## A BUMPER YEAR

 FOR NEW GOLF COURSESTHE 160 new golf courses and additions opened for play in 1957 top all previous i2 month periods since World War II, according to the 2rst Annual Report of the National Golf Foundation. Joe Graffis, Sr., president of NFG, points out that these new courses and additions added 1,843 holes of golf to those already in play.

The 289 golf courses and additions under construction and the 758 courses in the planning stage in 1957 underline the growing public confidence in the future of golf.
"More than 500 new golf courses and additions have been put into play since 1952, when the National Golf Foundation embarked on an accelerated program to assist in the development of new golf playing facilities," Graffis said. "Not only has this program helped to bring many of the new courses into existence, it has been directly or indirectly responsible in saving many courses threatened with extinction by shopping centers, real estate subdivisions and superhighways.
"Today fewer courses are falling by the wayside due to the American public's increasing awareness of the need for recreation facilities in the modern young community, of golf's appeal to all age groups of both sexes and the golf courses proven ability to pay its own way without eating into already strained local tax structures!"

Graffis said that a survey of the 108 golf courses open for play in 1955, to which nearly 25 per cent of the courses responded, indicated that the 1955 group represents a total capital investment in land, improvements, equipment and supplies of approximately $\$ 27,000,000$. Based on this estimate, and ignoring subsequent increases in land, labor and materials costs, this year's 133 new golf courses (not including additions) represents a total capital

investment of more than $\$ 35$ million.
Other highlights of the Foundation report show that California again leads all states with 28 new golf courses and additions open for play and 40 courses under construction during the past 12 months, more than double its 1956 report and more than twice the number in each category reported this year by New York, second in ine with ro courses open for play and r9 under construction.

Texas is third in golf course development with 7 courses open and 21 under construction. North Carolina, Ohio and Tennessee each reported 6 courses open for play. Vermont, the only state not reporting courses open for play or under construction this year, shows 2 golf courses in the planning stage.

The National Golf Foundation report revealed a steady increase in golf activity throughout the country. There were $71,000,000$ I8-hole rounds against $67,500,-$ 000 in 1956. Women's play was up 15 per cent over 1956 and junior play (under 18 years of age) was up 20 per cent over the previous year.

As a non-profit organization, the $\mathrm{Na}-$ tional Golf Foundation helps any individual or group interested in the development of golf facilities or golf activity wherever they are needed in America. Its address is 407 South Dearborn Street, Chicago 5, Ill.

## GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES



## GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT

## 1957

The National Golf Foundation, Inc.


