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M. T. McINNIS, one of Florida's most dedicated amateur golfers, is the new President of Florida State Golf Association. Mac is Manatee County's Clerk of Circuit Court.

ROLAND ARNOLD, center, outgoing FSGA President, is flanked by the new Veep and head man, Bob McCullers and Mac McInnis. The pitcher and equipment award went to Arnold from the Board of Directors.
PHIL THOMAS, left, was the Member Invitational winner at Disney World. The former FSGA Junior Champion from Miami scored 222, six over par, for the 54 hole test over DW’s Palm and Magnolia tracks. He collected part of his loot from Prexie McInnis.

LAKE REGION COUNTRY CLUB copped the four man team championship during the Disney member event. Team total for 144 holes was 631 shot by Ted Huff, left, Rod Sweet and Dexter Daniels, Jr. Dexter, Sr., was the fourth member of the team but left before the awards were made.

VELMA DANIELS guarded the team trophy her husband and mates were to win. Aiding in the guard duty at the scoreboard were Edna Carey and Virginia McInnis.

DAILY STAFFING of the State Amateur at Grenelefe was provided by this stalwart golf-writer threesome. Myron Hart, left, Tampa Tribune; Jim Warters, Orlando Sentinel and Betty Ann Rhodes, St. Petersburg Times. Central Florida and Gulf Coast coverage of the 57th annual event was outstanding.

1931-32 Winner Spectator In 1974

Jack Toomer who first won the State Amateur Championship 43 years ago, was a welcome visitor at the 57th renewal of the event at Grenelefe Golf Club.

Toomer, now a Kissimmee businessman, was a two-time winner of the championship. He had back to back victories in 1931 and 1932 when he was playing out of Jacksonville.

Jack still plays. He owns a driving range, in addition to other ventures, and opines that the limber-backs on review at Grenelefe moved the ball off the tee a lot longer than in the old days.

Jack had some interesting things to say about another Jacksonville golfer of yesteryear.

"A.C. Ulmer, you know, didn’t learn to play this game until he was 38 years old," Toomer reflected. "He was always ‘Mr. Ulmer’ to all of us and he played the game better than anyone in the state."

Toomer’s observation was accurate. The late Al Ulmer was a good one. He was a five-time champion with victories coming in 1914, 1917, 1921, 1922, and 1928.
HAIL TO THE NEW CHIEF

M. T. McInnis of Bradenton takes over as President of Florida State Golf Association, June 28, the evening before FSGA’s popular John’s Island Invitational tees off at Vero Beach.

The Association’s new Board of Directors will meet prior to the two day event at the Pete Dye-Jack Nicklaus designed course, to review proposed Constitution and By-Law changes and Mac McInnis will be in charge.

A long time member of FSGA, veteran low handicapper and Manatee County’s Clerk of Circuit Court, McInnis promises to be an active leader. His past performances for and contributions to Florida Golf have been notable and the more than 2,000 members of FSGA look for more of the same during Mac’s administration.

McInnis was one of the founders of Bradenton’s great DeSoto National Handicap Tournament which annually draws record fields of amateurs. He succeeds Roland Arnold of Vero Beach in the top FSGA job moving up from vice president of the Association.

One critical item in the FSGA new By-Law proposal will be to create a new membership category for the college “pro” golfer. There’s some feeling among the play-once-a-week members that university and junior college golf team members, who pursue the sport on a sponsored and full-time basis during the season, should be barred from certain FSGA competitions.

It promises to be a lively issue.

ROLAND ARNOLD HAD HIS SAY

During the annual meeting in April at Disney World when Mac McInnis was elected, outgoing President Roland Arnold of Vero Beach, Florida’s most genial Ford dealer, had some remarks for the membership which we’ll pass on to you:

“This is Florida State Golf Association’s 61st year and I’m pleased to report that activities of the Association continue to hold the interest of our membership. This is our fourth event of the year and the third full field of contestants. I’m sure the West Palm Beach event in March also would have drawn a full field if it hadn’t been scheduled at the height of the gas shortage. We’ll end up with 14 events this year and if the gas holds I’m sure they’ll all be well attended.

“For the past two years we have been discussing the prospect of a home golf course for FSGA. We’ve made some progress in that area, and as Mr. Carey will report later, we almost got the project off the ground last November. But some affluent parties bought the ground out of under us so we’ll be starting over.

“We’ve tried to set aside some funds for the planning and front end work and expenses for such a project. We’ve been successful in accumulating funds and have more money in the bank than at anytime in FSGA history. But that has posed some problems for our non-profit status which we’ll hear about. In short, it has been a full, swift year and I’ve had a good ride and thoroughly enjoyed the associations I’ve made personally.

“I’ve spent a lot of years in Florida golf and the FSGA and have been happy to serve this term as president. With your cooperation we’ve made some significant contributions to our Florida game in providing activities throughout FSGA.

“I’m very grateful for your help and assistance during my term and when I step down as president I want you to join me in continued interest and participation in the affairs of this fine organization.”

Roland made a fine, active President and before the annual meeting was over new vice president Bob McCullers and President Mac, on behalf of the Board of Directors presented our outgoing head man some essential drinking equipment.

The sides of a very fancy silver pitcher were sculptured in a likeness of the Arnold countenance.

Roland, we all hope your pitcher runneth over for many, many years.

GOOD NEW FACES

Although not a new face, Bob McCullers is one the Association wants to keep around. The Leesburg Ford dealer moved up from his director’s post to vice president this year and promises to give FSGA more muscle in Central Florida.

New board members for two year terms are: Walter Allen, Gainesville; C. J. Guntti, Jacksonville; Key Scales, Jr., Weirsdale; Joe Eubanks, Daytona Beach; Jack Shubert, Altamonte Springs; Jay Boyd, Leesburg; Bob White, Tampa; Austin Jones, Jr., Orlando; Curtiss Timm, Sarasota; and Percy Hopkins, Jr., West Palm Beach.

Former President Jack Ledoux, Winter Park and W. G. Birdsong, Titusville, were elected to one-year terms as Directors at Large. Birdsong just completed a two-year term on the board from District 9.

Holdover directors with one year to serve are: Ed Greene, Panama City; Chip Anderson, Destin; Bill Stark, Tallahassee; Al Tidrow, St. Petersburg; Nate Schine, Tampa; Dexter Daniels, Jr., Winter Haven; Harvey Poe, Eau Gallie; Bill Wodtke, Vero Beach; Duncan Cash, Palm Beach and Norton Harris, Key West.

An old and not necessarily good face, Bill Carey, continues as Executive Director.

PATE AND PENSACOLA

Jerry Pate’s victory at Greenleeve marked the first time a Pensa- colan has won the state title. We hope it will not be the last. The University of Alabama star made a lot of friends at the Amateur. Many fellow contestants thought he was a super player.

Dr. Bob Beeler, a fine veteran amateur from Sarasota, played with Jerry for the first two days. His observation: “Thoroughly enjoyable. That young fellow is the finest striker of a golf ball I have ever played with, anywhere.”

That’s a heap of praise from a real student of the game who has played with lots of good ones.

Jerry’s win should make a few points for FSGA in Northwest Florida. Director Ed Greene of Panama City has been busy rating courses in the Pensacola area and trying to stimulate more interest in the Association. Now with our champion there and Chip Anderson’s move to Sandestin we have the best nucleus ever for an active NW Florida branch operation.

BIG LEAGUE COVERAGE

FSGA sends along its gratitude to the Central Florida press for the major league coverage of the 57th Annual State Amateur Championship at Greneleeve Golf Club, Haines City last week.

The Big Three, Bill Kirby and Myron Hart, Tampa Tribune; Jim Warters, Orlando Sentinel and Betty Ann Rhodes, St. Peters- burg Times, staffed the event daily. Golf writers from the Lake- land Ledger, Winter Haven News Chief and Haines City Herald performed nobly and the Tampa and Orlando TV guys piled on a lot of film for the event.

The Jerry Pate-Andy Bean head-to-head drama was a cliff- hanger with the swinging Alabama team star from Pensacola nipping Gator Bean by one shot, 273 to 278 in the 72 hole thriller.

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GRILELEFE WAS GREAT

"The best natural golf course," said a rival tournament director, "is one that is designed with the environment in mind. It's a great course, and it's one that we can all be proud of." So said the organizer of the 57th Annual Florida Amateur Golf Classic, held at the Glen Ellen Golf Club in Naples. The tournament, which dates back to 1956, is one of the oldest and most prestigious in the state of Florida.

The tournament was held at the Glen Ellen Golf Club, a 18-hole course located in the heart of Naples. The club's reputation for excellence is well deserved, as its challenging layout and beautiful scenery provide a true test of skill for golfers of all abilities. The course is noted for its strategic placement of water hazards, which add to the difficulty and appeal of the course.

The tournament was well attended, with over 100 golfers registered to participate. The field included both amateur and professional players, who competed for valuable prize money and the chance to win a variety of trophies. The tournament was divided into different divisions, with separate events for men and women.

The tournament was sponsored by the Florida Golf Association (FGA), which provides oversight and support for all golf tournaments held in the state. The FGA is dedicated to promoting the growth and enjoyment of golf in Florida and works to ensure that tournaments are fair and well run.

Overall, the 57th Annual Florida Amateur Golf Classic was a success, with golfers of all skill levels enjoying the beauty and challenge of the Glen Ellen Golf Club. The tournament provided a great opportunity for golfers to test their skills and compete with others in a friendly and supportive environment. It was a great event that brought together golfers from all over the state, and it was a delight to see the passion and excitement for the sport that was on display.

CASSIE GEORGE

Kassie Phillips, Greenleaf

Our thanks to all those who came to play. Larry, Pat, and the rest of the gang, you made it a great day. For second place, Five at par was good. As a resident, I love playing with the local players. It is a fun and challenging course. We look forward to the next event and the chance to play with you all again.

The tournament was a great success, and it was a pleasure to be a part of it. I hope that we can continue to enjoy the beautiful natural course and the camaraderie that golf brings.

BIL DOTSON, center, had the best score of the week, winning the tournament in Sarasota in April. The tournament was held in the town of Sarasota, known for its beautiful beaches and lush greenery. The course was in excellent condition, providing a challenging yet enjoyable experience for the golfers. The tournament was a great success, and we look forward to the next one.

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