

# Going Postal

WE'VE GOT MAIL

## Remember the Titans

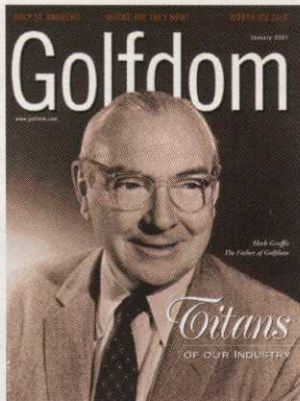
I enjoyed the January issue of *Golfdom*, especially the "Titans of Our Industry" article and the Flagstick column. I also happen to love history, and I appreciate the early days and pioneers of our industry.

The Titans feature made me think about all the people who have made my 22 years in this industry so wonderful. While there are many, Dwight Barkley, my friend and mentor, quickly came to mind. While not a national titan (although he certainly had some national influence), he was one of the founding fathers of the Kentucky Turfgrass Council in 1972. In 1969, he established the turfgrass program at Eastern Kentucky University, a wonderful hands-on program that has produced hundreds of quality superintendents and numerous industry professionals throughout the country.

Barkley recently retired from Eastern Kentucky, but he still remains active on the KTC Board of Directors. He is also known to stop and visit former students.

Barkley is a 1955 Penn State graduate (a Joe Duich protégé). He received a master's degree and Ph.D. in the mid-1960s from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. It's easy to see the influence and professionalism he brought to the Bluegrass State.

Looking at the quality of today's golf and turf industry in Kentucky, it has gone from a humble beginning at Eastern Kentucky to producing many incredible turf facilities, businesses and fantastically conditioned golf courses — a turf boom by any standards. That boom was no accident, and was directly influenced by people like Barkley, who has touched the lives of nearly every turf professional in



our state and region. Cheers to you and many thanks, Dwight.

My guess is that many states have these type of individuals who have gotten little national press, but, as in Barkley's case, have greatly influenced their respective states and regions. I would love to hear about other Titans like Barkley, and I challenge others to contact *Golfdom* with their stories.

**Jerry Coldiron, CGCS  
Boone Links/Lassing Pointe  
Florence, Ky.**

The article about Carl Spackler (Bill Murray) in "Titans of Our Industry" caught my attention enough to write about it. We superintendents take ourselves too seriously at times and need to lighten up.

Sometimes it's difficult to un-



derstand peoples' thoughts about things (being miffed about a particular movie) because we are not in their shoes. But if people are comfortable with themselves, their jobs and their professions, they could easily see the humor in the movie *Caddyshack*. That said, here are my thoughts on the film.

First, it was one of the most entertaining and funny movies I've ever seen — a must for my personal video collection. *Caddyshack* featured great actors and interesting subliminal messages that one needs to pay attention to understand.

*Caddyshack* showed the trends and the culture of the time period in the early 1980s. I've watched the movie over and over, and I'm the type of person who seldom watches movies more than once. (That said, *Caddyshack II* was a terrible movie.)

To those who felt *Caddyshack* was a disgrace to our image, get over it. It was just a movie. Many professions are depicted as bad, ugly, unprofessional and stupid in Hollywood.

It was a leap for our profession to even be noticed by the movie industry. It was a compliment to be brought before the public's eye during the beginning of the golf boom. Most people didn't know we existed.

To superintendents who need to blame a movie for their professional image, I say to you: You are responsible for your image — not a movie, not the GCSAA nor anyone else. Look in the mirror each morning and take charge of your life.

**Stephen E. Maas, CGCS  
The Valley Club  
Hailey, Idaho**

## Black Architects

Nice article on golf course architect Steve McLeod (January, Pin High). I did a little research regarding black architects and discovered that Joe Bartholomew of New Orleans was probably the nation's first. He designed and built a number of golf courses in Louisiana throughout the 1920s and 1930s. But because of segregation, he couldn't play on any of them.



**Steve McLeod**

I found the information in the book, *Forbidden Fairways*, published by Sleeping Bear Press). African American William Powell is also credited with designing and building Clearview GC in East Canton, Ohio.

Who knows? With the success that Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and other pro golfers are having in architecture, maybe Tiger Woods will throw his hat into the ring someday.

**Tony Hourston  
Director of Administrative Services  
American Society of Golf Course  
Architects**

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Feel like going postal? We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Larry Aylward at [larry@advanstar.com](mailto:larry@advanstar.com), fax to 440-891-2675 or send them to: 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Make sure to include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length or relevance.