



Walter Travis' Putter

The chances of Walter Travis' original Schenectady putter being returned to the Garden City Golf Club, in Garden City, N. Y., seem increasingly remote, and the Club already has set a substitute in its place of honor.

More than a year ago, in September, 1952, a night-time thief broke the glass in which this most famous of all putters was encased and spirited it away. He took nothing else, did no other damage and left no clues. The putter was too decrepit for use.

There was hope, for a time, that the putter might be returned as quietly as it had been removed. If it is recovered at all, it can only be with the assistance, anonymous or otherwise, of the individual who removed it since it had no marks which would distinguish it from any other old Schenectady.

This factor compounds the villainy and increases the helplessness and indignation felt by those who treasure history and tradition.

Travis, who was a member of the Garden City Golf Club through most of his career, borrowed the center-shafted putter in an attempt to regain his putting stroke for the 1904 British Amateur Championship at Sandwich, England. The man who loaned it to him was A. W. Knight, who had conceived and developed the model in Schenectady, N. Y. Travis

putted his way to the first American victory in that Championship with the Schenectady. Center-shafted clubs immediately were banned in Britain, but Travis continued to use it for fourteen years in this country.

Garden City acquired the famous putter in 1918 when Travis played an exhibition against Findlay S. Douglas at that Club for the Red Cross. The members were in a most generous mood. Howard Maxwell paid \$500 to the Red Cross for the privilege of caddying for Travis, and Albert R. Fish gave an unspecified amount for the right to caddie for Douglas. Travis became imbued with the spirit of the occasion and, at the conclusion of the match, permitted the Red Cross to auction off his putter. Lewis H. Lapham won the putter for the Club with a bid of \$1,500.

Hogan's Lowest

Ben Hogan's lowest round is a statistic to conjure with and to dream about.

To keep the record on this phenomenal player of golf straight, the lowest score he has made over 18 holes is 61, and he did it in an informal round at the Seminole Golf Club, in Palm Beach, Fla., on March 21, 1954.

The course measures 7,006 yards and par is 72. Hogan went out in 31 and came home in 30. He made eight pars, nine birdies and one eagle—on the 510-yard

fourteenth where his second shot stopped two feet from the hole. Only 24 of his strokes were putts.

How Juniors Make It

The Rules of Amateur Status, for obvious reasons, permit a boy to accept expenses in connection with a golf competition until he reaches his eighteenth birthday, and 55 of the 128 qualifiers in the last Junior Amateur Championship reported receiving such help from outside their families in order to play at the Southern Hills Country Club, in Tulsa, Okla. Conversely, 73 reported they had received no outside financial assistance. A regulation of the Championship prevents a boy for receiving aid from a commercial source.

Amounts varied considerably, of course, depending on the length of the

journey for boys from different parts of the country. The most generous assistance appeared to come from a club in Massachusetts which raised \$340 for one of its caddies who had qualified. Individual boys from Arizona, Arkansas, Pennsylvania and Washington, D. C., were reimbursed for all their expenses by their clubs or local associations, as were five from Wisconsin. Most of those who received help, however, received considerably lesser amounts, ranging from \$25 to \$150.

More of the qualifiers traveled by airplane than by any other means. To be exact, 43 flew to Tulsa, 41 went by automobile, 36 by train, 6 by bus and 2 by a combination of these mediums.

Nearly half of the players traveled with other qualifiers from their sections. Some 54 shared the trip in this fashion, while 33 traveled alone, 15 were accompanied by a friend, 13 by their USGA Junior Championship Committeeman and 13 by one or more members of their family.

The USGA customarily arranges with a college or boarding school near the Championship to house qualifiers at a reasonable rate, and 115 took advantage of this arrangement last year to sleep and eat at the University of Tulsa whence bus service was provided to the club without charge. The remaining 13 either lived in the immediate vicinity, were housed with friends or stayed with their parents in a hotel or motel.

Nearly all the qualifiers used caddies during the Championship, but 14 planned to save a few dollars by carrying their own bags. All but four stood ready to play in the consolation stroke play tournament for first-round losers at the Tulsa Country Club, and 61 of a possible 64 turned up for this event.

Rules Made Easy



Warren Orlick, professional at the Tam O'Shanter Country Club, Orchard Lake, Mich., has been assigned by the Professional Golfers Association to assist its members in developing an increased understanding of the Rules of Golf. Here he explains Rule 29, with the aid of a specially devised chart, at one of his many Rules of Golf clinics.

Walker Cup Site

The famous Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland, has been selected as the site for the 1955 match for the Walker Cup. The dates will be May 20-21, as previously announced.

In the British Amateur

Although this is the bi-centennial of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, the United States participation in the British Amateur apparently will be on a somewhat lesser scale than in recent years.

However, nearly twenty indicated their intentions early of playing at Muirfield, Scotland, the last week of May. Among them were George F. Bigham, Jr., of Fort Belvoir, Va.; John S. Breckinridge, Jr., of Larchmont, N. Y.; Laurence E. Carpenter, Jr., of Springfield, N. J.; Richard D. Davies, of Bainbridge, Md.; John W. Foley, Jr., of Trenton, Mich.; Clarke Hardwicke, of Los Angeles, Cal.; John G. Hendrickson, of Fort Belvoir, Va.; W. J. Wallace, Jr., of Pomona, Cal.; O. F. Woodward, of Palm Beach, Fla., and Hamilton W. Wright, of Sharon, Conn.

Also, Theodore S. Bassett, of Rye, N. Y.; Robert L. Eichler, of San Francisco; James B. McHale, Jr., of Philadelphia; Sean Meaney, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Lt. Hugh H. Mullin, Jr., of Brookline, Mass.; John M. Schumacher, of Lincoln, Neb., Dr. E. Malcolm Stokes, of Garden City, N. Y., and Frank Strafacci, of Garden City, N. Y.

Entries are certified by the USGA and must reach Scotland by April 27.

Of these early entrants, Davies, Hardwicke, Meaney, Schumacher and Strafacci were the only ones who indicated an intention of continuing on to the French Amateur, at Saint-Germain, the first week of June. These entries also are certified by the USGA and must reach France by May 20.

H. J. Whigham

The second Amateur Champion passed from the golfing scene at Southampton, N. Y., last month.

Henry James Whigham came to this country from Scotland in 1895, to lecture and write in the Midwest, and married the daughter of Charles Blair Macdonald, who won the first Amateur Championship that same year. Mr. Whigham succeeded his new father-in-law by winning at the Shinnecock Hills Golf

SPORTSMAN'S CORNER



Ben Hogan

This was at Augusta, Ga., during the 1953 Masters' Tournament.

After playing to the green of the tricky eleventh hole, a prominent player three-putted. He was so angry that he picked up his ball and threw it violently into a near-by pond.

About forty minutes later another prominent player came along. He, too, hit his second shot onto the green. He, too, three-putted.

But he picked the ball up, put it in his pocket and went calmly on to the next tee.

This was Ben Hogan, and he won the tournament with a new record score.

Club, in Southampton, in 1896 and repeating at the Chicago Golf Club in 1897.

At this time he wrote a book entitled "How to Play Golf," which lifts amateur eyebrows when it is observed in the Library at "Golf House." This was a natural activity for him, however, and was not prohibited by the Rules of that day. He also covered the Boer and Spanish-American Wars as a correspondent for Chicago and London newspapers and later became editor of Town and Country Magazine. He had attained the age of 84.

Contributed Most

Some time ago we wrote to a group of Champions and former Champions to invite them to donate clubs which had contributed to their victories, for our exhibits of Clubs of Champions in "Golf House."

The response all around was gratifying, but Congressman Jack Westland, of Everett, Wash., who won the 1952 Amateur Championship at the age of 47, injected a note of real wit into his contribution:

"At my age, I became so tired during the final that I believe this shooting stick, purchased in Scotland in 1934, contributed more to my victory than any club in the bag."

Permissible Prize

Rule 1-2a of the Rules of Amateur Status limits to \$150 the retail value of a prize or testimonial which an amateur may receive in a golf competition.

An individual who desires to remain an amateur under the rules of this Association should bear this clause in mind if he competes in a current driving contest of national scope.

A driving contest, like a hole-in-one contest, is considered a golf competition and a prize which consists of a two-week vacation at a resort hotel would be of a value far exceeding \$150.

When to Concede a Putt

If you don't know when to concede a putt and when to withhold the concession, you should confer directly with William B. Langford, of Chicago.

Mr. Langford, a golf-course architect, has devoted a good part of his golfing

hours in the last two decades to working out an empirical table of scoring probabilities for distances in the gimme range.

Since your opponent may be waiting over his ball hopefully right this minute, we take you immediately to the table:

<u>DISTANCE IN INCHES</u>	<u>PERFORMANCE</u>	<u>DO I GIVE?</u>
	REDUCTIO AD ABSURDUM	
2	1 Miss in 2000 tries	
3	1 Miss in 1000 tries	
4	1 Miss in 667 tries	AYE
5	1 Miss in 500 tries	
	ANALYSIS OF THE GIMMIES	
6	1 Miss in 400 "	
7	1 Miss in 333 "	
8	1 Miss in 286 "	BE
8.5	1 Miss in 250 "	GENEROUS
9	1 Miss in 222 "	
9.5	1 Miss in 200 "	
10	1 Miss in 182 "	
10.5	1 Miss in 167 "	BE
11	1 Miss in 154 "	CANNY
11.5	1 Miss in 143 "	
12	1 Miss in 123 "	
13	1 Miss in 125 "	
14	1 Miss in 118 "	PLAY
15	1 Miss in 111 "	GOLF
16	1 Miss in 105 "	