



THROUGH THE GREEN

U.S.A. Has 6,385 Courses

The National Golf Foundation reports that 225 new regulation length golf courses were opened during 1960 to raise the national total to an all-time high of 6,011. In addition, 51 par-3 courses were brought into play to raise the national total in that category to 374. The grand national total is now 6,385.

Private country clubs remain by far in the majority of regulation length courses with a total of 3,162. The most intensive recent growth, however, is in the number of semi-private courses of which there are now 1,997 compared to 1,141 in 1950.

Municipal and other tax-supported courses make up the remainder with a total of 852. While these comprise only 15% of the regulation length courses, they receive approximately 40% of the national play.

A Golf Invocation

A specially-prepared golf invocation provided an inspiring opening to the annual dinner of the Metropolitan Golf Writers' Association in New York City in January. The invocation was written and delivered by The Rev. Francis M. Brennan of St. Philip Neri Rectory, The Bronx.

Father Brennan, who helped to pay his expenses while studying for the priesthood by working as a caddie prayed:

"O God, Whose infinite power has sprayed the universe with matchless strokes, favor us in Your presence. Bless

us this night, as the snow lies deep upon scenes of a favorite recreation, with vivid recollections of the joyous times we have had, with a continuing spirit of wholesome competition and with grand companionship.

"Grant us the grace to stay on the fairway in the living of our lives, that when the last divot is replaced over our hands and feet our souls will drink the cup of everlasting fellowship with You."

The New York writers awarded their annual Gold Tee Award to Jack McAuliffe. Horton Smith received the Ben Hogan Trophy, which goes to a golfer who has made an outstanding recovery from a physical disability. The latter is an award of the Golf Writers' Association of America.

Invitation From Australia

The Latrobe Golf Club, Melbourne, Australia, would like to hear from USGA clubs interested in inaugurating a unique intercontinental interclub match.

The Australians suggest that each club set aside a date annually for the play of a one-round stroke play tournament on its own course. After an exchange of scores, the winner would be determined by the lowest total of 16 net scores. A permanent trophy will be donated by the Latrobe members.

Latrobe, site of the 1958 Victorian PGA Championships, has a par of 71 and is 6,256 yards long.

Those interested should write directly to W. L. Hilyard, 213 Kilby Road, North Kew, Victoria, Australia.

A Tribute To Golf

Val Bermingham, a member of the Wykagyl Country Club, New Rochelle, N. Y., since 1905 and 20 times the club champion, was the guest of honor at a club dinner on October 8 when a painting of Mr. Bermingham, commissioned by the club, was unveiled. It now hangs in the foyer of the club.

Mr. Bermingham's written response to the honor contains a notable tribute to golf. After thanking all the club members for their part "in making an old golfer a very happy man," he said:

"One part of his happiness is certainly the knowledge that for years to come his forbidding countenance will look down on young golfers and make them wonder how he was so lucky at the game. But the other and deeper part comes from the knowledge that so many would take the time and trouble to be so kind.

"Any man would be grateful for being so honored at any time of his life—and that for doing little more than playing a game with some degree of proficiency over a number of years. But my gratitude is keener because it has been 27 years since I won my last club championship and 53 since I won my first. Almost all of the members who played with me are gone and many who were at the dinner do not know me.

"There is nothing I can do to reciprocate these things beyond thanking you all. I do recognize that the members were doing more than honoring a single individual. By virtue of longevity I have perhaps become a symbol at Wykagyl of a shared experience, an appreciation of the game of golf, of the delight that follows a cleanly hit iron three feet from the pin and the despair that follows the missed putt."

Golf Dictionary Issued

A "Dictionary of Golf Information" has been published by GOLFING magazine. The 22-page booklet, according to the editors, is the first attempt to compile in dictionary form the many terms used in golf.

The material presented ranges from slang expressions used by professional tournament players to the terminology of club parts. Copies are available @25¢ at GOLFING, 407 South Dearborn Street, Chicago 5, Illinois.

A Gun At St. Andrews

The Joint Links Committee at St. Andrews has authorized the purchase of a second automatic scatter gun to cope with a perennial problem of seaside courses—gull feathers. Between August and November, the gulls fly in by the hundreds at St. Andrews to camouflage many fairways with molted feathers.

This latest purchase was prompted by the success of an earlier experiment with a scatter gun now situated near the 11th tee of the Old Course.

Grinders Beware

Experts in the field of abrasive products shuddered recently at the sight of a photo of Arnold Palmer in SPORTS ILLUSTRATED. Palmer was shown in his home workshop applying a sand wedge to the face of a grinding wheel. A shower of sparks was seen flying upward close to Palmer's face.

Elden L. Auken, a former major league baseball player now in the abrasives business was among those moved to send Palmer words of caution. He wrote:

"The grinding wheel shown in the picture is running in the wrong direction. The 'sparks' are small pieces of steel or 'chips' which reach a temperature estimated as high as 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Mixed with these particles are small pieces of abrasive. This type of abrasive is the third hardest product produced by man today.

"The grinding wheel is not only running backwards, but is extremely poorly guarded and has no work rest on which the club head should be placed.

"One particle of abrasive or one steel 'chip' could put out one or both your eyes. One slip of your steady hands and the forefinger of your right hand could be severed completely."

Mr. Auken, after noting that the grinding wheel is completely free of danger when operated properly, listed a number of safety precautions. Among these are: ask the advice of an abrasive engineer or manufacturer of grinding wheels; be sure the wheel is well guarded; never apply a part to the wheel without a work rest on which to rest the part; always wear safety glasses; always run the wheel clockwise to throw 'chips' downward.

National Golf Week

National Golf Week, an expanded version of the PGA-sponsored National Golf Day, is scheduled for May 29 through June 6. Arnold Palmer, the USGA Open champion, and PGA champion Jay Hebert will compete on June 6 at the Olympia Fields Country Club to climax the week.

Golfers throughout the country will match their scores of any day during the week against the winner of the Palmer-Hebert match. Men will use their established handicaps. Women will be permitted to add 10 strokes to their handicaps. Those who "beat the champion" will receive National Golf Week medals from the PGA.

The event has realized more than \$900,000 in the past nine years. The money is distributed by National Golf Fund, Inc. to a variety of golf charities and projects. Among the latter is the U.S.G.A. Green Section Research and Education Fund, Inc. The entry fee is \$1.

Hannigan Joins USGA



Frank Hannigan

Frank Hannigan has joined the staff of the United States Golf Association as Public Information Manager. He will be Managing Editor of USGA JOURNAL AND TURF MANAGEMENT and will be responsible for all printed matter emanating from "Golf House."

Hannigan was formerly Director of Information for Wagner College, Staten Island, N. Y.

Sterling G. Slaphey has resigned his position as an Assistant Director of the USGA. P. J. Boatwright, Jr., continues to hold the post of Assistant Director.

Ball-Stealing Birds

A local rule at the Unzen Public Golf Course, Nagasaki, Kyushu, Japan, reads, "Replay is permitted when ball is snatched away by birds."

Ornithological note: Birds are the biggest hazards at this course. Big crows nest in the vicinity and it is quite common for the crows to sweep suddenly on

a ball in flight, catch it and fly off. At other times, alert birds descend to the ball on the ground, snatch it up and take off. Caddies have to be alert to frustrate the birds and scare them off. Caddies hold periodic searches of the woods for the nests and have found as many as 20 balls in one nest.

A Skeptical Caddie

Miss Margaret Curtis of Boston, three-time winner of the USGA Women's Amateur Championship and co-donor of the Curtis Cup, is an active player at 77. During a round last summer, Miss Curtis stopped to examine a bad lie near a tree and sighed to her caddie, "I know it's hard to believe, but I used to be pretty good. In fact, I won the women's championship three times."

The caddie's incredulous reply was, "Gee, who did you ever beat, the Russians?"

Miss Curtis, who played in her first championship in 1897, won her USGA championships in 1907, 1911, and 1912. She was also runner-up on two occasions.

Necrology

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

George W. Blossom, Jr., Chicago, Ill., who was President of the United States Golf Association in 1942 and 1943, a Vice-President from 1939 to 1941, and a member of the Executive Committee from 1933 through 1943. His great interest in preserving an historical record of golf led to the founding of the USGA Museum and Library.

Duncan Dewar, Jr., Worcester, Mass., who served as General Chairman for the Women's Open Championship in 1960. He was President of the Massachusetts Golf Association.

Clayton Heafner, Charlotte, N. C., an outstanding professional golfer who was runner-up in the Open Championship both in 1949 and 1951. He was a member of the Ryder Cup teams in 1949 and 1951.

T. T. Taylor, Annapolis, Md., who was Northeastern Agronomist for the USGA Green Section.

H. R. Venske, Tacoma, Wash., a member of the USGA Public Links Committee since 1948.