

## OUR GOLFING PRESIDENTS

**G**OLF at the White House has been continuous the past twelve years and from 1908 when President Taft went to Washington he added his official prestige to the game which he had grown to love so much. His predecessor, the late Theodore Roosevelt, was devoted to tennis and never played golf. Under the Taft administration, a new era of golfing presidents was inaugurated and Chevy Chase, Columbia and Washington's other suburban courses took on new interest because of this active patronage.

When President Wilson was elected in 1912 one of his most important aids to the task in hand was a bag of golf clubs. He played regularly and other members of the government eagerly followed his lead. All through the trying years of the war the President and scores of men in official life sought a few hours respite from the strain of office on the nearby courses and if the fairways and greens could only speak they probably could tell some rare tales of important decisions arrived at as business and pleasure were combined with the game. President-elect Harding is also a golfer of considerable ability. He plays the game for the pure love of it and so for the next four years as golf continues her triumphal march she will still be favored by presidential patronage from the White House.

Ex-President Taft is a particularly interesting player. Despite his size and years, he often plays thirty-six holes in a day over some of the most difficult courses, such as Myopia, Chevy Chase and Murray Bay. The game to him is a source of healthy, outdoor sport. As a golfing companion he is the very essence of joviality and his laugh is easily recognizable on the links by reason of its cordiality, volume and lack of restraint. During his tenure of office nothing suited him better than to make a business appointment with some golfer and when the latter arrived at the White House to announce they were going to the golf club and would discuss their propositions as they played. For years he has been the father of a growing golfing colony in Canada at Murray Bay on the St. Lawrence River. He is fond of variety in the matter of partners, nor does he restrict his choice to a few intimate associates who usually surround him.

Like most stout men, Mr. Taft has a limited swing and rarely it exceeds three-quarters of a circle. Yet he has something most golfers yearn for and that is direction. He invariably hews a straight line down the middle of the course and negotiates our best links in close to 100. He has even had cards as low as 92 over standard courses, but these low scores he attributes to his pet club, a J. H. Taylor mashie. In 1911, John G. Anderson, the well known New York player, was touring England and in the course of a conversation with the then British and French open champion, Anderson was asked by Taylor if he thought that the president of the United States would like his mashie. Anderson replied in the affirmative, so the veteran champion had his famous club all shined up. Subsequently Anderson arrived back in the United States and presented the club to President Taft. To say that he was pleased to get it is putting it mildly and he sent letters of thanks to both Taylor and Anderson, which they cherish. President Taft attributes the improvement in his game to that mashie and has been heard to credit it with remarkable shots.

It is not to be wondered at that President Wilson and his great depth of solemn thought should be reflected in his game. He took keen enjoyment from his play but in a different sense than that which Mr. Taft or Mr. Harding do. To President Wilson golf was exercise and exercise was medicine, both mentally and physically. Therefore he took his medicine regularly, solemnly and with a thoroughness that has been typical of his every move. Usually accompanied by his physician, Dr. Grayson, and occasionally by Mrs. Wilson, he would motor out to the club, play his game and return to work. It gave him new strength to tackle the overwhelming mass of national problems. He rarely invited any others to play with him and seldom spoke while playing. Golf was a serious matter with him, just as he took everything else seriously. When in health he was a much better player than Mr. Taft or Mr. Harding. He had an excellent upright swing and got good distance from the tee, although not always straight. Undoubtedly President Wilson's golf has done a lot to fortify him during the troublous hours of his second term.

Although President-elect Harding has been hampered by reason of the fact that his home town, Marion, O., did not boast of a golf course until this year, he long ago realized that the game provided something essential to the statesman's vitality. Being of big frame and fine strength, Senator Harding delights in laying into them and when he connects—well, they certainly go. His scores are very consistent; rarely does he exceed 100 and occasionally he dips down close to 90. His evenness of temper and everlasting good humor furnishes him with a splendid golfing temperament. He revels in the game and seldom misses an opportunity to play even a few holes. United States Senator Walter E. Edge of New Jersey, who has played a great deal with the President-elect related the other day that on arriving at Marion from the West, during the recent presidential campaign, he found Senator Harding waiting for him, having just come from his Rochester speaking trip. The first thing the candidate said was, "Hurry up, before anyone bothers us. We are



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### PRESIDENT-ELECT HARDING IN TEXAS

going to play golf." "Golf?" queried Senator Edge. "Where are we going to play?" "At Mansfield." "How far is Mansfield?" "About forty-three miles."

According to Senator Edge that is President-elect Harding. He is just a golfing enthusiast every spare minute he can get and a little motor ride of forty-three miles for a game is nothing to him. His unfathomable energy is his ever-ready inspiration. Recently he was in Texas, playing golf and fitting himself for the huge task of the next four years.

### PASADENA GOLF CLUB

The most recent golfing development on the Pacific Coast is the renaissance of the game at the former Altadena Country Club now known as the Pasadena Golf Club—a fifty-four hole invitation to the great outdoors at the base of the majestic Sierra Madres. The first eighteen holes have been completed and are now being enjoyed. Pictures of this course are to be seen on Pages 24 and 25.

The course has been laid out under the supervision of George O'Neil, the well-known Chicago professional who will have charge of golfing activities at the Pasadena Golf Club throughout the season. He will be assisted by Leo Diegel and Eddie Loos.