



THROUGH THE GREEN

What Harold Clasen Stood For

Reidar Lund, expressing in the DULUTH HERALD the sense of loss occasioned by the passing of Harold Clasen, professional at the Northland Country Club, made a point of the fact that Clasen actually carried out the obligation which all professionals have to teach other things than golf—the Rules of the game, the companionship of the game, its sportsmanship and its pleasures.

"A wonderful fellow, Harold Clasen—everything you would expect in a truly great golf professional," he wrote.

"Maybe his name didn't get up in newspaper headlines with the Hogans and Sneads and Middlecoffs and Demarsets, but those guys couldn't carry Clasen's bag in our book, and no disrespect is meant to them.

"In his way, Harold Clasen symbolized everything that is good about golf.

"Wrap up the warmth of a June sun, the fragrance of newly mown fairways, the comfortable feel of lush turf underfoot, the 'click' of a tremendous drive, the plunk of a long, curling putt into the cup, the caress of a cooling breeze and that tired but satisfied feeling after a glorious round of golf with friendly companions—and you have Harold Clasen.

"These are what he stood for, all the things he meant to his profession.

"These are the little things to which he dedicated himself, because it was his

hope everybody would find such pleasures in their pursuit of that elusive par."

Superstitious Dropping

A club, which shall go nameless, has a local rule which provides that when a ball is lifted in a certain situation, it shall be "dropped over the right shoulder."

Reminds us of a Philadelphia lady golfer who struck a ball into a shallow brook. Her caddie lifted it out, and asked: "Shall I drop it over my shoulder?"

"No," the lady replied, "just drop it in front of you. I'm not superstitious."

Through British Eyes

GOLF ILLUSTRATED summarized British opinion on the loss of the Walker Cup Match when it editorialized:

"We don't think anyone in Great Britain was disappointed over the result of the Walker Cup. Everyone over here was resigned to the fact that we would lose, but there was keen disappointment that some of the individual matches were lost by such overwhelming margins. . .

"Perhaps the greatest disappointment was the failure of the two youngsters, Drew and Perowne, to do well. Each played in one game only, but both suffered a crushing defeat. . .

"This year's hero was unquestionably John Morgan, who, quiet and unassum-

ing, summoned all the will power at his disposal to win both big matches."

Golf Writers' Dinner

The response to inquiries concerning another winter dinner under the sponsorship of the Metropolitan Golf Writers Association in New York is "yes". There will be a second annual dinner in the Sert Room of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on Thursday evening, January 21. The first dinner, last January, was such a success that it outgrew the quarters at Shor's and necessitated the shift to a larger room this year.

How They Travel

Nearly half of the qualifiers in the Amateur Public Links Championship drove to the site in their own automobiles or in that of another qualifier. Somewhat more than a quarter of the qualifiers were accompanied by a member of their family, usually their wife.

These facts were determined from the registry at this year's Championship in Seattle, which is remote from many populated areas and therefore may reflect minimum figures.

Of the 200 players who signed the register, 176 stated their means of transportation. Of these, 89 had come by automobile, 62 by airplane, 24 by train and one by bus. Most of those who did not answer lived in or near Seattle.

Also, of the 200 who signed, 159 stated whether or not they were accompanied by one or more members of their families. Of these, 107 were not and 52 were so accompanied. It was apparent that the other member of the family was the wife in most cases, but one brought his wife and two children, two brought their wife and one child and one was brought by his father and mother. Presumably, most of those who did not answer the question lived in or near Seattle or were unmarried.

One player brought his wife and used her as his caddie, as he does in many tournaments in his home area, until the unromantic committee drew his attention

to the tournament regulation that only caddies attached to the course entertaining the Championship may serve.

Versatility beyond Compare

We mentioned in a recent issue the achievement of Miss Margaret Curtis in holding national championships in both golf and tennis at the same time, in 1908. In that respect, she stands alone in the records of these two sports in the United States. However, a reader has pointed out that Miss Lottie Dod, of England, was perhaps even more versatile.

Miss Dod won the British lawn tennis championships in 1887, 1888, 1891, 1892 and 1893. She then switched to golf and won the British golf championship in 1904, after twice previously reaching the semi-final round. In the same period, she also won the Diamond Skate, emblematic of the British figure skating championship, was a field hockey internationalist and an archer and billiardist of the first rank.

1954 British Championships

For the information of foreign travelers, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, will conduct the British Amateur Championship at Muirfield, Scotland, starting May 24, and the British Open Championship at Birkdale, England, starting July 5, next year.

Advice for Juniors

Jimmy Thomson talking to the entrants in the Junior Amateur Championship at the Southern Hills Country Club, Tulsa, Okla.:

"I have been giving the subject of junior golf a great deal of thought and I would like to stress the wonderful opportunities ahead for the golfer who conducts himself properly on and off the course. I feel that golf presents a wonderful avenue for contact with the right kind of people, and only those who are

gentlemen will be in a position to take advantage of these opportunities.

"Should you consider golf as a life work, your future will depend not only on your playing ability but on whether you play the game fairly and consider your fellow players, observe the rules and etiquette and conduct yourselves around the club in such a manner that you will be welcomed back.

"Those of you who carry your games through into the business world should not treat golf as all-important. It's a game to enjoy and it's relaxing. I suggest your business come first and your golf second. If your golf shows signs of possible national recognition, the honor of winning national events is something you will always treasure.

"I suggest that you all work harder on your golf games after you leave the junior ranks. The competition gets tougher, but the chances and opportunities are unlimited."

Forty-One Championships

Charles Evans, Jr., of Chicago, now 63, reports that he made his forty-first appearance in the USGA Amateur Championship at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club last September. He competed for the first time in 1907, failing to qualify, after having watched in 1902 and caddied in 1905. We hesitate to call this a record, because we doubt Chick is through yet.

Instruction through the Years

The art of golf instruction clearly has been improving over the years. While browsing through a 1913 volume in our Library entitled *THE GOLFING SWING* by Burnham Hare we came across this staggering paragraph:

"The player may now address himself to the business of the swing, and in doing so he should remember to introduce into his methods a little of the *suaviter in modo* as well as the *fortiter in re*."

Shades of Tommy Armour!

LITTLER AGAIN



Julian P. Graham Photo

It sometimes happens that prophets go without honor in their own country, but not so with golfers. Gene A. Littler (right), of San Diego, who won the Amateur Championship at Oklahoma City, returned to his native green and added the California Amateur. He was seven under par for thirty-two holes at Pebble Beach in disposing of Dr. F. M. Taylor (left), of Pomona, 5 and 4, in the final. Earlier in the year, Littler won the California Open, too.

The Loquacious Caddie

Many unusual persons have appeared on the golf scene as caddies, and Don Cherry, of our Walker Cup Team, had one of the unique ones when he won the Canadian Amateur Championship last month.

His caddie, whose name is Felix, made only two remarks to him during the entire week, as follows:

1. First day: Don asked Felix what club to use on a certain shot. Felix replied: "I don't know".

2. Last day: On the next-to-last hole, Don prepared to play a certain iron to the green. Felix remarked: "You can't get there".

That was the extent of their conversation. Not a word passed between them during the first 18 holes of the semi-final round, which Don played in 18 straight pars.

Silent Felix is an Indian.

Three Holes in Six

Word of spectacular performances continues to come in.

Earl Ross, of North Salem, N. Y., earned his place in the lists several years ago when he played three successive holes in a total of six strokes at the Bonnie Briar Country Club, Larchmont, N. Y.

Mr. Ross made a hole-in-one on the short third hole. He followed that with a birdie 3 on the fourth hole and then placed his tee shot two feet from the cup for a 2 on the short fifth hole.

It is fantastic to imagine that anyone has played three successive holes in five strokes, but if they have, we would like to hear about it.

Golf in Japan

Golf in Japan has taken a great stride in the last few years, and Shun Nomura, of Tokyo, Director of the Japan Golf Association, estimates the number of golfers to be 100,000, which is more than double the pre-war number.

Many golf courses which were converted into farm land during the war have been reconverted to golf courses, but many new courses are still needed to take care of increasing numbers of golfers. Quite a few are under construction although there is opposition from some of the farmers.

In the summer resort of Hakone, about two hours ride from Tokyo, three 18-hole courses are building, in addition to the one already there.

Treat for Caddies

There was a special treat for the boys in the caddie camp at the Oyster Harbors Club, on Cape Cod, when they swarmed into their mess building for their farewell dinner at the conclusion of the Labor Day weekend.

Charles R. Yates, the Captain of the Walker Cup Team; Harvie Ward, a member of the Team; and John W. Fischer and Edward E. Lowery, of the USGA Ex-

ecutive Committee, had gone to Oyster Harbors for a visit after the Match at the Kittansett Club, and they decided it would be fun to take dinner with the caddies that night.

Although their appearance was unheralded, Yates was willingly impressed as toastmaster, Ward made one of his most entertaining talks and the boys never had such a time in their lives.

One of the nice, unpublicized things that we hear about only by coincidence.

Curtis W. McGraw

The Association lost one of its most valued friends with the passing of Curtis W. McGraw, of Princeton, N. J.—and the game lost, too. Mr. McGraw was a member of the Green Section and Public Relations Committees and contributed materially to their work, and most particularly to the publication of this magazine and the book *TURF MANAGEMENT*.

New R. and A. Captain

The new Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, is Lt. Col. John Inglis, a delightful Scotsman who is one of the world's few authentic experts on the Rules of Golf.

Jock Inglis was a member of the R. and A. committee which conferred with a USGA group in 1951 and from this the present uniform world code resulted. He not only helped formulate the principles of the code but was a member of the drafting committee which composed and edited it.

As R. and A. Captain, Col. Inglis succeeds Lord Brabazon of Tara.

Farewell, Calcuttas

We learn that three of the four clubs in the Philadelphia area which customarily have held Calcutta pools in connection with their tournaments did not do so this last year, and the one pool which was held probably will be discontinued. Needless to say, these steps away from organized gambling have our wholehearted support.