

A COURSE IN GOLF HISTORY

By Dave Kohl

Although such modern-day terms as "fore", "handicap" and "sand trap" are wildly 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 herdsman, 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 it 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

ISN'T IT FUNNY!

Isn't it funny - when the other fellow takes a long time to do something, he's slow. But when I take a long time to do something, I'm thorough.

When the other fellow doesn't do it, he's too lazy. But when I don't do it, I'm too busy.

When the other fellow goes ahead and does something without being told, he's overstepping his bounds. But when I do something without being told, that's initiative!

When the other fellow states his side of a question strongly, he's bull-headed. But when I state a side of a question strongly, I'm being firm.

When the other fellow overlooks a few of the rules of etiquette, he's rude. But when I skip a few of the rules, I'm being original.

When the other fellow does something that pleases the boss, he's polishing the brass. But when I do something that pleases the boss, that's cooperation.

When the other fellow gets ahead, he sure had the lucky breaks, but when I manage to get ahead, man! it was hard work that did it!

Funny, isn't it - or is it!

GOOD OLD DAYS ARE NOW

The Reverend Richard Stephens, Vicar of a church in Cheshire, England: "Our forefathers did without sugar until the 13th century, without coal fires until the 14th, without buttered bread until the 16th, tea or soup until the 17th, without gas, matches or electricity until the 19th, without cars, canned or frozen foods until the 20th. Now what was it you were complaining about?"

FOR RENT

R. & R. Aerifier at \$100.00 per day

F.O.B. Itasca, Ill.

For additional information contact Chicago Toro.

312-773-5555

ROSEMAN

2620 CRAWFORD AVE. 864-1842
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

TURF EQUIPMENT HEADQUARTERS

ROSEMAN GANG MOWERS

FORD TRACTORS

TILLER RAKES

DEDOES AERIFIER

LELY SPREADERS

LOADERS

SEEDERS

LEAF MULCHERS

ROTO TILLERS

ROTARY MOWERS

HOMELITE CHAIN SAWS

HOMELITE PUMPS

SALES ● SERVICE ● PARTS ● RENTALS

BOJO TURF SUPPLY CO.

ALL MAJOR TURF SUPPLIES

BoJo

TURF
SUPPLY CO.

- PAR-EX
- Vertagreen
- Du Pont
- Diamond Shamrock
- Sand Blasters
- Cyclones
- Fore Par

R R 1, Box 52
Peotone, Ill.
312-258-3485