

# L. B. Icely, Golf Leader, Dies

Lawrence Blaine Icely, 65, for 32 years pres., Wilson Sporting Goods Co., died Aug. 8 at Presbyterian hospital, Chicago, following an operation. Icely had been ailing for several years and had bounced back from several severe sessions. He seemed to be convalescing amazingly well from the operation when a blood clot suddenly developed.

He was born at Leaf River, Ill., Nov. 22, 1884 and was educated in Chicago public schools. In 1907 he married Kathryn Flynn who, with their daughter, and two sisters, survives him.

Icely first became active in the sports goods business with the Spalding organization. He came from work on the west coast to form the Wilson company as a phase of Thomas E. Wilson's operations and developed that company into major standing in the industry. Icely was a tremendous worker and kept in close touch with all internal elements of the Wilson business through a steady program of expansion as well as giving generously of his time, effort and ability to the promotion of sports and the growth and stabilization of the sports goods industry. He was a leading factor in the organization of the Athletic Institute and the National Golf Foundation and during World War II worked wisely and diligently in coordinating sports activities with the war effort.

In so many activities he sacrificed his personal convenience and comfort to contribute to the general advancement of the industry in which he was engaged. In a keenly competitive field he rejoiced in the well merited respect and admiration of men who were business rivals but companions in the common cause of promoting the national pursuit of happiness.

More than any other one man Icely was responsible for the development of young men and women in highly successful careers in professional athletics. Golf, in particular, saw Icely as a kindly and helpful counsellor to Gene Sarazen, Patty Berg, Sam Snead and dozens of other youngsters who grew into fame and fortune as his proteges. Personally, and in his official capacity, he was a true friend of professional and amateur golf. In numerous critical spots his judgment and cash helped pro golfers.

He had magnificent poise and humor that eased many a tense situation. He never missed a chance to help. He got out of a hospital last November to attend the PGA national convention at Southern Pines and never let it be known that he was a sick man until he had to be flown back to Chicago for treatment.



Lawrence Blaine Icely

L. B. Icely probably would have been around now if he hadn't worked so hard for all of us in his life-long campaign of preaching the gospel of sports as a counter-balance for the strains of high-pressure American life. But he liked that strenuous program and glorified in building up a big business from a tennis string start. So he lived every minute of a crowded life of achievement.

## Walter Ring Dies in New Rochelle

Walter Ring, widely known for his sales work in golf, died Aug. 19 of a hemorrhage, after a day's confinement in a New Rochelle, N.Y., hospital. Ring had attended the Tam O'Shanter tournaments at Chicago as a representative of Fred Corcoran, arranging details of the Women's PGA tournament program and becoming ill had flown to his home in New Rochelle. He had suffered from a stomach trouble for some years.

Ring, a native of Boston, became a star salesman of sports goods while selling roller skates. He then switched to golf and was with the L. A. Young Golf Co. when the Walter Hagen line was being established and later was with the Goldsmith organization, then with Dunlop. During the war he was in government work at Washington and after the war handled lines of sports goods prior to his engagement by Corcoran for tournament promotion work.

He is survived by his widow, a daughter and a son. Burial was at Boston.

Walter Ring was a beloved character of whom cheerful tales will be told in golf business for many years to come and whose passing is sharply lamented by the thousands fortunate enough to have known him.