



THROUGH THE GREEN

African Visitor

Two years ago Miss Susan Rennie came to the United States from South Africa for the first time as a "brain." She came back last summer as a golfer to play in the Women's Amateur Championship at the Wee Burn Country Club, in Darien, Conn.

Susan, who was South African Champion in 1955 and won the Transvaal title the past two years, then entered Barnard College, in New York, to study anthropology.

Her first visit was as a member of the New York Herald-Tribune Youth Forum, an organization which brings about thirty-five of the world's most brilliant high-school-age students to the United States each year. Susan won out over some 7,000 rivals in her own country.

"The World We Want" was the subject of the Forum that year, and Miss Rennie's essay won out in a competition which started with representatives of virtually every high school in her country. Final selection was made by her country's cultural attaché.

She spent about three months in the United States then, living in the homes of typical high school students, going to school with them and discussing world problems as well as those of high school kids.

As a golfer, Miss Rennie is modest. "South Africa is sending a team to Britain next year, and if I make a good showing in the United States, I may have a chance to go," she said. Her start in this

country probably did not hurt her chances. She went to the third round at Wee Burn.

McDermott Room

The first American-born professional to win the National Open Championship was John J. McDermott, the Champion in 1911 and again in 1912. When he won in 1911 he was professional at the Atlantic City Country Club. This club has now honored Johnny by naming its new lounge the John J. McDermott Room. A portrait of him hangs in the lounge along with his USGA gold medal for the 1911 Open.

Merion's World

The second World Amateur Team Championship will be played in 1960 over one of the great American courses, the East Course of the Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, Pa., in the Philadelphia suburbs. Dates will be September 28 through October 1.

Some of the most notable events in golf history have occurred at Merion. It was there in 1930 that Robert T. Jones, Jr., completed his "Grand Slam" by winning the National Amateur Championship, following his victories earlier in the season for the National Open and the British Amateur and Open. In 1916 at Merion he had made his first national appearance in the Amateur, as a lad of 14.

It was at Merion that Ben Hogan in 1950 scored his remarkable comeback victory in the Open's Golden Jubilee,

after his nearly fatal automobile accident.

All told, Merion has generously entertained ten USGA Championships: Amateur—1916-24-30; Open—1934-50; Women's Amateur—1904-09-26-49; and Curtis Cup Match—1954.

The World Amateur Team Championship, instituted this year at St. Andrews, is a 72-hole stroke-play competition among national teams of four players; the three lowest scores each day constitute the team total.

The Championship is rotated among three zones: European-African (1958), American (1960), and Australasian (1962).

Encyclopedia of Golf

It has been nine years since the competitive records of golf on a national and international scale have been assembled in one authoritative volume, and that old 1949 Official Golf Guide, published by A.S. Barnes & Company, has become dog-eared and inadequate on the desks of golf writers, historians and librarians.

Now Barnes has up-dated many of its old competitive records and published on a much broader base The Encyclopedia of Golf, which goes on sale this month at \$7.50. The work, representing ten years of researching and compiling, was done by Major Nevin H. Gibson, a retired Army officer, and the records, history and biographical information are now, fortunately, available again for all who need to know.

More Dollars

During the past five years country clubs recorded increases of 33 per cent in payroll costs and 25 per cent in other expenses. Correlatively, total revenue and dues advanced 28.5 per cent. The source for these statistics is "Clubs in Town and Country—1957-58," an analytical review of the operations of 100 clubs with fiscal years ending through May 31, 1958 released by Harris, Kerr, Forster & Co.

The trend of business for 50 country clubs indicates that from 1956-57 to 1957-58, both income and expenses increased by about 5 per cent, resulting in a balance available for debt service, capital improvements and other financial obligations

which exceeded last year by 7 per cent.

Total membership in the 50 country clubs increased from 28,966 to 29,060. The average member's dues were \$262 and his other expenditures at the club equalled \$560, making a grand total of \$822. During the preceding year, dues averaged \$250, other expenditures amounted to \$536 and the grand total came to \$786.

The cost of operating the 50 country clubs during the current year averaged \$804 per member, while last year the cost was \$769. There remained balances of \$18 per member in 1957-58 and \$17 per member in 1956-57 with which to meet interest, depreciation and amortization of facilities.

Gross revenue, including dues, for the 50 country clubs totaled \$23.9 million in 1957-58 and was 5 per cent greater than in 1956-57.

Cash payrolls for the 50 country clubs equalled 57 per cent of total operating revenue, exclusive of dues. The addition of 8.1 per cent for payroll taxes and related costs resulted in an over-all total of 65.1 per cent. The corresponding ratio for these costs averaged 64.5 per cent in 1956-57.

An important cost factor in the operation of country clubs is the maintenance cost of golf courses. The 50 country clubs in the current study operated a total of 990 holes of golf, and the maintenance costs per hole averaged \$2,595 during 1957-58 and \$2,465 during 1956-57, for an increase of 5.3 per cent.

Question of Seniority

We erred, regrettably, in reporting on the Girls' Junior Championship last summer.

The youngest qualifier for match play was Miss Mimi Grandle, of Cincinnati, who was born on March 26, 1945 and at the time was 13 years, 5 months. She scored 91 in the qualifying round and went into match play through the playoff for last place.

Miss Judy Torluemke, of Ellisville, Mo., who qualified with an 85 for the second time, is also 13, but she was born on February 18, 1945 and at the time was 13 years, 6 months old.

Both girls have long and bright futures in golf, regardless of this mix-up.

PGA Honors

Harry Pezzullo, professional at the Mission Hills Golf Club, Northbrook, Ill., for twelve years, has been elected by a committee of amateur golfers to be PGA Golf Professional-of-the-Year for 1958, succeeding such illustrious predecessors as the late Bill Gordon, Harry Shepard and Dugan Aycock in the role of most exemplary club professional.

Dow Finsterwald, of Tequesta, Fla., the PGA Champion, has been selected by professionals and press as PGA Professional Golfer of the Year for 1958.

Horton Smith, of Detroit, also has been elected by PGA members to the PGA Hall of Fame, where he joins, in the order of their election, Willie Anderson, Tommy Armour, Jim Barnes, Chick Evans, Walter Hagen, Bob Jones, John McDermott, Francis Ouimet, Gene Sarazen, Alex Smith, Jerry Travers, Walter J. Travis, Ben Hogan, Byron Nelson, Sam Snead,

Macdonald Smith, Leo Diegel, Craig Wood and Denny Shute.

Necrology

It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of:

Harold W. Pierce, Boston, Mass., President of the USGA in 1940 and 1941, Chairman of the Golf Committee at The Country Club, Brookline, Mass., for thirty years and longtime friend of golf.

Dr. M.E. Husted, of North Bergen, N.J., a member of our Green Section Committee since 1947.

Philip F. Scrutton, of Andover, Hampshire, England, member of the 1953 55-57 British Walker Cup Teams, and outstanding international golfer.

Don Tait, of Springfield, Mass., a club maker with A.G. Spalding & Bros., Inc.

Walter Stewart, Memphis, Tenn., sports editor of The Commercial Appeal who devoted many of his columns to upholding the best in golf.



The United States Team in the World Amateur Championship. Left to right: Dr. Frank M. Taylor, Jr., William J. Patton, William Hyndman, III, Charles R. Coe; seated: Robert T. Jones, Jr., Captain.