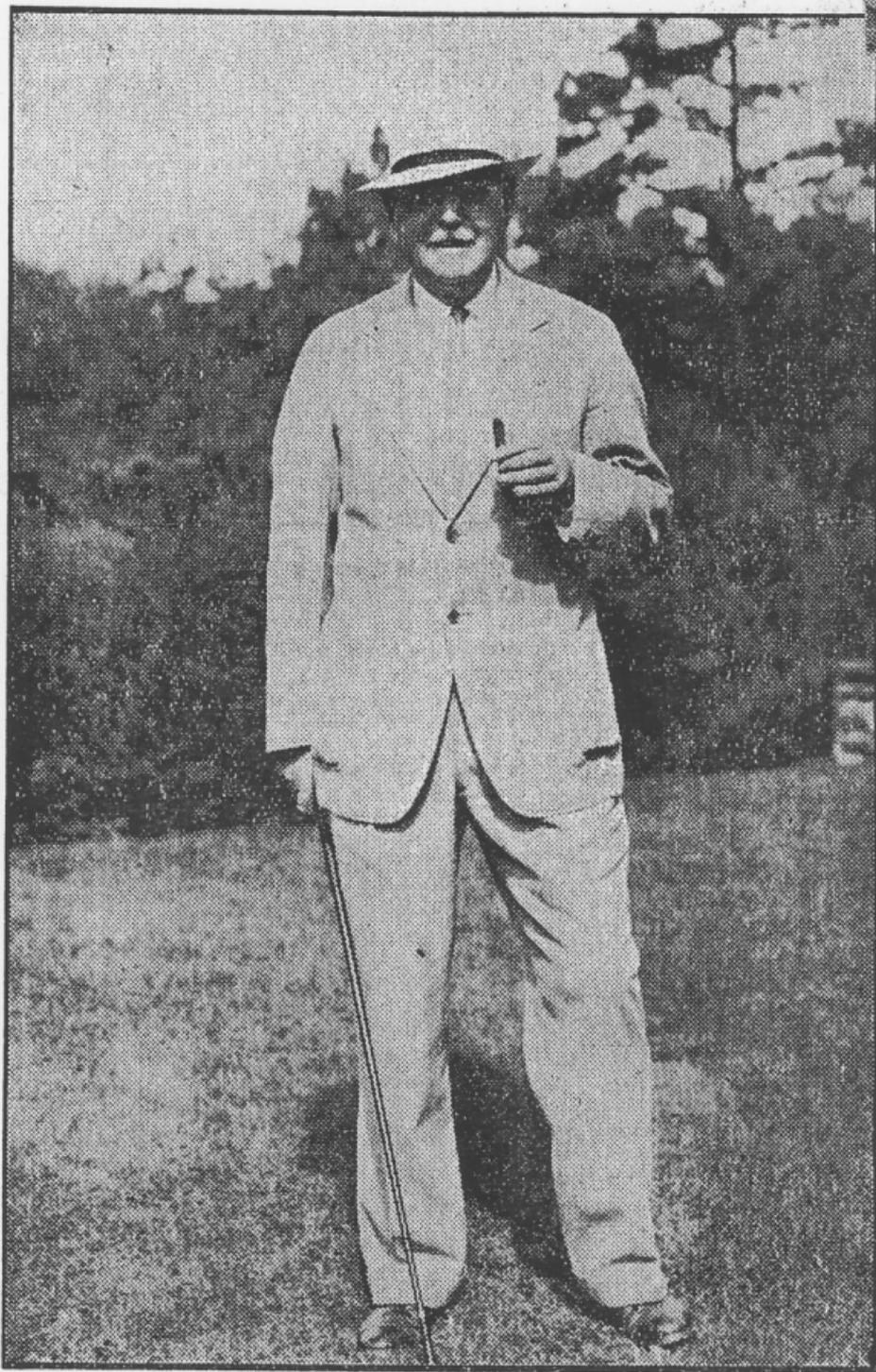


Ross Says Trend to Make Golf Courses Easier for Duffer, Harder for Star



DONALD ROSS

Donald Ross, the world famous golf course architect, who has helped nurture golf in this country from its infancy to its present status in American sports, believes that there is a decidedly new trend in the game—make the course easier for the average player and harder for the star, he told a Transcript-Telegram reporter in an interview today.

Mr. Ross is in Holyoke for the marriage of his daughter, Lillian, to Richard B. Pippitt of Fort Jarvis, N. Y., tomorrow afternoon at the home of Mrs. J. Lewis Wyckoff of Northampton street. Mr. Pippitt is a nephew of Mrs. Wyckoff and the couple met while the Ross family lived in this city several years ago for a brief time.

Mr. Ross is a most engaging man and has a pleasing personality. He would rather discuss golf than any other subject. His time is so limited, however, that he could only express

can be played. And Hagen is the man who can play them, Mr. Ross avers.

Mr. Ross believes that golf in England is improving because the British have been stirred by American players. "When the English found that the Americans were taking their bread and butter from them, they decided they, too, could play the game." The low rounds being turned in the present British open is an example of what Mr. Ross believes.

The famous designer attributes one reason for the improvement of players in this country: improved playing conditions. "America has had to overcome tremendous handicaps in laying out her courses," Mr. Ross said. "Unlike England, we have severe winters, severe drouths in the summer, and intense heat waves to cope with." He believes that this country has better courses than Britain.

a few opinions and review briefly the highlights of his brilliant career in the field of golf course architecture, which has brought him world-wide recognition and established him as an outstanding authority in the subject

Golf was an obscure sport in America when Mr. Ross came to this country in 1899 from Scotland where he learned the game and studied course designing. It was a luxury and had little or no competitive appeal because courses were being laid out in a manner that allowed the good players to score easily and the poorer golfers to have little luck.

The theory of course designing has been entirely revolutionized, thanks to the efforts of men like Mr. Ross who mapped out some plan where stars or duffers alike could find an equal amount of satisfaction in playing.

As an illustration, Mr. Ross outlined the No. 2 course at Pinehurst, N. C., which he believes is his outstanding achievement. The course averages 6950 yards but the tees have been so marked that the distance can be cut to 6150 yards for the player who does not hit a long ball.

The fairways, on the other hand, have been scientifically shaped as to require extreme skill from the better player, allowing the average golfer to play his shots without suffering too many penalties. Both must take chances, of course, and a poorly hit ball by either one would result in loss of strokes just as is the case on other courses.

Mr. Ross believes that scoring in golf has reached its peak. From an architectural viewpoint, nothing can be done to cut strokes off the present scores. In fact, he believes that the professional ranks, as a result of scoring sprees in tournament, have been divided in two classes—the pros who travel the country in tournaments, and the home pro who is content to enjoy an everyday game or an occasional sectional tournament.

Henry Picard, in Mr. Ross' opinion, is the greatest golfer in America today. He is enthusiastic about the young professional, not only because of his sound game but because of the fact that he rose from caddy ranks to become a premier player.

Professional tournaments have been a tremendous stimulus to popularizing golf. He described Walter Hagen as the greatest showman in the game and the sport's best loser.

"When Walter is losing a match, he is so gracious and sporty about it that his opponent almost becomes apologetic in winning," Mr. Ross continued. No matter how badly the great Hagen is going, or how "hot" another player in the field is playing, Hagen still draws the gallery. The spectator becomes bored at watching methodical golf—they want the sensational, and that's what Hagen produces, Mr. Ross continued. Hagen very often drives into the woods, just to demonstrate to the crowd that great recoveries

America's amateurs are not any better than those of England, Mr. Ross opined.

He said the reason amateurs were not doing as well as professionals in America was due to the fact that with the latter group it is a business. With the amateurs, it is merely a pleasure. Pros must play good golf to live, while in the case of most amateurs, they are merely in the game for the sport of the thing.

Mr. Ross described pro golfers as "the highest type of clean living athletes."

Mt. Tom, which he designed, has few equals in the world for scenic beauty, Mr. Ross said, while The Orchards, in South Hadley, also his work, is one of the finest courses in New England.

Mr. Ross paid tribute to the late J. Lewis Wyckoff, one of the pioneer golfers in this section and for many years president of the Mt. Tom Club. "Mr. Wyckoff was an intimate friend of mine and a man of grand qualities," he concluded.

Mr. Ross, once a great competitive player himself, toured the Mt. Tom course yesterday afternoon with John Banks, pro, and Stuart A. Russell. He plays "only for pleasure, now," he remarked.