

Harlow, Gentleman Sportsman, Made Golf History

By HERB GRAFFIS

WHEN Bob Harlow passed an era in golf ended.

Harlow was the man who made tournament golf big business. He charted the path to glory and riches for the army that came after Hagen. Hagen was the first to blithely parade through the social barrier that separated professional athletes from the amateurs and the spectators in the old days.

When the news of Bob's death was telephoned to Hagen by Eddie Rankin, the deeply grieved Hagen said "I'd never got where I did if it hadn't been for Bob."

That tribute might well be echoed by all tournament golfers.

Bob was the first man to make a full career of promoting professional golf play. He was an excellent newspaperman and to his last day was the best reporter of golf who saw a story and told it brightly and accurately in type.

Prior to Harlow's specialization in tournament golf the exhibition bookings and tournament promotions were handled as sidelines. Bob quit his newspaper work in 1921 and devoted himself exclusively to the job of managing Hagen and Joe Kirkwood.

Hagen won the British Open four times and the US PGA championship five times when he and Harlow were teammates. With Harlow ahead of the show Kirkwood was brought into golf history and fortune with an entirely new and fascinating phase of the game, the trick golf act.

Bob Harlow was a gentleman sportsman of the very highest type. His integrity, charm, ingenuity and vitality drew to him a multitude of friends whose lives he enriched. It was upon the older ones of those good golfing companions he relied in introducing Hagen as a marvelous golfer with the social graces to enliven smug and dull society.

It was the debonair Hagen and the astute management of Harlow that brought sports, finance and society together in a way that the shrewd Tex Rickard noted and adapted in gathering those loosely known as "The Hundred Millionaires." That promotion touch made boxing the

rich industry it became prior to the 1929 panic. Boxing, the scum of sports business, could make brief but gigantically profitable employment of the discovery made by Harlow in sensing the change of social conditions.

Bob battled unremittingly to keep golf unsullied by the filth of big money gambling and threw punches at the menace of the extravagant Calcuttas. He was a realist who knew men like to gamble but he also was a realist who knew that the hustlers and the hopeless unprincipled would have to be objects of ceaseless vigilance.

Harlow developed tournament golf far more than any other one man when he became the first full-time manager of the PGA tournament bureau. He didn't draw much more than a star caddie's salary and expenses when he went into that tough assignment.

By tremendous enthusiasm, determination and resourcefulness he established tournament golf when the going was the roughest possible. He laid the foundation so well that the game was bound to grow as economic conditions improved and the general interest in golf grew. No one will more fervently endorse the superb job Bob did in getting tournament golf under a full head of steam than his successor, Fred Corcoran.

Bob Harlow, a son of a clergyman who was one of the noblest of modest Americans, was a missionary at heart. Bob's push was accountable to a great degree for the Ryder Cup matches as a fixture, for a great deal of the growth of international relations between American and foreign pro stars, and not many months before his death he came up with the idea of having U. S. and European juniors competing, which dream he saw brought to a thoroughly happy realization in the visit of US juniors to play against European youngsters, financed by some of the National Golf Day proceeds.

He also was a strenuous campaigner for a national Seniors' championship under the auspices of the USGA and he lived to see that competition set as a fixture on the USGA calendar.

Bob was a fellow of infinite, overwhelming earnestness and he was sublimely indifferent to odds against him. When he thought that bringing a team of Japanese pros over here for exhibitions and tournaments under PGA sponsorship would be a valuable missionary job for friendly international sports relations he put that deal across on fiscal peanuts. With a secondhand car and battered trailer Bob drove his Nipponese charges around the country, booking exhibitions and dropping his boys into tournaments. He stretched pennies until they were a brassie-shot long but he got the tour concluded successfully.

And with Bob's exciting driving you may be sure the Jap players' nerves were put to the supreme test before they got on the first tees.

When Bob started his news weekly, *Golf World*, my brother Joe and I were among those who were absolutely certain it would go over, not only because of Bob's genius, acquaintanceship and determination but because in Bob's adored wife, Lillian, he had exactly the brilliantly talented business management he needed for his commercial affairs. Bob and Lillian were one of the very greatest of teams, to which my wife and I who have spent hundreds of unforgettably merry hours with them can testify in bright memories.

Lillian will carry on *Golf World* in the sound pattern that Bob set. It will be a lasting success. There never will be another Bob Harlow but Tom O'Neil, his long-time newspaper associate and golfing companion knew Bob's spirit and ambitions and golf news connections. He will carry on capably. The paper has a competent balanced staff. Furthermore everyone who had the great job of being a friend of Bob will make sure that his soul goes marching on in the paper that he built.

On golf courses, at operas, at race tracks, at football games, on trains, planes, ships and in automobiles, in lockerrooms, hotels, bars and in those places where he was the supreme authority — excellent restaurants — in homes, clubs, art galleries, churches, movies, press tents, sports departments, and anywhere else, Bob Harlow was the heart's own comrade.

Many have been and will be more ancient than Bob and the ancient and honorable game of enjoying life to the fullest but nobody ever will be more honorable.

Agronomy Society Turfgrass Section Details Progress

AT MEETINGS of the American Society of Agronomy in St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 8-12, the Turfgrass Committee delivered a written report for later publication in the *Agronomy Journal*. A series of Kodachrome slides were presented to the meeting of the Crop Science Division. Dr. Fred V. Grau, Chairman of the Turfgrass Committee, made the Kodachrome presentation, using slides furnished by members of his committee.

Slides depicted highlights of turfgrass work at various centers over the country. Some of the features included: grass identification in teaching, grass breeding and testing, weed control, new equipment, mixtures of grasses, irrigation, depth of rooting, new and improved grasses, soil cultivation, work on putting greens, a new legume for erosion control, work on fertilizers and many other phases.

The written report featured a listing of graduate students, current research studies and needed lines of investigation, the Turfgrass Survey for Los Angeles County, Calif., new grasses and legumes released, new chemicals for weed control, and publications.

The meeting of Division XI, Turfgrass Management, under the chairmanship of W. H. Daniel, Purdue, featured papers by Duich and Musser on Penngift Crown Vetch for erosion control on highway slopes; by Jim Watson on warm-season grasses in Minnesota; by Bill Daniel on poa annua control with arsenic; and by Musser on syn-o seed of creeping bentgrass.

At the business session of Division XI the nominating committee of Marvin Ferguson and Jack Harper proposed the name of Charles G. Wilson as Co-Chairman of Division XI for 1955. There were no other nominations. The Co-Chairman is chosen to assist the Chairman with local arrangements. Watson is the Chairman of Division XI for 1955. The meetings will be held at Davis, Calif. in August.

Members of the Turfgrass Committee for 1955 are: Kling Anderson, W. H. Daniel, J. A. DeFrance, R. E. Engel, M. H. Ferguson, R. M. Hagan, C. K. Hollowell, O. J. Noer, H. B. Musser, J. C. Harper, G. C. Nutter, H. H. Rampton, A. G. Law, V. T. Stoutemyer, J. R. Watson and F. V. Grau.