

part-time Golfer

Few champions willingly retire at the peak of a great career. But Lord Byron, who earned huge sums through his golfing prowess, is doing just about that—and likes it!

By George W. White

THERE may be something after all to the old saw that you can take the boy out of the country but you can't take the country out of the boy. This is in no way intended to imply, however, that the subject of this piece is a hick. He definitely is not.

The point is that the John B. Nelsons did not spoil a farmer when, two and a half decades ago, they decided to give up their rural home near Waxahachie, Texas, and move to Fort Worth where they could give their children the advantages of big-city public schools. For conclusive evidence you need only to drop in unannounced at the 630 acres that comprise Fairway Ranch, a good stone's throw from the little town of Roanoke, Texas, and observe John Byron Nelson Jr. in pursuit of his newest occupation.

The young man, acclaimed by many the greatest golfer who

ever swung a driver, is working harder now than he ever dreamed of doing but he loves it with a passion. With great pride he'll show you around the place. You immediately sense his feeling of security, and his thrill of accomplishment as the famous star points out his handsome, rambling ranch house and the improvements he has made since he acquired it last September.

Most of his relatives must have dropped in last Christmas, for, in a tone of great astonishment, Byron still tells of sleeping more than 20 people in the house that night. He implies he'd have to lease a whole hotel to display that kind of hospitality in town. Pointing to his fine garden, his story of the laborious clearing job that had to be done to get that ground ready is awesome. He can also give you a lecture based on his practical experi- (→ TO PAGE 88)



Squire

Farming is the champ's business now. Soon he plans to add cattle and hogs.



Squire

The 630-acre ranch isn't a luxury, and Byron does plenty of the manual labor.

International

Nelson's rhythmic swing and powerful drive helped him win 19 out of 31 important tournaments in 1946.

