



THROUGH THE GREEN

Man-Eating Hazards

A local rule at the Nyanza Club, Kenya, British East Africa reads, "If a ball comes to rest in dangerous proximity to a hippopotamus or crocodile, another ball may be dropped at a safe distance, no nearer the hole, without penalty."

Amendment

Many golf and country clubs throughout the United States have recently encountered financial difficulties because of real estate tax problems. In California, for example, the problem is so acute that golf clubs and associations there have made it possible that a California constitutional amendment will be voted upon in November. The amendment known as Proposition 6 on California's November 8 ballot, would have the effect of taxing golf clubs on their value as recreational facilities instead of on some higher scale.

The Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association has made the following statement:

The United States Golf Association is cognizant of the difficulties created for many golf and country clubs by real estate assessments which are excessive for the true value of their courses as recreational facilities. The Association notes that some clubs have literally been taxed out of existence.

The Association deplores tax policies which can produce such results. Such policies would seem to be short-sighted and ill-advised for they can lead to denying people the benefits of golf.

Golf is a health-giving, character-build-

ing game with a high standard of sportsmanship. A golf club is an asset to a community as a social center, its green acres have unusual aesthetic values which benefit the club's neighborhood as well as its members. The mere presence of a golf course tends to enhance the value of adjacent property for residential purposes.

Although there is a record number of approximately 6,000 golf courses in the United States today, they are not adequate to serve the interests of the golfing population.

The USGA Executive Committee wholeheartedly endorses the action of golf associations in California in seeking to have golf courses in their State assessed properly on their value as recreational facilities.

Grand Slam Anniversary

It was 30 years ago on September 27, that Robert T. Jones, Jr., completed the "Grand Slam"—the unparalleled winning of the National Open and Amateur and the British Open and Amateur Championships in a single year.

The feat stands as golf's most remarkable achievement. It also was the crowning act at the end of an illustrious career in competitive golf. Jones retired in November, 1930, soon after completing his four-championship sweep.

The third championship of this "Impregnable Quadrilateral" came in the U. S. Open, July 10-12, 1930, at the Interlachen Country Club, Minneapolis. Macdonald Smith was Jones' biggest challenger in the final moments of the Cham-

pionship. Smith had almost overtaken the Atlanta amateur on the first 13 holes.

The final two holes carried tremendous excitement. Jones, who had pulled into a five-stroke lead after his 68 in the third round, almost lost on the 17th hole. He sliced his drive into a water hazard and took his third five of the round on a par 3 hole.

But, it was exactly the opposite on the 402-yard final hole. Jones reached the front edge in two and sank a 40-foot uphill putt for a birdie three that barred the door for Smith. This gave Jones a two-stroke victory margin.

The final Championship of the "Grand Slam" came September 27, and it was fitting that the great amateur should complete the last leg in the Amateur Championship. Jones won at the same course—the Merion Cricket Club, Ardmore, Pa.—where he had played in his first Amateur in 1916 and also where he had won his first Amateur Championship in 1924. Gene Homans was his victim in the final round by a margin of 8 and 7.

Earlier in 1930, Jones had won the British Amateur, defeating Roger Wethered in the final by 6 and 5, at St. Andrews, and the British Open at Hoylake, England, with 70-72-74-75—291. To add further to his laurels that year, Jones was also Captain of the American Walker Cup team which won, 10-2, over Great Britain.

Jones' performances in National Championships is unsurpassed. Between 1923 and 1930, Jones won 13 major championships—nine here and four in Great Britain

A chart of his major tournament record in those eight years shows the measure of his dominance:

	British Amateur	British Open	United States Amateur	United States Open
1923			Lost, 2nd Rd.	1st, Play-off
1924			1st	2nd
1925			1st	2nd, Play-off
1926	Lost 5th Rd.	1st	2nd	1st
1927		1st	1st	Tie, 11th
1928			1st	2nd, Play-off
1929			Lost, 1st Rd.	1st, Play-off
1930	1st	1st	1st	1st

Keeler Course

A fine old golfing name—Oscar Bane Keeler—will soon appear once again in the world of golf.

The "O. B. Keeler Golf Course" is due to open in Cobb County, Georgia, just north of Atlanta, in the autumn. The 18-hole, par 72 course, was named in honor of the late golf writer for the Atlanta Journal, who died in 1950.

Mr. Keeler covered practically every golfing move made by Robert T. Jones, Jr., from his very introduction to national golf to the Grand Slam of 30 years ago.

"Golf-O-Rama"

In modern life we have all sorts of "O-Ramas" — "Bowl-O-Ramas," "Speed-O-Ramas," "Skate-O-Ramas." Now, it seems, there are "Golf-O-Ramas."

The most recent was the Berkshire Hills Golf-O-Rama at the Pittsfield, Mass., Boys Club. The program included shot-making exhibitions; displays by equipment manufacturers; a talk by William O. Blaney, former Chairman of the USGA's Handicap Procedure Committee; talks on the Rules of Golf by John Hawkins, of the Massachusetts Golf Association, and John English, former Assistant Executive Director of the USGA; a clinic on turf matters by Alexander Radko, Director of the Eastern Region of the USGA Green Section.

Speeches, awards and movies rounded out the program which began at 1 P. M. and ended before midnight.

All proceeds went to the Berkshire Junior Golf Foundation for a scholarship program of turf study at the University of Massachusetts. Two boys already are studying at the University.

More than 400 persons attended the night session and the whole affair was considered a fine success.

Course Rating Origins

The origins of the USGA Course Rating System go far back.

In a recent letter Raynor M. Gardiner, a Boston attorney, traced one of the roots:

"Most people have long since forgotten, and I had almost forgotten myself, that in about 1926 when I was president of the Massachusetts Golf Association, one of our Executive Committee members, Horace Workman, and I invented what

was then called the Massachusetts Golf Course Ratings."

Mr. Gardiner recalled that he and Mr. Workman decided that par was "a very poor" measuring stick so they originated the course rating idea. He added that he felt the only serious mistake made in the beginning was to assume that the scratch golfer invariably got a nice long drive down the middle.

"However, since scratch golfers do not spray their tee shots very often the defect in our original system was not too serious," he said.

For some time two schools of thought had existed. The Massachusetts Golf Association had sponsored the idea of the theoretical scratch golfer against whose performance all courses were to be rated. The Chicago District Golf Association had developed the fractional par method of rating courses, based on actual performances recorded for individual holes. Both methods had certain merit, so now these two ideas have been blended together in the new USGA Course Rating System.

Jail Birdie

Three times Thomas Stovall, 81, has done time at the Federal Correction Institution at Danbury, Conn.

In a way each incarceration was a pleasure and the good game of golf was the reason.

On the first of Mr. Stovall's visits to the Institution, he says he sharpened up his game by playing often on a course at the Correction home. The second visit was equally pleasurable and for the same reason.

By the finish of his third sentence, Mr. Stovall was playing really well.

Now, he has waived a hearing in Chicago on charges of cashing a rubbery \$30 check and requested permission to do his time at Danbury. Little is known about his handicap but by the time he is a free man again, it should be quite low.

Amateurs

Amateur golfers on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean made outstanding bids in the two national open championships—the United States Open and the British Open.

1959 Amateur Champion Jack Nick-

laus finished second with 282 in the U. S. Open, only two strokes behind Arnold Palmer. Amateur Don Cherry finished in a tie for 11th with 284. For company in the tie, Cherry had Ben Hogan and Jerry Barber.

In the British Open there were three amateurs among the top 12. Guy Wolstenholme was sixth with 283, Joe Carr was eighth with 285 and David Blair was 12th with 286. Kel Nagle, of Australia, won with 278.

Nicklaus' finish was the highest in the United States Open by an Amateur since 1933 when John Goodman, then an amateur, won the Championship. Frank Stranahan, at the time an amateur, finished in a tie for second place in the British Open Championship of 1953—the year Ben Hogan won.

Big Winners

Speaking of domination? How are these examples?

Miss Philomena Garvey, of County Louth, Ireland, has won the Irish Ladies' Championship 12 times.

Henri de Lamaze, of France, has won the French Amateur Championship 11 times.

Necrology

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

Mrs. Genevieve Hecker Stout, of New York, winner of both the USGA Women's Amateur and Metropolitan Women's Amateur Championships in 1901 and 1902. She won the Metropolitan title again in 1905 and 1906.

Keith Conway, of Atlanta, member of the USGA Sectional Affairs Committee since 1938. He was past president of the Atlanta Golf Association and vice president and director of the Georgia Golf Association.

Books

Golf for Women by Louise Suggs assisted by six other women professionals (Rutledge Books, \$3.95). Each professional contributed at least one chapter on a phase of play. Much of the text is in the form of giving a lesson. There are several hundred pictures. Other contributors: Marlene Bauer Hagge, Beverly Hanson, Jackie Pung, Barbara Romack, Joyce Ziske and Ruth Jessen.

FIRST INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONS



Solomon A. Smith, now a Chicago banker, visited "Golf House" and presented this picture of the Yale University Golf Team of 1897 which won the first intercollegiate golf championship. Teams from Yale, Harvard, Princeton and Columbia competed. The historic picture shows John Reid, Jr., son of the founder of St. Andrews Golf Club, Yonkers, N. Y., who was one of the very earliest figures in American golf. W. B. Smith, standing on the left, brother of the donor of the picture, was runner-up to the late Findlay S. Douglas in the Amateur Championship of 1898. Standing: W. B. Smith, Craig Colgate, Reid, Solomon Smith. Seated Roderick Terry, Jr., W. Rosseter Betts.