

Collett suggested that among the deceased entitled to enduring fame were Dr. William Lowell, the New Jersey dentist who invented the Reddy wooden tee, and Fred W. Knight, the General Electric engineer who was among the early inventors of a steel golf shaft. Knight also invented the center-shafted mallet-headed putter, called the Schenectady. That was the putter Walter Travis used in winning the 1904 British Amateur. Walter J. Travis stirred the Royal and Ancient to declare that type of putter illegal. This was the silliest decision ever made on a club by a golf ruling body and was soon rescinded.

Knight was by no means the inventor of the first steel shaft. The British beat him by years. Neither the earlier British nor the Knight type of steel shaft construction figured in the eventual adoption of the steel shaft; hence, the ingenious and affable Fred Knight's occupancy of space in a World Golf Hall of Fame must be validated by more authoritative examination than that of Messrs. Derr and Collett.

Derr and Collett in developing respect for the World Golf Hall of Fame among those who know golf history have brought attention to the debt owed golf as a business by golf as a game.

The old Scottish wood and iron club and ball makers gave a tremendous boost to the game by supplying satisfying equipment that encouraged the development of skill. They were famous long before the great players.

Who in the American business of golf has made such significant contributions to the game that deserves recognition in any Golf Hall of Fame?

Certainly, the first one is Coburn Haskell, inventor of the cored ball wound with rubber thread and encased in a rubber cover. He revolutionized the game. He probably had more effect on world golf than any other American.

Two others of whom you may never have heard had an immense effect on golf play. They were Sam Clapper and C. C. Worthington. Clapper had more mowing machinery patents than anyone else for years. He was a founder of The Toro Company and got into the job from the farm tractor business. His adaptation of the heavy farm tractor to course maintenance revolutionized golf course management.

Also changing course management

was C. C. Worthington, a distinguished engineer, head of a big pump and machinery manufacturing company and owner of Buckwood Inn and the vast estate surrounding it at Shawnee-on-Delaware Water Gap. Worthington was an avid golfer.

He designed a golf course tractor using the Model T engine as the power unit and gang mowers to be hauled by the tractor. He also was a pioneer in designing and building power-driven greens mowers.

Joe Roseman, a professional-greenkeeper, who came from Philadelphia to the Chicago district where he designed, built and owned several courses, devised push-type mower-tractor combination. This makes him a name to be considered for a niche in a golf hall of fame.

Few now have heard of E. J. Marshall, a Toledo attorney and golfer. He came up with the idea that probably brought to the nation its most valuable contribution, economically and aesthetically.

He had been chairman of the United States Golf Assn. National Open at Inverness Club, Toledo, in 1920, and from that experience urged the USGA to establish its Green Section. He got the brothers Hugh and Alan Wilson of Philadelphia, executive committeemen of the USGA, to put across the proposal, which has meant immeasurably improved playing conditions and has contributed so strongly to the beautification of the nation.

C. V. Piper and R. A. Oakley of the United States Department of Agriculture were the first to combine the science of agronomy with the green thumb work of the early greenkeepers. They should be golf hall of fame candidates for establishing the golf course as the standard of all fine turf.

Fanny Fern Davis also merits consideration. She was the inventor of 2, 4-D, the weed control chemical that changed the pattern of golf course and lawn maintenance.

Thinking about who really qualifies to become immortal in golf is a responsibility not to be taken lightly.

I have been on three golf hall of fame selection committees. But until the Derr and Collett effort to salvage the World Golf Hall of Fame and make it interesting and significant to golf history, I never was jolted into considering what truly makes one great in golf and to golf and golfers. □

COMING EVENTS

NATIONAL GOLF DAY ROUND OF CHAMPIONS, Tanglewood CC, Clemens, N.C., June 3. Amateur play from May 25 to June 16.

RHODE ISLAND TURFGRASS FIELD DAY, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I., August 21.

TURF AND LANDSCAPE DAY, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster, Ohio, September 10.

FLORIDA TURFGRASS ASSN. CONFERENCE AND SHOW, Riverside Hilton, Curtis Hixon Convention Center, Tampa, Fla., September 16-19.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS TURFGRASS FIELD DAY, Southern Illinois University Agricultural Research Station, Belleville, Ill., September 24.

NORTHWEST TURFGRASS CONFERENCE, Sun River Lodge, Sun River, Ore., September 24-27.

MIDWEST TURF FIELD DAY, Purdue University Agronomy Farm, West Lafayette, Ind., September 30.

SOUTHWEST TURFGRASS CONFERENCE, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, N.M., October 10-11.

CENTRAL PLAINS TURFGRASS CONFERENCE, K-State Union, Manhattan, Kan., October 23-25.

WISCONSIN GOLF TURF SEMINAR, Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, Wis., October 30-31.

FIFTH ANNUAL GEORGIA GCSA/-UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA TURF-GRASS SHORT COURSE, Center for Continuing Education, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga., November 3-5.

TEXAS TURFGRASS CONFERENCE, Texas A & M University, College Station, Tex., December 1-4.

OHIO TURFGRASS CONFERENCE AND SHOW, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, December 3-5.