

CELEBRITIES PICTURED IN GIFT TO "GOLF HOUSE"

H. B. Martin
collection added
to Museum

The image of the golfing celebrity intrigues the American sporting public. Something within the psyche of the fan responds warmly to the sight of renowned athletes from other sports and theatrical personalities playing the game in their leisure moments.

Promoters, noticing this phenomenon, have begun to capitalize on it. "Celebrity Golf," the television series, and the success of the annual baseball players' golf championship, which draws galleries larger than some major league games do, are recent examples.

This interest in the celebrity-golfer is certainly not new. After World War I, the famous and near-famous discovered golf and flocked to courses where they were invariably noticed and photographed.

Hollywood press agents were soon issuing photos of starlets with beguiling

captions such as: "Brenda Dawn, soon to appear in 'Frivolities of 1928,' relaxes on the links." It was apparent that the young lady's high heels would not endear her to the course superintendent.

A Gift of Rare Photos

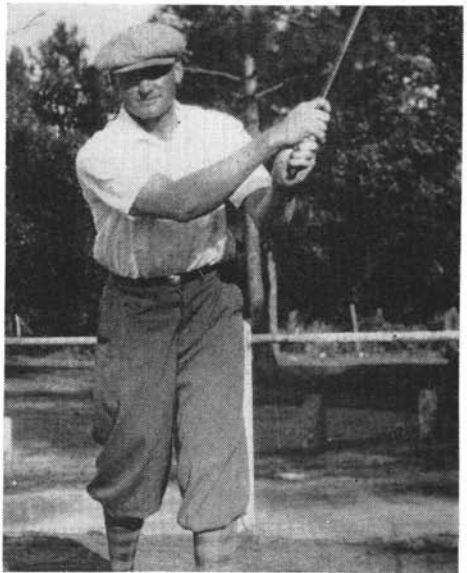
Other celebrities took to the game wholeheartedly. Many became fine players. "Golf House" has lately been enhanced by a gift that includes a rare collection of informal snapshots of celebrities playing golf during that era which began at the end of World War I and closed with the onset of the depression.

Pictures from this series depicting four of baseball's most hallowed figures accompany this article.

The United States Golf Association is grateful to Gould Martin, Executive Secretary of the National Football Foundation, for this gift from the collection of his father, the late H. B. Martin.



Connie Mack



Walter Johnson

The gift shows that the versatile H. B. Martin, a gifted cartoonist, journalist and golf historian, was also adept with a camera. Most of the photos in the scrapbook were taken by him at resorts.

Also included in the gift are 22 books most of them long since out of print; a set of four instructional color drawings by H. B. Martin, other scrapbooks containing golf clippings and verse, and a buckle emblematic of membership in the Stone Crab Golf Society of Florida's Belleair Club.

The collection of snapshots is by no means confined to baseball stars. A random flip of pages will reveal Charlie Paddock, nattily attired in knickers and two-toned golf shoes, following through after a tee shot. H. B. Martin's caption tells us that Paddock had set the world's record of 9.6 seconds in the 100-yard dash.

Other glances will show those two great captors of the American idiom, Ring Lardner and George Ade, ready to begin a round; the fun-loving boxer Young Stribling in a gag shot with a wood in his hands and a ball balanced on the head of a caddie; Gene Sarazen, cigar in mouth, delivering a left hook to the chin of a grinning Gene Tunney; and Wal-



Babe Ruth

ter Hagen drawing a laugh from the Prince of Wales after winning the British Open in 1922.

And so it goes, this pictorial treasure chest of an era which, viewed from the vantage point of the complex '60s, appears simple, charming and irrevocably lost.

H. B. Martin's photos will be stored in the files at Golf House with more than 10,000 other prints portraying virtually every phase of the game. His books will be added to the library which now houses nearly 4,000 volumes.

The Museum and Library in "Golf House," which opened its doors ten years ago, have been built up by contributions from golf-lovers over the world.

Permanent exhibits of historical value are on display—clubs used by Champions, such as Robert T. Jones, Jr.'s famous putter "Calamity Jane II;" a fine collection of other clubs, balls, medals, portraits, documents and a club-maker's bench, circa 1904, an authentic reproduction from its spring-jaw vise to its tea chest.

"Golf House" is open Monday through Friday from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. Visitors are welcome to browse at their leisure.



Ty Cobb