

swing are never any good for a pro, if they stay good any length of time for anyone else.

Being able to play golf seems to run in families, across the grain rather than down it. That is, there are many families of golfing brothers, I belong to one myself, but there are few father and sons who are pros. That combination of traits of sportsman, small business man, and glad-hander for the club evidently doesn't look so good from the second generation.

#### Who is Good Teacher?

A teacher is a person who knows some subject so well that he can talk it in simple language, and pull it all apart and answer all the whys that any number of bright pupils can think up. A good golf teacher has watched all the mistakes in the swing some time or other, and has stopped to analyze each of them. That is the reason why a man who plays a great game is not necessarily a great teacher, unless the pupil is young enough to be a good imitator, and all his muscle cells gladly repeat, "Monkey see, monkey do."

To every golfer there is always the lure of other courses. Architects build greens with a particular shot in mind. The size of bunkers, contours, and the opening of the green are planned in relation to it. The golfer picks up this mental image as he views the course, and his fingers itch to get the right club and try his luck with that shot. A pro should be able to see whether each of the holes at his course has that come-hither look to golfers. He is not a golf architect, but he is the greenkeeping expert who can test the golf allure of each hole and say why it fails. And he knows enough about the game his club members play to help them, when they are planning a golfing trip, to find courses offering golf shots most challenging to them.

#### Keeping at Study

For the last two years I have lost my shop assistants because I have sent them to Amherst, Mass. to take the ten weeks greenkeeping course. A man should offer special skill to any job he makes his life work. Ability to play golf is not enough, and becoming a good teacher or merchandiser is a matter of observation and of applying the experience of others. Nowadays any boy who wants to be a golf pro should study greenkeeping in addition to dreaming of winning the National Championship. I study the notes the boys bring back, because, after 30 years, I can't face pretending to be a school boy again.

When Scotland told me after six years of training that I was now a qualified golf pro and club maker, I came to the United States where golf was new. Through the years I have watched the

word pro come to mean nothing but money in the hand. Don't think for a minute that any man from Scotland will belittle that, but the pro business has wallowed in a mess of uncertainties of aims and qualifications.

In 1919, I met with other young pros at the Copley Square Hotel in Boston to talk over the forming of our Professional Golfers Association. It is a satisfaction to remember that it was formed, not as a squabble over rights or a labor and capital battle, but to improve the standards of training of the pros themselves.

My brother George had preceded me to this country and settled at the Wanne-moisett CC in Providence, R.I., where he has stayed for 38 years. Glenna Collett was a skinny teen-ager there and a friend of my sister Elizabeth. We three Gordon boys had our turns at helping Glenna keep that left arm straight and her eyes on the ball, no matter what ours might be doing. My brother Jack went to Buffalo, N.Y. and I have wandered from the White Mountains to the Blue Ridge.

Anyone who started the game with wood shafted clubs may have used some made by MacDonald Smith, Freddie Martin, Harold Calloway and myself. Freddie Martin is now at White Sulphur and Harold Calloway is at Pinehurst. We four worked winters in New York at club making. We were always broke, always ready for any competitive match, and always sure that golf was the game in this game of life.

I have an old Glasgow newspaper clipping that describes me as the youngest pro in Scotland. Wait long enough and maybe I can shakily produce another one describing me as the oldest pro in the United States. But no, at that time I'll let them write has-been before my name and leave me to enjoy playing the game. I'll let them take their hooks and slices and dirty clubs to some one else.

#### Northwest Greenkeepers Plan Spring Meet

Greenkeepers Club of the Northwest met Feb. 20 at Seattle, planning the third annual turf conference which will be held at Washington State college, Pullman, March 29-30. Park supt. Brousseau of Spokane and John Harrison of Hayden Lake (Ida.) CC, met with Northwest Pres. Joe Greco, vp Howard Williams and sec.-treas. Glenn Proctor and fellow members in going over the conference program and arranging to have large attendance of greenkeepers and park officials in the Pacific Northwest.

The Northwest members looked around at Seattle courses, got in some play on the Foster course and were guests of Ivan W. Lee, equipment dealer, prior to their business meeting.