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# THROUGH THE GREEN

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## Perfectly Natural

A fellow in Brisbane, Australia, caused quite a commotion. Drove a ball and then jumped, fully clothed, into the creek in front of the tee.

It turned out to be a perfectly natural thing to do. Investigating members arrived to see him emerging with his highly prized driver. It had simply slipped out of his hands and gone into the water as he drove.

## Two Putters and a Ball

The USGA Golf Museum's collection of historical clubs has been twice augmented.

Walter E. Egan, of Carmel, Cal., runner-up in the 1901 Amateur Championship and winner of the 1903 Western Amateur, has kindly given the aluminum Braid-Mills putter he used then.

Mrs. Macdonald Smith, of Glendale, Cal., graciously donated a similar putter used first by the late Alex Smith in winning the 1910 Open Championship and later by his younger brother, the late Macdonald Smith, when he almost blocked Bob Jones' Grand Slam in the 1930 Open Championship.

Mr. Egan wrote of his contribution: "I recall two matches in which the putter figured vividly. Both were in the Western Amateur in 1903 at the Euclid Club in Cleveland.

"In the semi-final I played a local man named Brown. John D. Rockefeller for the first time, I believe, followed a golf match. On the 36th green, with the match even, I had a putt of some 25 feet to win. The Braid-Mills did the trick.

"The next day, on the 37th hole against my cousin, Chandler, we were on the green alike, each about two and a half feet from the cup, so even in distance that a measurement had to be made. Chandler was away. He putted and the

ball rimmed the cup. I realized that this probably would be the only time I might win the Western, and somehow the Braid-Mills again served."

The Museum already has a driver used by Chandler Egan, Amateur Champion in 1904 and 1905 and a member of the 1934 Walker Cup Team.

The Smith putter, which has an unusual degree of loft, was received through the good offices of D. Scott Chisholm, of Ocean Park, Cal., a member of the USGA Museum Committee. "It is the wish of Mrs. Smith that the famous aluminum putter be given to the USGA and find a resting place for all time," Mr. Chisholm wrote. "Mac used it in his last game at Bel-Air Country Club when he shot a great 70."

Through the kindness of Sam Snead, Mr. Chisholm also was able to donate the ball Snead used in making birdies on the last two holes to tie Ben Hogan at 280 in the 1950 Los Angeles Open at the Riviera Country Club. Snead won the play-off, 72 to 76.

## Salutes

1. To Ben Hogan, whose great faith and courage helped him return from the valley of the shadow to an incredible tie with Sam Snead in the Los Angeles Open, his first tournament in almost a year after his near-fatal automobile accident.

2. To Bob Jones, selected as the greatest golfer of the first half of the century in an Associated Press poll. Many people don't confine that "greatest" superlative to any particular century as far as Mr. Jones is concerned.

## Walker Cup Ties

Among the Christmas presents received by members of the USGA Walker Cup Team were special Walker Cup neckties, gifts from the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland.

### 35 Years A Champion

Back in 1914, when W. Hamilton Gardner was just a young fellow, his golf was good enough to win him the Championship of the Country Club of Buffalo.

Thirty-five years later (which makes it last fall) they entered Ham Gardner's name again on the board as Club Champion.

Is there anything to beat this in American golf? If there is, we'd like to know about it, and so would Henry Comstock and Ham Gardner's other friends, because they gave him a dinner after his 1949 victory. But the tribute was not only for his golf record but for his record as "a swell guy," as the dinner invitation phrased it.

Ham Gardner has won the Club Championship twelve times all told. And this in a Club where Paul Hyde took it ten

#### THE GOLFER'S VOW

The melancholy days have come.  
The fairways now are drear.  
The traps are filled with withered leaves,  
And greens are brown and sere.  
The locker room has lost the charm  
It held when skies were clear,  
And the echoes of "Sweet Adeline"  
No longer smite the ear.  
Confusion reigns within the club  
Where clothes and bags piled high  
Await the gang's departure  
'Neath bleak and wintry sky,  
And in the gathering gloom of eve  
'Mid winds and icy snow  
Dejected figures slink away  
To the place where the golfers go.  
Now the playing season's over  
And there's no place left to roam,  
So with hunted look he takes the trail  
Back to the wife and home.  
His mind is filled with haunting fear,  
Are the kids and wife still there?  
Will he be welcomed as of yore  
To his seat in the empty chair  
That has stood at the head of the table,  
Vacant since earliest spring?  
Will the baby recognize him,  
He who was once the king?  
Now his heart is filled with anguish  
And remorse with him abides,  
So he vows by the gods that never again  
Will he leave his fireside.

But the golfer's vows are all the bunk,  
For he knows with the breath of spring  
He will leave the wife and kids again  
And do the same darn thing.

—JUDGE EARLE F. TILLEY

times between 1916 and 1946, and Parke Wright, a nephew of Walter J. Travis, won seven times. This is quite a semi-monopolistic state for an event that started in 1897.

#### Doubt as to Amateur Status

It is not customary for the USGA to originate announcements about amateur status investigations or personalities unless direct questions arise from an entry for a competition or unless it is necessary to correct previous action.

On the other hand, the Amateur Status and Conduct Committee is constantly active investigating cases and reviewing applications for reinstatement. The USGA is naturally desirous that other associations and clubs be informed of and support its decisions.

The policy of avoiding undue public embarrassment of individuals tends to make it difficult to keep golf officials informed about rulings in which individuals forfeit amateur status.

To resolve this dilemma, the USGA henceforth will directly notify appropriate sectional associations of pertinent actions on amateur status matters.

Any club or other organization in doubt about the status of an entrant should feel free to write to its sectional association or to the USGA for up-to-date information.

#### On the Bookshelf

The Garden City Golf Club, on Long Island, has entertained five USGA Championships and a Walker Cup Match. Three of its members—R. H. Robertson, Daniel Chauncey and Robert C. Watson—served as USGA Presidents. Four others—Charles Blair Macdonald, H. J. Whigham, H. M. Harriman and Walter J. Travis—won the Amateur Championship.

Having contributed so richly to the development of golf, the Club thrived with the game and reached its 50th anniversary last year. To mark the occasion, it has published a handsome club history, written by H. B. Martin under the direction of C. Waller Barrett, Chairman of the Committee for the Book.

There is much about Travis and his

Schenectady putter, which rests in a glass case in the clubhouse. The Schenectady was so called because it was made by a resident of Schenectady, Arthur T. Knight. Knight gave it to Edward Phillips, who went abroad with Travis for the 1904 British Amateur, Martin relates. When Travis lost his putting touch just before the Championship, he tried the Schenectady in desperation. After his victory, he used it until his last championship, the 1915 Metropolitan Amateur, which he won at the age of 54.

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The Women's Metropolitan Golf Association also celebrated its 50th anniversary last year and has published an autobiography. This one is a monumental achievement in research for facts and photographs by the editor, Mrs. Edith Heal Berrien. Since the WMGA is one of the oldest women's associations in the land, the volume is, in a way, a history of women's golf.

The WMGA is becoming quite literary. It also has inaugurated a chatty, illustrated quarterly entitled "Tee Talk" to carry tournament and handicap news and notes to its members.

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The humorous literature of golf has been run through a sieve by Dave Stanley, and some fine particles have been placed in a Lantern Press volume entitled "A Treasury of Golf Humor".

These books are USGA Museum and Library gifts of real value.

### Profit Returned to Golf

Although the USGA Amateur Public Links Championship has fewer money aspects than almost any major event you could name, the 1949 tournament produced a net profit of \$2,537.35, according to the Los Angeles sponsors. The excess all went back into golf. Maurice Luxford, General Chairman, reports that it was disposed of as follows:

\$1,014.94 to the Southern California Public Links Golf Association.

\$1,014.94 to the Municipal Sports Fund for the furtherance of golf activities.

\$507.47 to the USGA Green Section.

## SPORTSMAN'S CORNER



*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

### Miss Betty Knoedler

Her desire for victory was strong, but Betty Knoedler's belief in adherence to the Rules of Golf was overwhelming and it in part cost her the Western Pennsylvania championship at the Allegheny Country Club last August.

The 21-year-old South Hills Country Club champion had made successively better showings in each of the previous three years. At 18 she had qualified but lost by missing a short putt on the 18th hole of the first match. In 1947 she was medalist with an 80 at Oakmont and went to the second round. In 1948 she was runner-up at Edgewood.

So Miss Knoedler hoped to win in 1949. She tied for the medal with a 78 and won her first two matches against former champions.

Then came the semi-final. Betty had Jane Martin, also a past winner, 1 down at the 17th tee. While addressing her ball for the second shot, Betty moved it slightly with her spoon. Although no one else had seen it, she declared a one-stroke penalty on herself.

Miss Martin's second shot went into a trap near the green. Betty flubbed her third and reached the green in 4. Jane, on in 3, two-putted to win with a par 5 and square the match.

Miss Martin also won the home hole and the match, 1 up, when Betty took 3 to reach the green and two-putted for a 5. Jane went on to win the title in 23 holes in the final.

Betty Knoedler lost, but she earned a sportsmanship award.

—PHIL GUNDELFINGER

## Western Golf Association Changes Officers



The retiring President of the WGA, Maynard G. Fessenden (right), supervised increase in assets of the Evans Scholars' Foundation to \$115,000. He and Cameron Eddy, Treasurer (second from left), are showing the report to two incoming officers, Jerome P. Bowes, Jr., President, and Bob Hope, Director. During the WGA annual meeting, the resignation of John C. Kennan, Executive Vice-President, was accepted and he was named a Director by acclaim. Other new Directors are Hiram Lewis, Roy Moore, Hord Hardin, Harry Schall, Robert Walker and V. A. LeVoir. The new Executive Secretary is Joseph C. Hogan.

### Inspiration

The Oakland Hills Country Club, Birmingham, Mich., provided the USGA JOURNAL editors with unparalleled inspiration when it forwarded 432 subscriptions representing the entire membership of the Club.

Fielding Wallace, before retiring as USGA President, said it all when he wrote C. M. Houff, President of Oakland Hills:

"While we have received a very fine response from our Member Clubs, I am frank to say that yours tops the list. I wish I could convey to you how much this means to us and how deeply grateful we are. Your wonderful support will act as an inspiration to spur us on. Obvious-

ly, the more subscribers we have, the more interesting and helpful our USGA JOURNAL will be."

### Alice in Blunderland

A line of type was lost in the process of printing the Women's Committee report which formed a part of the Annual Report of the USGA Executive Committee. The statement that the first Girls' Junior Championship "was won by Miss Barbara Bruning, of Chappaqua, N. Y., 2 up in the final" should have read "was won by Miss Marlene Bauer, of Los Angeles, who defeated Miss Barbara Bruning, of Chappaqua, N. Y., 2 up in the final."