

Family Legacy Lives On

By Jim Black,
Contributing Editor

This year marked the 31st anniversary of the Shields Memorial, played in honor of the three Shields brothers.

They purchased the club in 1941 and, in 1945, the twins recruited their older brother Bob to help renovate it after it was neglected during World War II. In 1950, the twins leased a nine-hole club called White Flint, where they held golfing exhibitions that drew the likes of Ben Hogan and Sam Snead. The twins purchased Glen Dale Golf Club in 1958. The club was badly in need of renovation and once again brother Bob was called in to assist.

Ten years later, the brothers decided they were ready to realize their ultimate dream. They purchased a 300-acre tobacco farm in southern Maryland and carved Twin Shields Golf Club out of it, designing it from the seats of a couple bulldozers and a pan. Twin Shields is one of the finest public golf courses in Maryland.

In 1948, Bob Shields left Annapolis Roads and dedicated his career to the promotion of the role of superintendents, including a stint as president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in 1965. Bob was superintendent of Woodmont Country Club from 1952 until his death in 1982.

Shortly after Ray Shields' death in 1980, The Ray Shields Memorial Tournament was founded. After Roy Shields' death in 1998 the tournament simply became the Shields Memorial. Here's to it living on for another 31 years and more. ■

Every spring the golfing world is filled with the anticipation of the season's major opening events — the Masters at Augusta National, the Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass and the Shields Memorial at Glen Dale Golf Club.

What? You've never heard of the Shields Memorial?

This year marked the 31st anniversary of this mid-Atlantic event, held in honor of the achievements of identical twins Ray and Roy Shields, and their brother Bob. All proceeds from the event benefit the Institute of Applied Agriculture at the University of Maryland in support of scholarships and operating expenses. Since its inception, more than \$72,000 in student scholarships have been awarded.

The Shields brothers arrived on the Maryland golf scene in the late 1930s, securing locker room and lifeguarding jobs at East Potomac Golf Course near Washington, D.C. The twins soon left East Potomac to work at the Annapolis Roads Club, a nine-hole golf course with a beach club.

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