

IT'S YOUR HONOR

Merion and the Valentines

To THE USGA:

I was most interested in the article concerning golf course superintendents appearing in the August JOURNAL. In mentioning outstanding courses a good number were covered, but Merion was not among them. I don't write to contest your judgment even though this same issue of the JOURNAL does affirm Merion's position, but I do write with our course superintendents in mind.

On page 16 of the JOURNAL the question is asked, "What club has been host to the most USGA competitions?" the answer, on page 21, is "The Merion Golf Club at Ardmore, Pa., has been host to 11 USGA events." Obviously Merion must therefore be considered one of the finest golf layouts in the country.

Since 1911 Joe Valentine has been Merion's course superintendent. In addition to the normal responsibilities assumed by a course superintendent, Joe has also acted pretty much as the Merion course architect. In January, 1961, Joe, after 50 years of service, decided he should take it easier and is now our consultant on course problems. Replacing Joe is his son Richie, who for a number of years has worked with his father.

It is because of Merion's great pride in its golf superintendents as represented by the quality of our golf courses that I write you in friendly protest.

DEAN HILL, JR.

Chairman,

Merion Green Committee

General Chairman, World Amateur Team Championship, Merion, 1960

A Chance to Play

To THE USGA:

I just wanted to thank you for being able to play in your Public Links Championship this year. This year's tournament was very enjoyable for me. The setting, atmosphere and the organization of the entire event was perfect.

I've been playing golf since I was eight years old. I don't have the real money to put me in a position to play national championship golf. Only through such a smooth-running and well-organized association as the USGA could I have possibly gotten a chance to play in the National Amateur.

JOHN SCHLEE
Memphis, Tenn.

(Ed. note—As a semi-finalist in the 1961 Amateur Public Links Championship Mr. Schlee, a student at Memphis State University, was eligible to qualify in his Section for the 1961 Amateur Championship. A player in the Amateur Public Links Championship may accept, from funds administered by a USGA representative in his district, money for round trip travel fare between his home and that Championship and up to \$10 per day for living expenses. Sectional Chairmen assist in the raising of funds in a variety of ways in their districts. They also use \$3 of every \$5 entry fee toward allowable expenses of Championship competitors, divided equally among the Sectional qualifiers).

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