



**USGA GREEN SECTION:  
OF UNESTIMABLE VALUE**

It's hard for a veteran in the golf business to realize that the superintendents in having their annual business conference and equipment and supplies show at Boston, haven't had one there since 1950. There *Ray Gerber* of Glen Oaks CC, Glen Ellyn, Ill., was elected president.

This is only the second annual meeting the GCSAA has had in Boston since the association was started in 1927, shortly after GOLFDOM began.

Gerber continues to be active as superintendent emeritus at Glen Oak and as a consultant on several large area turf maintenance jobs in the western suburban territory of Chicago.

It's strange that New England hasn't had more GCSAA yearly meetings, because at the Massachusetts golf turf management courses at Amherst with Professor *Lawrence F. Dickinson* directing, course maintenance changed from largely a green thumb operation to a scientific business.

Superintendents from New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, New Jersey, Connecticut, Virginia and farther away felt that Dickinson and his associates at Amherst were beginning the New Day.

They were. And one of the brightest signs of the dawn was the start of close cooperation between the *United States Golf Assn. Green Section* and the greenkeepers, as they were called before their economic and operating importance to the golf plant was identified.

It was too long before the greenkeepers and the Green Section got working together. It must be reported that the failure to cooperate wasn't the Green Section's fault.

Too many greenkeepers had too many secrets. That's to be expected when men are growing up from a rating of medicine man to that of practical scientist, engineer and manager.

Probably the USGA Green Section has had more effect in beautifying American living than any other factor in sports. Before it was formed in 1920, the American idea of having fine turfgrass, such as that seen on golf greens, was the old British notion of mow and roll for 100 years.

When the greenkeepers, later superintendents, got working with the Green Section, there was a rather sudden and vast glorification of grass as something other than cattle food in the United States.

Now what's the next step? If there were any way of keeping comparative scores, the superintendents might have a lot of reason for claiming they have made more progress for golf than the professionals have in improving playing or the managers in the economic and social position of clubs.

But the hell of the superintendent's job is that the better his results the more is expected of him.

Of all the remarks made about the superintendent's importance to a golf club, the one I remember the clearest was made by *Tommy Armour* when he was a member at Winged Foot and Sherwood Moore was superintendent.

Tommy told some officials and members comfortably drinking in the grill: "You're going to lose the man who grew grass on this rock-pile and let me tell you that if our members were as good at their businesses as Moore is, the club would be overrun with millionaires."

At the PGA championship at Oakland Hills last summer where

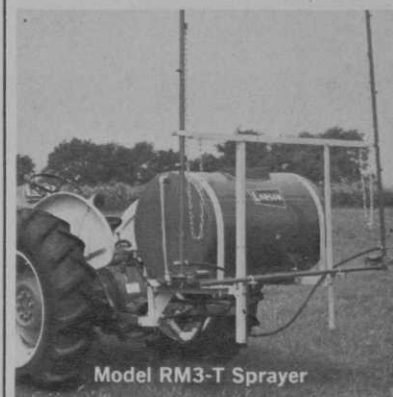
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**GRAFFIS** from page 21

Ted Woerhle is superintendent I visited with *Charles G. Chapman*, veteran green chairman of the Country Club of Detroit.

Chapman believes that the Green Section has been so effective in its educational work with superintendents and through agricultural schools that men in charge of almost all the better courses usually are qualified to be associates of the very practical men on the Green Section staff. He is of the opinion that the Green Section no longer has to be a fire department emergency service to locate and correct trouble on a course, but functions as a valuable consultant and coordinator of turfgrass research and its application nationwide.

He further believes that the Green Section visiting service is immensely useful to the smaller clubs and public course operations that rarely subscribe. If these places did sign for the visiting service, Chapman doubts that the Green Section would have enough men to take care of the clients.

For more than a dozen years I've had the opportunity and responsibility, with others of the National Golf Fund board, to examine the Green Section's recommendations for golf turf research grants to agricultural schools and experiment stations from coast to coast. The foresight, appraisals and balance of the Green Section's helpfulness in this area have been of inestimable value in helping superintendents improve courses.

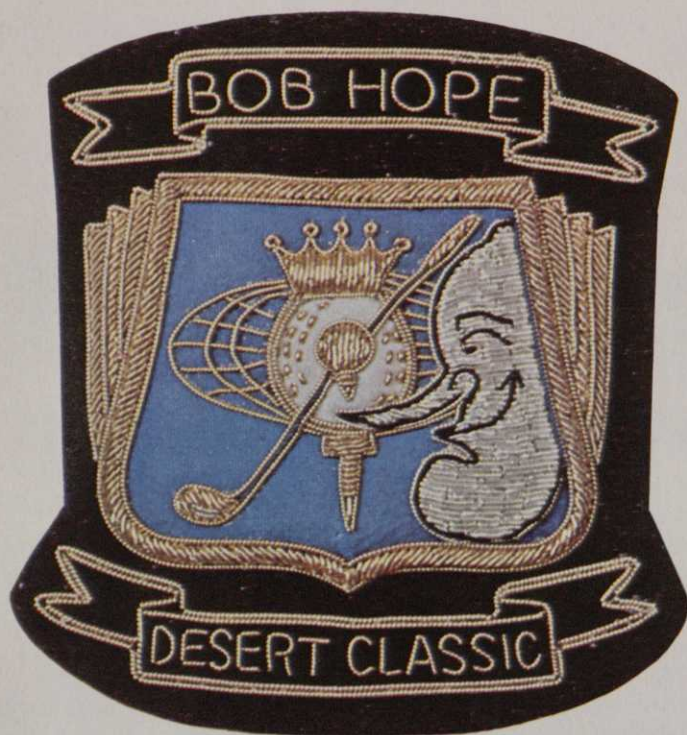
As Chapman indicates, a review of the Green Section's fields under present conditions, which differ from conditions even five years ago, might help sport's most valuable public service keep closely adjusted to the needs of the times.

A lengthy press release about a Golf Hall of Fame to be built at Pinehurst doesn't mention three who made Pinehurst famous: *Donald Ross*, *Dick Tufts* and *Bob Harlow*.

Donald Ross designed and managed the first completed Pinehurst course when he came there in the winter of 1900. There had been a pasture nine first played in 1897, a year after James W. Tufts, a Boston maker of soda fountains, had

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## GRAFFIS *from page 22*

bought the acreage intending to run it as a health resort for drug-store employees and their families. Homes were to be rented for \$50 a year. Leonard Tufts, a son of James, managed and developed Pinehurst with Ross nursing the golf interest, which started the North and South Amateur in 1901 and the North and South Open and Women's championships in 1903. The younger brother, Richard, was an enthusiastic golf evangelist and with Ross he brought Pinehurst to international fame as America's golf capital. He became a USGA president. Bob Harlow, who'd been Hagen's manager and an early manager and builder of the PGA tournament circuit, came to Pinehurst as its publicity man and publisher of its newspaper. He founded Golf World there.

Golf is a religion to Harlow and the game in the United States never had a better propagandist.

Ross designed and built almost 500 courses and spread the Pinehurst influence widely. Dick Tufts in a quiet genial manner expressed the bright and wholesome spirit of golf and drew to him kindred souls who gave Pinehurst a contenting atmosphere never before or since distinguishing an American resort.

A Golf Hall of Fame had been suggested first, I believe, by the curator of the James River Golf Museum and Library, but nothing happened. Fred Corcoran revived the idea at Augusta and Grantland Rice, Bob Harlow, Q.B. Keeler, Kerr Petrie and I were the committee making the first selections. In the Barlett Memorial saloon at the Masters, there's a photograph of the first committee meeting. Grannie Rice was busy elsewhere but went along with the selections, which were unanimous. He wrote a column about it. So did Keeler, Petrie and I. Harlow wrote a glowing story and then, in 1934, proposed Pinehurst as the fitting place for Golf's Hall of Fame. The rest of us kept the fire burning.

So now there are pages of blurb about a million dollar Golf Hall of Fame at Pinehurst and not a penny's worth about three men who contributed greatly to the history of American golf and of Pinehurst. □