

Charles F. Robbins, Spalding Chief, Dies in New Haven

Charles F. Robbins, 70, chmn., board of directors of A. G. Spalding & Bros., Inc. and president of Spalding from 1933 until being elected board chairman in July, 1952, died Sept. 8 in the Grace-New Haven hospital.

He resided at Llewellyn Park, N. J. He



Charles F. Robbins

was on a vacation at Cape Cod when he was stricken, then taken to New Haven. He had been in failing health for several months and after undergoing a major surgical operation came back into limited action until shortly before his death.

Mr. Robbins was born in Indianapolis, July 6, 1886. He graduated from Yale in 1907. After mining and brokerage work he joined Spalding in 1915. He came up as credit manager, store manager, and asst. treasurer and vp before being elected to the presidency.

He also was a director of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co. and the National Blank Book Co.

He was married to Elizabeth Brown in 1919. Surviving are the widow; three sons, Charles F., jr., William B. and Walter S. and six grandchildren.

He was a member of the Yale Club of

New York, the Rock Springs GC, the Orange Lawn Tennis Club and a vp and director of the YMCA of the Oranges and Maplewood to which gifts in his memory were sent by his family's request.

Moved Up in Depression

Charley Robbins came into Spalding's top management when the depression had sports goods business in general suffering and Spalding not immune to the woes. When he eased up in 1952 to travel with Mrs. Robbins and otherwise enjoy himself free from the daily schedule of business he could relax in the satisfaction of having brought his company from the low of a nation-wide slump to high, strong condition.

Charley Robbins was warmly regarded by men in the sports goods business as a successful, honorable businessman, a sincere friend and vigorous and keen promotion factor. Especially in the golf field did his contemporaries rate him as a man of valuable foresight and wholehearted co-operation.

He crystallized the golf club and ball manufacturers' discussions about the policy-making which led to the National Golf Foundation making its primary effort the promotion of new courses, a program which has been notably productive.

Sponsors Split With PGA in Hassle About Money

Sponsors of a number of the older "fixtures" on the PGA Tournament circuit and the PGA Tournament Bureau have parted company.

The 16-year-old Palm Beach Round Robin tournament which has cost its sponsors in excess of \$1,000,000, yielded about \$600,000 to New York suburban hospitals and paid approximately \$30,000 to the PGA welfare and educational and Tournament Bureau funds, has been cancelled by mutual consent of the Tournament Bureau and Palm Beach because the tournament group disapproved of the limitation of the Round Robin field.

Jay Hebert and Dow Finsterwald, representing the tournament players, announced that the Palm Beach event was off the 1958 calendar because its field was restricted almost at the same time J. Edwin Carter, Tournament Bureau mgr. for the PGA, issued a press release telling of an agreement with George S. May to limit the May World's Championship field.

Carter announced that May had decided to allow the PGA to retain entry fees to May's All-American in lieu of a service fee. The All American fees "last year" according to the PGA release "exceeded \$9000 for men professionals only."