



*“A cementing of relationships” is how Bob Williams describes the 1st Annual Pro-Greenskeepers Golf Tourney, held September 13, 1948 at Tam O’Shanter G.C. “It marked the first obvious cooperation between the pros and superintendents. It was a physical display of unity between two groups that had, until that time, generally speaking, gone in two different directions. We’ve had excellent relationships since then.”*

The above photo comes from Bob, living legend, past president of the MAGCS, CAGCS and the GCSAA, and a revered “elder statesman” of the Chicago golf scene. Pictured here (far left) is Charles Penna, then golf pro at Beverly, who had been assistant to Tommy Armour at Medinah. Next to Charles is Bob himself, then superintendent at Beverly; he was the assistant at Medinah from 1938-40 and went on to Bob ‘O Link from 1959-1980. Next to Bob is Norm Johnson, then superintendent at LaGrange C.C., a past president of the GCSAA who was superintendent at Medinah from 1937-1944. Finally, we

have Jim Foulis, then pro at LaGrange C.C. He was the son of the second U.S. Open champion (1896).

The host of the tourney, Tam O’Shanter, is renowned as the course where entrepreneur George May launched televised golf events with sizeable purses in the early 1950s.

Many thanks to Bob for sharing this photo, and the story behind it, with the MAGCS on the occasion of our chapter’s 75th anniversary year. 