

Impressions: The Curtis Cup Trip

By MRS. EDWIN H. VARE JR.

CAPTAIN, 1948 USGA CURTIS CUP TEAM

The good send-off luncheon given by the USGA. . . . Frannie Stebbins' wonderful job as Chairman, and Willie Turnesa's speech telling us of his British golfing experiences. . . . The four-leaf-clover charms which Frannie Stebbins gave us, worn with our USGA Curtis Cup pins.

Crowds on the Mauretania to see us off. . . . The three rough days that put some below decks. . . . Cogh Harbor looking mighty green in the early morning, and the fog shielding Cherbourg and Southampton.

Tea in the train to London and our first glimpse of the countryside, full of pheasants. The chimney pots and Big Ben. . . . Welcomed at Waterloo by Doris Chambers, Enid Wilson and Mrs. Wallace—Williamson. . . . Our first attack of baggage. . . .

Pleasant quarters at the Lady Golfers Club, flowers, messages and dinner. . . . Two rushed but exciting days seeing London, meeting people, ridding ourselves of sea legs, and getting acquainted. . . . A good day arranged by Doris Chambers at Roehampton, and more pleasant games at Berkshire with the Critchleys. . . .

Mad dashes to make the theatres' seven o'clock curtain. . . . Supper afterwards with Dorothy Pearson at Crockfords. . . . Dinner with Roger Wethered, Joyce and her husband. . . . Jean Hopkins and Peggy Kirk trying to decide about going to Paris. . . .

Arrival at our real destination, Southport and Birkdale, with the Union Jack flying in front of the Prince of Wales hotel and at the Club. . . . The golf course looking strange to us with the huge sand dunes, continuous undulating fairways, no trees, and burned so badly.

Estelle Page spending every spare moment writing letters. . . . Grace Lenczyk singing. . . . Enid Wilson and Dot Kirby snap-happy, taking pictures by the score.

The Big Day, with everyone keyed to a terrific pitch. . . . Luncheon away from the crowd with our table decorated with balloons and American flags. . . . Our two



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victories in the foursomes to put us in a comfortable position. . . .

Singles day, with a complete reversal of weather, high wind and unbelievable cold. . . . Fine finishes by all and especially Louise Suggs' last two holes. . . . Peggy Kirk arriving from Switzerland just as the matches ended. . . .

Elaborate and formal luncheon by the L.G.U. afterward, and Southport's Lord Mayor and major-domo bedecked with medals. . . . Speeches and toasts. . . . Doris Chambers' fine sportsmanship. . . . Dinner at the hotel, and our cup filled with bubbly liquid by an English friend, and more toasts by the assembled multitude. . . . The friendliness and marvelous hospitality by everyone at Birkdale. . . .

A brief trip to Scotland. Snow-capped peaks surrounding Gleneagles, and a game at St. Andrews, with a privileged visit into the Royal and Ancient Club.

Return through the beautiful English lake country to St. Anne's to prepare for the Championship. . . . Two matches a day for four days, and Louise Suggs' splendid win from Jean Donald of Scotland on the 36th hole in the final. . . .

Statue of Liberty lighted to greet us. . . . Home!