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# THROUGH THE GREEN

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## ODE TO MY GOLF CLUB

Full twenty years have passed, I ween  
 Since first I trod thy verdant green.  
 So swift those years have passed away  
 It seems as though 'twas yesterday  
 When 'neath thy sturdy oak trees' shade,  
 I watched the patterns that were made  
 By April's fleecy clouds that passed  
 And painted shadows on the grass.  
 I've oft explored thy forests deep  
 In winter, when the flowers s'leep,  
 Where mighty giants rear their crests,  
 With clinging snow their branches dressed,  
 Huge columns standing firm and tall  
 Like marble pillars 'gainst the walls  
 Of old cathedrals, stern and gray,  
 In coats of sleety mail arrayed.  
 And as I gazed upon the scene  
 Again I hear, as in a dream,  
 The sighing winds that soothed the air  
 Like ancient monks at evening prayer.  
 While moonlight drifted through the bars  
 The branches made, and countless stars  
 Their lustre added to the glow  
 Of diamonds on the drifting snow.  
 Again in spring when violets nod  
 And lift their velvet eyes to God,  
 They seemed to breathe a humble prayer  
 To Him for His protection there.  
 I've stood beside thy gentle stream  
 And watched the ripples flow between  
 Its sun-drenched banks, and marked the glade  
 Where flowering bushes furnished shade  
 To song birds, who in glad return  
 Did waken echoes in the burn,  
 With gladsome song above their nest  
 And lulled the rushing stream to rest,  
 Again at eve when day was done,  
 I've watched the lengthening shadows come,  
 And as they reached on every hand  
 They wove for me a fairyland.  
 A happy land and through the haze  
 Again I dreamed of other days,  
 And friends of old came trooping by  
 With cheery smile and sparkling eye,  
 And once again I firmly clasped  
 The hand of friendship in my grasp.  
 Now as the winged years have f'own  
 To join the year of ages gone  
 I give my pen, now old and worn,  
 To others who shall carry on,  
 And if thy praises still they sing  
 I shall rejoice, remembering.

—JUDGE EARLE F. TILLEY.

## Ties that Were Ties!

How many times can golfers tie?

Two Scottish professionals, David Sutherland and John Campbell, tied four times—at 140, 77, 70 and 72—at Pollok and Gleaneagles in the professional championship of Glasgow in 1924. Sutherland won on the fourth play-off, 74 to 77.

Macdonald Smith and Gene Sarazen tied three times at the Salisbury Country Club in Garden City, N. Y., in the Metropolitan Open of 1926. They tied at 286 after 72 holes. In the first two play-offs they tied again at 70 and then at 72. In the third play-off Smith won, 66 to 70.

Most extra holes in championship play were walked by Frank Strafacci and John Humm in the semi-final round of the Long Island Amateur Championship in 1947. They went 11 extra holes before Strafacci won on the 29th green at Pomonok. Maurice McCarthy and George Von Elm went 10 extra holes in the second round of the USGA Amateur Championship at Merion in 1930, McCarthy winning on the 28th hole.

## Limiting Hole Scores

We have been asked several times whether or not a limit should be placed on the number of strokes a player can enter on his score card for any one hole when his actual score for that hole has been three, four or more strokes over par and when the card is to be turned in for handicap purposes.

At first glance, it would seem that when a player runs into one or more of these "disaster" holes during a round and scores, say, a 7 on a par-3 hole or an 8 on a par-4 hole, a fair procedure would be to limit that hole score to either two over par for all players or

## SPORTSMAN'S CORNER

The crowd had engulfed the putting green, eager to honor its hero. It swept past one of the other players in this three-cornered play-off, paying no attention to him. He, for his part, just stood still, and took it.

He was plainly let down. You couldn't blame him. He had made a game contest, but things just hadn't gone his way. Once before, in another play-off, he had won the Open. This time he was runner-up, and the crowd passed him by.

His caddie was swamped, not only by the throng but also by having to hold his player's golf bag and the flagstick, which he had held off at one side of the green while the winner was holing out. He couldn't move. He couldn't even make his way to the hole to return the flagstick, so thick were the spectators.

His player took the flagstick then, and placed it in the hole. That was Lloyd Mangrum's last act on the Merion course in this year's Open.

A few minutes later he was at the presentation of prizes. He was his jaunty self again. The USGA President had just remarked on the wonderful course of the Merion Cricket Club, and the crowd had promptly corrected him—it's the Merion Golf Club now. The golf course used to be part of the Merion Cricket Club, and the USGA President had known it as such for much of his life, having played in championships there years before. It was just a simple slip of the tongue.

But Lloyd Mangrum couldn't miss the chance. When it was his turn to speak, he quipped: "The USGA surely know the Rules, even if they don't know what course they're at."

He had bounced right back from the disappointment of his defeat by Ben Hogan. It was the second time he had done it within a short period.

Not many minutes before, back on the 17th tee, the USGA Rules Chairman had told him that he had sustained a two-stroke penalty for lifting his ball when in play on the 16th green. Mangrum had holed that putt to climax a great recovery and to remain only one stroke behind Hogan, with two holes to go.



Lloyd Mangrum

But now, on the 17th tee, he was informed of the penalty.

He had an iron in his hand, preparing to tee off. He jammed it into his golf bag, obviously discomfited.

"Do you mean I had a 6 instead of a 4?" he asked.

"Yes," said the official.

It was an unpleasant, tense moment. There went Mangrum's last hope of winning. Three strokes behind and two holes to go.

Lloyd Mangrum himself broke the tension.

"Well," he said, a slow smile dawning on his face, "I guess we'll all still eat tomorrow."

to two over par for the lower handicapped players and three over par for the higher handicapped players.

This practice is followed under some handicap systems, particularly those of the Current type which are designed to show the at-the-moment caliber of a player's game and which are based on a large percentage of the player's most recent scores.

The question was discussed when

USGA Golf Handicap System was being formulated, and it was decided that such a limitation was not essential to the success of the USGA system.

USGA Golf Handicap System is a Basic system, designed to evaluate a players' inherent ability to play the game of golf. Under it, a player's handicap is computed from the lowest 10 of his last 50 scores, a relatively small percentage of total scores, and it is believed that it

would be rare indeed to find many, if any, "disaster" holes in those lowest 10 scores. Thus, the need for a handicapper to review every card of every player to make sure such a limitation was enforced would be, in the vast majority of cases, a needless waste of time.

### Withdraw

Chick Evans withdrew from the Open Championship.

Since he will turn 60 this month and had entered for old times' sake (he won the Amateur at Merion in 1916), there was no reshuffling of favorites when the word was received. Yet it was news. In explaining his withdrawal, he wrote:

"This is the first time in my life that I have ever entered a tournament and then withdrawn. I have yet to withdraw when out on the course."

How many others can make that statement?

### Advice By Experts

This season has produced, in addition to some fine championships, three excellent books in the how-to-play classification. They are by professionals who have proved they know how to play, too—Patty Berg, Cary Middlecoff and Joe Novak.

Miss Berg's book is titled "Golf Illustrated" and published by A. S. Barnes & Co. As the title indicates, photographs dominate, and the legends carry the message in a style simple enough for any beginner.

Middlecoff resumes the doctorate he put aside when he became a golf professional, and the title of his book is "Golf Doctor." The publisher is Whittlesey House. While Middlecoff starts with the fundamentals, he proceeds upwards to a fairly high level and offers some excellent "top drawer" tips for experts in the later chapters.

There is nothing jaded about Middlecoff's advice. He learned most of his lore in the three years since he turned professional, and it is still fresh as he

passes it along. He concludes with the remark:

"I consider my first year and a half as a golf professional on the tournament circuit as the hardest work I ever did in my life. In the past year and a half, however, after having developed both an attitude and a method of going about my work, golf once again has become a game of pleasure to me—even though it is my means of making a living."

Novak, the President of the Professional Golfers' Association, has attempted to simplify the seemingly complicated details of the golf swing in a book called "Par Golf in 8 Steps" and published by Prentice Hall. Under the Novak system there are only eight points to check, four in the position and four in the swing, and in condensed form they are:

#### THE POSITION

1. Place the club to the ball with the left hand.
2. Adjust the foot position.
3. Relax the right knee to complete the grip.
4. Turn the right heel out.

#### THE SWING

1. Rock the club forward.
2. Rock the club back.
3. Start the club from the ball with the right hand.
4. Swing through.

### A Doctorate

Marvin H. Ferguson, Agronomist in charge of Research for the Green Section, has been granted his Ph. D. degree at the University of Maryland. His thesis was concerned with the nutritional requirements of *Zoysia* in relation to growth and seed production. Dr. Ferguson began work for the Green Section in 1940 and has been engaged in turf research since that time.

Charles G. Wilson, Agronomist for the Green Section, at the same time received his B. S. degree from the University of Maryland.