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# THROUGH THE GREEN

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## The President's Feeling

Golf, through the years, has been remarkable among sports for the good sportsmanship and good manners which it seems to develop. Totton P. Heffelfinger, the President of the USGA, is one of the legion of golfers who want to keep it that way, and in a talk before the delegates to the annual meeting of the Professional Golfers' Association of America, he explained why:

"My father and a Scotsman by the name of Norman Clarke, for years professional at the Woodhill Country Club, taught me my love of golf, with its character-building faculties, its relaxation, its companionship and its sportsmanship," he said. "Father still plays some golf, but Norman has passed on to that course some place where all putts go down and a fellow never shanks. Because of these two men, I cannot let something come into golf which will hurt it badly without making a protest.

"Let's take, for example, the grunt and groan game, where anything goes that will excite an audience, and which often ends in a free-for-all. Wrestling used to be a fine sport; look at it now. Baseball, football and hockey are still fine sports, but a certain amount of rowdiness has crept in here and there, partly on account of uncontrolled tempers and partly a planned rowdiness to attract customers.

"The year 1952 was a great golf year, but if reports are correct, it had a blemish in that there was an increase, in the pro ranks, of loose tempers, throwing of clubs and wrapping clubs around trees.

"The professional golfer has a great and grave responsibility. Whether you are playing in a tournament or giving a lesson or playing in a friendly match with a club member, golfers are looking up to you. The youth, particularly, thinks

you are quite a guy. He subconsciously wants to learn from you what I learned from Norman Clarke, the love of the game, its companionship and its sportsmanship. Every time they see or hear of one of your organization showing a lack of sportsmanship by losing temper and heaving a club or in any other way not being a top sportsman, it hurts golf. When golf is hurt, you're hurt.

"I doubt that this problem has reached serious proportions yet, but it will if it is not stopped. I know many professional golfers, and I know that all but a very few are great guys, fine sportsmen, with a true love of the game, and they have its best interest at heart. So, if you fellows agree with me that this so-called rowdiness in golf is a danger to the game—well, lower the boom, stamp it out."

## Pretty Cold Day

George Dawson isn't a fellow to let weather, or even the season, interfere with his regular week-end play. One wintry day at the Winged Foot Golf Club, in Mamaroneck, N. Y., he found an ice hockey game in progress on what normally is a water hazard. The sight might have broken up many a golf match. Dawson simply called, "Pretty cold day for hockey, isn't it?" and played through.

## British Walker Cuppers

Lt. Col. A. A. Duncan, of Egham, Surrey, has been named Captain of the British Walker Cup Team which will play at the Kittansett Club, Marion, Mass., next summer. Col. Duncan has not participated in previous Matches but was runner-up in the 1939 British Amateur and has won the Welsh and Argyr championships several times. The British Captain in the last Match was Raymond Oppenheimer.

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, also has selected four veteran Cup players for its 1953 Team. These are Ronald J. White, of Southport, Lancashire, and Joseph B. Carr, of Dublin, Eire, who have played in the last three Matches; John D. A. Langley, of London, who played at Pine Valley in 1936 and again in 1951; and John L. Morgan, of Walsall, Staffordshire, who joined the Team in 1951. None of these four has won the British Amateur, which has been taken by Americans in five of the last six years, but Carr was a semi-finalist last year, losing to Harvie Ward while Robin Cater, a little-known Scot, was bowing to Frank Stranahan.

The remaining members of the Team of nine or possibly ten will be selected after the British Amateur at Hoylake in May.

#### A Different Scholarship

Sheila Ramsay is the teen-age daughter of David Ramsay, a Carnoustie man who is professional to the Seawane Harbor Club, Hewlett, N. Y. Miss Ramsay has a talent for art. Some of her work was hung in her father's shop and was much admired by club members.

To help Miss Ramsay develop her talent, the members held a special tournament last summer, raised \$550, and therewith obtained for her a full three-year correspondence course in an art school together with all supplies.

Gilbert C. Tompkins is Chairman of the Club's Green Committee.

#### Honored by "The National"

The National Golf Links of America, at Southampton, N. Y., has elected a second honorary member. The first was President Dwight D. Eisenhower, honored upon his return from World War II. The second is Aleck Gerard, honored this fall after presiding over the golf shop and the course for about three decades.

#### New Officers of the WGA

At its fifty-fourth annual meeting in Chicago, the Western Golf Association elected Stanley J. McGiveran, of the In-



Stanley J. McGiveran

verness Club, Toledo, Ohio, to succeed Gordon E. Kummer, of Milwaukee, as president. The other new officers are: Cameron Eddy, of Golf, Ill.; C. L. Miller of Detroit; Roy W. Walholm, of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Robert R. Walker, of South Bend, Ind., vice-presidents; Hiram A. Lewis, of Kansas City, Mo., secretary; Harold A. Moore, of Highland Park, Ill., treasurer, and James L. O'Keefe, of Evanston, Ill., counsel.

#### Adjustable Weights

We should like to clarify a misunderstanding which may have developed regarding the rule on adjustable weights in golf clubs.

Rule 2-2, which governs the form and make of clubs, provides in part, in item b: "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."

The intent of this Rule is to bar clubs which can be adjusted by a player *in the course of a round*, through an alteration of the weight or in any other manner.

The Association has consistently disapproved clubs which were susceptible to adjustment by a player in the course of a round.

It will be recognized, however, that all clubs are capable of some form of alteration or adjustment in a golf shop, and the Rule is not intended to prohibit this. Therefore, the Association has approved clubs which, though technically capable of adjustment, are not, in fact, capable of easy adjustment by the player in the course of a round.

There is a clear distinction in principle here, although the decision on a particular club may require experienced interpretation.

### Play on Frozen Greens

Occasionally an argument springs up around the fireplace in a northern clubhouse concerning the advisability of playing golf on frozen greens. Our Green Section informs Member Clubs that it is perfectly safe to play on frozen greens. As far as the turf is concerned, the only dangerous period occurs when the surface inch or so has thawed and there is frozen soil below. In this period, golfers can do damage that will be noticed for an entire season.

### The Golfer in the White House

We have a little inside information on the golf game of President Eisenhower, the first golfing President since Coolidge and the most enthusiastic since Harding. He first played serious golf in the Philippines in the Thirties but abandoned it before World War II to favor a bad arm and did not take it up again until 1946. His best recent scores were an 84 at the Cherry Hills Country Club, in Denver, and an 81 at the Blind Brook Club, in Port Chester, N. Y. He normally drives 225 to 230 yards, and he excels with short irons and wedge. He is reported to be a particularly astute adversary on the first tee, before the match starts.

If Eisenhower can find the time to play, he undoubtedly will be the best golfer

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## SPORTSMAN'S CORNER

To THE USGA:

Realizing the great honor of winning the Women's Amateur Championship and the responsibility of amateurism that accompanies this victory and wanting to play a lot of golf with very little funds to do so makes me regretfully feel it wise to become a professional. My heartfelt thanks to the USGA for their great courtesy and encouragement upon which I shall ever depend.

MRS. JACKIE PUNG  
HONOLULU, T.H.

To THE USGA:

I've been sitting here for a half-hour, looking at this blank page and trying to figure out how I would word this letter. There are so many things I want to say, and yet I want to word it rightly.

I started playing golf when I was 9 years old. In my first tournament, which was our city championship, I qualified with the highest score of the tournament, 103. Little did I know then that one day I would be playing in the finals of the Amateur Championship of the United States and the Amateur Championship of Mexico in the same year. Yes, a lot has happened since I played in my first tournament. My love for the game of golf has grown through these years to the point that I know I can't live away from the game. I know that if I don't devote my life to the game and to the people who play it, I won't be happy. I feel that, with this attitude toward the game, I can do more for the game of golf as a professional than an amateur.

As you know now, I have decided to turn professional. Ever since I took up golf I wanted to be a great golfer. I had looked forward to the day when I might be an Amateur Champion and play on the Walker Cup Team. I realize now that I have the chance, but rather than wait until after the Walker Cup Match is over to turn professional, I want to do the ethical thing. Since I am contemplating professional golf as my future career, I want the USGA to be the first to know it.

I'd rather be remembered as a golfer who was a credit to the game of golf than a Champion who won many titles and did nothing for the game. Let me end with that statement, because it expresses my feelings more than anything else I can say.

AL MENGERT  
SPOKANE, WASH

### The Golfer in the White House

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among our Presidents. Grant is said to have been the first President who was aware of golf, but his comment on the game was: "That looks like good exercise, but what's the little white ball for?" Theodore Roosevelt tried the game but found it too tame for his taste. Taft and Wilson both played, and the second Mrs. Wilson also was a golfer.

### How to Get a Job

Otto Greiner, who has been an assistant to Claude Harmon at the Winged Foot Golf Club, accepted with some nervous flutters an invitation to play at the Knickerbocker Country Club, in Tenafly, N. J., last fall with the president, vice-president and chairman of the golf committee.

Knickerbocker, it seems, was interviewing candidates for the position of head professional, and it behooved Greiner to put his best foot forward. He did. He went to the turn in 32 and came home in 32 for a record-breaking 64, three strokes under the old course record and eight under par.

P.S.: The new head professional at the Knickerbocker Country Club is Otto Greiner.

### Awards for Superintendents

In recognition of the often unsung efforts of golf-course superintendents in preparing their courses for Championships, the Golf Course Superintendents Association presented eight Citations of Merit during the 1952 season.

The eight superintendents so honored were Herman R. Borchardt, of the Northwood Club, Dallas, Texas, for the USGA Open; Ernest Felton, of the Miami Country Club, Miami, Fla., for the USGA Amateur Public Links; Robert Finlay, of the Seattle Golf Club, for the USGA Amateur; Harry Meusel, of the Yale Golf Course, for the USGA Junior Amateur; Alvaro Alanso, of the Monterey Peninsula Country Club, Pebble Beach,

Cal., for the USGA Girls' Junior; William H. Stuppel, of the Exmoor Country Club, Highland Park, Ill., for the Western Amateur; Albert Linkogel, of Westwood Country Club, St. Louis, Mo., for the Western Open; Herman Senneseth, of the University of Minnesota, for the Western Junior.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association plans to continue to make such awards in coming years.

### Gifts for Eugene G. Grace



Eugene G. Grace (left), of the Saucon Valley Country Club, Bethlehem, Pa., has been a strong supporter of all that is best in golf, and this quality was exemplified by the manner in which the 1951 Amateur Championship was conducted. The Metropolitan Golf Writers' Association honored him with its first Gold Tee award and a plaque of appreciation at a dinner in New York this winter. With him is Lincoln A. Werden, President of the Association and golf writer of The New York Times.

### 50 Years in Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Golf Association is celebrating its fiftieth birthday on February 24, exactly fifty years to the day from the date of its first meeting. The celebration takes the form of a dinner in connection with the Association's annual meeting, and Linde Fowler, the veteran golf writer who attended that first meeting, is being counted on to reminisce appropriately.