



THROUGH THE GREEN

Which Are the Blind?

I saw twelve men the other day
 Deprived of worldly sight,
 But through their faces bright and brave
 I glimpsed an inner light.
 And then I thought of other lives,
 Ah, chiefly of my own—
 Of petty cares, self-made despairs,
 And other weeds full-grown.
 With lowered head I left the course,
 One burning thought in mind:
 In life's real game for higher stakes,
 O Lord, which are the blind?

John Thames, of Birmingham, Ala., was inspired to write these classic lines after watching the dozen contestants in annual championship of blind golfers at the Highland Park Municipal Course, in Birmingham, last summer. They tell the story of the play better than could any poor report of ours.

It is a matter of considerable interest, however, that Charles Boswell, of Birmingham, was the winner for the sixth consecutive year with a 36-hole score of 106-106—212 on the par-70 course. Each player, of course, has an aide to assist him in finding his ball and lining himself up for the stroke, but the only exception made in the Rules of Golf is one which permits the contestants to sole their clubs in hazards.

Youngest Amateur Champion

Our bespectacled researcher recently emerged from a mass of papers and cor-

respondence with a fact which for years seemed undeterminable.

Robert A. Gardner, it develops, was the youngest man ever to win the Amateur Championship. He was 19 years and 5 months old at the time of his first victory, at the Chicago Golf Club in 1909.

The difficulty in determining this fact has been that the late Louis N. James also was 19 when he won at the Glen View Club in 1902. However, it has now been found that James was 19 years and 10 months old when he won.

Mechanical Transportation

Golf carts which carry players around a course will cause damage to most courses during wet weather, the USGA Green Section has found. This damage is especially prominent on areas leading from greens to tees and from tees to fairways where the same traffic path is consistently followed. The Green Section believes that, when moisture conditions favor rutting damage, the carts should not be used. Even under dry conditions when ruts would not be a problem, excess compaction in the aforementioned areas could still be troublesome. It entails additional aeration, fertilizing and in some instances the use of asphalt paths to prevent excessive damage. Thus, whether the walks are wet or dry, the cost of maintenance will be increased through their use.

The Green Section does not favor the use of gasoline carts under any conditions. Gas and oil leakage will damage turf. Further, the noise factor will arouse the displeasure of many players.

The Seattle (Wash.) Golf Club recently allowed its members to purchase electric carts. Their regulations, which the Green Section approves, follow:

1. Carts are never allowed to play through another group.
2. Cart owners must build their own storage sheds and hire the necessary help to keep batteries checked.
3. The cart owner will be charged \$1 each time the cart is used. This money goes to the Green Committee to take care of additional turf maintenance.
4. The Club charges \$15 a month in addition for storage.
5. Carts can be restricted upon notice by the Green Committee if advised by the golf course superintendent.

Opinions and Pine Valley

When you learn that a golfing friend is going to play Pine Valley for the first time, you almost always express an

opinion as to how he will fare over that wonderful test of the game at Clementon, N. J., near Philadelphia.

It was only natural, therefore, that Lord Brabazon of Tara should be challenged with a friend's opinion when he went to Pine Valley. The friend rather thought that Lord Brabazon would not break 100.

But Lord Brabazon does not have a handicap of eight for nothing, nor was he Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, without good reason.

He had a 92, and it might easily have been several strokes better.

Americans in Canada

Americans made a clean sweep of the Canadian amateur championships last month.

Miss Barbara Romack, of Sacramento, Cal., won her first national title by defeating Miss Marlene Stewart, of Fonthill, Ontario, the British Women's Champion, in the final of the Canadian Women's Open, 2 and 1, at the London (Ontario) Hunt and Country Club. The final, incidentally, augurs well for the future of women's golf. Miss Romack is 20 and Miss Stewart 19.

Don Cherry, of Wichita Falls, Texas, and New York, came through shortly thereafter in the Canadian Amateur, defeating Don Doe, of Granby, Quebec, 1 up, in the final at the Kanawaki Golf Club, in Montreal. Cherry was the only member of the United States Walker Cup Team to enter, but the field included the entire British Walker Cup Team.

Joe Horgan

Joe Horgan, of Brooklyn, N. Y., aged 72 and the dean of American caddies, passed from the golfing scene last summer, just sixty years after he arrived upon it, and the game stands deprived of one of its most notable characters.

It was in the summer of 1893 that Joe started his career as a caddie at Van Cortlandt Park, in the Bronx, and it proved fruitful. He carried Horace Raw-



Photo by Ted Kell, N. Y. Herald Tribune
Lord Brabazon of Tara
 With British Open Trophy

lins' clubs to victory in the first USGA Open in 1895, and he also was a working partner with Miss Beatrix Hoyt, Findlay S. Douglas, Willie Anderson, Laurie Auchterlonie, Miss Genevieve Hecker (now Mrs. C. T. Stout), Walter Hagen, George Duncan, Harry Vardon and many others. When Joe became too old to caddie, he assisted golf writers and remained to the last a familiar figure in the game.

An Expert

William P. Castleman, Jr., of Dallas, Texas, has a comprehensive knowledge of golf, and at least two associations have sought his services. He now is a member of the Executive Committee of the USGA and President of the Dallas Golf Association.

The breadth of his knowledge was revealed not long ago when he came to the 150-yard eighth hole at the Brook Hollow Golf Club, took his seven iron in hand and knocked his ball squarely into the hole.

Even Mr. Castleman had not been sure until that moment that it extended to the making of holes in one, because this was his first in twenty-five years at the game.

Old Tyme Caddies

The Town and Country Club of St. Paul, Minn., is honoring its former caddies this month for the twentieth consecutive year.

During the summer of 1933 the idea of honoring the former caddies came to a group of the members of the Town and Country Club, headed by Roy Currie, who himself was a former caddie at that Club. The Club had not maintained any permanent record of its caddies up to that time. However, Currie was acquainted with several former caddies and he contacted them and arranged for them to contact others. The group was able to get together about 50 or 60 men who had caddied at the Town and Country Club. The Club invited this group to play a round of golf and have dinner at the

SPORTSMAN'S CORNER



Miss Ann Quast

Miss Ann Quast, of Everett, Wash., scored a superb 71 in the qualifying round of the 2nd Washington Junior Girls' Championship this summer. There was, of course, nothing surprising in that. Although she is only 15, she is certainly one of our country's fine players and, besides, she was playing over the Cedarhurst Golf Course, in Marysville, Wash., which her father owns.

The qualifying medal seemed to be all wrapped up for delivery to the Quast home, and Ann went into the locker room to put her clubs away and freshen up. There she made a horrifying discovery. Her bag contained not fourteen but fifteen clubs, one more than the maximum prescribed in Rule 3.

It was there that Ann discovered there is more to golf than winning. She walked straight out to the committee and disqualified herself. Ann and her conscience have been living happily ever after.

Club in the evening. The event proved so successful that it was carried on after 1933 on a year-to-year basis until 1951, when the Board of Governors made it an annual event.

The former caddies have formed a

permanent organization known as the "Old Tyme Caddies of the Town and Country Club." To be eligible, a person must have caddied at that course at least 20 years prior to the date of the party. The 1952 event was attended by more than 150 former caddies, their dates of caddying going back as far as 1895.

A 39-Year Span

Last April we cited a third instance of an individual who had won the same championship over a span of thirty-five years and added: "We are still looking for anything to beat this."

More recently, in far-away Scotland and New Zealand, we found two.

Samuel Mure Fergusson, a member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, won that Club's Royal Medal seven times during the thirty-nine years from 1874 to 1913. The medal was presented by King William IV and has been in competition since 1837.

The late A. D. S. Duncan, one of New Zealand's foremost amateurs, won the championship of the Wellington Golf Club twenty-three times in the thirty-eight years from 1896 through 1934. It should also be a part of this record that Mr. Duncan won the New Zealand Amateur ten times and the New Zealand Open three times and was leading amateur in the Open in 1935, at the age of 60.

We don't expect to hear much more on this subject.

Best Ball of Four Handicaps

A correspondent has asked us for a recommendation for handicapping a best ball of four stroke play competition. This form of play is not unusual. The team sometimes consists of a professional and three amateurs and at other times of four club members, but scoring is always based on the best ball of the four.

There is no formal recommendation for handicapping competitions of this sort in USGA GOLF HANDICAP SYSTEM FOR MEN, but William O. Blaney, Chairman of the USGA Handicap Committee, says:

"We have for a number of years played these best of four competitions as week-end tournaments among members at my club. They work out very well when each player is granted 75 per cent of his individual handicap, strokes to be taken as they come on the card."

Tee Markers At Oklahoma City

Players in the Amateur Championship this month at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club found the teeing grounds defined by an unusual type of marker: two drilling bits off an oil well rotary drill. They are painted and are of such heavy metal as to discourage small boys from making off with them and big boys from banging their clubs into them after errant shots.

Unfit for Play!

Fred Pagano and Walter Tynan, of the Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, N. Y., were losing to Don Cherry and Frank Strafaci, of the Garden City Country Club, Garden City, N. Y., in the final of the John G. Anderson Memorial Four-Ball at Winged Foot last month.

Pagano's driver was acting strangely, and toward the end of the first nine he decided that something was definitely wrong with it. He asked the referee, C. W. Benedict, if he might change it.

Benedict studied the club carefully and could see no sign that it was broken. Pagano readily admitted that it had been misbehaving for two or three rounds. The decision was, therefore, that the driver could not at that point be suddenly declared unfit for play and replaced.

This was accepted in good humor and the match continued amiably until the turn was reached.

There Cherry decided that he had dressed too lightly for the cool and cloudy day and asked if he might make a quick change of trousers in the clubhouse. The referee asked Pagano and Tynan if they had any objection. They had none, of course, but Pagano could not resist the wry remark:

"I think he should show us they're really broken."