

A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF TEACHING GOLF

by

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"THOM'S ELBOW", located a short distance from the 14th tee of the Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, in Southampton, N. Y., is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Thom. Mr. Thom, a rugged, handsome native of Scotland, is the golf professional at Shinnecock. He has held that position for 50 years.

The Shinnecock Hills Golf Club was one of five charter member clubs who formed the USGA on December 22, 1894.

The welcome mat is always out at "Thom's Elbow" and those who make their way across it are numerous; for Charlie Thom has taught three generations of Shinnecock golfers the knack of playing the game.

A short time ago Charlie Thom celebrated his 50th anniversary as professional at Shinnecock. Members of the club, many of whom are his former students, feted Charlie and presented him with a gold watch.

A native of Montrose, Angus County, Scotland, Charlie was born in 1880. Like most young Scots, he was playing the game soon after he could walk. He learned the art of club making under James Winton, then came to America in 1898. His first job was with Spaulding-Bidwell Co., in New York, where he was a club maker by day and a teacher by evening. The latter job paid fifty cents per lesson, plus a fifty cent dinner allowance.

In 1900 he became assistant to Willie Davis, then professional at the Apawamis Club, Rye, N. Y. His next job was as professional at the Lennox Country Club in Lennox, Mass., in 1902. In 1906 he moved to Shinnecock and has been there ever since.

Open Competitor

As a contestant, Charlie played in several of the early USGA Open Champion-



CHARLES D. THOM

ships. In his first attempt he finished seventh in the 1902 Open at Garden City Golf Club, Garden City, N. Y. He tied for seventh place in 1910. He was at the Country Club, in Brookline, Mass., when Francis Ouimet scored his famous victory over Vardon and Ray in 1913. His final appearances in the Open were in 1920, 1921 and 1922.

A hale and hearty 76 years of age, Charles Thom is looking forward to his second 50 years at Shinnecock. However, there will be a trip to New Zealand this winter for some fishing. When the winter snows trickle away he will be back at Shinnecock. The fourth generation may need a few lessons from Charles D. Thom.