**Dates to Remember**

**DECEMBER 12th**
Annapolis Naval Academy
Election Meeting

**JANUARY 7th-11th**
Turfgrass '79
Baltimore Hilton

**JANUARY 23rd-24th**
Virginia Turfgrass Conference
Williamsburg, Virginia

**FEBRUARY 4th-9th**
GCSAA 50th International Turfgrass Conference and Show.

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**A Course in Golf History**

by Dave Kohl

Although such modern-day terms as "fore," "handicap," and "sand trap" are widely used, few golfers can tell you where the words originated.

Dave Thomas of San Bernardino not only has one of the world's greatest private golf collections but is also one of the foremost golf historians. Thomas, who is also a PGA pro, explained the origin of the above terms during a golf match recently.

"The terms 'fore,' 'handicap' and 'sand trap' actually originated at St. Andrews in Scotland," explained Thomas.

"In the 1770s, all golfers were required to wear red and before each shot had to yell, 'thou are forewarned.' Over the years, the expression was shortened to 'fore.'

"Surprisingly enough, sand traps, a nightmare for even today's finest golfers, came about because of sheep. In the early days and even today, sheep were allowed to graze over the St. Andrews course. The herdsmen, however, discovered that a number of their flock were dying off because of the strong, cold north wind that swept across the course. To protect the sheep, the shepherders dug giant ditches to shelter the animals from the wind.

"Most of today's golfers have handicaps when they play but few could tell you where the word originated. It seems that in the early days at the private golf clubs when a less skilled golfer played another he had to wear a cap with a colored ribbon around to signify that he had been given so many strokes by his playing partner. Different color ribbons meant different strokes. The caps were kept at the clubhouse and placed in a long row so that they would be handy for the golfers. They became known as 'handy caps.'

"Some strange orders have also been handed down over the period of centuries to golfers to stop playing the game and practice archery. It seems their skill as archers was more in demand than their skill as golfers. They were needed to defend the country."

Credit - Divots, Calif. 1977