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The Jowett Scholarship

A Gift That Keeps on Giving

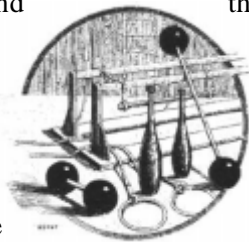
Several weeks ago, just as we were finishing this issue of *Iron Game History*, we received via registered mail an unexpected surprise. As we opened the letter, which was from a law firm in Ontario, we learned that the late Phyllis Jowett, the only child of George F. and Bessie Jowett, had left instructions in her will that \$20,000 of her estate should go to the University of Texas in Austin. She wanted the money to be used to establish the George Fuisdale Jowett and Phyllis Frances Jowett Scholarship. The scholarship will reside in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, and will be associated with the Todd-McLean Physical Culture Collection and the Roy J. McLean Research Fellowship in Sport History. A check for \$20,000 was enclosed.

Phyllis Jowett stipulated that the money was to be placed in an interest-bearing account. She also stipulated that some or all of the interest generated by the money was to be used each year to support students who were concentrating on the areas in which her father made such important and lasting contributions. To say we were touched and grateful is, of course, an understatement. We had spoken often to Phyllis in her later years, and we made one memorable trip to visit her home in Morrisburg in the summer of 1995 to pick up some of George's equipment and papers. She wanted those photos, clippings, garments,

belts, and weights to reside in our Physical Culture Collection and be in the company of all the other artifacts of the game he loved.

Phyllis was a charming, genteel woman, and we spent a wonderful day in her company listening to reminiscences about life with her famous and talented father. Her mother's family was from the area around the small town of Morrisburg near the Saint Lawrence River, which divides Ontario from New York State and flows into Lake Ontario. George and Bessie settled there more or less permanently just before World War II. At the time of our visit, Phyllis lived in a modest brick home, but for many years she lived with her parents at Trelawney, a beautiful eighteenth-century estate hard by the banks of the Saint Lawrence. It must have been a good life, as she remembered it so fondly, laughing with pleasure as she recounted the later years of her father's life, during which he played a very active role in local politics and filled their home with hundreds of books on a variety of subjects.

Phyllis had wide-ranging interests, and a solid education. Her first degree was a Bachelor of Arts from Queens College in Kingston, Ontario. She also received a degree in nursing from McGill University in Montreal and a degree in Music from the University of Toronto. For many years, she taught Physical Educa-



tion and Music at the Morrisburg Collegiate Institute. She was also the organist at the local Anglican church, supported a variety of causes in the field of nature conservation, owned and rode horses, published numerous articles in both local and national newspapers and magazines, pursued a variety of sports, and was an expert in antiques.

Without question, George F. Jowett was one of the giants of the iron game during the twentieth century. He was the key player in the founding of the Amer-

ican Continental Weight Lifting Association, in the growth of the Milo Barbell Company, and in the early successes of the York Barbell Company and the Weider publishing empire. For him to have a university scholarship endowed in his honor and given each year to a deserving student of physical culture seems an entirely fitting thing. We invite anyone who would like to contribute to the Jowett Scholarship Fund or to establish a similar fund in honor of another iron game figure to do so.

—**Terry Todd**