

# Byrket Hired at Brookwood

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Sportsman, automobile dealer and golf enthusiast Jim Kelley walked into the clubhouse at Brookwood with 18 holes to be played in the 1961 Men's City Tournament.

Tied with Charlie Byrket for the lead and even par after 36 holes, Kelley told owner Emma Klein, "they way I'm playing this course, let me know if you ever want to sell it, will you?"

Others in range of the conversation figured it was a joke. Kelley wasn't too serious at the time and probably less so when he wound up seven strokes off the pace in the tourney, won by Roy Hemsath with Byrket a stroke back.

However, Miss Klein did desire to sell the course this Winter and the first one she contacted was Kelley. He was agreeable and together with Mike Driver, the Brookwood greenskeeper, they made it official Thursday.

Kelley and Driver then got together and with the ink still wet on the final papers hired Byrket as pro and general manager of

the popular 18-hole layout on the Bluffton Road.

"Byrket will be the boss," Kelley stated yesterday. "He'll be in complete charge of the clubhouse and the business operation of the layout, with Driver continuing to be the head greenskeeper."

"It's a challenge," said Byrket, "but one I'm certainly looking forward to and with help from Kelley, Driver, the golfers and especially Miss Klein, I'm sure Brookwood's operation will continue to be smooth and enjoyable for all concerned."

Byrket and Kelley were quick to add that Miss Klein, who owned the course for 19 years—18 of which Driver was the greenskeeper—would continue to help out in the clubhouse with the business end of the operation. As Miss Klein stated after deeding the course to Kelley and Driver, "I have no intention of buying a silk dress and a rocking chair."

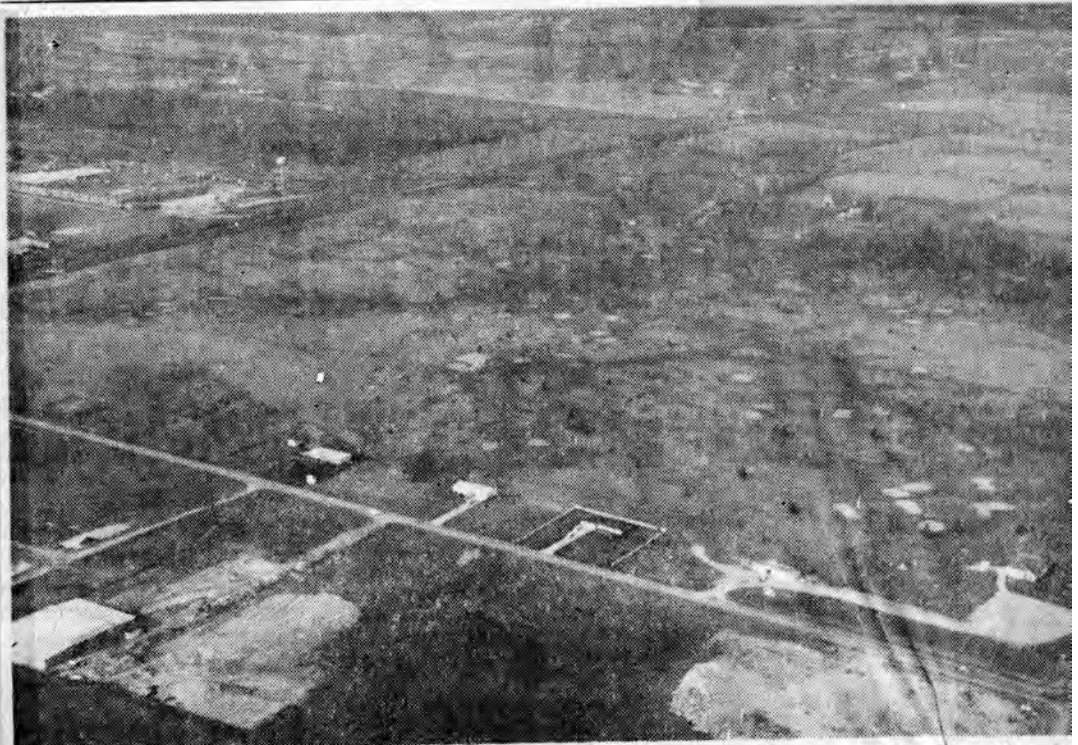
The 43-year-old Byrket has served as a freight conductor at Decatur for the past 12 years and plans to resign that position prior to the opening of the clubhouse at Brookwood on April 1.

A former Air Force pilot, Byrket didn't take up the game of golf until he was 27 years of age. He only took one lesson in his life and admits "it didn't turn out very good." He played three years before breaking 80, but since that time it has become mighty rare when he doesn't break 75.

The new pro-general manager moved here from Richmond in 1953 and promptly won the 1954 Men's City at the Orchard Ridge

Country Club as an unknown. In 1957 he finished third at Foster Park and in 1959 he wound up sixth at the Ridge and was the runnerup in 1961 at Brookwood.

At Foster Park last summer he



**SALE OF BROOKWOOD COURSE ANNOUNCED**—Brookwood Golf Course, owned and operated by Emma Klein for has been sold to Jim Kelley and Mike Driver. The purchase price of the property was not disclosed. Journal-G from Airgo, Inc., plane, Smith Field.



**IT'S OFFICIAL NOW**—Emma Klein, seated, officially signed papers Thursday which deeded over the Brookwood golf course to its new owners, Jim Kelley, right, and Mike Driver, behind Miss Klein. On the left is Charlie Byrket, twice a city golf champion, who has been named pro-general manager of the course by the new owners.