
THROUGH THE GREEN

The 50-Year Milestone

Each year in this era is a Golden Anniversary for several clubs, associations and tournaments. Organized golf in this country is now 56 years old, and many good things had their beginnings just a half-century ago.

It is the Golden Anniversary of the USGA Open, Amateur and Women's



Boston Herald

Miss Grace Keyes, Miss Margaret Curtis and Miss Harriot S. Curtis, from left to right, display the type of costumes they wore at the time of the first Championship of the Women's Golf Association of Massachusetts in 1900. Miss Keyes defeated Miss Harriot Curtis in the final.

Amateur Championships. It is also the Golden Anniversary of the North and South Amateur at Pinehurst, N. C.

The Women's Golf Association of Massachusetts celebrated its Golden Anniversary with a tea at The Country Club, Brookline. Miss Grace Keyes and Miss

Harriot S. Curtis, winner and runner-up in the first championship, were the guests of honor and appeared in the golfing dress of 50 years ago, with Miss Margaret Curtis.

Five other participants in the first championship at the Oakley Country Club attended, along with the lone invited male guest, Mr. A. Linde Fowler, who reported the first championship for the BOSTON TRANSCRIPT. Miss Eleanor W. Allen, a former president, was hostess. The association which was organized by four clubs now lists 72 clubs on its membership roll, representing 370 players.

The New Jersey State Golf Association also celebrates its Golden Anniversary this year and plans to issue an anniversary publication.

Hole-in-One Contests

Whether a hole-in-one is a feat of skill or a fortuitous turn of luck becomes an academic question when the Rules of Amateur Status are applied to hole-in-one contests.

The USGA Executive Committee ruled in 1946 that a hole-in-one contest is a golf competition and the Rules of Amateur Status apply. The decision has been reiterated several times. It is the Committee's opinion that golf skill is a factor in a hole-in-one contest, although it recognizes that accidents do happen.

This policy is well established, but apparently it is not fully understood throughout the country.

Last fall, a western amateur golfer paid his 50 cents and made his three shots at the target in a hole-in-one contest. He holed one of the shots and won \$500. By accepting the money prize, he forfeited his amateur status.

Merion's Baskets

In days of old, says "Fore," an occasional publication of the Merion Golf Club, the shepherds of Scotland used crooks as staffs to mark golf holes. Then they went a step further and hung their

lunch baskets atop the crooks. (It seems reasonable to assume that this was done after lunch.)

Baskets, instead of flags, to mark the holes were introduced to Merion in 1915 and will be used during the Open Championship.

Until recently, Merion weaved its own baskets of willow. Today the Club buys the baskets, but home-made or bought, they are part of the Merion tradition.

Guests and spectators, seeing Merion for the first time, are fascinated by the baskets. Evidently they talk about them at their home clubs. Every year Merion gets letters asking for the basket story.

Adjustable Clubs Taboo

It is desirable to maintain the traditional type of clubs with which the game was developed in Scotland and passed along to us. To play a game with other than the customary clubs would be to play a game other than golf.

Clubs traditionally consist of a plain shaft and head and do not contain movable or mechanical contrivances. The earliest clubs known probably are those in the museum of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St. Andrews, Scotland. Modern clubs are direct descendants from the crude originals.

In rendering decisions about new clubs, the USGA Implements and Ball Committee is guided by the principle, among others, that "A club shall be one unit. All its various parts shall be permanently fixed. No part may be movable or separable or capable of adjustment by the player."

It frequently happens, however, that a golfer of an experimental turn of mind creates a club which has movable or adjustable parts. Such clubs have been uniformly disapproved.

One which continues to appear from time to time is the curiously designated aluminum "wood" formerly manufactured by the Reynolds Metals Co. These clubs, as they were made by the Reynolds Metals Co., have a large screw in the sole which permits changing the weight of the club. This, of course, is an adjustable feature and has been disap-

proved. The Reynolds Metals Co. has discontinued manufacture of the clubs, but the information is set forth here because some apparently are still available.

Sarazen's Autobiography

In an earlier day, it was customary for a golfer who achieved eminence to write an autobiography. Then the trend turned to a succession of instructional books.

Gene Sarazen has reversed the pattern by completing a readable and possibly controversial autobiography which ties together events and personalities of the last three decades in golf. It is titled "Thirty Years of Championship Golf" and published by Prentice Hall, Inc.

"On numerous occasions when I have been approached to write an instruction book, I have begged off for the simple reason that what I have learned from experience to be important to good golf would never fill a book," he explains. "I think a chapter is all that is necessary." As a matter of fact, he covered the subject pretty well on one page of the September, 1949, issue of the USGA JOURNAL.

Writing with the assistance of Herbert Warren Wind, Sarazen tells his own story with frankness and appraises unevasively the personalities and games of his contemporaries from Barnes to Hogan. He tells with particular sentiment the story of how, through the generosity of Walter Hagen and the inspiring advice of an aging Kent caddie named Daniels, he finally won the British Open.

These things, among many others, place the autobiography on a high level from the viewpoints of readability and history.

* * *

In another recent book, "My Greatest Day in Golf" by Darsie L. Darsie, 51 well-known amateurs and professionals tell of the most memorable episodes in their careers. The publisher is A. S. Barnes & Co., Inc.

Several of the selections are surprising. Bob Jones relates that his greatest round was a 73 from the back tees at the National Golf Links of America on a raw, wet day during an invitation tournament in 1924. Ben Hogan favors the 69 he scored

to tie for third and win \$385 in the Oakland, Cal., Open in 1938 when he needed the money to continue on the tour. Cary Middlecoff, the Open Champion, picks a defeat he incurred in the semi-finals of the Southern Collegiate Championship in 1940 which awakened him for all time to the necessity of concentrating until the last putt drops.

* * *

A new axiom in the field of positive, simplified instruction is advanced by Cy Foster, professional at the Scioto Country Club in Columbus, Ohio, in his recent pamphlet "Golf Is Easy."

By way of justifying that title, Foster condenses his message into 10 words: "Start the swing, stop the swing, with the left hand."

The discovery of this axiom, the author states, was the result of 10 years of analysis during which he found "its use was a sure cure, not only for shanking, but any and all of the faults of golf (and) an adequate substitute for the many words which had been tried and found lacking . . . It was positive and created the proper mental pictures."

Lure of St. Andrews

The British Amateur Championship returns to St. Andrews, Scotland, late in May for the first time since the war — for the first time in 14 years, as a matter of fact. That undoubtedly accounts for unusual American interest. Thirty-two players from this side have forwarded their entries.

Frank Stranahan, Willie Turnesa and Bob Sweeny, who won in 1948, 1947 and 1937, respectively, intend to challenge again, and Stranahan also plans to play in the British Open at Troon in July.

Among the other entrants are W. Stanton Barbour, Morristown, N. J.; William C. Campbell, Jr., Huntington, W. Va.; Frank B. Carbone, Douglaston, N. Y.; Richard D. Chapman, Pinehurst, N. C.; Arthur O. Choate, Jr., Locust Valley, N.Y.; George L. Coleman, Jr., Tulsa, Okla.; Bing Crosby, Los Angeles; J. C. Earle, Los Angeles; William G. Ebey,

(Continued on Page 4)

SPORTSMAN'S CORNER

There was no referee, and the argument between them was getting hot. There was even some name-calling. Finally, somebody suggested sending in for a member of the committee.

The official arrived on the double. He listened to two different and highly emotional accounts of the same incident—it was a pretty important juncture of the match, for things were close, and it was the 17th hole.

Besides, it was a mighty important match. Because what match isn't important when it involves two boys, 15 and 17 years old—particularly two boys who still have a couple of things to learn about sportsmanship?

The official's main concern was to try to pacify the lads, because one lad in particular was making rather a sorry show of himself in this USGA Junior Amateur Championship. But it was not exactly the right situation for moralizing or paternalizing, or even for the big stick. It would be better for the boys to find their own way out of the messy little situation they had created.

The committeeman gave his decision. One lad was still sore. The other sort of looked as if he felt, "Well, I told you so."

They went to the 18th. After a good deal of angry hacking around, the boys were all square when they finished it. Off down the hill they went to the 19th.

The official was tempted to follow them. From the looks of things, they needed boxing gloves more than putters. But he left them alone.

After 25 or 30 minutes, however, they had not reappeared. The official was sincerely anxious. Had they gone into the woods to settle it? he wondered.

Just then the lads hove in sight from an unexpected quarter. No bloody noses were visible, nor black eyes. Just a couple of kids who had finished a golf match.

"Well," said the official, "where in the world did you get to?"

"Oh, we went all the way to the twenty-first," replied one lad airily.

"Twenty-first, eh? You just played golf? No scraps, or anything?"

"Naw," said the other young fellow—the one who lost. "We're friends now."

You won't find that incident written in the record books of the 1949 Junior Championship at the Congressional Country Club in Washington. But it is written in the hearts of two young Americans. They may not even know it's there. But some day, later in life, when the going's tough again, they'll be influenced by the lesson in overcoming self and in making friends which they taught themselves that hot July day at Congressional.

LURE OF ST. ANDREWS

(Continued from Page 3)

Oklahoma City, Okla.; Frederick L. Ehrman, Purchase, N. Y.; J. Clark Espie, Jr., Indianapolis; Charles Evans, Jr., Chicago; John R. Fell, Jr., Palm Beach, Fla.; William L. Goodloe, Jr., Valdosta, Ga.; Edmund K. Gravely, Rocky Mount, N. C.; Clarke Hardwicke, Los Angeles; John Heminway, Palm Beach, Fla.; William D. Henderson, Westbury, N. Y.; James Knott, Palm Beach, Fla.; J. Ellis Knowles, Rye, N. Y.; William K. Laughlin, Southampton, N. Y.; Edward E. Lowery, San Francisco; Leonard Martin, Rye, N. Y.; James B. McHale, Jr., Overbrook, Pa.; Edward B. McLean, Palm Beach, Fla.; Francis Ouimet, Boston; Udo M. Reinach, Scarsdale, N. Y.; Frank Strafacci, Garden City, N. Y.; Herbert Warren Wind, Brockton, Mass.

Only a handful of American women apparently will compete in the British Ladies Championship at Royal County Down, Ireland. Miss Grace Lenczyk of Hartford, Conn.; Miss Peggy Kirk of Findlay, Ohio, and Miss Dorothy Kielty, Mrs. Ruth McCullah and Miss Madeline Bayly of Los Angeles were early entrants.

The Gutty Could Fly, Too

One of the legends of the game is that the old gutta-percha ball could not be persuaded to fly a very respectable distance. Evidence which recently came to hand indicates that this legend should be interred.

On the eve of the Open Championship of 1899 at the Baltimore Country Club, Willie Hoare won a driving competition by hitting a gutty 269 yards 7 feet 6 inches, and Harry Gullan was declared runner-up with a drive of 266 yards. Findlay S. Douglas, the Amateur Champion the year before, had the best average of three drives, 256 yards.

These three fine players must have struck the gutty most squarely to achieve such distances, for they surpassed the efforts of the late Douglas Rolland, reputed to have been the longest hitter among professionals in the gutty era.

All of Rolland's drives were measured during a match he played against John Ball at Sandwich in 1894. His longest was 235 yards and his average was 205 yards.

Rolland probably was not at his best that day, however, for Fred G. Tait, twice British Amateur Champion, smote a gutty 245 yards on the carry and 342 yards over-all at St. Andrews on his 23rd birthday, January 11, 1893. The drive was measured by a civil engineer. It was aided by hard ground but not by wind.

A British Viewpoint

The British publication COUNTRY LIFE recently said:

"It would obviously be a good thing if the game of golf, which is now worldwide, could be played everywhere under one and the same code of rules.

"Unluckily, the latest pronouncement of the USGA seems to put agreement on one code of rules farther off rather than nearer, for the USGA are disappointed with what they call the 'general liberalisation of penalties' under our new rules.

"People in this country have a notion that Americans like the game made easy, and this is probably true of the public that follows the professional tournaments and thinks only of low scores. They like wide fairways, few bunkers, and in short, anything that conduces to 'sensational' scoring. But it is quite untrue of the USGA, who have a great respect for the rigours of the game and do their best to uphold it in often difficult circumstances.

"So here we have the rather topsyturvy state of things of Britain lightening penalties and America maintaining them. It can only be hoped that something may be achieved by a conference which is sure, at least, to be a friendly one."

THOUGHT FOR THE 10th TEE

If you are beginning to encounter some hard bumps, be glad. At least you are getting out of the rut.