Haggerty Heads Wilson Division

Bob Haggerty has been named by Wilson Sporting Goods Co. to head its new Eastern pro division. Bob will direct and supervise operations from New York. Units of the division will be in New York City, managed by Jim Beattie, assisted by Reg Watkinson and Jim Blassi; Boston, with Harry Colburn; Philadelphia with Jim Laverty; Syracuse with Francis Miller and Washington with Harry Paler.

Bob’s one of the swell and smart vets of pro golf. He started in 1913 with Spalding, then went with Wanamaker. He was with them during World War I when clubs and balls were imported as well as made here and Silver Kings sold for $15 a dozen. For several years Bob managed Wanamaker’s Boston office, which had taken over the Ouimet and Sullivan sales agency. Illness compelled Bob to go back to New York and after his recovery in 1920, he joined U. S. Rubber with Capt. J. A. Scott.

In May 1923 Lawrence Icely and Bill Kiley got Bob to come with the growing Wilson outfit. With the late Tom McNamara, Bob really began making Wilson a factor in pro sales. When Icely made Wilson’s first strong power drive for pro business with the Ogg clubs and followed up with the Turf Rider woods, Bob was a spearhead of those highly successful campaigns. Haggerty has always been an astute and faithful pal of pro businessmen, and is considered by many of them to have been a prominent element in their business success.

DETROIT CONSIDERS CADDIES—Detroit DGA Caddie Welfare committee annual report recommended paying caddies 25¢ extra for caddying in rain, setting adequate fees for kids waiting while their players have lunch and bonuses for kids who show up 75% or more of the golfing days.

March, 1946
Jim Nichols at Camp Edwards hospital exhibitions, one of the 23 camps and hospitals Jim played at during his recent USO tour of Mass., N. J., N. C., Ky., Ohio, Fl., Ind., Tenn., Va., D. C., N. Y., Pa. and Ga. Jim reports that golf is proving great for restoring self-confidence of amputees and that some of these kids are rapidly developing into much better than the average physically unhandicapped players. Spalding is sending Nichols to hospitals and camps between his pro calls and exhibitions.

Harry Welch

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JOHNNY WALKER has been promoted to a sales representative in the States of Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri (St. Louis district not included) for MacGregor Golf, Inc. Walker became interested in golf as a youngster in 1927 when he caddied at the Evanston (Ill.) CC. He learned clubmaking and later was named assistant factory superintendent at the MacGregor plant in Dayton, Ohio. With his background he turned to sales and that, in turn, added to his taking charge of the Chicago office for MacGregor.

In his new position he eventually will make his headquarters at Kansas City.

WELCH REJOINS SPALDING—Harry L. Welch, former pro, has joined A. G. Spalding & Bros. He will cover North and South Carolina and the greater part of Tennessee as a golf pro representative. Upon graduation from Duke University where he starred as a football player, Welch entered the golf business at the American Legion GC, Salisbury, N. C. During 4 years service in the Navy he took part in a number of overseas events.

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THE FULNAME CO. Cincinnati 8, Ohio
MAC GREGOR GOLF MOVES TO CINCINNATI

MacGregor Golf, Inc., in Dayton since 1897, will move to Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 1, where more space and new streamlined manufacturing units will be available, it was announced by Henry P. Cowen, pres. The new address will be 4861 Spring Grove Ave.

The new home, see photo, is a block-long four-story building with 150,000 sq. ft. of floor space on a 4½ acre tract representing an investment of $1,000,000. An entirely new manufacturing unit for producing golf balls is being installed under the experienced direction of C. C. Ryden, with hopes of deliveries to pros beginning by mid-summer.

Tennis and badminton racket production started last year in the new plant following MacGregor's purchase of Hall Manufacturing Company, patents, machinery, etc. Tennis racket deliveries currently are being made.

Reflecting valuable experience gained in war work, considerable new machinery has been purchased for the better production of MacGregor Golf's Tourney golf clubs and for streamlining its production of iron clubs and wood clubs.

In their spacious new plant, MacGregor will carry on the tradition of golf equipment manufacture which began in Dayton in 1897, when the first golf club in America was made. MacGregor's complete line will include Tanney golf clubs and balls, golf bags and accessories, MacGregor tennis and badminton rackets, balls and equipment, and Craig Wood Authentic sportswear.

Although the history of the firm dates back to 1829, the name MacGregor was first associated with the business in 1874, just 23 years before the first golf club was made in the factory. Credit for making the head of the first club in the MacGregor plant belongs to George Mattern, a young man who dropped out of Coxey's army in Dayton, to look for a job. The head was made of persimmon and was turned out on a machine used in the manufacture of shoe lasts.

MacGregor pioneered in making the first set of perfectly matched clubs; was first to insert a keystone plate for better club balance; first to market a four-club set of woods; and first to use a steel shaft and a protective sheath finish.

Also moving to Cincinnati are the gold-badge MacGregor craftsmen, many of whom have been making golf clubs most of their lives. These craftsmen, in recent war years, made golf equipment used in rehabilitation of returned veterans. Each day after their eight hours war work elsewhere they went to the MacGregor plant and produced clubs for wounded vets.

No key changes will be made in the Cincinnati setup comprising a personnel of 400 including the following executives: Henry Cowen, president; Stanley M. Clark, secretary and credit manager; William J. McNulty, general merchandise manager; Robert D. Rickey and Paul J. Smith of the sales dept.; Allen Heeter, general factory super. and Robert Lysaght, production manager.

Cowen will be in familiar territory in Cincinnati having entered the sporting goods business there after graduating from Cornell in 1930. He advanced rapidly through merchandising and sales to become vice pres. and ass't. general manager, in a cooperative capacity with the late Clarence H. Rickey. Until the latter's death he shared the duties and responsibilities of all the company's activities in the manufacture and distribution of all products.

Cowen, well-known by professionals across the country, says, "The latch-string will always be out at 4861 Spring Grove Ave., where pros will see the newest and most modern golf and tennis plant in the world."

New Home of MacGregor Golf, Inc., at Cincinnati
BEAN BUYS WAR PLANT—A Lansing Mich. war plant has been bought by John Bean Mfg. Co., div., of Food Machinery Corp., and pioneer manufacturer of sprayers and other agricultural machinery. Acquisition of the factory, which has 10½-acres of floor space, will provide John Bean Mfg. Co. with more than three times the space available in the 32-year-old original factory building, according to Howard C. Lisle, Bean’s gen. mgr. Among other products Bean is making 2 new sprayers.

TOROKINA CHAMP WITH BURKE—George Fautsch, out of the Navy and now Chicago rep. for Burke Golf Co. is duration champion of Bougainville Island. He had 3 golf balls in his sea bag and discovered some clubs in the recreation hall. By using the only open areas, the ball field and the adjacent cub airfield, a 3-hole course was laid out; par 9. George holds course record with 8. The fellows on the island got up an open tournament. George won that.

IDEAL MOWER TO SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Ideal Power Lawn Mower Co. has moved to Springfield, Mass. where the company now is located in the plant of the Indian Motorcycle Co. Late in 1945 the Ralph B. Rogers group of industries, of which Ideal is a member, acquired the Indian company and because of the greater and more modern facilities the management decided that the future of Ideal would be greatly enhanced by moving to the new location.

Backdrop below, of Ideal’s exhibit at recent GSA convention, shows company’s new plant.

WALDRON IN NEW OUTFIT—Lew Waldron, widely known former pro, with Lou Rane has formed Columbia Chemical Co., 11 S. LaSalle, Chicago, 3. The company sells insecticides, 2, 4D, and club, factory and office building maintenance supplies and equipment.

AIR-O-WAY NEW BAG FEATURE—Golf Innovations, 210 Franklin St., Richmond, Va., has patented a mesh bottom for golf bags permitting drainage and dropping of debris through the mesh instead of remaining in the bag and facilitating circulation of air through the bag. It is planned to license use of Air-O-Way to bag makers.

KELITE AIDS CLEANING—Kelite Products Inc., 909 E. 60th, Los Angeles, 1., Cal. is expanding its golf club business in Kelite cleaning powders, especially its materials for use in dish, glassware and silverware washing machines which is extensively used by Pacific coast club managers. The company is also pushing its painted surface and floor cleaners on the basis of strong endorsements from club managers.

GRIP-TIGHT MENDS HOSE—Erco Mfg. Co., 4010 W. Monroe, Chicago, 41, reports big jump in golf club spring orders for Grip-Tight cast bronze hose menders. The device has tapered ends making easy, tight fit, and is secured by wire bands that minimize injury to securely fastened hose.

CADDIE SHORTAGE CURE—That thing between Linda Christian (left) and Ava Gardner, which you may notice eventually, is the Auto-Caddy, which its press agent says “weighs but 17 pounds,” etc., etc., and will relieve the caddie shortage. We think such exquisite devices as Linda and Ava are the best things ever invented for bringing caddies from the ages of 14 to 99 out to a golf course. Any guy who would not want to caddy for Ava and Linda as they are depicted prepared for a pleasant afternoon, we would not want to have anything to do with under any circumstances, any time.