uphold Irvis' suit and the liquor license taken away, the immediate effect

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would not be felt by private country clubs which have discriminatory by-laws. The ruling, however, could affect the more than 100 Elks clubs with golf courses along with Moose and Eagle golf courses if they discriminate. According to the source, Irvis' action is aimed at fraternal clubs where the national policy of these organizations discriminate. Even if a local fraternal organization wished to override the national discrimination policy, the national organization forbids it.

FTC begins probe of golf equipment manufacturers

A preliminary investigation into the marketing practices of several of the major golf equipment manufacturers has been launched by the **Federal Trade Commission**.

A high official for the Bureau of Competition (the anti-trust arm of the FTC) acknowledged that letters of inquiry in the form of questionnaires have been sent to several golf equipment manufacturers. It is believed specific questions were asked regarding pricing, promotion, dis-

tribution, retail policies and a history of the "pro only" distribution policy.

The FTC can either initiate an investigation or respond to complaints from individuals or companies. Although the FTC would not divulge to GOLFDOM the origin of the investigation, one manufacturer felt the publicity surrounding the Golf City, Inc., litigation in New Orleans—which charges 14 golf equipment manufacturers and the Professional Golfers' Assn. with violations of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act—captured the attention of the FTC. Another speculation is a complaint from a retail golf outlet on the "pro only" policy. A spokesman for the PGA said the association had not received any correspondence from the FTC.

"This preliminary investigation by the FTC in no way implies any anti-trust violations," said the Bureau of Competition spokesman. According to the spokesman, the FTC's investigation was "independent and unrelated" to the concurrent Golf City litigation.

Following this preliminary investigation, in which the manufacturers are requested to respond to written inquiries, the Bureau of Competition will then make its recommendations regarding future actions, if any, to appropriate FTC officials. If no anti-trust violations are deemed to have occurred, then the matter is dropped and the information surrounding the case will not become public. However, should violations appear to exist, then the FTC would begin to conduct a full-scale investigation.

The FTC letters of inquiry, which were mailed in mid-March, are now in the process of being answered by the manufacturers involved.

Turfgrass disease and pest manual available

A University of California publication entitled "**Turfgrass Pests**" is now available to help golf course and other professional turfgrass managers identify and control pests.

The manual, which costs \$2, contains color photos for identifying turfgrass weeds, insect pests and nematode and plant disease symptoms. It includes chapters on safe handling of pesticides, calculations and measurements and weed control. The manual can be obtained by writing to Agricultural Publications, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. 94720.

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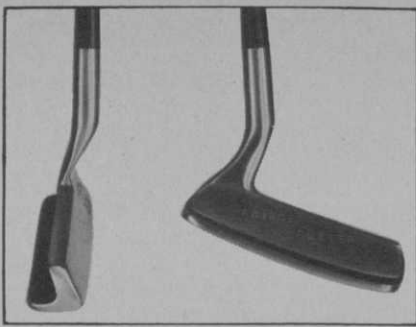
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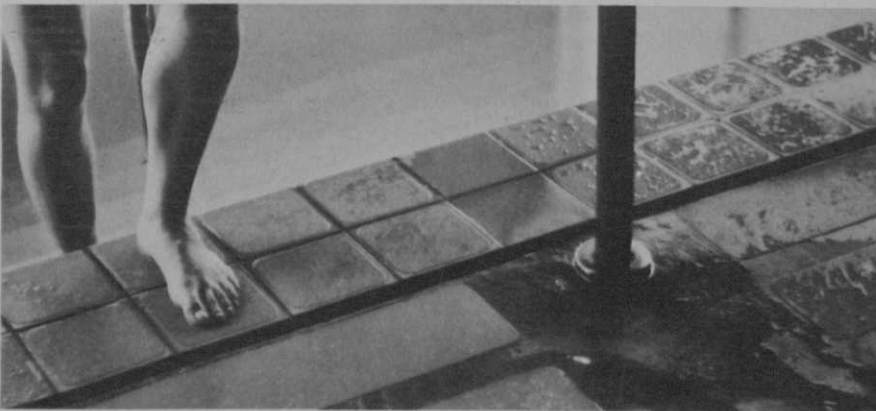
Inverted Loft Company makes the Fringe Putter, which is scuff proof and shank proof and legal, according to the company. The putter has a standard loft of 27 degrees and is custom fitted.

Circle No. 101 on reader service card



Torch Rubber Company, Inc., has developed a rubber-spiked golf rubber, called Golf-O-Shu. They are available in several colors, including blue, white, red, orange and green and fit over all shoes. Golf-O-Shu comes in small, medium, large and extra large sizes and stretches to fit all shoe widths. They fold into a plaid pouch and are priced about \$5 to \$7.

Circle No. 102 on reader service card



3M Company has incorporated colors into its Scotch-Tred non-slip surfacing line. The new colors include: Roman gold, moss green, imperial blue, flamingo orange and arctic white. The surfacing can be used outdoors around swimming pools and on steps and indoors in shower rooms, bath tubs and locker rooms. It is offered in pre-cut strips three-fourth inch by 17 inches; it is also available in six-inch by 24-inch cleats, plus 60-foot rolls from one-inch to three feet wide. It can be applied to any smooth, clean, dry surface by removing the protective liner to expose the adhesive and by pressing into place.

Circle No. 104 on reader service card

NEW PRODUCTS



ICM Plastics, Ltd., has available No-Drip inserts for wine bottles. These inserts also fit large soft drink bottles. They come in two different sizes and are available through major restaurant supply distributors.

Circle No. 103 on reader service card

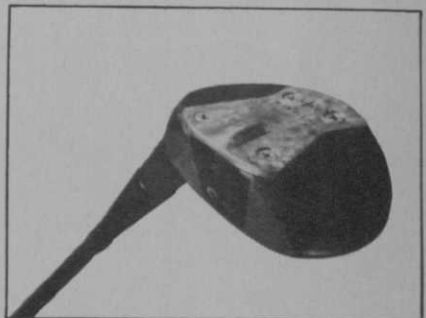


Carrigan Plastics has clear plastic containers for produce, fruits and meats. These containers are made from polystyrene and are designed to replace wood and pulp containers. The containers can be stored without damage and are lighter than containers currently used, according to the company. The following sizes are available: pint, quart, 1 1/2 quart, two quart.

Circle No. 105 on reader service card

Kohler Company offers "Kohler Engines," a new 12-page catalog which provides specifications, horsepower curves and torque curves for all engines offered by the company. Printed in red, white and blue, the catalog describes and illustrates nine four-cycle engines from four hp to 24 hp and six two-cycle engines from 20 hp to 33 hp.

Circle No. 106 on reader service card



Turner Tool & Mfg. Company makes custom woods, available in numbers one to 10. Called Pros' Choice, the woods are engineered to the particular golfer's needs. Heads are permanently moisture sealed. The new type of sole plate reduces drag because it prevents the club from digging deeply on fairway shots, it is claimed. A small rocker-shaped ridge is formed in the sole plate, running front to back. The ridge forces the club to ride higher, taking less divot. The company claims the clubs give more distance on fairway shots. The first club costs \$44.50; each additional club ordered at the same time is \$41.50.

Circle No. 107 on reader service card

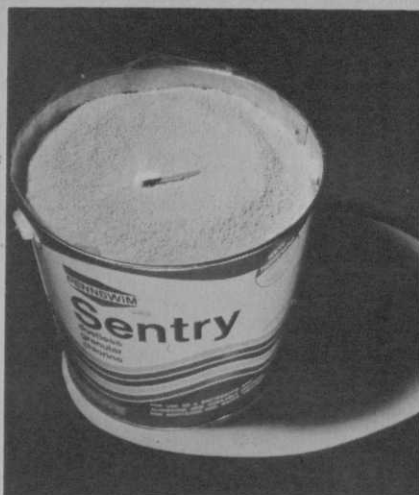
(Continued on page 64)

New Products

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Pennwalt Corp. has developed a flameproof dry chlorine for pools, called Sentry. This treated calcium hypochlorite does not propagate rapid oxidation from contamination by the materials which cause conventional dry chlorine to oxidize, according to the company. This product sanitizes pool water as effectively as conventional calcium hypochlorite, according to the company, and is available from distributors and dealers handling Pennswim pool chemicals.

Circle No. 108 on reader service card



Engler Mfg. Corp. announces the Terrain King Flail Mower available in both 72-inch and 90-inch lift and pull-type models. The mowers feature quick-change knives which are easily replaced to reduce down time, a rear safety flap and a balanced drive shaft for minimum vibration.

Circle No. 109 on reader service card

JI Case Company announces the Case 580 Construction King Extendahoe. Its hydraulic telescoping dipper-stick increases backhoe reach up to four feet. Recommended for trench digging and tunneling, it provides a maximum reach of 21 feet, 2 inches and a maximum dig depth of 18 feet, 6 inches.

Circle No. 110 on reader service card

Golf Inc.'s new catalog, "The Golf Shop Guidebook," describes how the company's new modular fixtures can quickly change a pro shop's appearance. It includes tips on merchandising by Ernie Sabayrac, tips on planning a golf shop and shows in four-color golf shops designed by Ed Parrotte. In the Mod-U-Wall series, each unit is free standing and on casters, the built-in paneling, and the built-in fascia or canopy are removable and built-in four foot, double lamp flurescent lights are included. Available in four styles: Cedar, Mediterranean, Temo and Candy Apple.

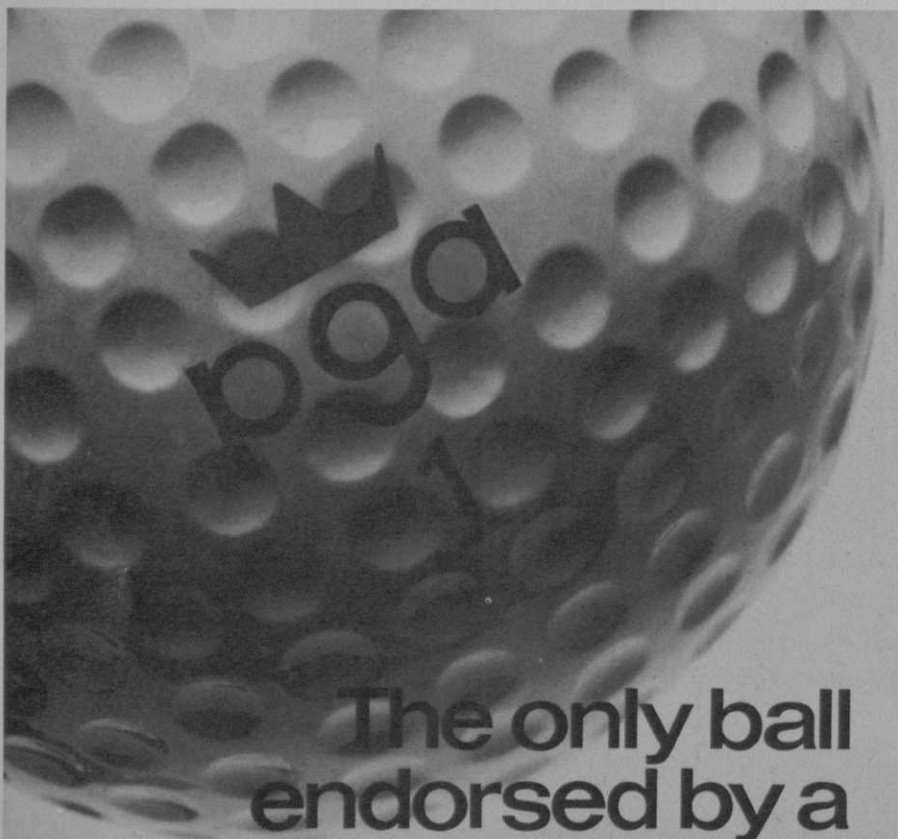
Circle No. 111 on reader service card

Randell Mfg. Company announces its Self-propelled Weed Sprayer which has a hand gun on each side, a center boom and two wing booms for spraying in inaccessible places. It sprays a 16-foot swath and will travel up to 15 mph.

Circle No. 112 on reader service card

P & L Belting Company introduces Golf Bridge Runners for protection against golf spikes and weathering on golf bridges. Made of four-ply nylon rubber belting, they are guaranteed for 10 years. Runners are available to fit any size bridge at \$2.75 per running foot, depending on requirements.

Circle No. 113 on reader service card



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*As of February 28, 1971.



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For more information circle number 163 on card

Tax bite

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this open space land.

The CDGA has written to all 125 state officials and also to Governor-elect John J. Gilligan, pointing out that the country club member is already a three-time tax payer—his home, his business and his share of the country club dues. None of the groups is asking for tax exemption, but only for a "fair and equitable appraisal" for open space land. Otherwise, facilities such as golf courses could be taxed out of existence.

It has been pointed out that in Ohio more than 210 golf clubs pay over \$5 million annually in property taxes. They add to the community coffers in other ways too. Henry Meiers, secretary of the Cleveland District which encompasses most of northeastern Ohio, points out, "Taxing the open, strictly recreational land at its 'highest and best value' with an already strained budget may mean the club must move or dissolve. For instance, a golf club contemplating any move knows it will have an outlay of over \$1 million immediately. The temptation to dissolve is there.

"Either decision, move or dissolve, has to hurt the community in which the club is located. The community will lose taxes, jobs and purchasing power, and the land which surrounds the club is likely to decline in value. If the golf course is replaced by apartment buildings, it is likely to mean the area will need more schools, more police and fire protection and much higher taxes to the individual."

The Cleveland District GA and the Ohio Outdoor Recreation Assn. know they are in for a long fight, but at least they have started. □

Spreading out

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new loan using the present facility as collateral; getting a Federal Small Business Administration loan; selling stock in the business or other investors.

In any case, much depends on local and national economic conditions at the time. Generally speaking, it is far easier to raise capital for a busy, successful existing club or course than it is to finance a new course.

For any course, the ownership should always be looking ahead five and 10 years. At the present growth rate, what will the demand be? Will courses need more holes? Plan now. □



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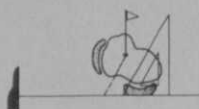
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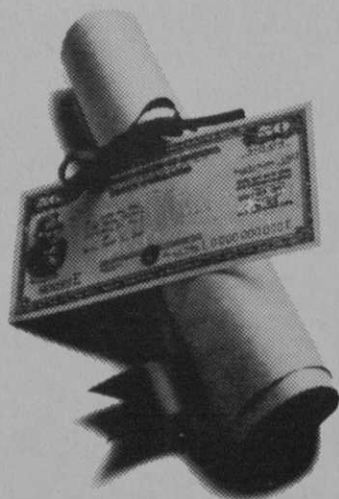
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Dahlberg

James B. Dahlberg has been appointed assistant director of marketing of Cushman Motors, a division of Outboard Marine Corp. In this newly-created position, Dahlberg will be responsible for the company's line of golf, industrial, turf and Trackster vehicles. Succeeding Dahlberg as general manager of the Charlotte golf distributorship is **John W. Weidner**.



Resech

Otto P. Resech has been elected vice president of administration of Harley-Davidson Motor Company. In addition to his new duties, Resech will continue as president and treasurer of Kilbourn Finance Corp. and Highland Insurance Service, Inc., both Harley-Davidson subsidiaries. **Alvin H. Hoffman** has been elected secretary and treasurer of Harley-Davidson, replacing Resech.

Ernest Brooks, David Jetzke and Steve D. Keating have been named district sales managers of Toro Mfg. Corp. Brooks covers the East Coast from New York City to the Carolinas. Jetzke covers the upper Midwest as well as Illinois, Indiana, part of Missouri and the province of Manitoba, Canada. Keating covers upper New York State, New England and eastern Canada.

Guy R. Woodward has been appointed manager, Service Parts Supply of the JI Case Company. Woodward replaces R.W. Teeters who has resigned.



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