

The Original Bob Breen -N-



The "original" Bob Breen amidst the turf he tended. Son Bob Breen recalls, "This picture was taken on the ninth green at Arrowhead Golf Club during my father's 25th anniversary party."

In March of 1956, my father, Robert K. Breen, Sr., came to Arrowhead Golf Club as its superintendent. He replaced Dave Mastoleo, whom I believe is still active in the Los Angeles area. The Arrowhead opportunity saw my father leave his first superintendent job, at Fresh Meadows, where he worked for the Jemseks. Prior to that, he had been Amos Lapp's assistant at St. Andrews. Amos Lapp was my father's mentor and a lifetime good friend.

When my father came to Arrowhead, the club was owned by Bill Hoy, a well-to-do Wheaton attorney. At that time, my father was also responsible for the upkeep of Hoy's estate, High Knob, which was just down Orchard Road from the club. I can remember participating in Easter egg hunts at the estate as a child.

When my father first started, his budget allowed for the fertilization of three fairways a year, a six-year rotation for the 18 fairways. That changed quickly as my father and Bill Hoy established a very good working relationship. In 1964, at the age of 39, Bill Hoy passed away. Arrowhead was part of a trust for Mr. Hoy's two nieces and nephew. At first, the executor of the estate operated Arrowhead. They followed through on the Hoy plan of building a third nine, the West Course, bringing Arrowhead to the 27-hole course it is today. The greens were stolonized to Toronto C-15. As a 15-year-old, I worked for my dad on the grow-in.

During the late 1960s thru the '70s, my father was very involved with the MAGCS. He served on various committees. He was a Board member for eight years, and served as the president in 1979.

The Hoy estate operated Arrowhead in trust until May 1, 1982, when the Wheaton Park District purchased the course. In October of 1989, my father passed away at the age of 70. He was still superintendent at Arrowhead and had maintained the facility for 33 years. I succeeded my father and 46 years after his arrival, it still says Superintendent Robert K. Breen on the scorecard.



The tradition holds—Bob Breen and Arrowhead will host the Midwest Association's monthly meeting on January 14.