

# The World of Golf

By Denise Jones

The game of golf is over 500 years old. The earliest playing fields for golfers were found on the Scottish Linkland and were referred to as links. The golf game was first played in Scotland along the estuaries of the rivers Eden, Tay and Forth, and was entirely designed by nature. It is speculated that the earliest golfers made rabbit holes their putting cups.

In the 15th century King James II of Scotland took great pleasure in the game of golf. Mary, Queen of Scots also found golfing enjoyable and started to play it at a very early age which started a tradition leading to the creation of the St. Andrews Golf Club in Scotland in 1552. St. Andrews is recognized as the birthplace of golf. The members of the St. Andrews Golf Club drafted 13 basic golf rules that still govern the golf game today.

By 1608 golf started to spread into Ireland and then England. Golf was introduced into America as early as 1779 and a golf club was founded in Charleston, South Carolina in 1786. In 1829 a club was formed in India.

The golf game was introduced to France by Scottish officers convalescing near the Pyrenees. They also built the continent's oldest course, the Pau Golf Club in 1856. Golf was also being played in Hong Kong and on the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa by Scottish soldiers and engineers. By 1870 golf courses were appearing in Australia and New Zealand and by 1876 five golf courses were located in Canada. Most of these early courses were played on undeveloped premature courses having only a few holes.

Despite its far-ranging introduction the game of golf was still not widely known or played. By the 1800's several golfing events were capturing the public's attention in England and Scotland. In the 1840's a number of widely publicized golf matches were being played at the St. Andrews Golf Club.

It was another 70 years before the game of golf began to gain real popularity in the United States. A lot of the credit for this increase in popularity was given to Frances Quimet who lived near the Brookline Country Club in Massachusetts. The club became the site for the U.S. Open and Quimet an ex-caddy, entered the match.

After 36 holes Quimet's score was 151, four strokes off the pace. Moving into the final round Quimet was nervous but soon relaxed and moved past the early leaders. On the 18th hole Quimet sank a four-foot putt for a par round and took the title. The upset victory of Quimet's over the best golfers in the world brought the sport into the limelight and its popularity contributed enormously to it.

Sports historians give credit to a Scotsman, John Reid, with laying out the first structured golf course in the United States in Yonkers, N.Y. Play began there Feb. 22, 1888. The U.S. Golf Association was first called the Amateur Golf Association and was formed in 1894. The first U.S. and Amateur Championship tournaments were held in Newport, R.I. in 1895.

Here's a few facts about golf that I found extremely exciting that I'd like to share with you.

- Golf was played on the moon in Feb. 1971 by Capt. Alan Shepard (U.S.), Commander of the Apollo XIV Spacecraft.

- It has been suggested that golf originated with Scottish Shepards using their crooks to knock pebbles into rabbit

(continued on page 18)



IRRIGATION & TURF CARE EQUIPMENT

Behind our own good name are a lot more good names.

Distributors for:	Mitsubishi Tractors	Olathe Turf Equipment
Toro Mowers & Turf Equipment	Power Trim Edgers	Vicon Spreaders
Toro Turf Irrigation	Lely Spreaders	Byho Spreaders
Toro String Trimmers	Standard Golf Supplies	Billy Goat Vacuums
Cushman Turf Care System	Florida Turf Sprayers	Nearby Grinders
Ryan Turf Care Equipment	Broyhill Sprayers	Bernard Spin Grinder

Wesco Zaun. Backs You With the Best.

2101 Cantu Court, Sarasota, FL 33582 Ph. (813) 377-6777

(continued from page 16)

holes.

- The world's longest course is the par-77, 8,325 yd. International Golf Course, Bolton, Mass. from the "Tiger" tees, remodeled in 1969 by Robert Trent Jones.
- The world's biggest sand trap is Hell's Half Acre on the 585-yd. 7th hole of the Pine Valley Course, Clementon, N.J. built in 1912 and generally regarded as the world's most trying course.
- The longest hole in the world is the 7th hole (par 7) of 909 yds. at the Sano Course, Satsuki, Japan.
- Probably the largest green in the world is the par-6, 695 yd. 5th hole at International G.C., Bolton, Mass. with an area greater than 28,000 sq. ft.
- The longest drive was made by Tommie Campbell at a recorded 392 yd. distance in July 1964 at Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, Ireland.
- The longest recorded holed putt was one of 86 ft. on the 13th green at the Augusta National, Ga. by Gary

Middlecoff in the 1955 Masters Tournament.

- Bobby Jones was reputed to have holed a putt in excess of 100 ft. on the 5th green in the first round of the 1927 British Open at St. Andrews, Scotland.
- The greatest amount ever won in official USPGA golf prizes is \$4,686,280 by Jack Nicklaus through 1985. The record for a year is \$530,808 by Tom Watson (U.S.) in 1980.
- The youngest golfer recorded to have shot a hole-in-one was Coby Orr (aged 5) of Littleton, Colorado, on the 103 yd. 5th hole at the Riverside G.C., San Antonio, Texas in 1975.
- The oldest golfer to have performed the feat is Otto Bucher (Switz.) age 99 years, 244 days on January 13, 1985 when he aced the 130 yd. 12th hole at La Maya G.C., Spain.

\* Quoted, Bob Hope once said: "If you watch a game, it's fun. If you play it, it's recreation. If you work at it, it's golf." ■



Cowboys at Russellville, in Cochise County, laid out a five-hole course and rode their horses between strokes.