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AS WE KNOW GEORGE W. STATZELL

By Sandy McNiblick

George W. Statzell is well enough known to Pinehurst habitues as a golfer to need no introduction. One good reason why Mr. Statzell comes to Pinehurst is to continue his golf when the course he plays in Philadelphia becomes swept and cold with the winds of a whistling winter. The Statzell cottage was opened up for the season the second week in December at Pinehurst and this veteran resident, as a matter of course, wasted no time at all unpacking his clubs and shaking them out over the links.

As head of quite a remarkable golfing family, there is an interesting story on the all-around athletic proclivities of his sturdy clan.

Just before he left for the South, Mr. Statzell, for instance, entertained the members of the Penn Charter interacademic championship football team. And in his paternal eye beamed the proud light of pride in the fact that it also meant toasting one grandson, Harlan Statzell, captain of the team, and another "Bob" Statzell, captain-elect of the team, the first time in the history of this expert schoolboy grid team that one brother had ever succeeded another to leadership. Both boys were chosen for positions on the Philadelphia all-academic team this year. They're both golfers so that the Statzell family is represented by three generations of linksmen.

George W. Statzell is the father of Harlan P. and George W., Jr. They were both football players.

When the *Pater* and *Filius* golf tournament is played in the district the appearance of the Statzells in the competition presents a puzzle in family relationship that the players are fond of unsolving for the newcomers. Although only four of them play, the family is represented by a grandfather, two fathers, three sons, an uncle, a nephew and a grandson. This makes it more intricate. Harlan P. plays with his son Robert, while George W. Jr., plays with his father.

George W. Statzell, Sr., is one of those rarities in athletics who combines playing ability with executive power. For five years he has been president of the Aronimink Country Club, Philadelphia and one of its moving geniuses. When he was first elected president of that organization he announced that golf would be placed above every other there and he has stuck to his premier platform. This is the more interesting in view of his past history. He reached his pinnacle as a youth in athletics along an entirely different line of endeavor. Rowing thrives in Philadelphia. Raised along the Schuylkill, Mr. Statzell set out to be an oarsman with the same enthusiasm he later took up golf.

Endowed with the strength of youth and the skill in athletics he always had, he won a national rowing title. This will be a surprise to most who have known him only as an ardent golfer.

But many old-timers of his native heath are able to recall that proud day when, seated in a shell with Pat Dempsey, since

a professional coach, they entered from the Pennsylvania Barge Club, famous for its doubles, and won the national regatta championship. Mr. Statzell also captured the singles championship of Pennsylvania one year.

With laurels such as these resting on his modest brow, it must have been strange for him to turn from the glamor of a regatta, the plaudits of the throng along the banks spurring him into the use of every ounce of energy and power, to become interested in golf, the game of "noisy silence."

But George W. Statzell, Sr., took to the game like a thoroughbred. It wasn't till he had had a thorough career in rowing, however, and with interests in it which might well have occupied many another in the time of life when passing youth bars one from entering the actual competition. He was commodore of the Schuylkill Navy and held the honored post of president of the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen.

About twenty years ago, another sport also engaged the interests of this remarkable personage. He was one of the best cricket players in Philadelphia where the sport flourishes above the average district. He was captain of the Belmont team which several times won the championship of the city. He played point, a hazardous and vigorous occupation on any cricket team.

Came a nervous breakdown, and Mr. Statzell was compelled to play the role of spectator for a time. It was the cue for his entrance into golf for one day he had planned to go to a football game but his son Harlan P., who had been playing golf for about four years, suggested his father go out to the club with him that morning and look on, if he did not care to play. George W. Statzell, Sr., went, saw, and—was conquered, just like many another good man. One look was enough. He never saw that football game. He joined a foursome, played golf all day, and, like the saying, "has never used any other since."

The next time you catch George W. Statzell, Sr. out there on the Pinehurst links, take a look at his sun-kissed, beaming, grand-daddy's features and you will find there the answer to that old one—"why is golf?"

(Continued from Page 12)

ten miles, and also good road extends for some distance out of Raleigh, indicating that the South has awakened to the necessity of building permanent highways.

The roads in the vicinity of Pinehurst are deserving of special mention, for in addition to the regular routes through the village there are numerous others which afford the motorist pleasant side trips. From Pinehurst to Augusta the road is rough but no danger of being stuck as all it needs is an occasional dragging which it does not get often enough. Arriving in Augusta, the motorist is recommended to take a shorter road via Waynesboro, Midville and Swainsboro, for Jacksonville, a distance of 194 miles, as against 299 miles via Macon.

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