# SMILING GENE SARAZEN, MONARCH OF U.S. GOLF, SMASHED HIS SISTER'S BABY DOLLS ON KITCHEN TEE

Mother Sarazen Had to Work Fast to Prevent Severing of Diplomatic Relations Between Son and Margaret When Her Playthings Were Used as rassies and Niblicks

## CHAMPION SHOT FAIRWAYS WHEN BUT EIGHT YEARS OLD WITH STICKS HE WHITTLED

His Rise Was Rapid and He Never Allowed Reverses to Dim His Ambitions-Today Perfumed Missives From Belles of Country Shower Congratulations Upon Him

FROM doll babies to golf clubs! That in itself is no small step.

But when the transition is made in one dazzling leap to the American

open championship-that is a matter wherein a nation may well marvel. Hundreds of thousands of devotees of the ancient and honorable game

in this country today acknowledge as their king a stripling of twenty-one who has forced his way from the obscurity of a humble immigrant's abode to the bright glare which beats upon the most enviable title in American golfdom.

And in addition to this signal honor, he enjoys the distinction of being the first Latin to win his way to victory in this historic event, for both parents of the new king of American golf were born almost within the shadow of the Coliseum at Rome.

To his proud mother it seems only yesterday that Gene Sarazen was a laughing, chubby, olive-skinned little boy, playing with his sister on the kitchen floor and delighting in all the fancies and conceits which are the heritage of childhood.

And now the sporting world is and would then be set to mind the doll children. agog over the same lad who helped That was a point which required delihis sister wash the doll dishes and cate handling and much diplomatic acmind the "children."

tion on the part of Gene's mother. Be-Gene was born February 27, 1901, cause he would hold a doll as if he

at Harrison, N. Y. His mother and father came to America several years before Gene was born. His sister, Margarita, two years older, also was born in America.

As a little baby, Gene was no different from other babies. He slept, kicked and crowed, according to his mood or the time.

He was sent to the Harrison Grammar School and showed a gennine and active dislike for the confining walls of the schoolroom and a decided tendency never to open a book unless there was absolutely no other alternative.

**Has Played Golf Since** He Was Eight Years Old From the time he was eight years



The smile that won't come off



more. The caddies at Apawamis were given a tournament, and Gene was smong the first to signify his readiness to play. One member of the club bet him that he could not break 90. Confident of his ability, Gene boasted that he could, and was chagrined and mortified to find that he had done 105. When he was about twelve years old he failed to rown home one evening.

he failed to return home one evening. Too dark to be maying golf, his parents were worried. The morning brought no signs of the son, and Mr. and Mrs. Sarazen were up bright and early in-quiring for him about the neighbor-bood

#### Left Home Three Days to Caddy for Woman

At the end of three days he came home. To the country club had come a wealthy woman who lived on Long Island. Attracted by the bright face of her caddy she told him to ask his mother West for permission to go home with her for a few days to caddy for her at a game. Almost sure that he would not be given consent, Gene did not go home, but left without consulting his family. And when at the end of three days

he did return with a new suit, tales of a wonderland into which he had been given a peek, and displayed ten dol-lars he had won, the mother could not

lars he had won, the mother could not scold him to spoll his pleasure. When he finished grammar school he was taken into his father's shop to learn to be a carpenter. But Gene had other plans than to be tied to a car-penter bench for the rest of his days. Mr. Sarazen, deciding that business in Bridgeport, Conn., would be more lucrative, moved his small family to new surroundings and the first thing Gene did was to visit the Brooklawn Country Club and offer his services as endy.

Then he could devote his day to the But not for long, because the links. flu epidemic which swept the country, extracting toll from the four corners, brought its sinister presence into Bridgeport. So Gene laid aside his sticks most of the day to assist the Red Cross nurses in the hospital. When his services were no longer

required he joyfully took to his game again, and so intent was he, that George Sparling, a pro at the Brooklawn Club, became interested in the boy.

Gene Often Was Caddy for Sparling at Brooklawn

He permitted Gene to caddy many fered a position as pro there, but re-

gray fingers of dawn were just begin-ning to slip back the dark mantle of night, his little body hunched up, he slid sliently along until he reached the club. And there with discarded clubs he went about the course until the sun. Not casual nature. He spoke of the delightful people he was meeting, of the country about him, of anything and everything but the fact that he was awakening interest in the sporting he went about the course until the sun.

British amateur championship, was professional at Fort Wayne at the After Beating Hutchison time. Gene answered the advertisement and

impatiently awaited the outcome. A wire summoned him to Fort Wayne and he packed his bag and started

His ever-present good humor and willingness to help others, his boyish grin and excellent game won for him many friends among the members of the club, and so they sent him to play in the national open championship at the lyerness Club, Toledo, in 1920. The first day out he tied Jock Hutchison, and on returning to the club-

house, told some people that some day he'd "beat that guy." In those few he'd words there was an utter lack of flip-pancy, the remark was made in perfect seriousness backed by the belief he had in his own ability. The tournament in his own ability. The tournament did not end well for Gene and he ended

Loeffler, who was at the time green-keeper at the Oakmont Country Club of Pittsburgh. Emil. or "Dutch." as he is called, who is four years older than

together for the remainder of the time. Loeffler not only liked Gene, but realized that he played a good game. Gene wanted to stay in or around Pittsburgh, where he could strengthen the friend-ship with "Dutch" and play with him.

#### **Turned Down Position** as Pro at Fort Wayne

So Loeffler promised to be on the lookout for anything which would interest Gene. In the meantime the boy returned to Fort Wayne. He was of-

Sister Rejoices as Gene

Telegraph wires began to burn with the news and the sister Margaret, who with so much pride has followed the success of her brother and now living in Rye, was told that Gene had reached the nirmade

the pinnacle. "I just couldn't believe it at first." she said with a happy laugh. "but there was no doubting the head lines. I rushed out and telephoned my mother and father at Mount Vernon, and my and my and harder at should version, and my dad thought I was kidding him. I inally made him believe me and he could hardly talk. He had been in bed when I phoned, but got dressed and walked about three squares away to the while in New York he stayed at the Biltmore. Calls of congratulations

he went about the course until the sun, setting higher in the sky, warned him that for that day he could play more. The caddies at Apawamis were given the c in Bridgeport would with feverish in-terest read every word. Became Assistant Pro at Fort Wayne, Ind. Gene was not satisfied to stay in the South, but wanted to strike out for himself. While reading through a golt magazine one day he saw an adver-tisement for an assistant pro needed at the Fort Wayne, Ind., Country Club. Ramsey Hunter, brother of Willie Hunter, winner of last year's British amateur championship, was

He Lost to Cyril Walker

Shortly after Sarazen defeated Hut-chison, he in turn was defeated by Cyril Walker by a score of 4 and 8. Then it was that the onlookers were sure that it was more chance than skill which have blue the victors were were which gave him the victory over Hutch-

ison. Having burst into popularity he re-ceived offers from other clubs, but con-sidering carefully the one at Highland, he decided it was the best and so he signed the contract. For there was his friend Loeffier, and also W. C. Fownes, Jr., once national champion, and Gene realized that by playing with those two he could learn much to his advantage.

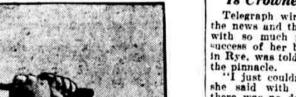
Last winter he played and won a tournament at New Orleans, which was did not end well for Gene and he ended in thirtieth place. But naturally a Triendly little fel-low, he wanted companionship, and found it by a chance meeting with Emil Loeffer, who was at the time with Emil

And then Gene went to Pittsburgh, where he put in a spring of constant practice, satisfied in his mind that he

is called, who is four years older than Gene, was waiting for the bus to take high to the course, when Gene came along, also going to the club. A conversation was started, a friend-ship ensued and Gene and Loeffler were together for the remainder of the time. Loeffler not only liked Gene, but reala chance on the course, and that is why he allowed himself so much time. He even figured out in his mind about how some of the other men playing would come out.

And then the week of the tournament, the final totaling of the scores which showed that he had won the championship and had taken away the famous old cup from Jim Barnes who won it last year and brought it West with him ten days ago.

Is Crowned Open Champ



sharp knife he would whittle away at the branch of a tree until it began to take the shape of a golf stick. And then with set jaws he would hit anything in sight which would travel like a ball.

old he began playing golf. With a

And when he began his career as caddy he would cut down discarded clubs to fit his size, spend hours peering around for balls which had been lost, and then, with "real tools," he would get off by himself and play for hours. Despite the fact that he was just a boy, he would keep at it until his little arms were too tired to swing the sticks.

In the early spring, when in the thought it was a golf stick, and invaschoolroom, the outdoors called to riably the peor doll would come to an him through the windows and he untimely end, the broken china face a wriggled about, impatient for the And then the sister would clench her bell which would release him from small hands and with dark eyes snapbell which would release him from ping, tell him what she thought of him his trouble, for such he considered as a husband, brother and "tender" of school her children.

At the age of ten he enddied at the Apawamis Club at Rye, a place within Gene would take his sister out into the easy reach of his home. And then he field in which he practiced and teach was in his element. Bending forward her how to swing a club. Margaret was his only girl com under the weight of the leather bags and heavy froms, he seemed not to notice panion in those days. He would look about for escape if he thought definitely

that they had any weight. With loving that a girl was coming to speak with farers he would strake the clubs and him. Despite the fact that he was a if the owner would pause at a hole for a moment Gene would swing the clubs. Inipping the grass as he came through won for him a place in the affection of with a fairly clean stroke. Summer vacation came and the for them to enforce discipline.

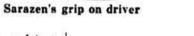
schoolhouse would temporarily lose its the afternoon he stuck his head in the terror for him. With hands dug deep door to see what chores his mother had door to see what chores his mother had into his trouser pockets, the same hands for him to do. With alarming speed being as grubby as he chose to have he would fly through them and then them with no interference from a dash out of the house, slamming doors being the been been being the being the been being the teacher, he'd stroll past that worthy Mifce, whistling a bright tune and in- Stayed Away Until Hunger wardly thanking his stars that he could walk right by with impunity and defance.

### The Old Swimming Hole Was Popular With Gene

And the joys those days held for him !

Hoe, coveted cherries. Margaret would run a race with her him scuttling away to bed, where he mailer would run a race with her mailer brother to the tree and then would follow a scramble as the cherries and worn out from the ramble, they would come back to the swinning pool and with one splash plunge into the ccol water.

aunting and the sister and brother the Aranac Arrows, a club in that



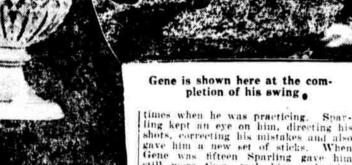
his teachers, and it was indeed difficult

Got the Best of Him

Then his mother knew that until the pangs of hunger gnawed very persist-ently at her small son's stomach he would not be seen. He was off to his beloved golf links, where his willing

feet trudged the fairways and his bright eyes penetrated the tangled roughs. Not so far away was a swimming hole. and what a spot it was! He and his sister would rample over the dater would ramble over the country- kiss his mother good-night, expand his tide in search of cherries and black-berries. All sorts of mysterious places to be explored, trees whose branches bowed to the ground with the weight of tipe, coveted cherries.

Rainy days did not permit of cherry known as the champion goal shooter of



repair clubs. When Gene was seventeen Sparling

talked with him and let Gene realize that he showed extraordinary ability, right for Gene's way of thinking. But in demand. and that he sparling, believed that in that wasn't to his manner of thinking fine Gene would be one of the best at all, so he gave his resignation, and tor care to talk about himself. But did not care to talk about himself. With

an incentive and was still more of an see if he would be able to read of some-impetus, because close association with thing for him. Sparling had taught Gene to admire the man and respect his opinion. Walter Hagen, winner of the Britter open championship, visited the elute

The South, with its blue sky and waving palms, called to him and he but, prompted by jealousy, other pro-left Bridgebori and went to Minni. It fessionals span stories about Gene. antil fall when he will go to England the glass with the level strokes. One night, carried away by his entimisiasm, he hit the bell with such force as to cend it crashing through the bottom of the glass. And then the father took a hand, and goif for the night erased. Less time was being devote i to his i eister, and more to his game of goif.

Sarazen and his sister Margaret as they looked in the days who golf in the kitchen was a popular pastime with them

fused it, because it would mean taking poured in upon him, girls wrote poems away the position of the man for whom about him which they sent on colored he had been working.

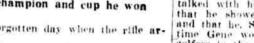
sheets of perfumed paper, reporters So Hunter was let go to make it all flocked about him. Everywhere he was

no desire to be impolite, his eye would rove toward the click, because in a short time he was leaving for Mt.

The man and respect his opinion. Walter Hagen, winner of the Britter open championship, visited the club, and Gree warshed the great man play. And then it was he tried hours attempting to copy Hagen. Over a certain twist he would devote many days, determined to conquer it. The country club at Titusville, Pa., was in the matker for a professional, and Gree was only nine holes and Gree became restless; he wanted to get out and play against the big men in his hours attempting to copy Hagen. Over a certain twist he would devote many days, determined to conquer it. The country club at Titusville, Pa., and Gree was leaving for Mt. Vernon, where he was leaving for Mt. Vernon, where he was leaving for Mt. Vernon, where he was leaving for Mt. The country club at Titusville, Pa., and Gree was only nine holes and Gree became restless; he wanted to get out and play against the big men in his hours attempting to copy Hagen. The fill a position as pre at the Benver ten him a position as pro at the Beaver Take his place he immediately accepted. Valley Country' Club, Beaver Falls, Many tournaments throughout the

would supprise and brother ison. The hard working and the sister and brother ison. The hard working bread earner of the main ison and the sister and has sister were shows and food to the beboght. So Gene and his sister were shows and his sister and confidentially wars. The transmitter is the household, wars, were shows and his sister and his sister and confidentially wars. The transmitter is the household, wars, were shows and his sister and confidentially and as and there are the never. The transmitter is the household, wars, were shows and his sister and his sister and confidentially and as and there are the never. The transmitter is the household, wars, were shows and his sister and his sister and confidentially and as a his show adder the household, wars, were shows as a his wars, were shown as a his shown adder the household, wars, were shown as a his wars, were shown ashown as a his wars, were s

New champion and cup he won



## to-be-forgotten day when the rifle ar-Target practice then became a part of the day's activities, and the sister was drawn into that. Always he was looking out for her. In school they were in the same class, and Gene saw to it, despite the fact that he was younger in years and smaller in sta-

ture than Margaret, that none of the school hoys would get very close to her. Winter nights a drinking glass would be placed on the floor, the opening facing them. And then standing at a dis-tance he and his sister would compete, trying to see who could put a ball in the glass with the fewer strokes. One

rived.

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ling kept an eye on bin, directing his shots, correcting his mistakes and also gave him a new set of sticks. When

Gene was fifteen Sparling gave him still more time, took him under his professional wing, and taught him some tricks of the trade. He also gave him

a job in the club house as his assistant and there Gene learned to clean and