

TWO OF THE MID-ATLANTIC'S FINEST

BY STEVEN A. NASH



Reuben Hines

Each year the Mid-Atlantic A. of G.C.S. plays a memorial golf tournament with prizes given in the names of Bill Glover and Reuben Hines. I have often wondered, just who are Bill Glover and Reuben Hines? Other than just a couple of past members, Why are they so special?

In conversations with George Cornell, Dr. Fred Grau, Bob Shields and Bert Yingling, phrases and words like "Men ahead of their time", "Progressive", "High class", "Good golfers", "Outspoken supporters of research, higher education and turf conferences" and "Men dedicated to their profession" seemed to keep coming up over and over.

Reuben Hines, also known as "Bulldozer Hines" and the "Maryland Dirt Farmer", was a charter member of the Mid-Atlantic. He was president in 1931, 1947 and 1948. The history of Reuben Hines can be picked up at Congressional C.C. where he was General Manager and Superintendent during the war years. In 1936 he founded Congressional Bent. From Congressional C.C. he moved to Georgetown Prep Golf Course. Georgetown Prep is a private Catholic Boys School. While at Georgetown Prep he became a strong believer in warm season grasses. From there he went to the District of Columbia Public Golf Courses and then went into the building of golf courses. He supervised the building of Beaver Creek C.C., along with others, but it was at Beaver Creek that he and Bert Yingling grew to be more than friends. Bert says that Reuben was more like a father to him which is the reason he donates the Annual Memorial Tournament trophy. He got Bert to join the Mid-Atlantic in 1958. He was also instrumental in getting Bob Shields into the Superintendent field.

Along with building golf courses, Reuben grew turf nurseries which supplied many golf courses with Bentgrass clones.

Bob Shields recalls that "Reuben was a good speaker and writer of turf and liked to share ideas with others. He was a friend to all in Turf".



Bill Glover

Bill Glover helped to design and build the original Worthington mower which eventually led to the design of the gang mower. The history of Bill Glover begins at the Shawnee on the Delaware where he was hired to prepare the golf course for the PGA Championship.

He was brought to the Mid-Atlantic area by John Connally to build the old Fairfax Golf Club which is now Army Navy C.C.

Bill Glover was a very progressive turf manager. To quote Dr. Fred Grau, "As a keeper of the turf, he had no equal". He was one of the first to plant U-3 bermuda. He and John Connally experimented with Pie shaped greens in an effort to find the better bentgrass varieties. He was one of the first to build Sand Greens. He was also one of the highest paid Superintendents in the business.

Bill welcomed all kinds of activities, field days, meetings and even the planting of an entire fairway to Zoysia grass by plugs, sprigs, seedlings and seed. It was a joint effort by the Mid-Atlantic A.G.C.S., the USGA Greens Section and Fairfax G.C.

Bill Glover was President of the Mid-Atlantic in 1944, 1945 and 1946. In 1960, Bill was to be President of the GCSAA but died. In his place, his friend and Mid-Atlantic member Jimmy Thomas was appointed to be President.

He was a consultant for the chapter on golf course operations in the book Turf Management, written by H. B. Musser.

Dr. Grau recalls "I was playing with Bill at Congressional shortly before he died. I remember it well because on one hole going up hill I had to use a golf club as a cane to assist my left leg which had begun to weaken. This was the last game I ever played with Bill or with anyone else".

I think by the descriptions of these two men you can better understand why they could mean so much to the men who donate the trophies and also gave greater meaning to our Annual Memorial Golf Tournament.