

Friends we've lost in 1997

VERN PUTNEY
1919-1996

Vern Putney, the original associate editor of *Golf Course News* and the founder of the Maine Golf and Baseball halls of fame, died Dec. 2. He was 77.

Putney twice was named Maine Sportswriter of the Year while a reporter for the Portland Press Herald and Evening Express. The Lynn, Mass., native was once a club professional and started a golf caddying school as well as organized scores of tournaments in Maine. He covered golf, baseball, boxing, wrestling and running, and championed women's sports, especially golfers and runners.

Shortly after GCN launched in 1989, he suffered heart failure. He recovered and worked part-time for the newspaper until his death.



Vern Putney

ALBERT ZIKORUS
1921-1997

Albert Zikorus, a fellow of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, died June 11. He was 76.

A course architect for more than 35 years, his career in golf started as a caddy when he was 10. He graduated from Massachusetts State College in 1941, and joined the Air Force during World War II. During his service, he earned the rank of sergeant, and was shot down over Germany and held as a POW for 14 months. He was honored with a Purple Heart.

After he returned from the war, he worked as a superintendent at Ould Newbury Golf Course and Wellesley Country Club in Massachusetts, and Woodbridge Country Club in Connecticut. In the early 1950s, he worked for course designer William F. Mitchell for a short time and then with course architect Orrin Smith. He was elected a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1969.

Most of his work was in the Northeast. Among the courses he designed are Tunxis Plantation Country Club (CC) in Farmington, Conn.; Twin Hills CC in Longmeadow, Mass.; and Heritage Village Golf Course (GC) in Southbury, Conn.

STANLEY ZONTEK

Stanley Zontek, a famed golf course superintendent whose son, Stanley J., is a regional director with the U.S. Golf Association Green Section, died at his home in Cape May, N.J., on Feb. 17 after a lingering illness. He was in his early 80s.

A Polish immigrant who moved to America with his parents at the age of 7, he retired from Wildwood Golf and Country Club in New Jersey after a long career as a golf professional, superintendent and pro/superintendent. After beginning his career as a pro, he took a position as pro/superintendent at Oak Hill Golf Club in West Virginia.

He later moved to Manor Country Club in Rockville, Md., and to Rolling Green in Philadelphia and White Manor in Melvern, Pa., before taking his post at Wildwood.

He was the first superintendent in the country to plant Penncross bentgrass. Most of the country later followed his lead. He is survived by his wife, Laura, two brothers, one sister, three daughters and son, Stanley J.

MARK FISCHESSE
1956-1997

Mark Fischesser, 41, died at home on July 12 following a year-long battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Lauren, sons, Brian and Daniel, and his father, Bernard, retired general manager of The Village Golf Club in Royal Palm Beach, Fla., and a brother, Christopher.

A graduate of the turfgrass agronomy program at Michigan State University, he was director of golf construction and agronomy for North American Golf and Meadowbrook Golf Group, Inc. since 1994. He played a major role in the design and construction of several golf courses in the United States and Europe as a field design supervisor and project manager for Robert Trent Jones Sr.

His first construction project was Jupiter Hills Country Club in south Florida. His accomplishments in Europe included completion of Golf d'Esery, Esery, France; Golf de Chamonix, Chamonix, France; Golf de Chant-Val, Luxembourg; Golf Riviera, Mandelieu, France; Golf St. Donat, Grassa, France; Golf La Bauge, Angers, France; Golf de la Grande Motte, la Grande Motte, France; Golf Esterel, St. Raphael, France; and Joyenval Country Club, Paris, France.

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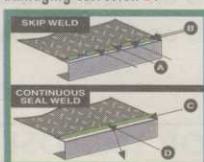


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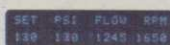
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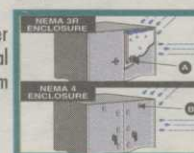
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