

# BIRTHDAY HONORS FOR OLDEST OPEN CHAMPION

Columbia C. C.  
fete  
Fred McLeod

**F**RED McLeod is the United States' oldest living Open Champion. He has also served the Columbia Country Club, Chevy Chase, Md., as professional for the past forty-five years. These two factors, combined with the fact that he is universally popular, were more than sufficient grounds for his Club to fete him in the grand manner on his seventy-fifth birthday.

Over 500 turned out to pay tribute to the 1908 Open Champion at a testimonial dinner in the clubhouse. Prominent among them was Vice-President Richard M. Nixon, a Columbia member who had previously partnered Freddie in an afternoon four-ball match.

Other distinguished guests included General Omar Bradley and Maj. Gen. (Msgr.) Patrick J. Ryan, Chief of Army Chaplains.

During the evening McLeod was presented a check to cover an all-expenses-paid trip to his native Scotland — he hails from North Berwick, East Lothian — and an opportunity to see the Ryder Cup Match at Lindrick Golf Club, Notts., in October.

Through the courtesy of NBC, messages of goodwill were recorded and relayed from his nieces and nephews in Scotland. These were augmented by a message from J. H. Taylor, five times British Open Champion now in his eighty-seventh year. Taylor recalled how, in an international match in 1921, he had been 2 up with three to play on the Scotsman but had lost on the last green to one of the finest finishes he had ever seen.

Wires came pouring in from many sources. President Eisenhower sent his personal congratulations, and similar messages were received from Robert T. Jones, Jr., Jock Hutchison, Lew Worsham, Bobby Cruikshank and Charles Evans, Jr.

## DO YOU KNOW YOUR GOLF?

(Answers to questions on page 19)

1. Miss Marlene Stewart (Mrs. J. Douglas Streit); Miss Dorothy Campbell (Mrs. Hurd).
2. 276 at Riviera Country Club, Los Angeles, Cal., in 1948.
3. Yes. See Rule 33-2a and Note 3.
4. United States, United States and British.
5. United States, British Isles and United States.
6. Coburn Haskell.
7. The feather ball, gutta percha, and the rubber ball eras.
8. Yes. See Definition 31.
9. Worms; leaves; dung.

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Professionals from all eras attended.

Long-hitting Jimmy Thomson, himself a native of North Berwick, acted as master of ceremonies, adding a touch of nostalgia as he lapsed into Scottish dialect.

The years have not taken too much toll on Fred McLeod's golf. Although he failed to score his age, he turned in a very respectable birthday card of 80, an inspiration to the Vice-President, who surprised himself by shooting an 85.

New fangled contraptions are not for the former champion. Golf is still, to him, a recreation and an exercise, as Nixon found to his cost on the way round.

Between the 13th and 14th holes at Columbia there is a bridge across a ravine. The canny Scot has never trusted that bridge and took his usual long uphill climb with the Vice-President in his wake.

Fred McLeod is the epitome of the men who made United States golf what it is today. Harry Moffitt, President of the PGA, called him "the foundation of the game of golf," and urged club and tournament pros to follow in his footsteps.