

# Golf Museum Exhibit in New York Store Window

★ Rare golf books, curios and ancient weapons of the fair green belonging to the St. George's G & C Co., Stony Brook, Long Island, its veteran pro Horace Fulford, and a member collector of such items, Jack Level, were on display in the windows of F. R. Tripler & Co., on Madison Avenue at 46th Street, New York from May 21st to June 1st. The unique display which includes an American book carrying a chapter on golf printed in Philadelphia and dated before the American Revolutionary War was arranged by Fred Stecker of Stony Brook, vice-president of the store.

In the volume for 1770, Benjamin Rush, a friend of Franklin, describes and discusses the Scottish pastime and quotes a Scot dignitary to the effect that golf's health-giving qualities will add 10 years to a person's life. A second exclusively rare unit is dated in the mid 1880's before golf was played in this country. The author of this little volume, believed to be the only copy in the country, urged that Americans take up golf. Other literature embraces a Spalding golf guide from the mid 90's, the first American book of golf instruction dated 1895, the first books of instruction and annuals published abroad and Regiam Majestaten, the Auld Laues and Constitution

of Scotland of the sixteenth century in which it was decreed that "na man sould play at the golfe, under paine of fiftie shillings because it is esteemed to be unprofitable sport for the common gude of the realme and defence thereof." (The British were the better archers and the Scotch kings wanted their brethren to practice at it solely for warring purposes.)

Two balls made of pigskin stuffed with feathers attest to the wisdom of the Scot in looking for a long time for his ball, for the process of golf-ball making in those days was an intricate and expensive one. The Scot would look for a lost sphere for an hour and play his ball to the finish even though the seams gave way. The "featheries" gave way to gutta percha spheres around 1848. The making of balls was one of the chief trades in St. Andrews, the cradle of the game.

The weapons of those days in the exhibit include the demon driver, the long spoon by Forgan of St. Andrews, the short spoon, the approach spoon by Tom Morris, the niblick, the brassie by Forgan and the wooden putter.

Oldtimers will be surprised to find in the collection that the hero of youngsters of the 90's, Frank Merriwell, was a golfer and there are two Tip Top

This Tripler window featured famous figures in golf's history.

*Worsinger photo*





This window of Tripler's golf museum exhibited ancient weapons and curios.

Weeklies with hair-raising golfing stories, one Frank Merriwell's Brassie Shot and the other Frank Merriwell's Cadie, in which the Yale student athlete and daredevil visits St. Andrews.

In the collection are the first magazine article in this country on golf, posters from golf's early days, one of which depicts golfers being arrested on the links for breaking the Sabbath laws by playing on a Sunday, and Kay's Edinburgh Portraits in which there is a chapter devoted to the Cock o' the Green, the most rabid golfer of his day, who even played by candlelight. Once his wife trekked to his course carrying his supper and tried to shame him into leading a normal life, but in vain, the golfingest bug of his day kept right on pelting and chasing his feathery. The early American golfing posters were

mostly of the feminine variety.

According to golf book and curio collector Level of Elmhurst, New York his library has some 3000 volumes devoted to the game and hardly a day goes by but what he makes some new discovery which some day will be of immense value to the golfing historians. The first history and the first bibliography of golf remain to be compiled and the real origin of the game and its early days are still lost in the mists of antiquity.

Also shown is a collection of original creations in putters. Each is of some special design to overcome some real or imaginary fault which has kept the owners from hitting the cup. These rare and interesting golf relics were assembled from the collection of the late Tom McNamara, second in the National Open Championships of 1909, 1912, 1925.

## Les Cooke Dies

★ Leslie L. Cooke, 66, member of USGA executive committee, chmn, Implements and Ball committee, and former pres., Western GA, died June 4 in Evanston (Ill.) hospital following an illness of several weeks. He is survived by his widow, a daughter and 3 sons. He had retired from active business as head of several trade schools some years ago. He was one of the finest gentlemen sportsmen and his passing is a deeply felt loss to the hundreds in golf who enjoyed the delight of his friendship.

## Morley, Greens Vet, Dies

★ John Morley, a founder and for first 6 years president of the National Assn. of Greenkeepers, died recently in a Youngs-

town, O., hospital. He was 79 at time of his death. He came to the U. S. from his native England when he was 11. He was in the steel business and insurance prior to entering club management. He made his appearance in the club business in 1897 as mgr. of the Basslake club, Geauga county, O. In 1915 he went with the Youngstown (O.) CC as supt. of the course, which position he held until his death. He was active in civic and political affairs in Ohio. As an official of the greenkeepers' organization he visited more than 200 courses and was exceedingly helpful with practical advice. Col. Morley was a widely known and beloved leader in greenkeeping. He was vigorous and valuable in golf as a campaigner for high standards of golf course maintenance and due recognition of the qualities and achievements of his brother greenkeepers.