

PAYS PRO— to Nurse Golf's FUTURE STARS

By MAUREEN ORCUTT

Maureen Orcutt, widely known young woman golfer, is not much out of the pig-tail days herself, so the bright story of what George Jacobus is doing to develop good golf among the youngsters is a sympathetic subject to her.

It's a subject, too, that must figure prominently in pro activities and in the plans of every club that wants to live in its present while assuring its future.

HEARING OF the remarkable work George Jacobus, professional at the Ridgewood (N. J.) G. & C. C., has done with youthful golf pupils, I drove through the gorgeous farming country of Northern New Jersey to see George about his huge class of young players. These pupils range in age from 12 to 25. I found George, who besides being professional is also an honorary member at Ridgewood, up to his eyes in work in his splendidly arranged golf shop and soon I was learning new wrinkles about this fascinating game of golf and incidentally learning new uses for the golf clubs themselves.

But that is another story. What I wanted to know now was George's idea about the training of youth in the game of golf.

The alert, smiling and spotlessly attired professional looks to young to be the father of the 12-year-old boy whose picture graces his desk. He picked up his son's photo in answer to my question as to the source of his interest in golf lessons for young people.

"Perhaps," smiled George, "I like to teach boys and girls because I have a son of my own and understand and like children."

"How many pupils have you?" I asked.

"I have a class of 65 boys and girls," George said, "and they keep me busy all the time."

"You must make an excellent income from your teaching such a large class," I said, while at the same time I was trying to make a mental computation of George's income from this source.

"I don't charge my young pupils for their golf instruction," George told me, "and I don't suffer by it either. I have more adult pupils than I can take care of besides, and the fees I collect from them and from the sale of clubs and balls repays me for the time and work I put into my instruction of the young people."

"You see," went on George, "I have very decided views on the duties of the golf professional. I believe that golf pros should do all in their power to increase the interest of young people in golf and to this end it is my opinion that the professional should give instruction to the young people without cost to the parents.

"I feel that it is really criminal to let boys and girls struggle along trying to pick up the game in what is called 'a natural way.' From ten years of observation of junior golfers I can positively assert that there is no such thing as a natural golfer.

"Every great golfer has had training in his youth. Take the case of Bobby Jones, for instance. When Bob was very young he had a fine professional, Stewart Maiden, to watch his faults and assist in their elimination until he finally settled down to

JACOBUS GIVEN TESTIMONIAL DINNER



In spite of the zero weather over 180 people gathered on Saturday, December 17, at a testimonial dinner and dance given by notables of the golfing world and friends of George A. Jacobus, at the Ridgewood (N. J.) Country Club, in honor of his recent election as president of the Professional Association of America.

Honor guests were introduced by J. Robert Stout, president of the club, who offered congratulations and those of the club to Jacobus. Maureen Orcutt, former Canadian, Eastern, Metropolitan and New Jersey champion was the first speaker. Lincoln A. Werden, golf writer, of New York Times; Alec Gregson, editor of Golf Illustrated; Maurice McCarthy, president Senior Professional Golfers' association of United States and Canada; F. Paul Anderson, three times state amateur champion of New Jersey, and Arthur Vreeland, Jr., club champion, spoke briefly.

Jacobus was presented with silver coffee service, while Mrs. Jacobus received an armful of roses.

Appearing in the photo, left to right, are: Lincoln A. Werden, Arthur Vreeland, Jr., Miss Maureen Orcutt, George Jacobus, and Alex Gregson.

the compact style which suited his build."

"But," I objected, "teaching so many young people takes up an enormous amount of your time and energy. Why not give them group instruction to teach them the fundamentals of the golf swing?"

"I am absolutely opposed to group instruction," George informed me. "No two players are alike in build and adaptability. It is quite impossible to impart the same knowledge to all since no two pupils swing alike and no two individuals react alike to instruction.

"Group teaching is not the logical way to develop promising golfers. Besides, the boy and girl will take a great deal more interest when taught individually. Therefore, my advice to every youngster who wishes to develop into a champion golfer is: 'Find a good professional who will take an interest in your game, and especially a professional who enjoys helping someone who desires to play the game right. Place yourself entirely in this professional's hands. If you both work together, in due time, given the ability, strength and resistance, you will become

a champion golfer.'"

Numerous interested pupils of this George Jacobus, who has such altruistic ideas on the duties of the professional towards his club, its members and their children, may be seen swarming over the three nines that comprise the Ridgewood golf course. I have traveled a great many thousand miles during the past few years and played a great many golf courses in my travels, but never have I seen anywhere such interest among the younger people as there is displayed at Ridgewood, thanks to George.

Girls and boys of all ages may be seen carrying their own bags and playing splendid shots over this lovely North Jersey course. Art Vreeland is, up to date, the prize pupil of Jacobus. Vreeland, who is 19, won the club championship from Ian MacCullum, one recent Sunday when Hagen and Jurado were playing in the vicinity. These lads drew a gallery that rivalled that of the great Hagen and it is safe to predict that in time to come some of the 65 pupils of George will be heard from in a big way on their own account.