

SHOOTING ONE'S AGE

Two Californians
Have Remarkable
Achievements

Many senior golfers have expressed the opinion that playing against their age is far more intriguing than trying to match par. In the September 1956 issue of the USGA Journal, we reported the achievements of twenty-five seniors who scored their age or better. In subsequent issues we related additional achievements, and are always pleased to learn the facts of similar triumphs over age.

The latest to come to our attention concerns two Californians whose feats are outstanding and establish new marks at both ends of the record.

Dr. Leon J. Richardson, of San Francisco, has scored his age a number of times during the past twenty years, and at 91 he feels that he is playing badly whenever he scores at the rate of one stroke for each year of his life. His usual scores are in the middle 80s.

Dr. Richardson is a member of the Tilden Park Golf Club in Berkeley where he plays about six times a week. He is also an active member of the California and Northern California Senior Golf Associations.

His golfing achievements span a half-century. In 1912, shortly after he started to play golf, Dr. Richardson was runner-up in the California State Amateur Championship at Del Monte.

At seventy-three, he was the 1941 champion of the Tilden Park Golf Club.

In the period from 1944 to 1956 he won his age flight in the California Senior Golf Association annual tournament ten times. In the 1946 and 1952 events he was low net scorer.

In 1944 he scored low net and won his age flight in the Northern California Seniors Championship. He repeated the win in 1948 at the age of 80.

Dr. Richardson is professor emeritus of Greek and Latin at the University of California. In 1938, after more than fifty years of teaching, the University told him the law required him to end his active



Dr. Leon J. Richardson

teaching days, even though he insisted that he was "just as well as he was twenty-five years ago."

His colleagues must have found merit in his argument for the professor was given charge of two correspondence courses which he still conducts.

He is proud of his health, and contends that diet and massage have done the trick. "I can't remember a day since 1947," he says, "that I haven't had a Swedish massage ten minutes before breakfast, ten minutes before dinner and ten minutes before retiring." Little wonder that he is the living example of his

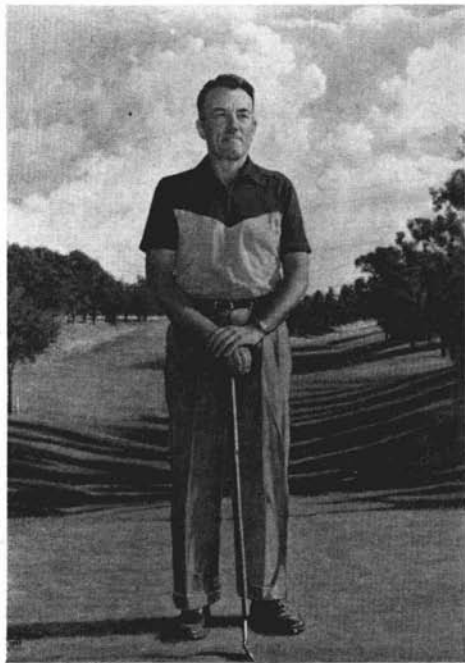
two courses, "How to Keep Intellectually Alive" and "Retirement and How to Take Advantage of It."

Dr. Richardson's performances parallel those of Nathaniel Vickers of Forest Hills, N.Y., which we related in 1956. Mr. Vickers started playing golf at the age of 50 and accomplished the minor miracle of scoring his age at 91. He was champion of Queens Valley Golf Club. At the age of 84 he won the Class A flight of the 1931 United States Seniors Golf Association's annual tournament.

Record Low 63

The second achievement breaks a record shared by three Californians, Weller Noble of Berkeley, J. Barton Bridgeford of San Francisco, and Lee Davis of Los Angeles, who scored 64s in equaling their ages.

We now have the facts of a round of 63 scored by Carl E. Haymond of Los Angeles at Los Angeles Country Club's South Course. The remarkable round occurred on August 3 in the company of Carl Hospers, Al Schabel and Bob Gilbert. All putts were holed-out and play was in accordance with USGA Rules of



Carl E. Haymond

Revising Handicaps of New Players

Handicap Decision 59-4

Reference: Men: Sect. 8-1b

Women: Sect. 18-1b

Q: When a golfer has just begun to establish her handicap under the present USGA System and has had no scores posted but is playing several times each week to build up 25 scores as quickly as possible, do you recommend figuring her handicap with each game which entitles her to use a greater number of scores for her handicap—namely, games 6-9-11-14-17-19-21 and 23? Or do you feel her handicap should be figured only once a month with the others?

Question by: Mrs. Lewis R. Sams
Atlanta 19, Ga.

A: Section 18-1b of The Conduct of Women's Golf provides as follows: "When a player has fewer than 25 scores posted, her handicap should be revised more frequently than others to insure that she is assigned a handicap fair to herself and her opponents." The frequency of the revisions is a matter for the Committee in charge to determine, but under the circumstances mentioned, once a week would seem reasonable.

Golf.

The performance rated considerable attention in Southern California as Mr. Haymond's score also set a new amateur course record for the South Course.

"Many thrills come to a golfer during the course of many years of playing the wonderful game," says Mr. Haymond, "but this one outshines even the five holes-in-one that I have had over the years."

Mr. Haymond has entered the USGA Senior Amateur Championship which is to be held at the Memphis Country Club, Memphis, Tenn., from October 5 through 10.

This year's record entry of 395 is twenty-five more than the previous highs of 370 in 1955, the year the Championship was inaugurated, and 1958. The defending Champion is Tom Robbins of Pinehurst, N. C.