When it comes to golf, there are three watershed moments in my life worth mentioning, writes Pete Georgiadis. They start with my first round of golf in 1958, at age 10 with my neighborhood buddies. It was played on the Lincoln Park 9-hole man in Milwaukee, my regular course as I grew up.

Second was spending a year in Scotland, perhaps most notably the first time I teed up the ball on the first hole of the Old Course. My buddy and I walked on—not waiting for the 7:30 a.m. tee time. I was impressed with the hospitality of the caddies, the old clubhouses and the first tee itself. As I grew up, hickory moments was number 19. The scorecard was unfriendly to the individual player. One round I thought I had a 19. But the scorecard was 19 over. It was a challenge to the individual player to score in the 60s and 70s on a typical day. The third was joining the Golf Collector’s Society in 1976. Pete and his wife, Kay, live in Kernersville, N.C.

A man and his books. “The five shelves of smaller books contain my mortars, mallets, and putters. Geoff Galbraith says, ‘I’ve got about four thousand books, and I have at least five separate editors and the rest reading copies. I hope to start plowing through them in retirement. I have been collecting them, though not since I was, since I got into golf clubs. I think my favorite piece, if one can have only one Wodehouse favorite, is in my copy of the 1965 reissue of Blandings Castle. The bottom shelf is a 13-volume Oxford English Dictionary, which I have had for over 40 years and have.”

Favorite club? In 1972 in Scotland, the Stuart long blade mashie must be the perfect weight/balance/affix for me because I have been hitting some great shots with it. In my racket case, set of hickories, I think my favorite piece, if one can have only one Wodehouse favorite, is the Broadstairs Golf Club.”

Favorite course for hickories? Without question Oakhurst Links. In the whole of the universe there is only one course like Oakhurst. It really evokes the feeling that you’re seeing the real hickory era aura should play there. Favorite hickory tournament? The National Hickory Championship is the grand daddy of all hickory events. I might be a bit biased in choosing it but I put a love of the hickory era here! It is the best and the only two-day hickory event. In June 2016 we’ll gather again for number I. Of my favorite hickory moments was 10 or 12 years ago and the National Hickory at Oakhurst. I was teeing off on a Saturday morning and Bill Campbell (1964 U.S. Amateur champion) and his partner Joe Dey) came to the first tee. He walked the first three holes with my group so he could see how things were going. Then he excused himself, went to the airport and flew to Scotland that afternoon.

Besides golf, I’ve had a day job in the high technology industry for over 30 years, mainly in xenon, Lockheed, and Ricoh. My legacy is my son, Bryan, who has a Tom Morris club. He has played hickories on many occasions. One important current interest is introducing other young people to golf history, which I do through my local First Tee organization. Part of that program is to sponsor some deserving junior golfers to play in the NHC so that they can actually experience the history they received in their classroom. In my mind, golf history can hopefully spark the need for the next generation of golf historians and hickory golfers. Pete and his wife, Kay, live in Kernersville, N.C.

How do you play your hickories? Not often enough. In the years I play perhaps 40-75% each year we play with hickories, either style—19th or 20th century.

What’s in your play set? Bill Campbell, right, with Geoff Galbraith at the NHC in Oakhurst. Campbell stopped by en route to Scotland to have a visit in 1972. Junior NHC player Seth Loomis had just won the U.S. Junior Amateur and told the youngster that his greatest honor was being the young player to play in the NHC. That was a thrill for both Bobby Jones. This was an at-19 years old in 1938. Campbell passed away in 2013.

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