

# HOW MANY COURSES HAVE YOU PLAYED?

**J**OHAN B. RYERSON, of Cooperstown, N. Y., has played 1,040 courses in his thirty-six-year links career. One of America's most ardent golfers and a star amateur in the years between 1926 and 1940, Ryerson now derives his greatest enjoyment from playing new courses and limits his competitive efforts to senior events.

He is not attempting to equal Ralph Kennedy's mark of 3,162 courses, but, this being a hobby, he expects to go right on adding new courses at every opportunity. Ryerson and Kennedy met for the first time in September, 1953, and exchanged reminiscences when Kennedy played the Otsego Golf Club course, which Ryerson operates.

## *A Much Travelled Golfer*

Ryerson began his golf career in 1916 and has now played 966 courses in each of the 48 states, as well as on 37 courses in Canada and also on a total of 37 courses in Hawaii, Mexico, Great Britain, France, China, India, Siam and Malaya.

His extensive collection of score cards is mounted in six leather-bound volumes, each card representing his best round on the respective course. The cards show a good record, most of them being in the seventies, a few in the sixties and about ninety over 79.

Ryerson's golf career came naturally, as both his father and mother were golfers in the 1890's and the early years of the present century. His father, Arthur Ryerson of Chicago, along with Charles B. Macdonald, the first Amateur Champion, was a delegate to the organization meeting of the United States Golf Association on December 22, 1894. He was lost in the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. Jack, his mother and two sisters were among the survivors.

## *Operates Golf Club*

Ryerson was born in Chicago in 1898 and educated at St. Paul's School and at Yale, where he played on the golf team.



**JACK RYERSON**

He has lived most of his life at Ringwood, his estate near Cooperstown where he owns and operates a daily fee course, the Otsego Golf Club. This club was organized in 1894, which makes it one of the oldest in the country. It is one of the few which has retained its original site.

In 1953 Ryerson was married at the age of 54 to Miss Jane Morris, of Chicago and Palm Beach, Fla.

He is a member of the USGA Museum Committee and has contributed many pictures and other articles of interest to "Golf House."

His most recent gift is one that will interest print collectors as well as golfers. It consists of five of the golf prints of A. B. Frost. This would indicate that, in addition to being an avid player, Ryerson is one of the connoisseurs of golfing lore with a genuine love of anything connected with the Royal and Ancient game.

It is a thousand pities that neither Aristotle nor Shakespeare was a golfer. There is no other game that strips the soul so naked.

H. G. Hutchinson