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St. Valentine's Tournament for Women

(BY BURT HOXIE)

THE Thirteenth of February, and Friday at that, may be a jinx to some folks. But not so to Miss Ann Merrill, member of the Brookline Country Club, Boston. She refused to let any such combination stand in the way of winning the main laurels in the Annual St. Valentine's tournament for women, played on the Number 1 course last week. By the score of 2 up she defeated Mrs. J. D. Chapman, of Greenwich, Connecticut, in the finals, closing a most successful and interesting tournament.

For several years Miss Merrill has been a contestant in various Pinehurst events. But runner-up in some division or other has been her fate. Just when things looked promising she was forced to step aside. But there eventually comes a day when the shoe is on the other foot, when one's game meets the requirements and victory is achieved.

Winning this event must have been exceptionally gratifying to the Brookline girl for the field included Mrs. Ronald H. Barlow, of the Merion Cricket Club, the winner of the qualifying round with an 86, six strokes better than anyone else in the field. Naturally the Philadelphian, oftentimes champion of various tournaments, was the outstanding favorite. Miss Merrill was considered capable of giving her a red-hot engagement but fate elected that they should not meet. For in the first round the unexpected happened, the medalist stepped aside through the prowess of Mrs. H. H. Rackham, of Detroit. In the same round Miss Merrill turned back Mrs. G. Howard Bright, 3 and 2, previous to which it should be mentioned that the winner's qualifying round was 93, giving her third position among the fifty odd who contested.

Her second match was far from a walk-over, her opponent being Miss Eleanor Lightner, of St. Paul, Minnesota. Accord-

ing to golf history in that section, Miss Lightner has held the women's title of her State on no less than three occasions. At one stage of the game Miss Merrill seemed on the road to an early and easy victory, standing no less than four up at the eighth hole. But many a slip here and there and some good golf on the part of the Minnesota Miss soon brought the match down to a fifty-fifty basis. At this point Miss Merrill recovered her equilibrium and forged ahead to come in a 2-up winner.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Chapman was taking matters fairly easy in the lower half of the draw. Miss Louise Patterson, of Plainfield, was unable to carry on beyond the fourteenth green, losing 6 and 4, and Mrs. Rackham fared little better, losing her match with Mrs. Chapman on the same green. The score was 5 and 4.

The finals were unusually interesting, due to the fact that both contestants showed a reversal of form at times. That is, when it appeared a walk-over for Miss Merrill due to her splendid golf going out, Mrs. Chapman elevated her game to such an extent as to make it a real warm engagement. The Boston Miss was 43 to the turn to a 48 for her opponent, and no less than three up. But the lead soon vanished like smoke into thin air, Mrs. Chapman winning the eleventh with a par three, having an eight foot putt for a deuce, the twelfth with a five when Miss Merrill drove to the woods, and also the next, making it three in a row when her opponent found trouble in dislodging her ball from a trap. Mrs. Chapman had a fine chance to win the next also and forge ahead for the first time. Both were short of the green in two, but a shanked third by Mrs. Chapman cost her a six and a lost hole. However, she came back with a fine four on the fifteenth, dropping a nice putt for a win and squaring the match. But a topped third on



Annual A. K. C. Show, the renewal of which will be held this year on April 17 and 18