

THE NEW SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

THE COMPETITIVE URGE among golfers is not limited by age, and for that reason the USGA's annual tournament program expands another notch this year. The reason is the establishment of a new USGA Senior Amateur Championship.

It is to be the last event of the 1955 USGA season, beginning September 26 and ending October 1. It probably will have an early-Autumn schedule permanently. Host for the inaugural Championship this year will be the Belle Meade Country Club in Nashville, Tenn.

Addition of the Senior Championship gives the USGA exactly twice as many annual Championships as were held before World War II. The Amateur, the Open and the Women's Amateur were started in 1895, and the Amateur Public Links in 1922. Since World War II there have been added the Junior Amateur, the Girls' Junior, the Women's Open and now the Senior Amateur Championship. Further, the schedule of international team matches, which for years comprised the Walker Cup and the Curtis Cup, was increased in 1952 by the Americas Cup event among Canada, Mexico and the United States.

The Senior Amateur Championship will be open to players who have reached their 55th birthday by September 8, who are members of USGA Regular Member Clubs, and whose handicaps do not exceed 10 strokes under the USGA Handicap System.

All entrants will compete in 18-hole Sectional Qualifying Rounds on September 8 at approximately 25 locations throughout the country. From these tryouts will emerge 120 qualifiers for the Championship proper.

At Belle Meade they will engage in an 18-hole qualifying round to determine 32 qualifiers, who then will enter match play. There will be five rounds of 18-hole matches in five days.

Because the Seniors particularly relish golfing fun, the non-qualifiers at Belle



This gentleman is obviously a senior. He lives at Palm Springs, Cal. He is not believed to be a threat for golfing honors, however—his only known connection with golf has been to pose for pictures such as this in helping the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association to inaugurate its Seniors' Championship last year.

Meade will have a 36-hole stroke play tournament on the second and the third days of the event. The losers in the first round of Championship match play will form a separate "beaten 16" for further match play.

The entry fee will be \$10.

Frederick L. Dold, of Wichita, Kansas, who has just retired from the USGA Executive Committee after five years of service, has generously offered to present a permanent trophy for the Championship, and the Association has accepted.

Chairman of the USGA Senior Championship Committee is Richard S. Tufts, of Pinehurst, N. C.