

GENERAL EISENHOWER GIVES NO. 5 WOOD TO "GOLF HOUSE"

Replaces Club
He Broke in
Hitting a Shot

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who as President of the United States during the period 1953-1961 gave a boost to the game through his love for it, is one of the latest to make a gift to the USGA's Museum in "Golf House".

General Eisenhower has presented a No. 5 wood. With the club, General Eisenhower sent a letter to John D. Ames, former President of the USGA, explaining his choice. The letter follows:

"The club I am sending you is a replacement I secured a few years ago for one that formed the basis of a personal story, the circumstances of which will explain why I cannot send the original.

"At Augusta National I was once playing with a foursome.

"On number four — a par three — I was first up and selected a number five wood as my club. I started a normal swing, but at the precise instant that my club struck the ball something happened, startling me so much that I practically jumped off the ground. It was a second or two before I gained any inkling of what had occurred; actually I stood there stupidly staring at my club shaft, which I gradually came to understand had lost its head, while my friends, not immediately aware of the accident began to laugh at my frozen position and bewildered expression. But when I turned toward them and, still speechless, held out the headless shaft, they, too, realized that something unusual had occurred.

"We looked around the tee and found a few shattered pieces of the club head. Since no one present had



John D. Ames, left, former President of the USGA, presented World Amateur Team medal to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower on the White House lawn in 1958 when Gen. Eisenhower was President of the United States.

known of a prior experience of this kind we kept talking for a couple of minutes and indulged in some hilarity, not so much because of the destruction of the club but at my reaction to the sudden strangeness of its feel in my hands. It was some time before anyone thought of the ball, but as the most interested of the party I finally came up with the obvious question; "Where did the ball go?" No one knew, but after looking over all the foreground we discovered it lying only inches from the flag on the green.

"So the club that I send you is not only a replacement for the only one that I ever saw disintegrate as the result of a clean stroke, it is also a reminder to me of the occasion on which I came closest to a 'hole-in-one'.

Sincerely,
Dwight D. Eisenhower"