

Businessmen combine fun with lunch

By CORINNE ABATT

There are those who like to hit golf balls and those who like to play golf. And they aren't always one and the same.

Harold T. Thompson, owner of Harold's River Bank Golf Range in Southfield, says, "Better than 30 percent of the people who hit on a golf range never hit on a golf course. All a lot of them want to do is hit the ball. They don't want to chase it."

Although business at the golf range has been off this year because of a cold and "stinky April and May and a hot June business is heaviest in the late afternoon and early evening hours."

There are always a few who use a lunch break for practice, but these tend to be regular golfers anxious to improve skills.

William Carr of Livonia who works in Southfield was out at the range on his lunch hour last week working on five iron shots. He plays in a Wednesday evening league.

"I figure it's got to help my game," he said between some nice high target shots in the direction of the 33 yard marker.

PAUL MCINTOSH of Birmingham, who doubles as Citicorp Mortgage Corp. golf pro on his lunch hours, was at the range helping fellow employee Ron Boone of Farmington develop a swing.

Ron Boone, another from the Southfield mortgage company, watched the informal lesson.

"We have a company league," he said.

"and Paul who was on the University of Michigan golf team is only adding this year. He's our best player and has the patience to be a good instructor."

Another driver out for the first time last week was Tom Enns of Detroit. A long ball hitter, Enns, who says he works six days a week and seldom has time to play, surprised himself with long, straight drives near the 300 yard marker.

This isn't unusual says Thompson, who drives the machine to pick up the balls.

"With a tail wind a lot of them drive up against the fence at the 300 yard marker," Thompson says.

He also says the range is a popular one because the fees are high and even a relatively poor drive goes up in the air and looks good.

Wednesday and Thursday evenings are big ones at Harold's. Many of the players from the local television station teams gather to drink beer in the clubhouse and hit a few hundred of balls.

The City of Southfield group lessons are given at the range during evening hours. The daytime lessons are at the city's South Woods range, but it isn't lighted for evening play.

THOMPSON SAYS he needs around 30,000 balls for the range and during each of the past two years he lost around 10,000. Some are just lost, but most are picked up by persons who scrounge for them near the river on the north and east boundaries.

"That's a good way to get killed," Thompson commented saying that a lot of balls are driven there and it's dangerous to be hit by a ball.

River Bank is bounded on the south by Northwestern Highway and on the north by the clubhouse. It is 11.5 acres before the development of the area, there was a golf course which was sold for land development in 1967.

Even before that Thompson ran a big water sports program. There were two slides and a lot of toboggan runs.

"We used to have around 400 kids a day on the slides and when the toboggans were running, I could make as much as \$300 an hour in rentals."

For now, he is satisfied to have the clubhouse full of people who like the informal atmosphere and a good crowd of drivers buying buckets of balls on the range.



Get it right, Pa

Hattie Liefel of Farmington gave a few pointers to her husband Oscar last week as the two spent the afternoon in City Park while Oscar practiced his driving form for upcoming action in the Livonia senior men's golf league. (Staff photo by Harry Mautner)

In The Pocket

By W.W. EDGAR

The all star mixed league that now is in its fifth week of an experiment is proving to be even better than had been expected.

Not only are the scores high, but competition is close and the league is becoming a proving ground for some new equipment including the latest type bowling balls.

The latest example came Wednesday night at Palm Beach Recreation where Dick Willy and I. McLean each bowled perfect games. At the conclusion they confided that they had used the latest legal "soft" cover ball.

Fred's 300 was his third in several months and enabled him to pace the entire circuit with a 190. He is one of the "hot test" purifiers in the league.

MARGE KROPACK, Plymouth's top representative in the all star league, has good reason to be all smiles these days despite being low on the totem pole when it comes to summer league averages.

Captain of the Sherry's Trailer team last season, she announced that he had signed Carol Giddis, one of the rising stars in

bowling on her team next season—but only in the Ladies Major League.

Carol is one of the two Detroit area bowlers who represented the United States in the international meet in England several months ago.

IT IS ALMOST unbelievable that one bowler could dominate the professional bowling scene as much as Earl Anthony, the southpaw from Seattle, Wash.

He has won more than \$100,000 in each of the last two years and now is on his way to repeat. Thus far, he has accumulated more than \$1,000 and is far ahead of his closest rival, Mark Roth of Staten Island, N.Y. who has a net \$42,170 thus far this season.

A fellow shudders to think of these figures when recalling that when Joe Norris and Johnny Crummins were in their heyday in the 30s, the best a team could do was to bowl for \$500 side bets and they had to put up their own money.

WITHOUT MUCH FANFARE, Cora Fie-

big, the 1975 bowling queen, has proven a fine goodwill ambassador for the Detroit area in the national women's pro tour.

Thus far, she has appeared in three of the pro events and cashed each time. Her latest showing was last week in the tournament at Harwood Heights, just outside of Chicago. She finished 18th and won \$425.

WITH ONLY two more weeks to go, Marilyn Allen, a 137-average bowler from Detroit, still is leading the Fred Wolf Singles tournament at Eastland Bowl with a count of 1,110. This is the largest women's singles tournament in the state.

WHEN JOHNNY CRUMMINS recently was inducted into the Polish American Hall of Fame, he received reminders of the days when he and Joe Norris were the kinglypins in the area and each used a different style.

Crummins was strictly an "off the corner" bowler and aimed for the pocket. It was effective though he encountered many splits. Norris was a "hook" bowler and

moved in from the corner to give his ball a better chance to work.

Each claimed his system was the best, but the argument never ceased.

A COMPLETE GROUP of 32 new pinsetting machines has been installed at Garden Lanes and while no one mentioned the fact during the installation, it is just 30 years since the automatic machine was first put on public view.

It was during the ABC tournament in Buffalo and the first commercial installation was made in 1950 at the Bowl-A-Drome in Mount Clemens.

It was at the 1966 convention that the first electric scorekeeper was shown. It was a crude device that has been greatly improved since then, but it was the start of greater things to come.

PENNY BEZEN, the youthful star who was crowned queen of the Detroit area bowlers Thursday night, left no doubt that she was entitled to the honor as she needed help to carry her awards.

She won trophies for sharing the actual and handicap doubles in the city tournament, paced the actual all events, and was named captain of the all-star team.

At the same time, Hank Gruenewald took the top honor for the men's association as he was named the man of the year.



On your marks

Contestants line up to start in the finals of the girls 50-yard dash at the Detroit Metropolitan Area Youth Fitness Meet. The Farmington Area Recreation Commission participates in the meet, each year, at Metro Beach Metro-

park. Champions from each of the 12 participating Farmington playgrounds compete against each other before competing against champions from 100 communities.

Wildlife state aid tops \$45 million benchmark

More than \$46 million of Federal Aid money for sport fish and wildlife restoration and hunter safety programs have been apportioned by Secretary of the Interior Thomas S. Kleppe to the states and the governments of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands and American Samoa for use after July 1.

Michigan receives one of the largest totals, \$1,200,130 for wildlife restoration and \$145,000 for hunter safety, a total of \$1,345,130.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director Lynn A. Greenwald said the \$46 million is the first of two installments that will be distributed to the states this year from excise taxes collected in the fiscal year 1976. It will be used by the States to finance their fish and wildlife programs during the first half of the 1977 fiscal year.

The second installment will be distributed in December after the tally of FY 76 tax receipts is completed by the Treasury Department. Last fiscal year, a total of \$75.8 million in Federal Aid money was distributed in two installments to State governments.

Money for fish restoration programs comes from a 10 per cent excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, and artificial baits, lures and flies. Funds for wildlife restoration and hunter safety programs

comes from an 11 per cent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, and a 30 per cent excise tax on pistols and revolvers.

"This self-taxing concept has mood the test of 30 years," Greenwald said. "Since 1950 almost \$800 million has been collected in excise taxes on these items. Fifty per cent of these funds have gone into improving habitat for game such as building dikes to impound duck marshes, managing forest lands, and fencing elk and deer from farmlands."

"Twenty-five per cent has supported research into such things as conservation selection of hunting seasons and bag limits and life history studies on a variety of animals such as wolves, grizzly bears, and the Florida panther. Another 20 per cent has been spent buying or leasing land such as prairie duck sloughs, water bird game ranges, bottom lands, desert lands—in all, more than 94 million acres, or over 84,000 square miles, an area larger than the six New England states. Maryland and Hawaii combined. Only five per cent of the funds has gone to administrative overhead."

Of the distribution amount, \$63.5 million was distributed according to a formula based on hunting license holders and the area of each state for wildlife projects. Another \$4.5 million was distributed, on

the basis of State population, for hunter safety programs. Under the Federal Aid to Fish Restoration Program, \$8.5 million was distributed on a formula based on the number of sport fishing license holders and the area of each State.

Texas, Alaska, California, Pennsylvania and Michigan are the largest recipients with at least \$1.2 million going to each. Maximum and minimum limits are placed on the distribution of the funds, so that States smaller in area and population like Delaware, Massachusetts, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Hawaii receive reasonable apportionments.

Williams completes recruit training

Navy Firearm Recruit Luther E. Williams, son of Marvin B. Williams of 2773 Jefferson, Farmington, has completed recruit training at the Naval Training Center in Great Lakes, Ill.

A former student at Charnockville High School in Livonia, he joined the Navy in March 1976.

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