

*St. Andrews Brought  
Game to America*

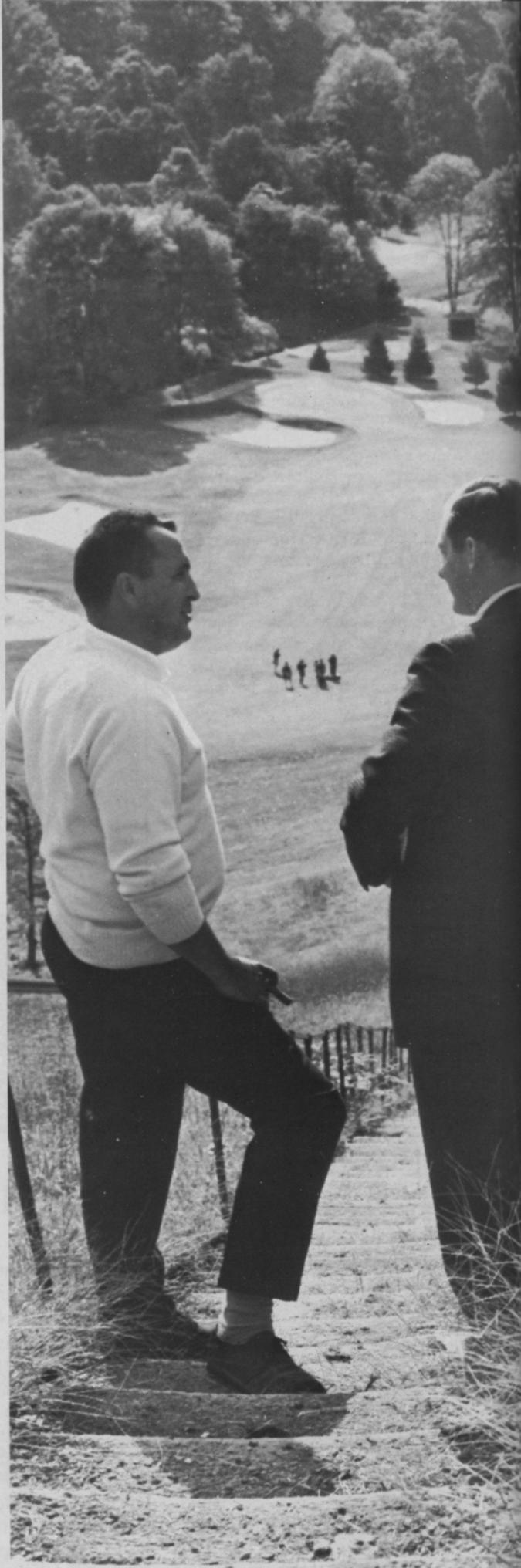
# 81 Years Of Golf

**S**T. ANDREW'S GOLF CLUB—  
first in the nation and named  
after its parent and predecessor in  
Scotland — can be credited with  
fathering the golf industry the  
country enjoys today.

To visit St. Andrews today is to  
experience the deep traditions of  
golf. For St. Andrews members, golf  
has been both sport and common  
meeting ground for the leaders of  
American industry and govern-  
ment. For the golf course superin-  
tendent today, its 81-year history  
exemplifies efforts since the begin-  
ning of golf to establish, improve,  
and maintain playable courses.

When the St. Andrews group  
moved to Mt. Hope, only about six  
years after founding the club in  
1888, one of its first concerns was  
planning and building a superior  
course. A young native of Scotland,  
Samuel Tucker, was serving as pro  
at the time and doubling as care-  
taker of the course. He was shortly  
joined by his brother, Willie, who

**Golf Superintendent Roger Harmonay, left,  
and Dean Botjer, WTT advertising represent-  
ative on tee apron overlooking the fifth hole  
at St. Andrew's Golf Club. Height of tee  
above hole is equivalent to a 20-story  
building.**





Botjer, left, and Harmonay examine 0217 Brand Fylking sod which Harmonay has installed on 5th tee.

came to this country with some talent and experience in golf course architecture. Later, Willie Tucker became one of the well-known course architects of the country. Significant is the fact that the new golf club venture at this early point in its history—when members were few and the budget was crimped—recognized the necessity for placing a full-time grounds management employee on the payroll.

This tradition for operating a superior course now lies with Roger Harmonay, St. Andrews course superintendent, who joined the group in this capacity in 1961. However, Harmonay's association with St. Andrews started in 1939, when Roger was a 9-year-old caddy. He worked at this and at various club jobs during youth—later majoring in agronomy at the University of Massachusetts. Being a native of the area and after other golf superintendent positions, Harmonay found himself "home again" at St. Andrews Golf Club in Westchester County, near Yonkers, N. Y.

#### **New Improvements**

During Harmonay's 8-year tenure, he has built a new chipping green, rebuilt putting greens, built new tees, updated the irrigation system, developed a system of continuous drainage, carried a 5-year reforestation program to replace 97 large elms which the Club unfortunately lost (some 300 new trees have been planted), added cart roads, replaced traps with newly designed units, and sodded special areas.

In addition to these special course



Trap-edging is George Hirniak, a member of Harmonay's ground management crew.

improvement projects, Harmonay has developed a turf maintenance and improvement program which he

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## RAPID-GRO

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believes is especially appropos to the St. Andrews area. He places great emphasis on a winter fertilizer program, based on careful soil testing and interpretation. Soil samples are sent regularly each fall to Cornell University at Ithaca, N.Y., for testing. He coordinates the results of these with a summer testing program in which he uses a kit.

A late May flood two years ago invaded certain sections of the course and the resultant damage was certainly not included in Harmonay's work schedule. This flood boosted winter kill of turf from 50- to 90-percent above normal, with killing continuing until mid-August. An intensive reconstruction turf program put the course within 95 percent of normal by October.

Harmonay has a grounds management crew of six year-round employees. An equal number are added for the summer season. Winter duties require more help at this course because of a sophisticated curling rink and a full winter program. Harmonay uses year-round employees for the curling program as well as for winter maintenance and management duties relating to the golf course and equipment.

### Greens Covered

Prior to the expected heavy freezes common to the Westchester County area, Harmonay sees that greens are covered with pine tree boughs and manure for protection.

He uses a mercury snow mold preventive on both greens and tees, and in addition on troublesome fairway areas. Harmonay figures a normal season's fertilizer treatment will include about 30 tons on the 160-acre course. The 18-hole course is a par 70, and a total of 6170 yards. This breaks down into 30¼ acres of fairway, more than 92,000 square feet of greens, and 54,000 square feet of tees.

Founder of St. Andrews was a

Harmonay chats with John Wood (right) of Yonkers, summertime helper, who has been fertilizing with a new Lily drill.





Mowing fairways and green aprons is John Gurka, using IH tractor and 7-gang Toro mower.

native Scotlander, John Reid, who had learned the game in his native land of Scotland. He secured some equipment (two sets of clubs) and invited some of his friends to join him in a nearby cow pasture. The common term of the day, "cow pasture pool," came into being as the U.S. pioneers of the game "went about playing the game with a determination and perseverance that must be admired." A published history of St. Andrews, which was a project of the Club in honor of its 50th anniversary, also notes that the

cow pasture location gave way shortly to the "old apple orchard," and later to Grey Oaks, a well-planned 9-hole course, before play began at the present Mt. Hope location in 1894.

Reid is not only known as the father of golf in this country, but St. Andrews began tournament play during this early period, and was a principal in development of the United States Golf Association, though when founded the name of the USGA was the Amateur Golf Association of the U.S., and still later

the American Golf Association. A Club member, Henry O. Tallmage, served as the first association secretary. John Reid declined the presidency of the new association and supported Theodore A. Havemeyer of Newport as the first president. Just 50 years later, in 1938, Reid's son, Archie, was elected president of the USGA.

### Early Clubs

Early clubs of the era which enjoyed interplay with St. Andrews were Tuxedo (1889), Newport (1890), and Shinnecock Hills (1891). Countless others quickly followed these and today there are more than 9500 public, municipal, and private courses open for play in the U.S.

Traditional stories abound when members discuss the history of the St. Andrew's Golf Club. Noteworthy is the long accepted view that U.S. Steel was founded by Andrew Carnegie and associates during a round of golf, and at Carnegie's cabin which was located on the grounds.

The Club has survived two world wars which decimated its membership and a major depression. Today, strength is at an all-time high with some 250 members, all avid golfers. Another change is that rules have been relaxed to allow the ladies to use the course and dining facilities, a practice unthought of in the early days of this and similar clubs.

<sup>1</sup> H. B. Martin and A. B. Halliday, *St. Andrew's Golf Club*. Copyright 1938. St. Andrew's Golf Club.

Ladies now join men in play at St. Andrews, a relatively new innovation at this Club.

