



**GOLF'S "OLD TOM MORRIS AWARD"
GOES TO BOB HOPE**

Bob Hope has been selected to receive the Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. The award is 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 the selection of Hope, GCSAA President Robert W. 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."

In response to notification 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 (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.

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 further 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 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.

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