

Chicago Rich in Open History

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A great deal of Open Championship history has been made on golf courses in the Chicago district. The 1949 Open at Medinah is the tenth in a Chicago setting—10 of the 49 in the USGA series which began in 1895. Here are flashbacks on others:

1897—Joe Lloyd had 162 for 36 holes to win, at Chicago Golf Club.

1900—Harry Vardon, on his first American trip, won at Chicago Golf with 313 for 72 holes.

1904—Willie Anderson took the third of his four Open Championships, at Glen View. Only he and Bob Jones won four. Anderson alone had three in a row.

1906—Alex Smith, with 295 at Onwentsia, became the first Open Champion to score under 300.

1911—Johnny McDermott was the first American home-bred winner, with 307 at Chicago Golf.

1914—Walter Hagen gained his first Championship, at Midlothian.

1922—Gene Sarazen won his first, at Skokie. This was the first time admission fees were charged to a USGA Championship. The USGA annual report said: "The paid attendance of 15,078 was the first authoritative check on the spectators attending a Championship."

1928—Johnny Farrell won from Bob Jones in a play-off at Olympia Fields.

1933—Johnny Goodman became one of the rare amateur winners, at North Shore. Goodman's 66 in the second round tied the existing single-round record.

Complex Preparations

Medinah's rugged No. 3 course has entertained a number of fine tournaments in the last 20 years, including the Chicago Open, Western Open and Victory Open. In preparation for the USGA Open, a great deal of special work was done in the last year, under the Green Committee headed by John Skala. The course is long and difficult, with Championship yardage of 6,981 and a par of 71.



These three men directed Medinah's preparations for the Open Championship. Left to right: E. Jack Barns, General Chairman; Warren N. Barr, Sr., President of the Club; Lowell D. (Larry) Rutherford, Co-Chairman. Mr. Rutherford was, until recently, a member of the Tournament Committee of the Chicago District Golf Association for 16 years and was long its Chairman.

Over the Water at Medinah



The second hole on the Medinah Country Club's No. 3 course requires a carry over water. It is a par 3 of 182 yards.

The average player and spectator appear ignorant of the vast amount of preparation that goes into an event of this sort. One club's general chairman for an Open estimated that more than 10,000 man-hours were spent by his colleagues in planning and management.

Practically all such work is done by volunteers. Golf championships with large spectator interest, such as the Open and the Amateur, couldn't be held in their present form if all work were compensated. There simply isn't enough money in them for that. They depend essentially on the generous spirit of hundreds of golfers—amateurs in the best sense of the term—who labor early and late to care for competitors and spectators alike.

Each club entertaining a USGA competition is responsible for all physical arrangements except the actual conduct of play. Thus, club committees handle such matters as preparation of the golf course, admission tickets, caddies, gallery control, certain scoring duties, automobile parking, accommodation of players, clubhouse services, public information, and publication of an official program. They are aided by a USGA

manual of some 20,000 words, representing the accumulated experience of clubs which have held USGA competitions.

Typifying the volunteer workers are E. Jack Barns, General Chairman of Medinah's committees for the Open; Lowell D. Rutherford, Co-Chairman, and Warren N. Barr, Sr., President of the Club. For nearly two years they and fellow-members worked toward the 1949 Open—a three-day event. At times they sacrificed personal interests to do the job. I've had the pleasure of being involved in something over 50 national and international golf affairs, and I've seen at first-hand the enthusiasm, careful thought and selfless devotion which club committees give.

Why do they do it? Why do they take on free work and sometimes make generous costly sacrifices?

Well, if there's a single reason, it's just because they love it. They love the game. They love what it stands for. Sportsmen are that way. Just as a tree is likely to be healthiest when it is giving fruit, so are people at their best when their attentions are focused on worthwhile things, bigger than themselves.