



WESTERN DEPARTMENT

By "LOCHINVAR"



IF WE REMEMBER rightly it was Rastus who said "The world do move." As far as the west is concerned the golfing world appears to be moving rapidly. Around the

Chicago district for instance, the first of a number of courses projected on the 13,000 acres controlled by the Forest Preserves district is already under way. Moreover nine holes will be ready by Decoration Day.

Such speed savors of Alladin and his lamp but the new course is by no means a golfing miracle. The Old Elm course at Fort Sheridan was built practically in a year, and while all of the fairways had to be plowed and greens built, the club had plenty of money.

Early last month a party of Chicago golfers accompanied by officials of the Forest Preserves district visited the Palos Park property, which is about 16 miles from the city hall. There the golfers found one of the best golf sites around Chicago. The land is beautifully rolling, finely wooded in spots, and covered with a fine growth of turf. The property has been used only as a pasture, and having a limestone subsoil is well drained.

Tom Bendelow, the Chicago archi-

tect, asserted that nature had provided what a number of the private clubs have had to spend between \$25,000 and \$50,000 to produce.

All that was needed was to clear the fairways of the ordinary forest debris as the turf was in good enough condition to play over. To make the greens it would of course be necessary to raise the turf and level and fertilize the ground, and then replace the turf.

All of this could be done at a nominal expense and it was decided to go ahead. Mr. Bendelow has staked out a 6200 yards course and it is planned to open nine holes on Decoration Day.

This project ordinarily would not appear to be worth more than a few paragraphs but it possesses great significance in relation to the growth of golf which bids fair to dispute with baseball its claim to being the national sport.

The Forest Preserve property around Chicago has been acquired to provide breathing spots for coming generations, and the purchase of the property will in the long run save the county thousands of dollars.

The Palos Park property averaged \$130 an acre. There are courses around Chicago which paid all the way from \$300 to \$1,000 an acre.

Many western cities at present have plenty of land on their outskirts but they too, will have to face the same conditions as Chicago.

Chicago at present has in its city

parks two eighteen hole courses and four nine hole courses. One of the latter is temporarily out of commission but the others are crowded from daylight until dark for at least five months in the year.

If the number of city courses were doubled conditions on them soon would be the same. It is therefore a matter of special interest that the commissioners of the Forest Preserves district have realized the necessity of more public courses and have actually started construction.

Golfers in many cities have had to battle with their city fathers in order to secure courses but all over the country they are winning their battles.

The golfers of the city of Evanston are battling for a municipal course and already have over 400 signatures, each signer pledging himself to pay \$30 towards the expense. The promoters are campaigning to secure 1000 signatures.

Many of the signers are members of private clubs who are joining to help out their fellow golfers who cannot afford to join a private club.

There are approximately 200 Evanston boys who caddy at private clubs. Each year sees a number of these boys graduate from the caddy ranks. They like the game and want to play but have to travel to one or two public courses on Saturdays and Sundays in order to get a game.

One professional who started caddying when a boy of eight, twenty years ago, sized up the situation as far as his family was concerned.

"Myself and my brother are professionals and have the privileges of almost any course, but another brother who caddied is now a butcher, and yet another is in France with the army.

I have sisters who like to play also. If any of these want to play on Saturdays and Sundays they have to make long trips and to start in the early morning hours in order to get a chance to play at all."

No better evidence of the need of more public courses can be produced.

Chicago has one daily fee course, located partly on a former race track site. Its income is said to reach well over \$20,000. Rumors are that the Wheaton Golf Club will be turned from a private into a daily fee course, while at Highland Park, the home of the Exmoor and Bob O'Link courses, a property owner is planning to own a daily fee course there and also build a hotel.

Conditions in Chicago perhaps are different from others in which the game was started later, but all along the line there is a growing demand for more low priced golf courses and the cities which make provision for growing wants of the golfers will surely be taking time by the forelock.

MR. ROBERT S. MCCORMICK, president of the Chicago Golf Club in 1901 died at Hinsdale, Ill., April 16th of pneumonia. He was 70 years of age and had been in poor health for several years. He was part owner of the Chicago Tribune and at one time ambassador to Russia.

MR. EDWARD P. ALLIS, III, four-time winner of the Wisconsin Golf championship, is back at his home at Milwaukee and is planning to compete in golf events this season. Mr. Allis enlisted as a private and advanced to the rank of sergeant. Unlike a number of golfers in the army Mr. Allis did not get a glimpse of any French

courses being stationed at Brest with an administration department. He is recovering from an attack of flu.

MR. MALCOLM MCLEAN, former golf writer who degenerated to a baseball scribe has this to say of golf in Phoenix, Ariz.:

"We bet Chick Evans would never make the Phoenix links in 30. The greens are made of clay, the drives on three of the holes at least are across the treacherous Arizona canal and the fairways are through desert and so forth. He might get a 31 but not a 30.

"If this department attempted to drive, it would be our misfortune to send the ball into one of the woodpecker holes in the Sahuaro cactus, the kind that grows as high as forty feet or more, and send out several arms like a crossing sign of a railroad."

SOME YEARS AGO Mr. Charles Evans, Jr., won the championship of France and Mr. Alexander H. Revell, also of Chicago, won the championship of Germany. Chicago's latest continental success is the winning of the championship of the American Expeditionary Forces at Nice by Sergeant William Rautenbush of the Garfield Park Club. Sergt. Rautenbush defeated Lieut. James W. Hubbell of the 176th Infantry Brigade, 6 and 5, in the thirty-six holes final. It was played April 17th. Sergt. Rautenbush won the Chicago championship in 1914 and the same year finished eleventh in the National Open championship at the Midlothian Country Club with a total of 301. Walter Hagen, who won had 290. Mr. Charles Evans, Junior had 291, and Mr. Francis Ouimet, 298. Mr. Rautenbush, who was third among the amateurs, finished ahead of Jim Barnes and Tom McNamara. The

same year Mr. Rautenbush qualified in the Western amateur championship at Grand Rapids but lost in the first round to Mr. D. Edward Sawyer at the 20th hole.

Lieut. Hubbell, who comes from Des Moines, is well known in the Middlewest. He was runner up in the Iowa State championship last year, was runner up to Mr. Harry G. Legg in the Transmississippi tournament in 1915 and in 1916 when a student at Harvard, he won the eastern inter-collegiate title.

ON APRIL 12TH a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Gardner, of Chicago. The first-born of the former national amateur champion has been christened Mary, bearing the same name as Mr. Gardner's sister, Mrs. W. France Anderson, former Women's Western champion. Mrs. Gardner was formerly Miss Katherine Keep. Mr. Gardner has not played any golf since his return from France, not caring for the cold weather play.

FOUR DAYS AFTER the announcement of the arrival of a baby girl in the Gardner family, Mr. Kenneth P. Edwards of the Midlothian and Glen View Clubs, announced a similar happening in his family on April 16th. The new arrival is a girl, and her prospective name is Margery, in honor of Mr. Edwards's sister Margery, who is one of the first flight golfers of the Middlewest. Unfortunately for Mr. Edwards he was isolated at his residence because of a throat infection, and at the time of telephoning the news of the arrival of a daughter, he had not been able to visit Henrotin hospital, where his wife was confined. Mrs. Edwards was formerly Miss Cora A. Bohlen of Indianapolis. Mr.

Donald Edwards, brother of Kenneth, has been doing his first golfing of the season at White Sulphur Springs, Va.

It would appear eminently fitting that Mr. K. P. Edwards and Mr. R. A. Gardner should open their season by playing a match.

NOT IN A NUMBER of years has Mr. Charles Evans, Jr., the national amateur and open champion, played as little golf as this winter. His recent trip to Pinehurst and Aiken were about the only outdoor games he played, while he has not been seen at any of the indoor courses. He played in his first competitive game in Chicago on April 19th, winning the guest event at the Calumet Country Club. Over the nine hole Ridge course, he had rounds of 36 and 33, his 69 winning first place. Mr. Evans so far as has been non-committal as to defending his open championship at Brae Burn in June, but now that he has started play, he probably will reach a decision shortly.

MR. ABE FINN of Chicago knows a lot about billiards but little about golf. He is a commercial traveller. One of his stops last year was at Montgomery, Ala., where his nephew was in a training camp. The boys in khaki frequently spent their week ends at a country club.

Mr. Finn was invited by his nephew to visit the course and while watching the soldier guests drive balls from a tee, was invited to try his hand.

He had never heard of stance but had watched the boys doing "their footwork" as he expressed it. He went through the preliminary motions and succeeded in making a good drive. His success brought applause but the gallery desired more proof of his skill.

He again faced the ball and by luck almost duplicated his first shot.

Now he is in a predicament as his Chicago friends desire better proof of his having made two good shots on his first two attempts, and says Abe, "I've got to wait the return of my nephew who is in France, before I can produce the evidence."

WILLIE PARK, the veteran Scotch golf architect, who generally is credited with being the father of modern course architecture, spent four days last month in going over the Olympia Fields Country Club courses, the special object of his visit being to change the third course, now under construction. Mr. Park said the property was one of the best he had worked on. He reversed the order of play on the third course, planned for the hazards and remodeled many of the greens. He is expected to lay out the fourth course next Fall. Veteran James Foulis, who is now giving all his time to constructing the third course and making changes on the other two, found the walking too strenuous and so purchased a motor bicycle. Foulis will not have time to teach and the club has engaged William Bell, formerly of Toronto and Birmingham, Ala., and Clarence Moeller, who was with Walter Fovargue at Skokie, and with George Sargent at Minneapolis.

Mr. James P. Gardner, father of Paul, and uncle of Robert A. has been appointed chairman of the green committee. The membership of the club has now passed the 800 mark. Memberships in the Chicago clubs are rising, one at Beverly recently selling for over \$900, while it is reported that at Edgewater, the home of Champion Evans, they have reached \$1,000.

AS EVERY golfing official knows there are always a number of dilatory players who make eleventh hour entries. As an indication of the interest being displayed this season it is worthy of note that Secretary Stewart Stickney of St. Louis already has received the entries of Mr. Harry Legg of Minneapolis, Mr. Alden B. Swift of Chicago and Mr. John D. Cady of Rock Island, for the Transmississippi tournament at St. Louis in June. These three players are former champions. Mr. Nelson Whitney and Mr. Reuben Bush of New Orleans, also have entered.

Returning to St. Louis after his Southern trip, Jim Barnes played his first round over the Sunset Hills course last month. At the finish he remarked: "Every hole is a good golf hole and the lay of the land is ideal. From its present condition the course should be in great shape for the Western amateur championship the week of June 16th."

Answering a criticism as to the possible weakness that the first nine was easier than the last nine, Barnes said he did not believe this was a handicap, as every golfer likes to get a good start on the first nine and so work up to overcoming the difficulties of the second nine.

The St. Joseph Country Club will send a delegation to St. Louis to make a bid for the Western amateur championship next year. Last year St. Joseph staged the Red Cross tournament of the Transmississippi Association.

IN RESPONSE to a letter from Secretary Howard F. Whitney, asking the Women's Western Golf Association to appoint a representative on the women's committee to assist the United States Golf Association in handling

the women's national championship, Miss Edith E. Packard, president of the W. W. G. A. nominated Mrs. F. C. Letts, Jr., of the Indian Hill Club. Mrs. Letts has consented to serve. She won the Western championship in 1916 and 1917.

MR. J. FREDERICK BYERS of the Allegheny Country Club has been elected President of the Western Pennsylvania Golf Association. The amateur and open championships will be held this year at the Pittsburgh Field Club. It will be the first time these events will be played on any course except Oakmont and Allegheny. The date of the Western Pennsylvania championships will depend on that set for the Pennsylvania state title, which probably will be played over a Philadelphia course. If the state event is held early the Western Pennsylvania titles will be decided in the Fall.

MR. RIAL T. ROLFE, former Flossmoor champion, winner of an invitation tournament at Exmoor and runner-up in the Belleair tournament at Florida last year, is a *rara avis* in the golfing line in that he started to play golf at Milwaukee, and yet obtained some degree of prominence in the golfing world.

This is not intended as a reflection on the Cream City, but history indicates that Chicago is superior as a golfing incubator.

Some 15 years ago, when he did not know whether it was "Gowf" or golf, Mr. Rolfe was inveigled into a game at the Lake Shore Country Club, which had forty acres of pasture land located at South Milwaukee for its course. Rocks were the principal hazards. There was an old stone farm

house which did duty for a club-house.

It was a popular club for young married couples and one of the big attractions was a vaudeville show every Saturday night.

The dues were \$10 a year, and when the club faced a deficit, and it was proposed to add \$5 there was an uproar.

Rolfe's initial game was played in company with two Milwaukee lawyers, one of whom Mr. G. J. Carroll, is now a director of the Blue Mound Country Club.

He hardly had heard of the game, his previous athletic activities being confined to baseball of the variety in

which the teams compete for a keg of amber fluid.

As far as he can remember he arrived at the first tee, wearing a stiff collar with wings, a stiff hat, and a business suit. His shoes were spikeless. Mr. Carroll also wore a stiff hat. Mr. Rolfe had borrowed clubs and for the first few holes he averaged about 15 feet to a shot. Later when he improved he bought a cap, and then invested in a midiron, brassie and putter. He still has the midiron.

Mr. Rolfe now drives 250 yards, but feels that the cost of golfing has risen proportionately to the length of his drives.

