

Charles River's 25 Years Adorn Golf's History

History of a representative fine country club for the past 25 years is recorded in an interesting book issued by the Charles River CC, Newton Center, Mass., in commemoration of its silver anniversary.

The story begins with E. Ray Speare, an incorporator and first treasurer of the club, telling of the job the founders of the club had in finding a suitable location. Then appears a facsimile of a Boston Transcript page in which A. Linde Fowler wrote of the design of the course by Donald Ross and the construction job. This part of the tale, as it reads now, reminds one of the much easier job of golf course construction possible because of methods developed during the course building boom of the 20s and with the machinery now available. The veteran Fowler, in pages following, tells of the tournaments and exhibitions at the club and of the progress of the layout that Donald Ross, as a Newton citizen of the 20s, determined to make one of his greatest productions. Fowler says that Charles River, under the turf management of Herbert Wilson, a Massachusetts Agricultural college graduate, was the first course in the Boston district to have a fairway watering system. Wm. Mitchell, out of the army as a Lt., now is Charles River's greenkeeper.

Francis Quimet contributes his recollections which include memory of standing at what now is Charles River's first tee and looking into a forest which was to be the first hole. He recalls the difficulties of getting turf on rocky areas of the course. He relates details of the exhibition in August, 1922, when he and Gene Sarazen,

the current U. S. Open champion, beat Hagen, who then was the British Open champion, and Joe Kirkwood, 3 and 2. Gene's 72 won the \$100 for the pro low round.

Bill Grimes, turning back the pages to 1921 when he was golf expert of the Boston Evening American, tells of the lively days when Charles River was host to the Massachusetts Open championship, which was one of the major sectional affairs of the nation. Bill's recital of tournament incidents, especially one tale of women's competition, makes very entertaining reading. Helen Berrigan tells of women's golf at the club. Eric Bianchi, co-chairman of the men's golf committee, writes of the club's three pros, John Keenan, then John Bernardi who took over in 1926 for a 20-year term, and the present pro, Einar Andersen. The club has lost trace of Keenan, but in telling of his early work at Charles River, quotes Linde Fowler as saying that in 1925 Keenan used motion pictures in struction. The club gave Bernardi a memorable farewell party when he resigned to become pro at Worcester (Mass.) CC, where he broke into the game as an assistant to Willie Ogg.

Fred Corcoran tells of early tournaments at the club, and features on the winter sports program by Scott Wells, on skeet by Warren Beard, and a piece on the club's presidents and the problems and achievements of their administrations, are among other highlights of the enjoyable and informative chronicle of the first 25 years at a distinguished club.

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Charles River's 17th - - a fine one-shot, 186 yd. hole.

