

# The Jaycees and the Juniors

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In five short seasons a golf tournament for boys has grown from one of the least significant, with 27 entries, to perhaps the largest in the world, with literally thousands of aspirants. It's the Junior Championship sponsored by the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The Jaycees, it should be known, are eager young men who revel in getting things done. They keep themselves young by eliminating all members who reach the ripe old age of 36 years. It's only natural that they should have wanted to do something for boys, and so the Junior Championship came into being in 1946.

There were only 27 teen-agers in that first tournament at the Indian Canyon Course in Spokane. They entered directly, without any state playoffs.

Compare that with this year: 197 lads started in the fifth Championship at the Iowa State College course in Ames, but to get there they had to undergo a series of local and state contests with hordes of other boys. Those at Ames came from 39 states and the District of Columbia.

The championship has been spread around the country. After Spokane, the

boys in 1947 went to the Mount Hawley Country Club in Peoria, Ill., then to the Lincoln, Neb., Country Club in 1948, and to the Houston, Texas, Country Club last year. Hope Valley Country Club in Durham, N. C., will be the host in 1951.

The 1950 Champion is Eddie Merrins, of Meridian, Miss., who won in the final from Gay Brewer, Jr., of Lexington, Ky., who had been the USGA Junior Amateur Champion in 1949.

The Ames Junior Chamber invested 3,000 man hours in this year's tournament during the week of play, besides advance work that had been going on for 15 months. One of the fine features was assignment of one Jaycee to look after the personal wants of each player.

This year in conjunction with the National Golf Foundation we released a film "Golf for Youth," a four-year history of the Championship, augmented by five-minute recordings by leading players. The Athletic Institute entered the picture in 1947, offering funds and guidance to the Jaycees.

The Jaycee program is highly gratifying because of the constructive work which it does for boys.



Photo by W. N. Skourup, Jr.

Gene Sarazen holds a clinic for contestants in the Jaycee tournament at Ames.