Hall of Fame Inductee Harold Stodola Played Monumental Role in State, National Associations

(Ed. Note: The recent induction of the late Harold Stodola into the Minnesota PGA/MGA Hall of Fame and the soon-to-be announced winners of Stodola Scholarships pay tribute to one of Minnesota’s all-time golf course superintendents. The following address by Gerald Murphy, Superintendent at Somerset Country Club in St. Paul, during the Hall of Fame Ceremony gives an informative insight into the man affectionately referred to as Stoddie. Mr. Stodola was on hand for the first scholarship presentation.

I could not have been more pleased when I heard that Harold Stodola was to be inducted into the Minnesota PGA/MGA Hall of Fame, nor could I have been more honored when asked to introduce you to this man and his many accomplishments. Unfortunately I have only been allowed five minutes to introduce what took 25 minutes in 1985, when the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association established the annual golf tournament and a prestigious scholarship program bearing his name.

As a young man, Harold Stodola or Stoddie as we came to know him, began his affiliation with golf as a caddie at The Minikahda Club and Oak Ridge Country Club, where he became caddymaster, then assistant superintendent. After graduating from Hopkins High School in 1921, he attended the University of Minnesota School of Forestry. While attending the university, he was distinguished as the 1926 intramural golf champion. His boundless energy coupled with full involvement in all areas of academia and his personal interest and concern for others earned him the title of the “Hopkins Hurricane.”

Stodola left the University in 1929 to supervise the construction of the new Keller Golf Course in St. Paul, then stayed on as greenskeeper. In 1932 Stoddie moved on to Interlachen Country Club in Minneapolis.

Stodola represented Minnesota as its delegate to the National Association of Greenskeepers Convention in 1933 and again in 1937. Also, during this time he chaired every major committee and held every office, including that of president in the Minnesota Greenkeepers Association.

In 1938 Stoddie was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Greenkeepers Association, now the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He became chairman of the important Editorial Committee of the Greenskeepers Reporter, which was the official publication of the Association.

During the trying war years, 1941-1946, Stodola served as the president of the NGAA (this was the second longest term ever served by any president). During this time of WWII, the cry went out to (Continued on Page 9)
Harold Stodola—
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disband the national association. But the
Hopkins Hurricane would have none of
it.

Despite the fact that no association
meetings were held during the war and
that the treasurer absconded with the
association's funds, Stodola's hard work and
perseverance kept the NGAA intact by
corresponding with all the local chapters
throughout the nation. In these same
years, he was greenkeeper at the Fire-
stone Country Club, the Firestone Pub-
lic Golf Course and, in addition, was in
charge of the Victory Gardens in Akron,
Ohio.

In 1945 Stodola returned to Minneso-
ta in order to further his personal interest
in scientific farming. This farm later be-
came Wayzata Country Club.

But he couldn't stay away from golf for
long. So, in 1957, Stoddie traveled to
Phoenix, Ariz. to accept the position of
assistant superintendent of Paradise Val-
ley Country Club. Following his associ-
ation with Paradise, Stoddie became
Superintendent at the at the Tucson

In 1967, Stoddie, at the age of 65, when
most people think of retiring, returned
to St. Paul to accept the position of Su-
perintendent at Mendakota Country
Club, from which he retired in 1977, but
only to move down the street to Somerset
Country Club where he worked part-time
for the rest of his years.

In his lifetime Stoddie received many
justly-deserved honors and awards. In
1944 he was voted an honorary mem-
er of the MGCSA. In 1974 Mendakota
Country Club honored him with the Mr.
Green Thumb Award and, in 1977, also
held a tournament and awards banquet
in his honor. That year our state associ-
ation also held an honorary banquet for
him.

For his outstanding leadership of
the Greenkeepers Association at both the
state and national level, and his valu-
able contributions to the association dur-
ing World War II, Harold Stodola was
presented the Golf Course Superinten-
dents Association of America's most
coveted award, the Distinguished Serv-
ice Award, in 1977, at the Portland Ore-
gon conference.

In 1985 Harold was again honored at
the first annual Harold Stodola Golf Tour-
ament, and the Harold Stodola Scholar-
ship and Research Program was
established in his honor.

Although Harold is no longer with us,
his legacy remains. He loved the young
people, and he instilled in them hope,
concern for others, positive attitudes and
a joy of living. He was a generous man
with his time and talents, and he always
was giving of himself for others. One of
his favorite saying was "Every day is a
blessing. Be sure to make the most of it."
The young people loved him as we all
did. And many of them are today in-
volved in golf because of him and the
example he set for them.

Sally and Bruce, though your father is
no longer with us physically, his beliefs,
his love and concern for others and his
spirit of joy and well-being are always
present.

The honor bestowed on him today is
a wonderful tribute to a man who
touched so many and did so much for
the world of golf.

EPA Proposes
Restricted-Use
Criteria

The Environmental Protection Agen-
cy has proposed new criteria for deter-
mining which additional chemicals
should be classified as "restricted-use"
pesticides.

The additional criteria, which are
designed to protect groundwater sup-
plies, use data from persistence and mo-
bility research and actual detection in
groundwater. These additional criteria
are expected to move several turf pesti-
cides now classified for general use to
the restricted-use list within three to five
years.