

The PGA's Golf Instruction Program

By HAROLD SARGENT

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Among the varied activities of the Professional Golfers' Association of America are a number which keep our member professionals informed about their everyday functions and new methods and innovations which will benefit both them and their club members. The PGA's "Teaching Program," of which the writer is Chairman, is among the major activities of this nature.

Judging from present-day conditions, the research work done by the PGA in the field of golf instruction throughout the years has been of great benefit to not only the members of the Association but also the golfing public, by bringing to them, through their club professionals, a better understanding of the golf swing and of how the game should be played. These things have also been done with an eye to attracting new adherents to the game and making it more enjoyable.

This work has been done with the aid of slow motion pictures, clinics at tournaments which are co-sponsored by the PGA, the "playing" or "tournament" professional, group instruction at high schools and colleges, published articles, including the many which are devoted to this activity in the Association's monthly publication, *THE PROFESSIONAL GOLFER*, and the many golf clinics held annually by the 30 local Sections of the PGA for their individual members. Supplementing these are clinics held at our national meetings.

These activities have required many hours of effort, together with what may be designated as a very substantial expenditure when it is considered that



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virtually the only source of revenue available is the dues of members. For example, the PGA spent some \$10,000 in 1930 to film the great golf swings of Bob Jones, Harry Vardon and Joyce Wethered. This venture, incidentally, was one of the first real steps in our search for knowledge as to how our great players swing the golf club. Since then, many more films have been added to the film library which is available to all PGA members and to the members of their clubs.

Other efforts in furtherance of this program culminated in 1950 with another outstanding achievement — the publication of *PGA Teachers' Guide*, which involved an expenditure of several thousand dollars and which was furnished to all PGA members without charge. This work, which consisted of 81 pages with appropriate illustrations, included articles about the golf swing, special types of shots and other subjects of related interest, which had appeared in *THE PROFESSIONAL GOLFER* over a period of some eight years. A number of these articles were published under the names of leading present-day stars.

A "Bible" of Golf Instruction

These examples provide a fairly comprehensive idea of the magnitude of this program and of the assistance which it has brought to PGA professionals and the members of their clubs.

At the same time, we realize that the work done thus far represents only a start. However, in process of consideration at this time is another innovation — a "bible" of Golf Instruction for the PGA member. Although this will consume a tremendous amount of time, it is cited here as another example of the continuation of our work through the 3,000 members of the PGA and as added assurance of our intention to carry on at an even more accelerated rate.