



Crane Wins at 83

Some twenty years ago, Joshua Crane, a well-known golfer and court-tennis player, presented to the Dedham (Mass.) Country and Polo Club a golf trophy known as the Crane Bowl. The conditions of the Crane Bowl competition, which is held at foursomes, match play, are unusual. Each member-guest team is given a rating and starts so many holes or half holes up or down. A half hole can be used only at the eighteenth; thus, in case of a halved match, the side receiving the half-hole handicap wins.

Last spring Crane, now 83, decided to take a shot at his own tournament, which he never had won. He came on from his present home in California and took as his partner Bill Harding, a low-handicapped golfer and one of the longest hitters in amateur ranks around Boston.

Crane and Harding had little difficulty in the 18-hole qualifying. The first day of match play was extremely hot and humid, but Crane was in fine fettle and he and Harding won both morning and afternoon matches. On the second day of match play, they polished off their semi-final opponents.

During lunch, the word spread that Joshua Crane, at 83, was not only playing two rounds a day but actually had an excellent chance to win his own tournament. A gallery gathered and reached quite respectable proportions. Crane and Harding started their opponents 2 up and

soon overcame this handicap. The golf was spotty, but the match was close—in fact, it was all even after sixteen holes.

On the seventeenth, a difficult one-shooter over water, neither side had a good tee shot. Crane had to play his side's second stroke from heavy rough back of a large bunker to the right of the green. The green is on a plateau some ten feet above the bunker; on the other side of the green, only a few yards beyond the hole, is another large bunker.

Without the slightest sign of tension, Crane made a beautiful, firm shot, and the ball stopped only a few feet from the cup. Harding holed for a 3, and they were 1 up.

The eighteenth is long, slightly elbowed and uphill most of the way. The opponents hit two fine woods to the edge of the green. Crane's second off Harding's fine drive was thirty yards short and below the green. Harding attempted to play a wedge shot to the edge of the green and let the ball trickle down to the cup, but his stroke was just a trifle short and let the ball some four feet off the green.

Extra holes seemed certain, but the gallery had not counted on Crane. Taking his No. 7 iron, he hit a crisp, little chip that rolled straight toward the hole and dropped gently in.

Joshua Crane, at 83, had finally won his own tournament by playing five rounds on three hot days and clinching the match with two magnificent shots.

George Herbert Walker

The game of golf lost one of its most devoted patrons when George Herbert Walker passed away, just two months before the fourteenth in the series of matches which he initiated for the Walker Cup.

Mr. Walker was President of the USGA in 1920 and a member of the group which conferred abroad with officers of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, in the spring of that year regarding revisions in the Rules of Golf. Upon the group's return to the United States, the possibility of an international team match was discussed, and the idea so appealed to Mr. Walker that, at a meeting of the Executive Committee at the Links Club, in Manhattan, on the afternoon of December 21, 1920, he presented a plan for such a match and offered to donate an International Challenge Trophy. When the newspapers printed the news, they called it, to Mr. Walker's chagrin, the "Walker Cup", and the name stuck.

Golf the Curtis Way

The Misses Margaret and Harriot Curtis, for your information, have been playing about as much golf these days at the Essex Country Club, in Manchester, Mass., as they ever did in their youth, and they have devised a most remarkable form of play which enables them to cram 18 holes worth of evenly matched golf into a little more than an hour.

Miss Margaret, who won three Women's Amateur Championships in 1907, 1911 and 1912, has a slight edge on Miss Harriot, who won the same Championship in 1906. They resolve this difference by each playing two balls simultaneously. Miss Margaret totals the scores she makes with both her balls on each hole. Miss Harriot doubles the score she makes with the better of her two balls.

Play on this basis is about even, they can complete nine holes in little more than an hour and, in terms of the number of strokes used, they have had 18 holes worth of golf.

Weirdest Round

Certainly a candidate for the distinction of being the weirdest round is the nine-hole score turned in by Archie Clark, the assistant professional at the Congressional Country Club, Washington, D. C., in 1931. Clark played the nine holes in 36, which was par, without playing a single hole in par and with a 9 on a par-3 hole. His card read:

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Par | 6 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | —36 |
| Clark | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 3 | —36 |

The 1954 Americas Cup Match

The Royal Canadian Golf Association will conduct the second match for The Americas Cup next year in Canada, and it has completed arrangements to have the play take place at the London Hunt and Country Club, London, Ontario, August 12 and 13. The Canadian Amateur Championship will follow on the same course, starting August 16.

London, Ontario, is only 125 miles from the Country Club of Detroit, which will be the site of the 1954 Amateur Championship, August 23 through 28, so the fields in both Championships probably will have a strong international flavor.

A Trust for Golf Instructions

Golfers at the R. J. Reynolds High School, in Winston-Salem, N. C., are the beneficiaries of an arrangement which is, to our knowledge, unique.

Bahnsen Gray, of that city, established for them early this year an irrevocable trust under the terms of which the trustee pays the golf professionals at the Old Town Club and the Forsyth Country Club for instruction given to members of the school golf team. The purpose is to supplement the funds available for sports education in order to develop deeper interest, greater ability and good sportsmanship among those interested in golf.

We shall look forward to having Reynolds High School players in our Junior Amateur Championships henceforth.

Standardized Flagsticks

Jack Burke, Jr., speaking—and making a very sensible suggestion:

"I have played on approximately forty courses this year, and each course seemed to have flagsticks and flags of different sizes and colors. The sizes and colors used on some courses make it almost impossible to see either the flag or the flagstick. We played on one course where the flagstick was only four feet high, which made the distance to the hole seem about twice as far as it actually was.

"I would like to see the USGA adopt a rule or a recommendation to standardize the height of the flagstick, the color it is painted and the color of the flag. My suggestion—and the suggestion of a lot of tournament players—is that the flagstick should be eight feet high, it should be painted yellow and the flag should be red."

There are no rules governing this point at the moment, but the GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL, issued to Clubs which entertain USGA Championships, has this to say:

"Clubs often obtain new flags for a competition. If you do, it is suggested that you select yellow flags or some in which yellow predominates. This is no reflection on other colors, but the fluttering of a yellow flag against a green background makes a good mark. It is suggested that the flags be numbered. . .

"If convenient, all flagsticks may be painted a solid color, preferably white or cream. Stripes on poles make it hard to see just where they enter the ground. We recommend a thin type of flagstick with a knob which lets the ball enter the hole while the flagstick is in the hole."

Raking Traps

Samuel F. B. Morse, of Pebble Beach, Cal., is, of course, always looking for ideas to simplify the maintenance of his golf course, and found a good one last winter in Hawaii. A club there purchased a quantity of small-sized rattan leaf rakes, which sell for about 50 cents apiece, and left one by each trap. Caddies are instructed to rake the sand after their players.

British Lion Rampant



Joseph B. Carr

It is appropriate that, in a Walker Cup year, the British Amateur Championship has been won once again by a Britisher, and one already selected as a member of the 1953 Team. Joe Carr, who lives in Dublin, Ireland, is not only the first Briton to win in the last four years but also the first Briton to reach the final in that time. There had been three straight all-American finals.

During the years of the United States monopoly, Carr was the most consistent of the British players. He lost in the semi-finals in 1952 and 1951 and was a quarter-finalist in 1950. Americans remember him as a member of the 1949 British Walker Cup Team which played at the Winged Foot Golf Club, in Mamaroneck, N. Y., and as an entrant in the 1949 Amateur Championship at the Oak Hill Country Club, in Rochester, N. Y., where he went to the third round.

Harvie Ward's attempt to defend at Hoylake the title he had won the year before at Prestwick was magnificent. He was the only member of the apparently strong United States delegation to reach the quarter-finals, and he kept right on going—all the way to the thirty-sixth green of the final. In the semi-final round, he defeated young Arthur Perowne, of England, who also was a member of the 1949 British Walker Cup Team and the last British survivor in the 1949 USGA Amateur Championship. Carr, in the penultimate round, defeated a fellow-Irishman, Cecil Beamish.

Six United States players lost in the round of sixteen: William C. Campbell, Jr., of Huntington, W. Va.; Dale Buetner, of Toledo, Ohio; Ernest Arend, of Deal, N. J.; Harold Ridgley, of Philadelphia; Robert Sweeny, of Palm Beach, Fla., and Maj. J. F. Seals, of Wiesbaden, Germany.

We suggest that no one count any chickens before the hatching which will take place when the Walker Cup Teams meet at the Kittansett Club, in Marion, Mass., next September.

Census Report—1952

The Census Report for the 1952 Year, prepared by Ernst & Ernst for the Athletic Goods Manufacturers Association, again places golf equipment at the head of the list of sporting goods on the basis of sales at factory selling price, including excise tax.

Sales of golf equipment totaled \$39,511,870, or a little more than 39 per cent of sporting goods sold. The second largest item was baseball and softball equipment, of which \$20,494,320 was sold.

The Lewis Family

All golfers share with Texans the sense of loss occasioned by the deaths this year of Frank T. Lewis and his daughter, Mrs. Dan Chandler.

Mr. Lewis was one of the founders of the Texas Golf Association, which was

started in 1906, and was co-medalist and runner-up in its first Championship. He was President of that Association for thirteen years, ending in 1947, and died last February.

Mrs. Chandler won the Texas Closed Championship in 1932 and served the USGA Women's Committee from 1939 through 1947. Her death occurred suddenly last month.

Tommy Armour's Book

Tommy Armour's new book "How to Play Your Best Golf All the Time" (Simon and Schuster) should come to aspiring golfers like a cool breeze after a sultry day. Armour gives only a very few basic principles and a lot of broad advice on the proper approach to the problem and on strategy. The book opens up a whole new world to those who have become lost in a maze of detail.

For example:

"It is not solely the capacity to make great shots that makes champions, but the essential quality of making very few bad shots . . . Play the shot that you've got the greatest chance of playing well, and play the shot that makes the next shot easy."

"The basic factor in all good golf is the grip . . . A good tip is to keep the little finger of the left hand from being loosened."

"Always have your mind made up that you are going to whip your right hand into the shot."

"The cardinal principle of all golf shot-making is that if you move your head, you ruin body action."

"To become a good putter, the main requisites are to keep the head dead still and make the putter blade go accurately toward the hole . . . Bear in mind that you usually miss the hole farther by being short or past it that you ever miss it to one side or the other. So try, in any way that you can figure out, to get your putts as nearly as humanly possible the right length."

"Think what to DO. That's concentration in golf."