

80s Could Win in the 90s

The first golf reporter in the United States is believed to be Frank W. Crane, who joined the *NEW YORK TIMES* late in 1894 and covered all tournaments in the New York area until World War I. Recently, while browsing through his effects, Mr. Crane discovered a book of clippings he had preserved for reference during the earliest years of the USGA. Thinking they might be "of some interest" today, he presented the book to the USGA Museum through Mr. Charles C. Auchincloss of the Museum Committee.

When Mr. Crane, who is now 81, said the book might be "of some interest," he understated the case. The clippings were taken not only from his own writings in the *TIMES* but also from the *HERALD*, *WORLD*, *SUN*, *TRIBUNE*, *PHILADELPHIA TIMES*, *UTICA OBSERVER*, *CHICAGO TRIBUNE* and *HARPER'S WEEKLY*.

The earliest is dated October 19, 1894, and describes the victory of Lawrence B. Stoddard over Charles Blair Macdonald in the "Amateur Championship of the United States" at the St. Andrew's Golf Club, Yonkers, N. Y. This was one of two such events held that year, the other having been at the Newport Golf Club in September.

The existence of two "champions" in the same year led to formation of the USGA, and Mr. Crane's clippings cover all aspects of the game in those days, including the birth of the USGA and its first two years of championships in 1895 and 1896.

Almost every report is lengthy and detailed. It would be difficult to imagine a more valuable contribution to source material on the early history of American golf. Even for those who are not historically minded, the descriptions are good for many a quiet chuckle.

Many golfers know, of course, that King James II persuaded his Parliament to make the playing of golf unlawful in Scotland in 1457. But it is not so commonly known that early American clubs were waited upon by the law for violating the Sabbath by playing golf.

In 1896, the Greenwich (Conn.) Citi-

zens Association became "scandalized by prominent and wealthy men dressed in red coats, white trousers and red hats going to the golf club grounds through public streets while the church bells are ringing," and petitioned the club to close on Sundays without requiring the Association to resort to the law.

A 20-Foot Drive

In the same year, the New Jersey Vice and Immorality Act was called down on the heads of Englewood Golf Club members, and Edgar Jewett was haled into court for having violated the Sabbath laws by playing golf. The chief of police testified that he had seen the defendant "hit at a little ball with a shinny stick." He added that it went about 20 feet, at which the assembled golfers laughed uproariously.

The judge, a non-golfer, was unimpressed. After pointing out that, if the obsolete statute were enforced, nobody could sing to the baby, give praise to God by means of organ music, or walk in the streets on Sunday, he praised golf for its ethics, freedom from boisterousness and its salutary effect on businessmen of sedentary habits. He found that the playing of golf on private grounds on Sunday did not *per se* constitute the offense charged.

A year before, in 1895, a story in the *SUN* stated that "golf is swinging upward" and claimed 15,000 players in the United States.

"The St. Andrew's club was formally organized on Nov. 14, 1888," the report states. "The first links consisted of six holes on the pasture behind H. O. Tallmadge's residence on Palisades Avenue in Yonkers. . . ."

"The advance guard was not long left alone . . . August Belmont is building a 12-hole course on his property at Babylon; Bayard Cutting has links at Islip, John Jacob Astor at Rhinecliff. . . . On the Hudson, too, are the links of Stattdburgh Golf Club, with Ogden D. Mills, Archibald Rogers and William Brown Dinsmore, Jr., as the ruling spirits, and at Poughkeepsie there are links on the grounds of E. N. Howells. . . . The game is also played at the Country Club of Westchester.

First Known Golf Picture Made in the United States



Courtesy of H. B. Martin

This photograph was made in 1888 at the first green of the original St. Andrew's Golf Club, Yonkers, N. Y. The players were Harry Holbrook, Alexander P. W. Kinnan, John B. Upham and John Reid. Mr. Reid was the club president, Mr. Upham the secretary and Mr. Holbrook a governor of the first permanent golf club established in this country. The caddies were Warren and Fred Holbrook, sons of the player. The photo was made by S. Hedding Fitch.

"In the New York group, too, are the links of the Meadow Brook Club, the Rockaway Hunting Club and the Richmond County Country Club. The Tuxedo links are also in this group . . . and two more, each having the distinction of having been first projected by women, the Orange Mountain Golf Club and the Morris County Golf Club. . . .

"Three more New Jersey clubs may claim a place—at Paterson, Hohokus and Glen Ridge, and there are junior golf clubs, a healthy sign, at both Summit and Morristown. Lakewood and Asbury Park have flourishing clubs.

"The Boston group, in prominence and numbers, is next to New York, with the game well established at The Country Club of Brookline, the Essex County Club, Lowell Country Club, Myopia Hunt Club and about fifty other points. The game is well founded near Washington, Chicago, St. Louis, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, in the latter group being the Philadelphia Country Club, the Bryn Mawr College links, Devon Golf Club, Merion

Cricket Club and the Germantown Cricket Club.

"Then, by their importance and location, sufficiently prominent to mention individually are the Newport Golf Club, the Kebo Valley Golf Club, the Bridgeport Golf Club and the Shinnecock Hills Golf Club. There is a club at Denver, Col., and at Colorado Springs, while California has the game at San Francisco and San Mateo. . . .

"Winter golfing was tried under unique conditions by the members of the Hohokus Golf Club, who played in January on the crust of the ice, using red balls and having excellent sport. (Winter golf also was played at Baltusrol and Lakewood). . . .

"At Newport last year the championship muddle began that was one of the causes leading to the formation of the United States Golf Association . . . Newport's championships were held in September, and the winner was W. Lawrence of the Newport club, who defeated C. B. Macdonald of the Chicago Golf Club by a stroke. Later in the season, an amateur champion-

ship was held at St. Andrew's, which was won by L. B. Stoddard, and again C. B. Macdonald was second. Arrangements for Messrs. Lawrence and Stoddard to play a decisive match fell through owing to the lateness of the season. . . .

"An equal uncertainty marked the standing of the professionals at the end of the season. Willie Dunn and Willie Campbell had beaten each other in turn. . . . This season the advent of Willie Park, Jr., has upset all calculations, and Joe Lloyd, another high class player from abroad, is also a factor. . . .

Start of the USGA

"The United States Golf Association, which has made the Newport championships next fall possible and which is to regulate the sport generally, was formed on Dec. 22, 1894, at a meeting in the Calumet Club attended by Theodore A. Havemeyer and Winthrop Rutherford of the Newport Golf Club; Thomas H. Barber and Samuel L. Parrish of the Shinnecock Hills Golf Club; Laurence B. Curtis and P. S. Sears of The Country Club of Brookline; John Reid and H. O. Tallmadge of the St. Andrew's club; and Charles B. Macdonald and J. A. Ryerson of the Chicago Golf Club. The officers elected were Theodore A. Havemeyer, president; Laurence Curtis, vice-president; Charles B. Macdonald, vice-president; Henry O. Tallmadge, secretary, and Samuel L. Parrish, treasurer.

"At present the associate members are the Chicago Golf Club, Country Club of Brookline, Newport Golf Club, St. Andrew's Golf Club, Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, the Essex County Club of Manchester, Mass., and the Philadelphia Country Club. . . . The playing rules of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrew's, Scotland, have been adopted with a few local changes."

The story of the first USGA Amateur Championship final at Newport in October, 1895, ran about a half-column in the TIMES and describes a one-sided contest to an expected result, Charles Blair Macdonald of Chicago defeating Charles E. Sands of St. Andrew's, 12 up and 11 to play.

"Sands opened nervously, fozzling his drives for the first and second holes," it

was reported. "Macdonald was by all-around good play 5 up at the end of the morning's two rounds. After lunch the play for the second eighteen holes was in order, but it was entirely without feature, except that the Chicagoan won seven straight holes." The nine-hole scores were: Macdonald, 44-44-44—132; Sands, 54-47-60—161.

In an editorial comment, Mr. Crane reported: "Both men had professionals follow them over the course to coach them and to advise, a questionable proceeding in what should be strictly amateur in every respect. Dunn and Tucker advised Sands, and Foulis coached Macdonald."

The first USGA Open championship was played on the same course the next day, when "the wind blew half a gale over the links . . . and fine play was impossible. . . . The champion proved to be a dark-horse—Horace Rawlins of the Newport club, whom Davis brought over last January. He is a mere lad of 19, who was born on the Isle of Wight, but put up a great game of golf, especially in his two rounds this afternoon, each of which he made in 41."

Rawlins scored 91-82—173 and received \$200, \$50 of which was expended for a gold medal. Willie Dunn of Shinnecock Hills was second with 175 and won \$100.

"All that is latest and chic in golfing attire was seen in the costumes of the players" in the first USGA Women's Championship at Meadow Brook in November, 1895, the SUN reported. "Tweed skirts, cut plain and close and falling to the boot tops were generally worn, with silk shirtwaists, stiff linen collars and black silk ties formed into bows. . . ." Mrs. Charles S. Brown, of New York, who learned her golf at Shinnecock Hills, was the winner. The twelve entrants played nine holes in the morning and nine in the afternoon.

"Mrs. Brown's score was 69-63—132, making the women's record for the links," the SUN reported. "It was said that the 132 strokes of Mrs. Brown was the best score for 18 holes that any American woman has yet made," the HERALD expanded.

Editor's Note: Another article on the infancy of American golf, based on Mr. Crane's scrapbook, will appear in an early issue.