



## PUTTING THE USGA TO TEST

By Monroe S. Miller

Dr. David Cookson convened a meeting of all Wisconsin USGA committee members in mid-May at Maple Bluff Country Club.

Although I was extremely busy at the time, I made sure I was present at this meeting. It may not have been the first ever meeting of this group, but it was the first I had the opportunity to attend.

I am very proud to be a USGA Green Section committeeman, so much so that I didn't think the other USGA committees could possibly amount to much or have a charge as important at the Green Section committee. Facts are facts, after all.

After this meeting, however, I've tempered my attitude a bit. The other com-

mittees are significant and have important work, too.

Particularly impressive at this meeting was the quality of the committee people—golf leaders all, they were.

There was a lot to learn that day, and I left more knowledgeable.

As a result, this issue's quiz will try to determine how much you know about the USGA, its history and activities.

Here goes.

1. How many USGA committee people are there in Wisconsin?
2. How many USGA Green Section people are there in Wisconsin? Name them, please.
3. When was the USGA Green Section started?
4. Why is the year 1953 significant to the Green Section?
5. Who was the first female staff person at the Green Section?
6. How many golf facilities in Wisconsin belong to the USGA?
7. When was the USGA formed?
8. When was the USGA's first championship?
9. Has a Wisconsin resident ever won the coveted USGA Green Section Award? If yes, who?
10. When did the USGA first begin to spend major money on turfgrass research?

**Answers on page 21.**

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are at least 30 strong contenders, including designs by Tom Fazio in California; Arthur Hills and Steve Melnyk, both of which are near Knoxville; Rees Jones and Jack Nicklaus, Jr., both at Pinehurst, N.C.; and a series of courses designed by a group working for Robert Trent Jones, Sr. in Alabama.

"But I think University Ridge has a lot going for it," said Whitten. "It's been open for almost a year so it's in better condition. We don't evaluate conditioning, but it has a subtle influence if a course is in good shape. It's also a good design and Bobby Jones' designs have fared well in the past in our surveys."

Whitten agreed with most public golfers who feel skyrocketing greens fees has gotten out of control.

"We've become a nation of one-round courses. You pay and play PGA West or even a Blackwolf Run once. But you can't stand a steady diet of it," he said. "With upscale public courses, courses that give you a country club feel for a day, you're no better off if you're an avid golfer than if you belonged to a club."

Whitten said Golf Digest has toyed with the idea of creating a category for low-budget or low-fee courses or penalizing courses that overcharge. "But there's no way to evaluate that," he said. "On the West Coast, a 45 dollar greens fee is a bargain. But in Wisconsin or Kansas it's pretty stiff. And 90 dollars really jacks you up to a resort category. That's not a daily fee in my mind. So there's no way for us to equate that and so we just stay out of it."

Whitten said he enjoyed playing golf in Wisconsin because he found many courses that he liked and many were considered bargains. Asked to pick his favorite course in Wisconsin, Whitten was quick to answer.

"That's easy," he said, "my favorite is Lawsonia. I just love old designs."

## ANSWERS

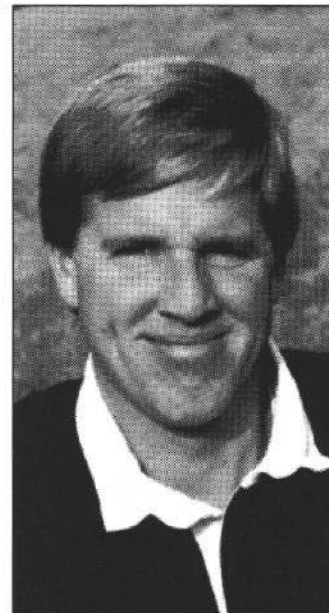
(For the Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz on page 31)

1. 17.
2. Three—Jack Allis, Wayne Otto and Monroe S. Miller.
3. November 30, 1920 at the Drake Hotel in Chicago.
4. 1953 was the year the Green Section started personal visits to golf courses. The program we know as TAS was called the USGA Green Section Regional Turf Service.
5. Dr. Fanny-Fern Davis was action Green Section Director from 1943 to 1945. She conducted experiments with 2,4-D which as a result became widely used for broadleaf weed control on golf courses.
6. 127.
7. 1894.
8. 1895.
9. Yes. O.J. Noer.
10. 1983.

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