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Dennis McCammon was NEWSLETTER Editor and handled all details connected with publishing 12 NEWSLETTER publications.

The December Meeting was held at Indian Spring Country Club with Secretary-Treasurer Ed Dembnicki as host.

Russell Kerns was elected President for 1970. Elected Vice-President was Bert Yingling; Ed Dembnicki was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer; Directors elected were Bob Miller and Dave Fairbank.

Respectfully submitted,
L.R. Shields, Historian

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT

1969 Golf Course Openings. 397 new golf facilities and additions to existing facilities opened for play in 1969 - was 355 in 1968. The nation now has 9,886 golf courses of which 8,882 are regulation length layouts and 1,004 are par 3's or executive types (par 60's). Almost 32% of the new facilities opened in 1969 (114 regulation length and 12 par 3's) were additions to existing courses.

Leading States with New Courses: Leading states in new golf courses opened for play in 1969 were Florida 27; Texas 23; Ohio 22; Michigan 17; New York, North Carolina and Pennsylvania each 15; Illinois 13 and California, Georgia, Kentucky, Minnesota and Wisconsin each 12.

Types of New Facilities Opened in 1969: Of the 397 new golf courses and additions opened for play in 1969 - 47% were privately owned daily fee operations (often called semi-private); 41% were private clubs and 12% were municipal tax supported projects. About 26% of all the new golf facilities built in 1969 were part of real estate ventures (housing developments, high-rise condominiums and apartments, mobile home sites and vacation or second home projects).

Outlook for 1970: NGF records reveal there are 439 golf facilities in some stage of construction at year's end (381 regulation length courses and 58 par 3's and executive type). Leading states with courses under construction are Florida 30; Michigan 25; Illinois and Pennsylvania each 21; California and Ohio each 20; North Carolina 19; Tennessee and Texas each 18; Virginia 16; New York 15; Washington and Indiana each 14; and Georgia 12.

New Methods of Financing: The prolonged tight money situation has brought about some changes in the financing of golf projects. Many private clubs are selling long term interest bearing bonds to their members; small syndicates are being created to finance profit motive golf courses; some projects are obtaining legal authority to sell stocks on the open market. One such venture is the 18 hole, Trent Jones designed Golden Triangle Golf Course planned for the 170-acre Johns Hopkins Estate between Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, D.C. Stock offering for this one is now underway according to Carl Rasnic, former PGA Middle Atlantic Section President and now President of Golden Triange.

Chain of Golf-Resort Complexes: A stock offering of 4 million shares was recently announced by American Family Recreation Centers Inc. of Annapolis, proceeds of which will be used to build year round resorts including golf courses, motels, travel-trailer parks, swimming pools and other facilities - to be located between Kentucky and Florida adjacent to Interstate Route 75 and from Virginia to Florida adjacent to Interstate Route 95. The first two resort sites planned (each at a cost of about \$8 million) are just south of Atlanta, Georgia, and the greater Orlando, Florida area. President of AFRC, Inc. is William J. Haig. Among the 18 Advisory Board members are PGA touring golf professionals Dan Sikes, Bob Murphy and Lee Elder and Mark Cox, President of Victor Golf Co.

The Golf Boom Continues: Despite the tight money situation and high interest rates, developers continue to build new golf courses. Regardless of the type project - be it a housing development, high-rise condominiums or apartments, mobile home sites, ski resorts, hunt clubs and equestrian operations or a summer theater venture - somewhere in the master plans will be golfing facilities. The United States, with more than 11 million golfers and almost 10,000 golf courses, leads the world in the continuing and apparently limitless expansion of the game of golf.

Harry Eckhoff
East Coast Facility Consultant

NEXT MEETING

The March meeting of the MAGCSA will be held on March 10, 1970 at Woodholme Country Club in Baltimore. Our host superintendent will be Russel Kerns who has been at the club for four years.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB:

Take the Baltimore beltway (Route 695) to exit 20. Turn off 695 and go north on Reisterstown Road and take the first left. The club is about one half mile down Woodholme Avenue. Cocktails will be at 6 P.M. and dinner will be at 7 P.M.

V.P.I. TURF CONFERENCE

The 10th annual V.P.I. turf conference was held in Fredericksburg, Virginia, on the 27th and 28th of January. There were 253 in attendance, an increase of 20% over last year and a new record for this meeting. Dr. Fred Grau was the speaker at the banquet on Tuesday night and he summarized the past forty years that he has been in turf work. The talk was excellent and it brought out quite vividly the fact that although many developments have been made in turf, there are many doors that still remain unopened that can help our profession.

BIG JACK

Do we have a champion on our side in Jack Nicklaus, with his newly acquired side interest of golf course designing? He has teamed up with another golf course architect, Pete Dye, to design courses with a sort of a reverse twist. Nicklaus contends that he's "tired of courses built by non-golfers for non-golfers." His "courses won't be built just so pro's will like them; they will be set up so anybody's game can be suited by moving the tees around." His pet peeve, according to Hubert Mizell, AP sports writer, is large greens with as many as 10,000 square feet. Mizell wrote a series of articles on Ohio Jack and Dye in the Miami Herald and told of their new ideas in designing. The greens the two are now designing are in the neighborhood of 5,000 square feet. They contend that the larger greens are taking away from the game, in the respect that having to drop a 90 foot putt is a near impossibility. What they want to bring into the game of golf is the deft art of chipping. They've put their ideas to work in one course that has been nationally advertised and is an apparent success. The Heritage Classic, held over Thanksgiving weekend in Hilton Head, South Carolina, was played on one of their ventures. What will be the end result of their future in designing? The larger greens certainly affected our profession through higher maintenance costs and need for more manpower. The real reason for larger greens in the first place was to allow for more cupping space to cut down on damage from compaction, wasn't it? Or was it just an idea from some architect for a super green? In any event, it has caught on - enter Nicklaus and Dye.

Dave Fairbank

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