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# THROUGH THE GREEN

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## Ringin' the Bell

The 18th hole at the Highlands Country Club, Highlands, N. C., is a one-shotter of 185 yards across a lake, and it's mostly carry.

Off to the right, on the lake shore, is the home of Mr. James Floyd, of Atlanta, who loves both golf and good fun.

Mr. Floyd has a big bell there which can make a pretty good noise if Mr. Floyd wants it to. Sometimes, of a summer's day, after Mr. Floyd has finished a game over the lovely Highlands course, he sits in a 'vantage spot at his place and watches the golfers tee off at No. 18.

If the ball takes a leap into the lake, and if the striker of the ball is a friend of Mr. Floyd, Mr. Floyd's bell is very apt to herald the unhappy event.

Mr. Floyd is not only a jolly good bell-ringer but quite a golfer. He has made golf scores equal to his age, even this year, and we're told he's in his early 70's.

One of his happiest moments occurred this summer when he was past the cup on the 17th green in two shots, and it's 495 yards from the tee.

This event came a day after a charity exhibition match at Highlands in which Miss Dorothy Kirby and Richard Garlington won from Miss Louise Suggs and Robert T. Jones, Jr.

The referee was Mr. Veazey Rainwater, for many years president of the Southern Golf Association and formerly a USGA Executive Committeeman. His many friends will be pleased to know that he is still on his game—had a 69 this year.

Mr. Rainwater, in short, is still a pretty poor customer for Mr. Floyd's bell.



## String Tournament

The Women's Long Island Golf Association tied a string tournament to its schedule this summer. Some Californians are said to know what it's all about, but in case you don't, here goes:

String is used as a method of taking handicap strokes, usually in mixed foursomes. After a pair has had its handicap determined, it is given a piece of string, carefully measured to allow one foot of string for each handicap stroke. Thus, if your team is handicapped at 10, you get 10 feet of string.

You can use your string piecemeal to advance the ball instead of playing strokes. If you're in an unplayable lie in the rough, you may measure with the string from your ball to the place you long to be, drop the ball, and cut off the amount of string used. You can do the same thing in a bunker, for example, or to hole a putt.

When your piece of string is all used up, you're back on your own.

The Long Island ladies' association held its tournament as a family mixed foursome, match play against par. The winners were Mrs. V. D. Crisp and her 16-year-old son Peter, of the Piping Rock Club, after a tie with Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Babcock, also Piping Rock.

The string is usually put to best advantage on the putting greens, but practically endless uses come to mind as you play this heavenly game.

Veteran string-users have found string to be magically elastic. They advise, however, not to wait too long to use up your string, else you may be left holding the string instead of the prize.

## From Tee to Tree

It turns out that Charley Yates isn't the only one who has done a golfing para-

phrase of Joyce Kilmer's poem "Trees" (see USGA JOURNAL for June).

Now along comes another version, author unknown as far as we know, originally published for HQS Command, USAFE, in the Wiesbaden Post and just forwarded to us by Col. Lee S. Read, of Louisville. It goes like this:

*I think that I shall never see  
A hazard rougher than a tree;  
A tree o'er which my ball must fly  
If on the green it is to lie;  
A tree which stands that green to guard,  
And makes the shot extremely hard;  
A tree whose leafy arms extend  
To kill the mashie shot I send;  
A tree that stands in silence there  
While angry golfers rave and swear.  
Niblicks were made for fools like me  
Who cannot even miss a tree.*



### Record Entry

The entry list for this year's USGA Amateur Championship was far and away the largest ever received—1,222, as compared with the previous high of 1,118 in 1936.

It was the second USGA record entry of the year, the Open having attracted 1,412.

Unfortunately, some of the aspirants for the Amateur had deadline trouble, as usual. Approximately 400 entries were received on the last day. More than 60 could not be accepted, most of them being late.

One entry which just beat the deadline was contained in an envelope well covered with postage stamps, notations about special delivery and air mail, and the following little message in a box:

PLEASE DELIVER ME  
BY 5 P.M. TODAY  
AUGUST 2, 1948

Some of the players couldn't locate one of the 9,000 entry blanks we distributed, but they dug up 1947 blanks.

### Life with Junior

SEEN AND HEARD AT THE USGA'S FIRST JUNIOR AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN:

A mother giving advice to her boy as his match went to an extra hole: "Now, play carefully, son."

Mike Flanagan, of Memphis, playing in his first tournament, surprised when Curtis Brown, of Phoenix, shook his hand after Mike scored a birdie 3 on the 15th hole of their first-round match. "What's it for?" asked Mike. "You won, 5 and 3," said Curt. "Gosh, I thought I was just 2 up playing this hole," Mike said. "I wasn't keeping score—I was just playing."

Col. Lee S. Read, of Louisville, Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern Golf Association and member of USGA Sectional Affairs Committee, serving as starter and introducing opponents with Southern graciousness. Col. Read is a generous contributor to all that is best in the game. He volunteered as chief scorekeeper in the Amateur Public Links Championship at Atlanta and did a superb job.

W. B. (Babe) Crawford, a director of the University of Michigan Club of Detroit, pleased as could be over the way things went. He was largely instrumental in arranging for use of the University course.

A mother shagging balls for her practicing son.

### Favorite Shot

When you ask a good player what his favorite shot is, you usually get an orthodox answer.

Not so Ben Hughes, of Portland, Ore., runner-up in this year's Amateur Public Links Championship.

"Favorite shot?" says Ben. "When it goes in the hole—and I don't care where it's played from."



## SPORTSMAN'S CORNER

Last year, when the USGA Open Championship was to be played at St. Louis, entries for St. Louis' sectional qualifying rounds were so numerous that two courses were used, Bellevue and Glen Echo.

To add to the difficulty, the courses were soggy. For the morning rounds, the local officials allowed players to improve their lies at both courses.

In the afternoon, however, when the two halves of the field exchanged courses, conditions had become better. Thus, the starter at one course instructed contestants to play their balls as they lay in the second round. But the starter at the other course permitted the other half of the field to continue playing preferred lies.

Harold Wiley, professional at the Crawford County Country Club, Robinson, Ill., led the field with a 36-hole score of 145 and apparently had won the medal and a place in the Open Championship. However, when it was discovered that half the field had improved their lies for 36 holes and half for only 18 holes, the rounds were cancelled and rescheduled for the following day.

On the replay, Wiley shot 81 in the morning and picked up after six holes in the afternoon, failing to qualify.

Wiley chanced to explain to Fred R. Dowd, President of the St. Louis District Golf Association, that he had not been quite well and felt unable to stand the strain of playing 72 holes in two days.

As Mr. Dowd says, "He did it in such a nice way, so uncomplainingly and so understanding-



Harold Wiley

ly—with such an appreciation of the unfortunate misunderstanding that necessitated the replay—that I was terribly impressed by his utter good sportsmanship."

In recognition of Harold Wiley's selfless attitude under difficult conditions, the St. Louis Association subsequently presented him with an appropriately inscribed watch.

### Alter Ego

The Chairman of the USGA Championship Committee is Richard S. Tufts.

The Secretary of the Carolina Golf Association is Richard S. Tufts.

When the Chairman tells the Secretary about conduct of USGA sectional qualifying rounds, and the Secretary reports the results to the Chairman, and the Chairman thanks the Secretary and invites him to the Championship, the to-do in the Tufts office is slightly out of the ordinary.

### State Lines

The Alabama Golf Association's Amateur Championship was held this year at

the Pensacola Country Club, and that's in Florida; but there's nothing unusual about it. The same thing happened in 1933 and 1937. What's more, a Pensacola player won the 1937 event—Duncan McDavid.

It all started back in 1925 when, because of Pensacola's proximity to the Alabama scene of action, Guy E. Yaste appealed on behalf of the Florida club for the Alabama Association to admit Pensacolans.

Request granted—and Mr. Yaste, a cross-handed player, got further down to cases by being medalist in 1928 and 1933.

Gordon Smith, III, of the Mobile Country Club, has kept the Alabama title safe for Alabama the last two years.

### A View on the Stymie

George Trevor reported in the New York SUN as follows concerning the final of the 1948 New York Metropolitan Amateur Championship, in which Ray Billows defeated Robert Sweeny, Jr.:

"Say what you please against the stymie, that provocative situation lends spice to a golf match. Consider, for instance, the deft manner in which Sweeny curved his putt around the blockading ball of Billows on the third green. Ray laid Bob a dead stymie here. Instead of trying a risky jump shot with a niblick, Sweeny detected just enough borrow in the green slope to warrant an intentional hook. It came off perfectly, the ball describing a halfmoon arc in transit to the cup."



### Indian Sign

George Edmondson, of Tampa, Fla., doesn't have much luck when he plays a Sherrill in the final of the Palma Ceia Golf Club championship.

Twenty years ago he lost to Lawrence Sherrill. This summer he was defeated on the 36th hole by 17-year-old Lawrence Sherrill, Jr.

Mr. Edmondson is a USGA Sectional Affairs Committeeman.

### Golf and Flog

In Portland, Ore., a group of golfers has added to the vocabulary of the game by coining the term "flog." Golf is a gentleman's game, played by the rules, but flog, they say (reversing the spelling), is some other game, played without regard for the Rules of Golf.

### Fine Points

A golf-lover has suggested that the Rules of Golf specify that a ball, when lifted, be held between the thumb and forefinger, and in plain sight.

To which another devotee replied:

"My own opinion is that the sportsmanship of the game will be best served with a minimum of regulations and a maximum of appeal to the honor of players.

"Anyone who wants to avoid courteous procedure can always do so, but he certainly ought to give up golf."

### Scoring Probabilities

Lew Lasman and Bill Alstrand of the Fox Hills Golf Club, Culver City, Cal., have gone over 1,000 scorecards which members turned in for handicap purposes, and emerged with a statistical chart showing the average and mean scores for each hole on the course last year. The chart is posted on the bulletin board, so that members may know what to expect when they start a round.

### Add a Glow

Add a glow of satisfaction  
To your exercise and fun  
By a kindness to your caddie  
Just as though he were your son.

T. G. McMAHON



### Cyril Walker

We record with regret the passing of Cyril Walker, USGA Open Champion in 1924.