



THROUGH THE GREEN

A Heavenly Morning

FORE, an occasional publication of the Merion Golf Club, tells this one:

Saint Peter and Saint Paul were teeing off on the long par-three first hole of the Celestial Country Club.

St. Peter drove first and his ball went into the cup for a hole-in-one.

St. Paul casually teed his ball and drove. His ball also went into the cup.

All the way to the green there was unearthly silence. Then, as he picked both balls out of the cup, St. Peter said: "What do you say we cut out the miracles and just play golf?"

Who Closes the Course?

A Member Club has asked who should be charged with the responsibility for closing its course to play because of weather conditions.

There is no uniform policy on this matter, but the advice of Richard S. Tufts, Chairman of the USGA Green Section Committee and formerly Chairman of the USGA Championship Committee, may be interesting to many Clubs.

In the normal course of events, he points out, there are only two reasons for closing a course.

The first is when play might be injurious to the course. The Green Committee and the golf-course superintendent usually are in the best posi-

tion to assess this point. Since they are responsible for the condition of the course, they should have authority to protect it from undue damage. Whether the responsibility of the golf-course superintendent should be final or advisory is a matter for the club to determine. There is no reason to vest the same authority also in individuals who have no responsibility for the maintenance of the course.

The second is when weather conditions might make the course unfit for play during a competition. The Golf Committee usually is in the best position to assess this point, although the professional might well advise it. The Green Committee and the golf-course superintendent need have no voice in this decision.

16 Putts for 18 Holes Again

In September, 1949, we noted that George Lockwood, then 73, of the Inglewood Country Club, near Los Angeles, had played a full round on his home course during which he had to putt only sixteen times. The episode occurred in December, 1947, and seemed to us a record—an assumption which apparently was borne out when no reader arose to dispute it.

We understand now, however, that a gentleman named Melvin D. Chatten, then 55, of the Elks Golf Club, in Elkhart, Ind., duplicated Mr. Lockwood's feat last sea-

son. Mr. Chatten one-putted fourteen greens, two-putted one green and chipped into the cup three times during an 18-hole round.

The Man Behind the Bench

You should know a little bit about the gentleman who donated and set up the club-maker's bench as of 1904, authentic from spring-jaw vise to tea chest, in "Golf House." It has attracted considerable interest. Jim Gallagher is 72 and one of the real old-timers of the club-making trade. He started caddying at the Grey Oaks course of the St. Andrew's Golf Club in 1895, when he was 15. A year later he went to work for Willie Tucker, the professional there, as one of his five club-makers. Tucker, who was related to Willie Dunn by marriage, recommended Gallagher to Dunn in 1900, and Gallagher began making clubs for the versatile Scot in what probably was the United States' first indoor golf school, on 42nd Street just off Fifth Avenue in New York.



James Gallagher

As most golfers knew him

In Dunn's shop Gallagher first saw wooden club-heads with socket hosels. Until that time wooden heads had been spliced to the shafts. This new type of head had been made on a shoe-last machine, and the innovation undoubtedly was a factor in developing Gallagher's own inventive bent as he worked successively for Jock Forgan, Alex Findlay, in his own shop in New York and for various manufacturers. Among other developments, he invented in 1934 the Turf-Rider wooden clubs, which achieved wide popularity.

Gallagher is best known, however, as the conductor of the club-making and repair clinic which the Professional Golfers' Association of America instituted in 1933. Its purpose was to instruct PGA members in the art of making and repairing steel-shafted clubs, so that they could serve their players in their own shops. He took the clinic into forty-four states and covered 26,000 miles.

Gallagher first visited "Golf House" in the spring of 1951, bringing with him an 80-year-old club and two "newer" models made by Willie Dunn about 1898. A year later, he returned, bringing an old Forgan niblick, with holes punched through the blade so the sand could pass through, an idea which had worked well when the sand was dry but not when it was wet. During these visits he developed the idea of turning over all his old club-making tools to "Golf House." "I wouldn't be where I am today if it were not for golf," Jim said, "and I want to put something back into the game."

Rules of Golf Booklet

The 1953 edition of the Rules of Golf booklet is now available in a bright new spring coat of cream and green color. The text of the Rules of Golf, as such, remains unchanged, but there have been some revisions of other matter in the booklet, notably the Rules of Amateur Status. The booklets may be purchased at "Golf House". The charge is 25 cents per booklet.

For Lady Chairmen

A book we would be proud to have published is the Handbook for Golf Chairmen produced by the Chicago Women's District Golf Association as a reference and guide in the conduct of women's golf at clubs. It should be extremely useful as a supplement to our own booklet, *The Conduct of Women's Golf*.

The *Conduct of Women's Golf* sets forth basic suggestions for play and recommendations for local rules and handicaps. The Handbook for Golf Chairmen goes on from there to suggest how a women's golf committee should be organized and how to conduct various types of competitions. One of its most useful features is the check list of subjects which must be settled upon in order to carry out properly each of the many functions of a women's golf committee.

We recommend the book unreservedly to those who are concerned with the conduct of any form of women's competitions, from club championships through team matches to junior events, at clubs.

That 35-Year Span

In the September issue we mentioned the feats of W. Hamilton Gardner and Paul Hyde in winning championships of the Country Club of Buffalo over spans of 35 years.

Now a third instance of the same championship being won by an individual over a span of 35 years has cropped up: Mr. Findlay S. Douglas, the Amateur Champion in 1898, won the President's Cup at the Nassau Country Club, in Glen Cove, N. Y., in 1901 and again in 1936.

This puts Mr. Douglas in the same class with Messrs. Gardner and Hyde. We are still looking for anything to beat this.

National Golf Day

Julius Boros, the Open Champion, will be the golfer to beat when National Golf Day rolls around again on May 23. He will play his round at the Oakmont Country Club, near Pittsburgh, the same course on which he will defend his Championship in June. Last season approximately 80,000

SPORTSMAN'S CORNER



Curt Jacobs

Prior to the 1952 "Big Ten" Championship over the new course at the University of Illinois, Curt Jacobs, the Wisconsin captain, played the course in an easy 71. He was one of the favorites.

The scores on the first day of the 72-hole stroke play event were high, unusually high even for early spring performances by college students. Fairways were thick with new grass, and the boys didn't always get hold of their fairway shots too well. Oversize traps snared errant pulls and pushes and presented tough sand shots. Built-up greens had no fringe at all. A relentless wind swept over the Illinois prairies, shifting direction from morning to afternoon.

None of these factors, however, could account for the 85-86 posted by Jacobs. It didn't seem possible for a fine golfer to blow that high.

The next morning Jacobs held out a badly cut, slightly festering left hand for inspection by John Jamieson, the Wisconsin coach. He was hustled to a doctor for stitches and anti-tetanus shots. There was no more golf for him in that tournament.

Curt Jacobs had played 36 holes with a left hand accidentally cut by a razor blade. Despite pain and an embarrassingly high score, he hadn't uttered a murmur of complaint or alibi. He had just worn a glove and kept swinging.

LESTER BOLSTAD

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

golfers, competing with handicaps on their own courses against Ben Hogan, raised more than \$80,000 for the USO and various golf activities.

43 Years at Wannamoisett



George Gordon

Professional golf is not a field famed for lengthy associations between individuals and Clubs, despite some notable exceptions, and so we think it is news that George Gordon, a Scot who came here in 1911, is now starting his forty-third year as professional at the Wannamoisett Country Club, near Providence, R. I. Two hundred fifty members attended a testimonial dinner for him on the eve of his 69th birthday, during the off-season.

Allocating Handicap Strokes

The problem of allocating the order in which handicap strokes are to be taken on the holes of a golf course is a recurrent and knotty one. The USGA recommends, generally speaking, that the first stroke be allocated to the most difficult hole to score well on, not necessarily the most difficult to score par on, and that the handicap strokes should be evenly distributed.

One of the essentials in carrying out these recommendations is solid statistical evidence on the subject. The Suburban

Club of Baltimore County turned up a neat means of acquiring such evidence.

The Maryland Open Championship was held at the Suburban Club, and the Club's Handicap Committee had ready-made statistics on the scoring on each hole of the course during 184 rounds that were played in one day. Developing hole-by-hole statistics from the score sheets of stroke-play tournaments in which scores are recorded hole by hole is a device which can be used by almost any Club.

The Suburban Club simply totaled the scores for each hole, and it had a basis for determining the relative difficulty of each hole. A similar tabulation from week-end club tournaments also would provide a statistical base.

Necrology

We record with regret the passing of three men who have served this Association with energy and distinction and who have contributed significantly to the best interests of the game they loved. Reuben J. Bush, Jr., of New Orleans, Ralph H. Linderman, of Lake Wales, Fla., and Marshall C. Speight, of Richmond, Va., will be sorely missed not only in their own communities but in the broader community of golf.

With equal regret we note, too, the passing of Frank W. Crane, of New York, the first golf writer of *The New York Times*. Mr. Crane followed golf almost from its beginning in this country, and after his graduation from Columbia, in 1890, he began bringing articles about the game into the Times office. They constituted the first series of articles that paper published concerning the game. Mr. Crane eventually joined the regular staff and covered many early tournaments.

APOLOGY

In the September, 1952, issue there appeared a poem entitled "Mulligans," which was credited to James F. Blair. The poem is the work of Edgar A. Guest, and we apologize.