

SOME OLDTIMERS

By HERB GRAFFIS

THERE'S a lot more to the pro job than hitting a golf ball. When you sit in with veteran pros at one of their conversational sessions you are impressed with the scope of the experienced pro's work and are brought to realize sharply the necessity of thoughtful training of the present-day crop of assistants. The older pros made golf in this country, according to the free and accurate admission of accurate observers. To continue the game's progress the next crop of pros must be qualified to continue the primary work of golf development.

Take the case of J. E. Wells, now supt. of the Golf and Country Club of Belle Terre at Port Jefferson, Long Island. Wells, a veteran of 40 years in pro golf, was the man who gave John D. Rockefeller his first golf lesson. Golf in the last twenty years of the elder Rockefeller's life meant more to him than the Rockefeller millions. A contribution like that Wells made to Rockefeller and to the many hundreds of others he introduced to golf, makes a busy career in pro golf one that honors the pro and benefits his students. There are hundreds of stories in the Wells memoirs that illustrate the value of the well-trained pro's service to his fellow-men, a series that has no parallel in professional athletics.

Galligan in Pro Golf for 40 Years

Then there's Ted "Pop" Galligan, happy and successful, as pro at the Capitol View public course at Charleston, W. Va., and entering his forty-first year in pro golf. Millionaires and miners, scientists and section-hands, ordinary men and women and the notables of society, finance and education have been brought to life-long enjoyment of the pleasures of golf by the lively Galligan, whose looks belie his age.

Pop, until he was 16, was a caddie and then was promoted into the shop of that fine old master, William McEwan, at Musselburgh, Scotland. From there he went to the Formby GC, Fresfield, Lancashire, as assistant. There he matriculated as a clubmaker and junior instructor. Time was taken out for the Boer war in which the famed John Ball was one of Pop's

buddies. After the war, back to Formby. He then was private pro to Lord Cardigan, after which he succeeded Harry Vardon at Bury Lanes. Then came a period as pro in Wales, then back to England at Hale GC, where he was a neighbor of George Duncan.

Came to US in 1912

In 1912 the States drew him and he went to work as clubmaker for Alex Taylor at New York. The following winter he opened one of New York's early golf schools, leaving there to go with Dunn again at Wanamaker's. Pop believes he made the first hand-made club turned out at Wanamaker's. Herbert Strong was at Inwood where the veteran Jack Mackie now is, and has been located for many years. Galligan went with Herbert. In the winters he returned to his job at Wanamaker's, and in the succeeding summers went to Roselle, N.Y., where he built a course and later to the Marine and Field club at Brooklyn. After the world war he went to Manhattan GC, at Baldwin, L.I., and then to the Carolinas where he served at Charlotte, Spartanburg and Hendersonville, prior to taking anchorage at Charleston.

It was a nomadic life but a great one. You learned that there was a lot to the golf pro business, Pop says. Money prizes weren't much and only a few of the top-notchers at the very best clubs did much more than make a living out of the game. The other fellows had to make the most of a labor of love and get whatever delights they could out of a Bohemian life. Many of the older pros did everything from mow the greens to repair the golf balls.

How to give the youngster fellows the benefits of the broadening training of the earlier days but without its hardships, costs and other drawbacks, Galligan and other thoughtful pro veterans consider one

of today's problems in pro golf that deserve PGA attention.

Galligan recalls the formative days of the PGA at the Wanamaker store. Rodman Wanamaker, as Pop recalls, was chairman of the organization meeting, and present were, among others, Jack and Dan Mackie, Jack Williams, the Pirie brothers, Jimmy Maiden, Herbert Strong, John Duncan Dunn and Harry Vinal. Pop was one of the organizers of the Southern PGA at the Carolina hotel at Pinehurst. Richard Tufts was chairman of the meeting. Paul Address, president, and Fred Newnham, sec.

There are many experienced veteran professionals at leading American golf clubs whose knowledge of all details of golf department operation has been of tremendous value to their own clubs and to those clubs served by pros who were trained as assistants by the older masters. Fellows such as Ogilvie, Brand, Low, Maguire, Way, Mackie, Kidd, Cunningham, Hay, Black and Lawson (to name but a few of the veterans) graduated pro talent from their shops with degrees qualifying them to handle jobs in fine shape.

Flora Has Served Portage for Quarter Century

At some of the smaller and lesser known clubs you will find veteran pros whose work as professionals and whose character as sportsmen make them among their communities' leading citizens. Such a one is Harry Flora who has completed his 25th year as professional and manager at the Portage Lake GC, in the heart of the Copper Country at Houghton, Mich. In the winters Harry is at Douglas, Ariz. He is one of the home-breds, having started at the Golf Highlands GC, Indianapolis, under the late Jimmy Conacher, whom Flora, as boy and man, idolized. Flora, after he left Conacher's training, served as pro at DuBois, Pa., Grand Beach, Mich., Bradenton, Fla., and Globe, Ariz.

There are men all over the world right now who rate Flora as one of the grandest fellows alive. At Houghton is the Michigan College of Mines, one of the greatest of mining schools. Harry has taught golf to hundreds of these students and as they locate at the far corners of the globe their golf clubs go along with them. Nearly all nationalities have been among Flora's golf students and the chances are that when you run into a group of mining experts in any country you will see among

them at least one who boasts of Harry Flora as a friend.

Flora's job at Houghton covers all phases of club operation. He has helped them to lay out and build courses at Calumet, which is 12 miles from Houghton, and at Ontonagon, a small lumbering town 56 miles from Flora's headquarters. In northern Michigan Flora means golf and grand sportsmanship to the natives.

He has carried on the fine tradition of Conacher, and after him there will be boys he has trained to carry on the noble mission of the golf pro. Flora is a successful man. His work in summer is in the beautiful Copper country. His work in winter is in the glorious climate of Douglas, Arizona. He is respected for what he has done with golf for others and he delights in his work. He hasn't made millions of dollars like some of his good friends and former students, in mining, but you can't take the millions with you, and Flora, as well as the other fine old timers in pro golf, are happy in their choice of a profession that in its proper employment is a pleasure to everyone.

Two-Bits a Round Finances Club's Water Installation

ONE of the wisely run Eastern clubs in financing installation of its fairway watering system, collected 25 cents a round. A tag is issued at the first tee. Members have alternative of paying in cash or having the 25 cents item charged. The club prefers the cash which, although less painful to the member than a lump monthly payment, involves a little more detail work in cash handling.

A reason that the charges on monthly bills are discouraged is that the member who plays only a few rounds a month is liable to figure his golf cost is too much when he divides the number of rounds played into his annual dues. Players don't miss the quarter when they pay it in cash out of the pocket.

Herd Given Banquet—Bruce Herd, for 17 years pro at South Shore CC (Chicago district) was tendered a farewell banquet by 400 South Shore members Feb. 16. Herd is leaving South Shore to become pro at Flossmoor CC. South Shore members presented Bruce with a substantial check as a bonus for long service that has been mutually pleasant.

Johnny Bird, who succeeds Bruce, was given two good luck dinners before he left