



Colonial clockmaker practiced his trade here 170 years ago.

**Built in 1790**

## **Connecticut Pro Operates in a Shop with A Tradition**

By **BOB BODINGTON**

The Country Club, Farmington, Conn.

**M**Y pro shop at The Country Club, in Farmington, Conn., has old New England written all over it and you only have to close your eyes to imagine that one of these bright days Nathaniel Hawthorne or maybe an old whaling captain from New Bedford is going to walk in and ask you to get his clubs out of the rack.

"The Little Red Shop", as it is known to everyone around Farmington, doesn't have much written history behind it, as far as I have been able to determine. But it may be the oldest pro shop building in the country. It has been established that it was built in 1790 as a clockmaker's shop. Five years later, a show window

was put in to display the clocks manufactured by a Gabriel Curtis. The window, with its 32 sashes (see photo), never has been changed.

About three generations after the turn of the 18th century, the shop was moved to Waterville Rd. in Farmington, just a short distance from the present 18th fairway. In 1936, when Arthur Reid was our pro, the building was moved to its present location near the first tee.

When Russ Ebbets was pro at The Country Club in 1953, an addition was built on the back of the shop to expand the club storage area. This was done in the salt box tradition which, they tell me, is the name of the original design.

Since I took over in 1956, the interior of the shop has been improved considerably with the installation of rubber tile flooring, pegboard display areas and two sets of movable shelves. The place, of course, isn't as large as I'd like to have it (what pro is ever satisfied with the size of his shop?) but then you don't take any liberties with an historic old building such as the Little Red by starting to knock out the walls or anything like that.

We have 640 sq. ft. of floor space for



Farmington shop is small, but wise use of space enables pro to display large stock.

displaying from \$8,000 to \$10,000 worth of golf merchandise and storing about 110 sets of clubs. But it can be done! We utilize every available nook and cupboard and by keeping everything neatly in place, keep the shop from looking cluttered. The addition of a partition between the front end and storage area has, for instance, given me a club display spot in the sales room and space for a work bench in the rear of the shop. Such things as small to medium size cabinets and racks built into the walls and pipes bolted onto the walls (i.e. for displaying slacks, shorts, jackets, etc.) give us fine space economy and thus sufficient room.

At any rate, the shop is large and pleasant enough to make members want to come in and browse around. And that is just what I want!

### 2nd Philadelphia PGA Show

Philadelphia Section of the PGA will hold its second annual golf show, Apr. 13, at the Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia. It is expected that 3,000 persons will attend the clinics conducted by local PGA members. Several golf manufacturers and distributors will have displays at the show. About 100 pros will be on hand to instruct or assist in putting the exhibition over.



Bob Bodington with upright rack that holds about 50 doz. golf balls.

### Pro Shop Location

There always will be some question as to whether it is better to have a pro shop in the clubhouse or away from it and close to first tee. But one pro, who formerly had his shop in the clubhouse and now has a fine new shop away from it and close to first tee, says he is sold on having the shop in the clubhouse where it is handy for golfers to drop in after a round and do some shopping. His reason: golfers often are in too much of a hurry to get to the first tee to spend much time in the shop, and after finishing a round, go directly to the clubhouse.