

# Pacific Coast Gossip

By ARTHUR LANGTON

THE biggest annual event in western American golf, the Los Angeles Open, played this year at the Hillcrest Country Club, was a complete success from the standpoint of all, excepting perhaps the hundred or so unsuccessful title and money aspirants.

Greenkeeper W. W. Stewart's rolling course looked well considering the time of year, and it actually was a better course than it appeared. This was partially due to the fact that the Washington bent greens had assumed their customary black or purplish hue with the arrival of cooler weather. However, the putting surface was unimpaired although fast, and the players who were not sinking their putts had to look to themselves for the blame.

The fairways had a somewhat mottled appearance due to the presence of dormant Bermuda grass, but this is a condition which cannot be remedied in this section and it in no way affects the lie of the ball.

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The weather was as perfect as Southern California weather could be as if to make up for the rain which marred the last two occasions of the tournament. Testifying to the perfection of all the conditions involved, MacDonald Smith, the three-time winner, stroked the difficult and long Hillcrest course for a total of 281, the lowest score ever recorded in this tourney. He was five strokes ahead of the field.

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Some time ago a Washington State College professor stated that hawks were efficient gopher eradicators. Now another member of the feathered kingdom has come to notice in the same capacity. The Long Beach Country Club contains within its boundaries a natural water hazard, which is almost a unique feature in Southern California golf architecture outside of the rainy season. Among the varieties of fresh-water life which congregate around this oasis are a number of herons. One day F. C. Groos, the local greenkeeper, noticed that one of these lanky birds had wandered out on the course, seemingly not satisfied with the fare presented at the water hazard.

Poising itself in characteristic statuesque manner beside a fresh gopher hole it waited and Groos watched. Suddenly the javelin beak shot down and evicted a struggling gopher which the bird proceeded to swallow whole. Satisfied but not surfeited it proceeded to another hole where it repeated the performance and then departed.

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The unemployment situation on the Pacific Coast continues unabated. Golf courses which in normal times employed nearly twenty men as a grounds crew are now having to get along with four and five. One green-

keeper on a large hilly course was told that his wage bill must not exceed 90 dollars a week.

Alleviating conditions somewhat is the city of San Diego which has just passed a \$300,000 bond issue for the construction of another eighteen-hole municipal golf course and the improvement of parks. Unemployed will be used on the project throughout.

\* \* \*

The city of Los Angeles is using a number of its unemployed to put a 32-inch pipe line from its 400-mile aqueduct to a concentration point behind the Hollywood dam. This is mentioned merely because the new line will run right through the course of the Hollywood Country club, thus gladdening the heart of green-



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keeper James Lyon with the 150 pounds of pressure that it will bring.

Conditions seem to be assuming a brighter hue now that winter is over the hump, according to several local seed and fertilizer dealers who have reported brisk and encouraging sales.

## Entertainment Committee Gives Thanks

The Entertainment committee of the Golf Show and Convention desires to thank every member of the N. A. G. A. who visited New York City during the Convention for their kind support and assistance, without which we should not have been able to carry out to a successful finish the greatest Convention and Golf Show in history.

For the support of our many friends and guests who visited us during that time we are very grateful. To one and all of our exhibitors we desire to extend our sincere thanks for their kind co-operation and hope that each one will have gained to the same extent as we have, the deep satisfaction of renewing acquaintances and forming new friendships which only comes to those of us who have the good fortune to be able to attend these Conventions.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE,  
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