

Art for Golf's Sake

Artists are sensitive souls, and no praise pleases them so much as that of fellow artists or persons of some artistic appreciation. Furthermore, expressions other than complimentary are to them as wormwood and gall. This generality, however, does not apply to Erwin S. Barrie, Director and Manager of the Grand Central Art Galleries in New York and member of the USGA Museum Committee.

Mr. Barrie, an amateur artist and ardent golfer, is now engaged on a series of paintings of famous golf holes. When these are exhibited, he finds he is able to enjoy the comments of many who have no feeling whatever for art and, what is more, sometimes his feeling of satisfaction is in proportion to the invective his pictures elicit.

During his exhibition last fall in the

Grand Central Art Galleries, he glowed with pride when he heard artists and art students commenting on the organization, coloring and brushwork of his canvases. The collection was displayed during the winter at Pinehurst, N. C., and there Mr. Barrie found himself chuckling with even more pleasure when he would hear one golfer call to another:

"Hey, Bill, come look at this! Remember that hole? Isn't that one a devil? I'll never forget that blasted thing."

"The difference in the reactions of the artists and the golfers was most amusing," said Mr. Barrie. "The golfer generally sees just the hole, with no eye to the painting that created the image. I'm not sure that isn't a higher compliment."

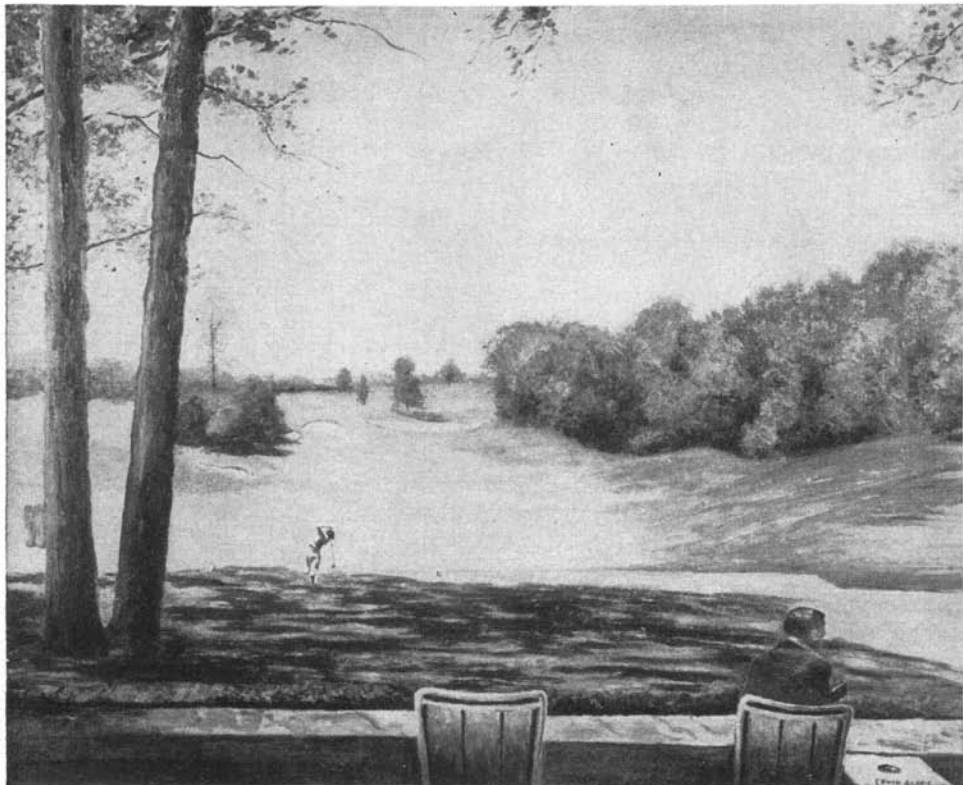
That Mr. Barrie's creations are equally appreciated by divergent groups, although

The Tenth Hole at Augusta National



Mr. Barrie's most recent painting in his series of famous golf holes

The First Hole at Apawamis



This painting hangs in "Golf House," a gift from Mr. Barrie to the USGA.

in a different manner, is due to the fact that he qualifies for both. He has been a painter and his work has been identified with painting all of his adult life. He has been a golfer since boyhood. Because of his knowledge of golf, his pictures twang a responsive chord within the golfer, who instantly recognizes the merits of the hole itself and is conscious of the fact that the scene is one he would see if he were playing there.

Retains Golfer's Viewpoint

"I would never paint a golf hole from any other viewpoint than that of the golfer," he remarked. "My pictures always show the hole from where the golfer would drive, or play his second or his approach. That's the way the golfer sees it."

Neither does Mr. Barrie ever paint any

hole until he has played it, usually several times, and felt its mood. Unless the hole makes a special appeal to him, it never appears on his canvas.

"The holes I have painted are scattered over the East," he explained. "One of the most exciting courses I know is the Yale University course. Although the general public does not hear much about it, it has all the dramatic qualities of Pine Valley without Pine Valley's menacing severity."

Mr. Barrie began the paintings about three years ago in an idle mood. After doing two or three, he thought: "Why not do a good series of these? Golf is surely the most scenic game."

The series now comprises about 25 pictures and continues to grow. These pictures can be called literally priceless, be-

cause none is for sale. The only way anyone can have one is to receive it as a gift. His painting of the first hole at Apawamis hangs in "Golf House", a gift to the USGA, and he presented two pictures to Richard S. Tufts, USGA Secretary, who has been one of his most encouraging influences in the project.

Mr. Barrie displayed the pictures in Grand Central Art Galleries last fall with misgivings.

"As manager of the Galleries, I make it a point never to compete with the artists I handle," he said. "I was afraid they might not take kindly to my showing. To my pleasant surprise, they were enthusiastic. It was one of my most thrilling experiences. Eugene Speicher, one of our greatest artists and a golfer himself, was one of my biggest boosters."

The most recent painting in the series is of the tenth hole on the Augusta, Ga., National course, where the Masters' tournament is played each spring. Bob Jones, who helped create the course, talked it over with Mr. Barrie and named the tenth and the thirteenth as his favorite holes. The artist decided upon the tenth, a 465-yard par 4, sloping gently downhill.

Feels Like Celebrity

"I chose a spot where I thought I was fairly safe," he said, "but soon a ball landed close by. When the player came after it and saw what I was doing, he said he had just seen a collection of such paintings at Pinehurst. When he learned I had done them, he was delighted."

The collection has aroused so much comment among golfers, including well-known figures, that Mr. Barrie admits he sometimes feels quite puffed up. "The attention makes me feel like a celebrity," he said.

Born in Canton, Ohio, he attended Chicago Art Institute after going to Cornell University. Later he had an art gallery in Chicago. Then he helped found the Grand Central Art Galleries and has managed them for 28 years. Walter Gifford, Ambassador to the Court of St. James, was one of the founders of the non-profit

organizations and its first Secretary and Treasurer.

Mr. Barrie began playing golf as a boy of 15 in Ohio. "I started out with the guttie," he recalled.

He makes no pretense to being a star, but plays in the 80's and has a grand time doing it. He is one of Jimmy Demaret's few sartorial rivals, reveling in slacks and shirts of rainbow hues, which occasionally startle his friends at the Greenwich, Conn., Country Club. He specializes in hats, has about 25 of them, many of which he unabashedly classifies as eccentric. The more eccentric, the better he likes them. Colorful raiment appeals to the artist in him.

Mr. Barrie has been put up for membership in the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St. Andrews, Scotland, and hopes to crown his series with a painting of a memorable scene on the Old Course.

"I will paint it better than I play it," he remarked good-humoredly. "I am better with a brush than with a mashie."

—HARRY ROBERT

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She Must Be Wooed

Golf is a fickle game and must be wooed to be won. No good can be got by forcing the game; and unless one feels fit and has a keen interest in the match, it is better not to play. It is no use going out and playing around in a half-hearted, listless, indifferent way. Playing in this way is ruinous to good golf.

Further, golf is a business-like game, and should be gone about in a brisk, business-like way. It is far better to play and walk around the links smartly and quickly than to creep round at a snail-like pace. It is impossible to play good golf if you are thinking of something else all the time, and if you have any business worries, leave them behind when you go on the links.

WILLIAM PARK, JR.
IN PRAISE OF GOLF

