



THROUGH THE GREEN

A Wee Bit o' Poetry

Chick Evans sent his Christmas message in the form of verse and this is what Chick said:

"When I was a caddie, a wee, sma' laddie,
I lived in a world that was new;
Life itself was a game, to play it my aim,
In the best way my hands found to do.

"I'm no longer a caddie, nor wee, sma' laddie,
Nor the world so eternally new;
Life's not wholly a game, yet my hope is the same
And my hands seek the best they can do."

6,000 in '60

The United States will top the 6,000 mark in golf courses during the year, the National Golf Foundation estimates.

During the past year Joe Graffis, president of the Foundation, said 202 new regulation golf courses and additions to courses were brought into play. "At the current rate of development, with 311 new courses and additions under construction, we will have more than 6,000 courses in play early in 1960," Graffis said.

The new regulation courses and additions, plus 41 par-3 courses now under construction, will add 4,466 new golf holes.

Pennsylvania leads the country, the Foundation said, in courses under construction with 24. In California 22 are be-

ing built and in Texas there are 21 on the way.

In the planning stage California leads with 99, Ohio golf course builders have 84 on the boards and New York, 82.

As of November 1, 1959, the Foundation said there were 3,097 private courses, 2,023 semi-private and 871 public links courses. The number of acres devoted to courses was 575,371 and capital investment was \$1,370,000,000.

An estimated 81,430,000 rounds were played during 1959 by an estimated 4,125,000 golfers.

Premier Hole-In-One

Who got the first hole-in-one in 1960?

Edward A. Reider, Jr., may be the man. Reider aced the 115-yard ninth at the Berkshire Country Club, Reading, Pa., with a iron shortly before 12 Noon, EST, Jan. 1.

Any any sooner?

It was Reider's third hole-in-one and each one was on the same hole.

A Round Won't Break You

A round on The Old Course at St. Andrews will cost seven shillings six pence—worth \$1.05. The Old Course was closed for sometime this winter in preparation for the Centennial British Open Championship to be played there July 4-8, 1960.

Rounds on St. Andrew's excellent New and Eden Courses, which lie alongside the Old Course, cost only three shillings six pence—worth \$.49.

AT THE METROPOLITAN GOLF WRITERS DINNER



The Metropolitan Golf Writers Association Dinner annually is a big occasion in New York. It rates as one of golf's major events played away from a golf course. Nearly 600 guests attended this year and an array of speaking and playing talent was present. Vice-President Richard M. Nixon, who confessed to a 19-handicap, presents Bob Jones with a silver globe in commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the "Grand Slam." Frank Pace (left), President of the International Golf Association, applauds the presentation while Lincoln Werden (rear), golf writer for the New York Times, looks on. Francis Ouimet (right), Open Champion in 1913, was presented with the Gold Tee Award by Mr. Jones on behalf of the writers. Mr. Werden is President of the Golf Writers and acted as Master of Ceremonies. Stewart (Skip) Alexander was given the Ben Hogan Trophy which annually goes to a golfer who has made a comeback after suffering a physical handicap. Alexander was severely injured in an air crash 10 years ago and is now the professional at Lakewood Country Club, St. Petersburg, Fla. A large delegation of 1959 Champions was at the dinner, led by Jack Nicklaus of Columbus, Ohio, the Amateur Champion; Miss Mickey Wright of San Diego, Calif., the Women's Open Champion; J. Clark Espie, Jr., of Indianapolis, the USGA Senior Amateur Champion, and Stan Leonard of Canada, the International Golf Association Champion.

For Tourists

Planning for a golf holiday in Scotland can be made easier by obtaining a copy of "Scotland, Home of Golf." The pamphlet includes information and addresses of 121 courses, scratch scores, pars and playing fees.

The pamphlet can be obtained from The British Travel Association, 680 Fifth Avenue, New York, or the Scottish Tourist Board, 2 Rutland Place, West End, Edinburgh 1, Scotland.

Sam McKinlay, a member of the 1934 British Walker Cup team, authored a large part of the pamphlet. McKinlay is now a Glasgow newspaper executive.

Golf in Bible Lands

A new 18-hole course has been opened in the Biblical city of Caesarea in Israel. The course is not the first fine one in the Middle East, however. There are several others, notably one near Cairo.

Billy Graham on Cheating

Evangelist Billy Graham recently had this to say about golf and cheating at golf:

"I happen to play the game of golf and like it because it's so unpredictable and challenging. Of all games, golf is supposed to be a game of honor. It is a game for gentlemen, and if the rules are not observed it ceases to be any fun for anyone. In fact, it ceases to be golf.

"When anyone wants to win so badly that he resorts to cheating, he is missing the whole point of the game. If he wins he has really lost, for he has lost that feeling of honor and good sportsmanship that is the point of every fair athletic contest."

Golf—Blessing and Refresher

The late John G. Shedd, who rose from a \$10 a week stock boy to become chairman of Marshall Field and Company, had this to say during the 1920's about golf:

"I regard golf as one of the greatest blessings of modern times. It draws men from their business as nothing else can do and refreshes them for new endeavors with a spirit which only golf develops."

He was the first Chicago merchant to give his employees half holidays on Saturdays. It has been said that he wanted store employees to take up golf.

Golf at a Gate to Space

Ever heard of building a 7,210-yard golf course for \$24,000?

No. And furthermore, you don't believe it can be done?

It has, though. At the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

Bob Baldock of Fresno, Calif., a golf architect, directed the construction and he has been presented with a certificate by the First Missile Division awarding him the title of "Honorary Missileman."

Officials at the missile base say Baldock donated much of his time and effort to the development of the course and that he was "almost solely responsible for the construction of the Vandenberg Links for the unheard cost of \$24,000."

Vandenberg was granted \$24,000 by the Strategic Air Command headquarters. Enthusiastic labor was chipped in voluntarily by hundreds of airmen and missile-

men who worked under Baldock's direction so well that an Air Force official said:

"Mr. Baldock and his staff made \$24,000 do the work of \$200,000."

Today, 18 holes are in play. The course can be stretched from 6,500 to 7,210 yards over the rolling California lands which abound in eucalyptus groves.

And just to the side is the Vandenberg base, one of the world's great gates to space.

Necrology

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

J. Wood Platt of Philadelphia, first USGA Senior Amateur Champion, member of the 1921 International Team, member of the USGA Sectional Affairs Committee and former President of Golf Association of Philadelphia.

Sir William Neill, former President of the Golfing Union of Ireland.

Golf In Czechoslovakia

At last reports there were no golf courses around Ulan Bator or throughout Outer Mongolia. But golf is played in a few places in the Communist World—notably Czechoslovakia.

In the past year the Golf Union of Czechoslovakia was re-formed and two regulation courses are now in play. There are several others of various numbers of holes. The two main courses are near Prague, one at Carlsbad and one at Marienbad. The USGA handicap and course rating systems are being applied and after a long, tedious job a USGA copy of the Rules of Golf has been translated.

Jiri (that's George in the Czech language) David won the National Golf Championship (match play) last summer. A 72-hole National Stroke Play tournament also was played. The winner had a 306.

No one in Czechoslovakia is reported to have broken par but there are at least six or eight players who play in the high 70's or low 80's. Most of the playing equipment is pre-World War II and balls are very scarce.

Czech players abide strictly by the Rules except when a precious ball is lost. Then, instead of a five-minute search they may look for half an hour.

Colonel Bogey Tune

Golf and music are subjects not often related. But writer George Bijur has managed to find one outstanding incident when golf and music came together with fine results.

A golf course provided the setting for one of the most rousing marching tunes of our era, the famous Colonel Bogey tune which perks up the morale of those half-starved, whistling prisoners of war in the film "The Bridge on the River Kwai."

The Colonel Bogey tune was hatched on the Scottish links at Fort George, near Inverness. Bandmaster F. J. Ricketts of the 2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders was playing a slow practice round, taking his time. A friend, playing behind, decided he had had enough of this dallying. Instead of shouting "Fore!", the friend whistled the opening two notes of a Highland bird call.

Picking up his friend's cue, the bandmaster instantly improvised a complete melody on the two-note theme and whistled it back as an invitation to play through. Later the bandleader christened his new parade pepper-upper "Colonel Bogey."

Honored

W. J. Gardner, honorary secretary of the Artisan Golfers' Association of Great Britain, has been created an M.B.E. (Member of the British Empire) by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Mr. Gardner is a retired civil servant.

Mrs. George Valentine of Scotland, a Curtis Cup star, was honored last year.

Books Reviewed

AN ADDICT'S GUIDE TO BRITISH GOLF, by George Houghton, (Stanley Paul & Co., Ltd., \$4.20). A county-by-county listing of every golf course in Great Britain with informative illustrated maps, written in the author's usual humorous style.

EIGHTEEN HOLES IN MY HEAD, by Milton Gross (McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., \$3.75). A humorous account of the author's encounter with the game of golf containing anecdotes about many of the celebrities with whom he has played.

GENE SARAZEN IN OILS AND GENE SARAZEN IN PERSON



"Golf House" was presented with its sixth major oil portrait January 8 and the subject is one of golf's most notable players—Gene Sarazen.

The stocky little man who still plays in plus fours as a grand reminder of the game's earlier days was present when his portrait was unveiled.

The oil, by Artist Frank Bensing, shows Sarazen in front of the 10th hole at the Augusta National Golf Club. It is in full and rich color. Donor of the portrait was the Wilson Sporting Goods Co. Mr. William P. Holmes, president of Wilson, made the presentation.

Joseph C. Dey, Jr., Executive Director of the United States Golf Association, accepted the portrait on behalf of "Golf House."

The Sarazen painting joined other major oils of Robert T. Jones, Jr., Francis Ouimet, Walter Hagen, Glenna Collett Vare and John Reid.

Gene Sarazen played in his first National Open in 1920. He finished in a tie for 30th with 311.

In 1922 at Skokie Country Club, Glen-coe, Ill., Sarazen won the Open and since then he has been a major factor in professional tournament golf. He repeated 16 years later at Fresh Meadow with his second Open Championship.

In 1932 he also won the British Open at Prince's, Sandwich, Kent. He won the PGA Championships in 1922, 1923 and 1933 and the Masters in 1935.