Winners of the 1983 Musser Invitational tournament which benefits turf research were these golfers from Hunt Valley Golf Club, (l. to r.) Bruce Baker, professional John Haines, John Banks, and superintendent Bob Orazi. Dr. Fred Grau, in front, holds the Musser Trophy.

GCSAA "Old Tom Morris Award" Goes to Bob Hope

Bob Hope has been selected by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America to receive its Old Tom Morris Award, one of the most exclusive major honors in the world of golf. Selection of award winners is made on an unscheduled periodic basis, and Hope will be only the second recipient. The first was Arnold Palmer.

In announcing Hope's selection, GCSAA President Robert H. Osterman also outlined the background of the award: "This Association established the Old Tom Morris Award to satisfy the need for a significant international honor that would help identify with the true heritage and traditional founding of the game. 'Old Tom' Morris—the first 'superstar' of golf—was a greenkeeper, golf professional, club and ball maker, golf course architect and accomplished player who won four British Open Championships between 1861 and 1867."

When notified that he had been chosen to receive the award, Hope recalled that back in 1939 he had personally shot movies of Old Tom's headstone at St. Andrew's Cemetery in Scotland. "I've never seen a headstone with a fellow in a golf pose before," Hope said, "but it sure pleases a lot of us."

If anyone has helped to immortalize the golf swing, it's surely Bob Hope. He has swung a golf club on more stages than most people have on golf courses. His swing has taken him literally around the world many, many times as he brought laughter and cheer to our troops overseas in three wars.

Selection of Hope as the second recipient of the Old Tom Morris Award was entirely in keeping with the intent of the award, according to GCSAA President Osterman: "Besides being a 'superstar' in his own time, much like 'Old Tom,' Bob Hope has displayed a continuing, selfless commitment to golf and furthers the welfare of the game in a manner similar to that of 'Old Tom.' Bob Hope's promotion of the game around the world—and the continuing popularity of his own Bob Hope Desert Classic—provide highly visible evidence of his commitment to the game and its continued welfare."

More Golf Courses Being Developed

Golf's growing popularity and lower interest rates have combined to fuel a surge in new course construction, according to President Ted Robinson of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, who says that the group's members report increased activity across the board—municipal, daily fee, private and real estate development courses.

In addition to the new course activity, Robinson adds that many older clubs are remodeling their courses so that they provide more of a challenge to today's golfers.

"Golf is reacting much like the housing and auto industries," Robinson states. "There is a pent-up demand out there, and when the interest rates began to become more reasonable, those with ideas and plans decided to move ahead. If conditions remain stable in the next year, the golf boom should continue to grow."

Job Opening

PEST CONTROLLER, WG-08, $9.10 per hour.

Manage total pesticide program, including indoor and structural pest control, horticultural and turf. Must become certified in D.C., and be physically able to do the majority of the spraying and trapping duties necessary. Successful applicant should have broad experience in either horticultural, turf, or structural pest control and/or related education.

Contact: Dorothy Clemons (202 722-3215 or 722-3210 or send SF-171 to U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, Washington, D.C. 20317

More than a thousand highly prestigious awards and citations have been presented to Hope. The presentation of the Old Tom Morris Award completes the "Grand Slam" of golf awards which includes his previously collected honors of the USGA's Bobby Jones Award in 1978 (jointly with Bing Crosby), the Golf Writers' Richardson Award in 1953, and his recent induction into the Golf Hall of Fame at Pinehurst.

Hope is scheduled to receive the award during GCSAA's 55th International Turfgrass Conference and Show to be held in Las Vegas, Nev., Jan. 29-Feb. 4, 1984. The presentation will be made at GCSAA's annual banquet the evening of Feb. 3 at the MGM Grand Hotel.