

## CHAMPIONS MADE AT HARDING PARK

IT IS not often that public golf courses come to national notice. One that is different is the Harding Park Course in San Francisco, scene this month of the USGA Amateur Public Links Championship.

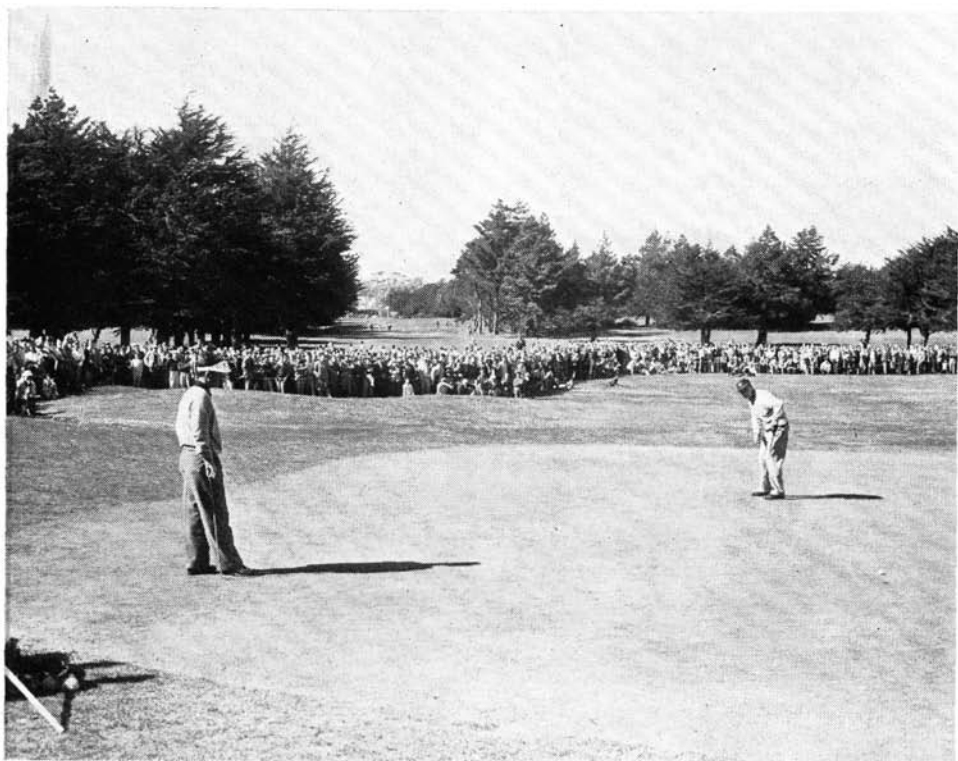
The 31st annual Public Links Championship is the second such event to be held at Harding Park. Bruce N. McCormick, of Los Angeles, Cal., won the title there in the 16th Championship, held in 1937. Sam D. Kocsis, of Detroit, was 1955 Champion.

As the site of the San Francisco City Championship, Harding Park annually plays host to one of the most hotly contested Championships in the nation. An estimated

2,500 golfers filed entry for the event this year.

Ken Venturi, present City Champion, is a product of the Harding Park course. The 25 year old Venturi fashioned his game there and, at the age of 17, became the youngest player ever to win the San Francisco City Championship. He has since won the title twice and holds the course record of 63.

The Harding Park alumnus won his most recent City Championship by defeating the defending Champion and USGA Amateur Champion, Harvie Ward, Jr., 5 and 4, last March. A gallery of several thousand fans jammed the course to view the final, illustrating the fact that San Franciscans



*San Francisco Examiner Photo*

This is the 10th green of Harding Park Golf Course, in San Francisco, Cal., host to the 1956 USGA Public Links Championship. The huge gallery is watching Harvie Ward, right, in the act of putting in the recent San Francisco City Championship. Ken Venturi, left, defeated Ward to win the title for the second time.

regard their City Championship seriously.

One of the most heavily played public courses in the United States, it is estimated that an average of 9,000 golfers tour the 18 hole course each month of the year. Favorable weather conditions allow golf the year round. In recent years a number of new homes have been built within walking distance, inviting increased play.

The course measures a total of 6,683 yards and is situated in a setting of majestic natural beauty. Towering above the course, to the north, is beautiful Mt. Tamalpais. Another regional landmark, Lake Merced, is also visible. Tree-lined fairways frame the course and present a natural obstacle to those who venture too far from the fairway.

Constructed in 1924, Harding Park was dedicated to the memory of the late President of the United States, Warren G. Harding. In 1923, President Harding, an honorary member of the USGA Executive Committee, offered to donate the Warren G. Harding Trophy which is awarded to the Team Champion of the Amateur Public Links event.

It was at Harding Park that Byron Nelson won the 1944 San Francisco Open Championship with a 275, six strokes better than his closest competitor. In a recent visit to San Francisco he ventured the personal opinion that, "Harding Park is truly a great course and is in excellent condition." The 31st Amateur Public Links Championship bids fair to add to the golfing tradition of Harding Park.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS IN THE OPEN

by

**BILL BEENEY**

*Sports Writer,  
Democrat & Chronicle,  
Rochester, New York*

**T**AKING a fast look at the cast of characters in the Open field, and cataloguing some of them like this:

**GENE LITTLER**—the boy in the musical comedy who is in love with Marlene Dietrich, but has to settle for Debbie Reynolds.

**BOB TOSKI**—the gentlemanly manager of the heavyweight champ.

**JIMMY DEMARET**—the blacksmith's son who left town with the summer stock company.

**JACK FLECK**—the FBI agent who brooks no foolishness.

**BEN HOGAN**—the captain of the pirate ship.

**ED OLIVER**—the fellow who plays the tuba at the Fourth of July picnic.

**JULIUS BOROS**—the B-17 waist gunner who never changes expression when the Messerschmidts dive in from 11 o'clock.

**MIKE SOUCHAK**—the fellow at the bottom of the pile on the acrobatic team.

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**ED FURGOL**—the farm boy who took a dictionary with him to the big city.

**FRANK STRANAHAN**—the boy from the avenue who finally was accepted by the kids from across the tracks.

**GARDNER DICKINSON**—the fellow who went on a diet and REALLY stuck to it.

**CARY MIDDLECOFF**—the successful young insurance salesman who is always thinking of "getting into politics."

**SAM SNEAD**—the foreman of the peapicking crew.

**HARVIE WARD**—the All-American boy who hopes his mother never finds out that he smokes.

**TOMMY BOLT**—the traffic cop who loves to blow a whistle.

**KEN VENTURI**—the newspaper carrier boy who grew up and went to work for his girl's father.

**ARNOLD PALMER**—the young bank teller who secretly practices jui-jitsu.

**JOHNNY BULLA**—the Mississippi River boat gambler who forgot his cigars.