Finally, the LPGA established the Patty Berg Award in 1978 to be granted to a person for outstanding contributions to women's golf. Despite hip surgery in 1980, Berg continues to be active, promoting the game and working with children.

“One purpose of our coveted Old Tom Morris Award,” said GCSAA President Eugene D. Baston, CGCS, “is to help identify golf course superintendents with the true heritage and traditional founding of the game. Patty Berg indeed has contributed immensely to our sport and industry. We honor Patty Berg as we present her with our award — and she in turn honors us by accepting it.

GCSAA established the Old Tom Morris Award in 1983. The first recipient was Arnold Palmer. Bob Hope was the second. In 1985, the honor went to former United States President Gerald Ford.

Dinah! Is There Anyone Finah!

To present the “Old Tom” Morris Award that is ... Dinah Shore (herself an accomplished golfer) has accepted the invitation from GCSAA to present Patty Berg with this prestigious and unique award at the closing banquet for the GCSAA's 1986 International Conference & Show in San Francisco, CA.

This will be the fourth time the GCSAA has presented the “Old Tom” Morris Award. It is presented to, in the words of The Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America, “That individual who, through a continuing, selfless commitment to the game of golf, has helped to further the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by “Old Tom” Morris.”

Patty Berg as this year's recipient will join a small group of the world's truly great golfers who have been given this international award. The first “Old Tom” Morris Award was presented to Arnold Daniel Palmer at the GCSAA's 1983 International Turfgrass Conference & Show in Atlanta, GA. Palmer in turn presented the award to Bob Hope at the closing banquet of the Las Vegas 1984 Conference. On that memorable night Hope re-marked, “I knew Arnie was here; I saw his tractor parked outside.” President Gerald Ford was chosen to receive the third “Old Tom Morris award in 1985, the presentation was made during the Washington, D.C. Conference & Show.

Patty Berg will become the fourth recipient of the “Old Tom” Morris award, while at the same time though, she will be a first. Patty will be the first woman to be so honored and there could be no finer lady than Dinah Shore to make this presentation.

Editor's Note: See related story on page 26.