

# EVEN THE HEAT COULDN'T STOP SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

by  
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THE NEW Amateur Public Links Champion is Gene Andrews and, as usual, he lives in Southern California.

At the age of 40, Andrews survived the hottest weather ever recorded in Dallas, Texas, and became the oldest winner of the tournament.

On the day of the final, the temperature rose to 108 degrees and Andrews was locked in a tight match at the Cedar Crest Golf Course with a 26-year-old opponent named Jack E. Zimmerman, of Dayton, Ohio. It seemed inevitable to many in the large gallery that the younger man, a solid shot-maker and a courageous opponent, would wear him down over 36 holes. Yet sheer determination can do wonderful things, and it brought Andrews through by a margin of one hole. He never made the equalizing error after winning the thirty-fourth with a par to go ahead. He scored a 73 and 72, three over par, for his two rounds in the final.

Thus Southern California now has won eight of the last fifteen Championships and six of the nine since the war. Pat Abbott won in 1936 and took the James D. Standish, Jr., Cup to Southern California for the first time. After him came Bruce McCormick, Smiley Quick, Mike Ferentz, Dave Stanley, Pete Bogan and Ted Richards, Jr.

Andrews and Richards, as a matter of fact, played from the same course, the Rancho Golf Course.

Andrews, a life-insurance salesman, and a fine putter, was playing in his first Amateur Public Links Championship and had failed to qualify in two previous tries. As a member of the Mission Valley Golf Club, in San Diego, he played in the Amateur Championship at Pebble Beach, Cal., in 1947 and lost to Harold Paddock in the second round. He was raised in St. Louis,

attended the University of Missouri, lived in Dallas for a time in the Thirties and got serious about golf while serving with Sam Snead at the Naval Base in San Diego during the war.

Zimmerman, who is a power-plant engineer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, was in his fifth Amateur Public Links Championship but his best previous efforts had taken him only to the third round. There was no early indication that he would do better at Dallas, either, for he posted an 85 in the preliminary team competition, and it took him a time to get his game together. He was graduated from the University of Dayton and did post-graduate work at Illinois Tech.

The less fortunate semi-finalists were William C. Scarbrough, Jr., 30, of Jacksonville, Fla., a Chief Aviation Ordnance-man in the regular Navy, and Joseph S. Evans, 31, of St. Louis, Mo., a baker. Both men had played brilliantly in earlier rounds but wilted before Zimmerman and Andrews, respectively, and both semi-finals ended on the thirty-second green. Zimmerman was even par and Andrews three under for the distance, the latter having played the morning round in 68.

## ***And Then There Was the Heat***

If there ever has been a hotter Amateur Public Links Championship, veteran members of the Public Links Committee could not recall it, and they included Earl Shock, of Dayton, Ohio, who attended the very first Championship, at Toledo, Ohio, in 1922, and Joseph S. Dickson, of Louisville, Ky., who has attended every Championship except one since 1929.

The searing Texas sun drove the thermometer up to 108 on the Saturday of the team competition, to 109 on Sunday and



There was only "that much" difference. At least, that is what Gene Andrews (right), of Los Angeles, Cal., the new Amateur Public Links Champion, seems to be saying to Jack E. Zimmerman, of Dayton, Ohio, the runner-up. Andrews won the 36-hole final, 1 up, at the Cedar Crest Golf Course, Dallas, Texas.

to an all-time Dallas high of 110.3 on the Monday when individual match play began. Thereafter, the heat relented temporarily but reached well over 100 every day and was back at 108 for the final.

Twice during the final the fire department was called to put out fires which started in the parched grass and threatened the twelfth green.

Players learned to protect themselves from the heat by draping wet bath towels over their heads or carrying umbrellas. Even then several succumbed to the heat.

Hal McCommas, of Dallas, a sophomore member of Southern Methodist University's college championship golf team and the only quarter-finalist of last year who qualified again, staggered successfully through temperature of 102 in the third and fourth rounds on Wednesday and then was ordered to bed by his doctor.

Two other players could not complete their first-round matches, and two more had to walk in during the third round be-

cause of the intense heat, which favored neither youth nor age.

The oldest qualifier, William T. Brown, 57, a Los Angeles school teacher, went down in the first round, and the youngest qualifier, Robbie Webb, 14, of Gulfport, Miss., fell in the second round, along with the two former champions, Andrew Szwedko, of Pittsburgh, and Stanley Bielat, of Yonkers, N. Y. Both Szwedko and Bielat were 2 up with two holes to play and lost at the nineteenth hole. Szwedko won in 1939, is now 44 and was playing in his fifteenth Amateur Public Links Championship. Bielat won in 1950 and is 41.

Richards, who won last year at Seattle, was ineligible to defend because he has since joined the Bel-Air Country Club. He will reappear in the Amateur Championship.

#### Dallas Wins Team Trophy

It isn't often the home-town people who work so hard receive any tangible reward for staging a championship. The Dallas committee was rewarded tangibly and promptly, however. Its three-man team won the Warren G. Harding Trophy in the 18-hole stroke-play competition before the individual championship began.

Jesse James, a 26-year-old aerodynamics engineer who lives across the street from Cedar Crest's first tee, scored a 71. Richard Martin, who is 40, came in with a 76. And the dependable Andy Sword, a 38-year-old policeman, finished with a 73 to give Dallas a total of 220, three strokes above the record, and insure the victory. Sword and John Hatch later were to carry Dallas' hopes of winning the individual championship into the quarter-final round.

The Los Angeles team was second, five strokes back, at 225. Detroit and St. Louis tied for third at 227.

The shining silver cup was handed to Gordon Young, founder and President of the Dallas Public Links Golf Association, at the USGA dinner for the players that same evening, and there seemed no question but that Young felt completely rewarded for his efforts before a stroke was played

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Voigts, the Willings, the Gardners and many others. Lustre would be restored to the Amateur Championship and galleries would increase. There might be fewer names to consider in Championship play, but they would be bigger and better names. And, incidentally, with fewer names to be considered, the selection of a Walker Cup team might be a much easier and less controversial task.

The above is not intended to cast any aspersions on recent Champions. All have been fine players. But it is possible, maybe probable, that under former Championship methods their names might be more prominent than they are today.

## Public Links

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in the individual competition. Young and his General Chairman, Les A. Stemmons, Jr., proved a remarkably effective team in preparing for this first Amateur Public Links Championship in the Southwest, and all the players and committeemen who enjoyed Dallas' hospitality and efficiency are deeply in their debt.

The Dallas Park Board had Cedar Crest in remarkable condition, considering the long drought and the difficulty of obtaining water, and the kind remarks of the players were a tribute to the wisdom with which the available water had been used.

Cedar Crest has a great tradition, which was completely upheld. It is the course where Sid Cooper once was professional and where his little boy, Harry, grew up and learned to play. And Walter Hagen won his fifth and last Professional Golfers' Association Championship there in 1927.

**You can't help a little child up the hill without getting nearer the top yourself.**

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