Taconic Brings Up Top Replacements for Dick Baxter

The board of directors of Taconic GC, Williamstown, Mass., recently announced that Rudy Goff will succeed Dick Baxter as professional this spring.

The new supt. is Stanley (Twig) Tworig, who has been chief of the Taconic grounds crew since 1927. Dick Baxter retired last fall as Taconic’s pro-supt. after 40 years. He had also coached the Williams College golf team during most of this time.

Dick and his wife, Denise, who had helped him run the Taconic course, located on the Williams campus, were “piped out” in fitting fashion at a dinner held in the Williams Inn in mid-November. Nearly 150 persons attended the affair, with every golf group in the Northeast being represented. On the day preceding the dinner, Taconic members and Williams alumni joined in unveiling a huge rock and plaque, located on the first tee, honoring Dick and his wife.

Homespun Drama

Praise and prizes were heaped on Dick and Mrs. Baxter at the dinner. A homespun “This Is Your Life, Dick Baxter” was enacted by members and alumni and was recorded on film and taped as a remembrance for Taconic’s favorite team. Every association in New England joined in paying tribute to the Baxters and a half dozen golf notables added their after-dinner accolades.

Gifts ranged from leather portfolios to a movie projector to an oil painting of Dick’s favorite Taconic hole, and a beautiful embossed purse for Mrs. Baxter in which was placed a sizeable check for each of the honored guests.

Shortly after the ceremonies at Taconic, Dick and his wife departed on a trip to Australia.

By ED TOOLE

Taconic’s Tworigs, one and all, are of championship caliber. They include Stan, Sr., who was Dick Baxter’s loyal and silent partner at the Williams college course for 36 years, and Stan’s three
children — Stan, Jr., Irene and Dick. Of Stan, the unassuming assistant supt. at Taconic since the course was built in 1926, "Bax" often said: "He deserves as much credit as I for making Taconic the wonderful layout that it is."

Irene, who has played in the USGA’s Women Amateur, has a record of never having been defeated in the Junior Championships of the Allied Golf Clubs of Berkshire county. She holds Taconic’s women’s record — a 74. Stan, Jr. was the first winner of the Berkshire Interscholastic Championship in 1949. The same year, Irene won the school girl championship and held on to it for another three years. In 1950, Dick succeeded Stan as the Interscholastic titleholder and two years later he won the tournament again.

Back around the early ’50s, Dick played with Dick Baxter in a pro-am at nearby Mt. St. Anthony CC and set a course record. Soon after this he established Taconic’s low score of 30-37-67. Only Tommy Aaron, playing in the 1958 National Intercollegiate (NCAA), has equalled it.

Raised on Course

Today, Dick and Stan play to three handicaps; Irene, a nurse at Pittsfield General Hospital, is at best a weekend golfer, but 76s and 78s aren’t uncommon for her.

Dick Tworig now is his Dad’s No. 1 assistant at Taconic. Stan, Jr. and even Irene, when they were younger, also worked on the course. At one time the family lived in a house that stood on the site of the present Taconic clubhouse.

In 1927, Stan, Sr., better known to the golfing gentry as “Twig,” joined with Dick Baxter in constructing the Taconic layout. When the project was completed, Dick insisted that he stay on and assist in maintaining the course. Years ago, Stan, Sr. was initiated into the Northeastern GCSA. He was the first and last assistant supt. to be taken into that group. Tworig never resented laboring in Dick Baxter’s shadow. “He’s a great guy,” says Twig, “a big man in every respect. You don’t resent being the No. 2 man when Dick Baxter is a notch ahead of you.”

Rudy Goff, Taconic’s new professional, has been in the golf business for nine years. He was at Stockbridge (Mass.) GC for three years before resigning to take his new position. In the wintertime, he teaches at DeLand (Fla.) CC. A native of Johnstown, Pa., Goff worked for Henry P. Schneck of Berkley Hills GC in that city upon breaking into golf, and later served as an assistant at Westbrook CC, Mansfield, O., and Westwood CC, Rocky River, O. At Taconic, he will coach the Williams College varsity and freshman teams in addition to running the club’s pro shop.

Survey Shows How Club Can Improve Security

A security analysis of 25 Chicago area clubs that was completed last fall by Kane Service, Inc., shows that many clubs do not take adequate protective measures in either their fire and theft prevention programs or in their employment practices. Based on his finding in making the analysis, L. O. Lemke, Kane safety director, says most clubs could improve their grounds and clubhouse security if they were to adopt these measures:

1. Design a special hiring application form.
2. Conduct termination interviews with employees who resign or are requested to leave. The employee who is leaving often will feel free to talk and will reveal information that a manager or official should know, or make suggestions that could benefit the club.
3. All clubs should install a fire protection and prevention program. Employees should be instructed in the use of hand fire fighting equipment, stand pipe hose lines and other emergency equipment. Phone numbers to be called in case of fire, burglary, etc., should be posted where they are accessible to employees. Employees should be instructed in the use of an inhalator and resuscitator.
4. Storerooms, basements, out buildings, etc., should be periodically checked to determine that good housekeeping is being maintained.
5. Liquor store rooms and pro shops should be adequately protected.
6. Lock and key programs should be completely checked. A failing at most clubs is that no one person has complete control over all locks and keys.
7. Newly elected officers should be immediately briefed on the various security measures that are in effect.

The Chicago District GA made arrangements for Kane Service, Inc. to make security checks of member clubs that requested them.