

A Golfer On Golf

(Editor's Note: The author of this article is one of Edenton's most active Senior Citizens and confesses to be "the club's worst golfer." It appeared in the April 13 edition of The Island Packet at Hilton Head Island, S.C.)

By James E. Wood
"You look wonderful," said the bishop as I came out of church on my 70th birthday, "how do you do it?" Play golf on Saturdays and go to church on Sundays," I replied with a how-is-that-for-a-good answer smile.

Such was my usual routine but I broke it one weekend at Nags Head, N.C., when it rained on Saturday and I played the Seascope course on Sunday. It was a perfect golf day and I was happy until I drove a brand new Titleist ball into the woods on the 15th fairway and never found it.

I hated to lose that beautiful Titleist but suddenly right before my eyes about 40 yards down the 17th fairway was what looked like a bright new ball. Also, however, some distance further on was a foursome putting on the green.

Well, well, I mused as I walked along after teeing off, was I going to pick up that ball and put it into my bag or holler to the foursome ahead that one of them had dropped a ball?

Well, well, indeed! I had just lost a ball myself and finding this one would even things up. Nobody who might find my ball would return it to me — but how could they since no one saw me lose it? Nevertheless, life is a practical thing — finders keepers, losers weepers.

Just as I had about decided to keep the ball, I got close enough to see that it was not a golf ball after all, only a ball of paper.

"Ah, ha!" cried my conscience, like a raucous little raven perched on my shoulder, "you just took the bait and proved that when all alone and nobody is looking, you are capable of being a contemptible little thief."

I felt bad about it but not bad enough.

While still trying to rationalize my ego back into good standing with my conscience, I took my next shot and instead of chipping the ball up on the green, it rolled right into the canal. "Ah, ha!" again cried my conscience, "it serves you right. You wouldn't give in, would you? You wouldn't admit to yourself that God had put you to the test and found you wanting. Now He has taken another one of your miserable little golf balls away from you as a penalty."

This time my conscience won out. I was shriven. I gave up and admitted my guilt. Of course I had been wrong! I stopped rationalizing and was truly sorry. It would be a lesson to me, I was sure, absolutely.

Something impelled me to walk over to where my ball had rolled down the canal bank, and lo, a clump of grass had stopped it from falling into the water. What is going on around here, I exclaimed! I looked up at the sky. Am I the subject of some Godly experiment? Is our conscience an agent of the Almighty?

And then an amazing thing happened. When I stepped up on the 18th tee the original situation was repeated all over again, except that I could see no foursome on the distant green. No one was in sight anywhere, only a shiny white golf ball, apparently as before, in the middle of the fairway about forty yards down.

"What are you going to do with it this time, Mr. Wood, if you find that it really is a golf ball? Pick it up and take it to the pro shop and leave it there in the lost and found department?"

You bet I will, I said to my conscience — but I didn't get a chance to prove it, for a lone golfer suddenly came out of the nearby woods, strode over to the ball and drove it out of sight in the wild blue yonder.

I had heard of sermons in stones but never before in a golf ball.

Immanuel Baptist Church To Celebrate Anniversary

Sunday Immanuel Baptist Church of Edenton will observe its 16th anniversary. The speakers for the day will be Dr. D. M. Hardison and Rev. Paul Hawkins.

Dr. Hardison is president of Atlantic Baptist Bible College of Norfolk, Va. and is now a full-time evangelist. Mr. Hardison will be speaking during the 11:00 worship hour.

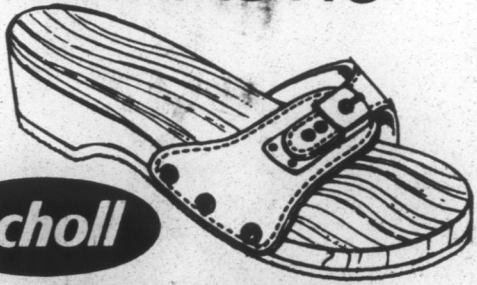
Mr. Hawkins is a former pastor of Immanuel and is now pastoring Tidewater Baptist Temple in Chesapeake, Va. The church will be ob-

servicing its anniversary with two special services of the day beginning with the 11 worship hour and concluding with the 2 o'clock afternoon service. Dinner will be served on the grounds after the morning service.

A special anniversary cake will be cut following the 2 o'clock service. Special singing will be presented by the church choir, trios and quartet, in addition to several groups from visiting church.

The public is cordially invited to attend the homecoming service.

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