

HE HAS HELD POST FOR 25 YEARS

TRIBUTE to the type of veteran who has been responsible for the growth of golf to its present position glows in the fine story Bob McGaw wrote in the Nashville (Tenn.) Banner observing the silver anniversary of George Livingstone's connection with the game in Nashville.

Livingstone, in the headline on the five-column illustrated story, is credited with keeping the course at Belle Meade "in best shape of South."

Characteristic of the history of many of the substantial veterans—both pros and clubs—is the tale of Livingstone and Belle Meade. Here is the story as set forth by the able McGaw:

In the spring of 1912, George Livingstone packed his golf clubs very carefully, kissed his wife and three little girls, took another long look at North Berwick and Edinburgh, and came to America.

He landed in New York and immediately looked up an old schoolmate, Jack Hobens, who had a job as professional just across the river at Englewood, N. J. Jack made a place for him at his table as long as he wanted to stay and a place for him at his club until he found one for himself.

The young immigrant from Scotland wasn't long about it. He was in Spalding's a few weeks later when a messenger boy walked in with a telegram from Nashville. It seems that there would be no order from the Spalding salesman who had visited the town in Tennessee, because the Nashville G and CC professional had suddenly dropped dead on the clubhouse porch, and the golfers there were looking for a new pro before they'd look at any new clubs.

Livingstone followed the messenger boy to his office and wired his application. That was May 6, 1912. That afternoon, a sports writer named Grantland Rice was pounding his typewriter at the New York Evening Mail when he received the following telegram from a man he'd known in Nashville before moving up to New York:

GEORGE LIVINGSTONE, ENGLEWOOD GOLF CLUB, WIRES FOR POSITION AS PROFESSIONAL. LOOK HIM UP AND WIRE US THE RESULT.

BRADLEY WALKER.

It was Walker who had gathered the Nashville Golf and Country Club members around him and said that the right thing to do was to hire a man recently arrived from Scotland.

And it was Walker who, as secretary of the club, sent another telegram on May 25 that read like this:

**GEORGE LIVINGSTONE,
ENGLEWOOD GOLF CLUB,
ENGLEWOOD, N. J.**

WE NEED YOU IMMEDIATELY AS SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIPS WILL BE PLAYED AT CHATTANOOGA BEGINNING JUNE FOURTH. START SUNDAY IF YOU CAN.

BRADLEY WALKER.

So George Livingstone is now working his twenty-fifth season in Nashville. He is 55 and the only professional Belle Meade has ever had. If Livingstone could go on forever, which he threatens to do, he'll



George Livingstone

stay at Belle Meade that long. He's more a part of the club than the first tee or the eighteenth green, both of which and all between he built.

Livingstone added a son, James, to his three daughters, and all four are now parts of Nashville. Two brothers followed him from Scotland to America, Jimmy now

being at Ingleside in Atlanta and Henry at Clarksville, Tenn. Then, Jimmy's three sons became professional golfers in Georgia and South Carolina. Six Livingstones in the golf business of the South—all because one of them, Belle Meade's George, happened to be looking at some clubs in a New York store the day a traveling salesman visited Nashville.

George wouldn't trade jobs with anybody. "I'm sure I get more kick out of caring for a course and working on golf clubs than I would from doing anything else," he says. He'd hate to leave Nashville, too, because he likes the city and the people so much.

He is good at everything to do with golf—playing, teaching, caring for a course, repairing clubs, directing tournaments. He is known as one of the nation's real experts at building and caring for Bermuda grass greens. The Belle Meade course has long been the best kept in the South.

Livingstone has rarely played in tournaments. "We greenkeepers have to work too much to play in tournaments," he says in explanation of it, but with no bitterness. Really, he'd rather work with dirt and sand and sod and grass than shoot for prizes on his or any other course.

A notable exception was the South-eastern PGA championships at Belle Meade in 1926. Livingstone shot the first two rounds in 66-67—133, setting a world's record for consecutive rounds in competition. Bobby Jones had done the trick in 134 a few months before, and Charley Hall took the record away from Livingstone with a 132 a few months later.

Proposes that Summer Circuit Pay Stars a Guarantee

BOB LITTLER, merchant and golf enthusiast of Seattle, proposes that sponsors of summer Open tournaments organize and provide a pool to pay outstanding players guarantees for the summer circuit. Littler was chairman of the Seattle \$5,000 Open which lost about \$2,000 in its first showing but which is regarded highly as an artistic and national publicity success by its sponsors. St. Paul's Open this year did so well that an increase of prize money for 1937 has been mentioned.

A condition of which Open promoters have complained is that they guarantee the purse but no one can guarantee appearance of the players.

Evidence that Littler's idea for getting

tournament specialists as gate attractions is not merely a locker-room hunch, is in the prize-money list for the five Northwest competitions. Seven out of the first eight winners on the Evergreen circuit were tournament pros. Led by Byron Nelson, playing pro of Ridgewood with \$2151, the first eight included:

Macdonald Smith \$1973; Ralph Guldahl \$1693; Ray Mangrum \$1517; Horton Smith \$1372; Al Zimmerman \$1250; Jimmy Thomson \$1110; Tony Manero \$1075.

Only Zimmerman, pro at Alderwood CC, Portland, Ore., is home-guard pro. He will invest his winnings in making the next winter circuit and looks like he's due for big things with more tournament experience.

Pro-Promotion Plan Asks Advice In Drive On School Golf

IN the first bulletin of the Pro-Promotion Plan, pro advice is asked on the campaign for getting high schools and colleges to adopt golf instruction as a feature of the athletic programs.

Objects of the drive are to make foresighted development of the golf market and to open a new field for profitable work by pros during fall, winter and early spring.

Suggestions from pros are to be sent to Herb Graffis of Pro-Promotion Plan, Room 1614, 14 East Jackson Blvd., Chicago.

Mustard Takes Over Biloxi—Jimmy Mustard, pro at Janesville (Wis.) CC, has just taken over permanently the Biloxi (Miss.) CC. Mustard has served as pro at Biloxi and is in excellent position to know its possibilities as a summer and winter resort.

Eddie Rankin, salesman for the L. A. Young Golf Co., will be associated with Mustard in the operation of the club. It is a safe bet that the pro-shop, therefore, will carry some Hagen merchandise.

The Biloxi CC has a fine 18-hole golf course, which Jimmy promises will be in the pink of condition when the club opens for its winter season on November 15. Clubhouse facilities are afforded.

A unique feature, for Southern golf courses, announced by Mustard is that PGA members will be allowed all privileges of the course without fee of any kind, upon presentation of their membership cards.

Plans have already been made for a "Biloxi Open" to be held late in February or early in March, to attract the winter circuit tournament players on their trek from California to Florida.