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# THROUGH THE GREEN

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## Take It or Leave It

In case you ever require the information in a hurry, there are 337 dimples on the average golf ball.

## St. Andrew's, U.S.A.

John Reid introduced his neighborhood cronies to golf on three short holes laid out in a pasture across Lake Avenue from his home in Yonkers, N. Y., on February 22, 1888. The introduction was a happy one, and the acquaintance ripened into friendship.

The group therefore decided, after the great blizzard of '88, to continue the game in April on six more adequate holes

marked out on a nearby meadow at the corner of North Broadway and Shonard Place.

This was in effect the first course of what became, later that year, the St. Andrew's Golf Club, the first club organized in this country which has preserved its continuity. The course was played for four seasons before encroaching civilization drove the group four blocks north on Palisade Avenue to the more celebrated apple orchard.

Early this autumn the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce memorialized the site by placing a bronze tablet where the first green once lay. The precise location

## A New Role for Bob Jones



Alex Bremner photo

Bob Jones had never attended a Women's Amateur Championship until it was brought to his old home course this year, East Lake in Atlanta. Then he was Honorary General Chairman of the Club's Committee. His countless well-wishers will doubtless be interested in this proof that the Grand Slam Champion is getting about after his operation last spring. This photograph of the prize-giving ceremonies includes, beginning at the left, Miss Dorothy Kirby, Mrs. Hanson, mother of the new champion; and then, on the other side of Mr. Jones, Miss Beverly Hanson, Mrs. W. D. Tumlin, East Lake's Women's Chairman; James D. Standish, Jr., USGA President, behind the trophy, and Miss Mae Murray, the runner-up (face turned away).

had been determined by Robert P. Ridges from the famous first photograph of American golf, taken at the first green about November, 1888, and showing in the background the home of Judge Theodore Fitch, which is still standing. (This photograph was reproduced on page 7 of the June, 1948, issue of the USGA JOURNAL.

Ford Frick, now President of the St. Andrew's Golf Club, unveiled the tablet. John Reid's son-in-law, Alexander B. Halliday; his grandson, John Reid II; the Mayor of Yonkers, Kristen Kristensen, and the President of the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce, William Cronin, made brief remarks. The attendants included a red-coated delegation from St. Andrew's, and Lewis A. Lapham, Fraser M. Horn and John P. English of the USGA official family.

The tablet stands on the grounds of the Smith Guest House at 480 North Broadway. Beside it is a regulation golf hole containing the old-fashioned, short stick and cone which were in vogue in the 1880s and have since been replaced by taller flagsticks.



### Before and After

There must be something in the saying that clothes make the woman. The Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia relates, in PAR-TEE LINES, the story of a rainy-day match in which two girls played a tight 17 holes, then divested themselves of their soggy rain gear and took to the showers. When they emerged, all dressed up and pretty, they didn't recognize each other until a formal introduction had taken place.

### Lockwood's Challenger

George H. Lockwood, of Los Angeles, still holds the record. No one has come along with a claim of having played 18 holes with as few as 16 putts.

## BLUSHING HONORS



Courtesy of The Port Huron Times Herald, Port Huron, Mich.

**James D. Standish, Jr., USGA President, receiving gifts from Edgar A. Guest, Detroit poet, presented by his friends at a dinner in his honor at Black River Country Club, Port Huron, Mich.**

But Roy M'Gregor of Ayrshire was threatening when he putted only 11 times in 12 holes in a match against E. D. Hamilton at Glasgow. His fine putting, which put him eight under par and seven under 4s, foiled his chance at the record, however. The holes ran out on him when his opponent quite naturally succumbed on the 12th green.

### Fifty-One Years Ago

The Official Golf Guide for 1899, compiled and edited by Josiah Newman and dated March 10 of that year, stated that there were then in the United States 150,000 "patrons" of golf and that 35,000 men and boys were employed in the game.

"No sport whatever," continued this early record book, "and few single industries, finds labor for anything like so many people; it is far more than the whole United States Army when on a peace footing."

The editor modestly admitted that "This first Golf Guide is necessarily very incomplete," but his volume contained some reference to 558 clubs in 36 States. And this 51 years ago.

### Third Generation

The golfing skill which carried the late John D. Chapman to the United States Seniors' Golf Association Championship in 1931 and his son Dick to the USGA Amateur Championship in 1940 has been successfully transmitted to the third generation.

Dick's 8-year-old son Dixie has been playing seriously for two years now under his father's tutelage, and at the end of the summer achieved his primary goal by scoring a 99 from the women's tees at the Oyster Harbors Club on Cape Cod. His reward was appropriate to the occasion, for, by the father's estimate, Dixie is some 40 strokes better than Dick was at the same age.

### English in Navy

It's now Lieut. Cmdr. John P. English, USNR.

The USGA Assistant Executive Secretary has been recalled to active duty by the Navy and is at work in Washington. He is on a military leave of absence from the USGA.

Innis Brown, long a writer on golf, has joined the USGA staff. He formerly was managing editor of the old AMERICAN GOLFER, when Grantland Rice was editor.



Photo by Alex J. Morrison

Innis Brown

### SPORTSMAN'S CORNER

Oscar Bane Keeler, who passed away in Atlanta last month, was "O. B." to legions of golfers here and abroad—the on-the-spot chronicler of Robert T. Jones' golfing adventures, beginning at Merion in 1916 and ending on that pleasant landscape 14 years later. (Incidentally, one of the last of Keeler's literary achievements was a review of highlights of the four events involved in the Grand Slam of 1930, published in the August issue of this magazine.)

Perhaps something other than chance led to the casting of Keeler in the role of historian for the Jones saga.

His first introduction to golf, still in its swaddling clothes in this country, came when he was 15, in the summer of 1897. Then followed a lapse of 13 years, during which he took up newspaper reporting in Atlanta and moved to Kansas City. In the spring of 1910 the game claimed his attention for a second time. This time permeation of the virus was positive. He became within a short time a veritable "bug" on golf. By the spring of 1913 he was back in Atlanta with the newspaper on which he had started.

It may have been providential that Alexa Stirling, Perry Adair and Bobby Jones, all in their early teens, were playing incredibly fine golf, that the entire city was agog about the game, and that the local papers were keenly alive to the situation. What more natural in these circumstances than that Keeler should fall heir to the task of keeping readers of his paper—at that time the GEORGIAN—posted in matters of golf.

So much for the setting, and the need for a job to be done. As to the man and his qualifications, take first a genuine love, even reverence, for golf and its ancient forms. Add a vivid, entertaining style of writing, backed up by a tireless devotion to his duty in tracing down factual details as the contestants in a match trudged over more than 100 acres of variegated landscape. Infuse all this with a deep, natural kindness and a love of his fellow-man.

Compound the whole, and you begin to arrive at an understanding of why O. B. Keeler was what he was to golf and golfers.

### Going Strong

Fred McLeod, professional to the Columbia Country Club near Washington, has passed his 68th birthday. It has been 42 years since he won the USGA Open Championship in 1908.

William E. Shannon, Chairman of Columbia's Golf Committee, reports: "Fred is enjoying good health and is still able to score our course in the low 70s."

## California's Winning Team



Julian P. Graham photo

A team match for the Morse Trophy has become an outstanding golf event on the Pacific Coast. It is between California and the Pacific Northwest. Here is California's winning team, left to right: Tal Smith, Kenneth Venturi, Robert Rosburg, John W. Dawson, Chapin Hunt, Captain; Bruce McCormick, S. F. B. Morse, the "Duke of Del Monte," donor of the trophy; Robert Cardinal, James Ferrie, Eli Bariteau, Jr., Dr. Frank Taylor.

### A GOLFER'S WIFE

A Golfer's Wife may never lie  
And contemplate the Sabbath sky,  
But rise at eight on tottering legs  
And cook reconstituted eggs.

A Golfer's Wife can never say  
"Observe how fair and fine the day;  
Let's take our lunch — or even tea,  
And sport it by the silvery sea."

A Golfer's Wife in flaming June  
(Except it be her honeymoon)  
May long in vain for river cool,  
For golden sands or bathing pool.

A Golfer's Wife who knows her place,  
Will fade out early in the race;  
Will fold her hands and all her life,  
Be that poor thing — a Golfer's Wife.

A Golfer's Wife (with luck of course)  
May hope for death, or just divorce,  
But if re-marriage be her goal  
She must beware the nineteenth hole.

A Golfer's Widow should not falter,  
Whether at registry or altar;  
Let her escape from any chap  
Who's taken out a handicap.

—JANE BAIRD AND MEL  
(J. B. MELHUISE)

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### Wanted: A Photograph

The USGA needs a picture of the 1934 Curtis Cup Team. It is the only missing item in an otherwise complete gallery of Champions and Teams which soon will adorn the walls of "Golf House."

If you know of the existence of such a picture in any form — negative, print or reproduction — we would appreciate being informed so that we may arrange to borrow it and have a print made.



### Joe Meister

We record with great regret the passing of Joe Meister, of Wheaton, Ill., one of the pioneer American professionals, at the age of 85.

Meister was employed by the Chicago Golf Club as caddie-master and professional in 1894, just two years after Charles Blair Macdonald laid out the Club's original course in Belmont. He claimed to be the first American-born professional.