NOVEMBER 1984



A PATCH of GREEN

Official Publication of the Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association



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OF AMERICA

GCSAA NEWS

Former President of the United States Gerald R. Ford will receive the Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). Ford is the 1985 recipient of this significant international award that is identified throughout the golfing world with the true heritage and traditional founding of the game.

"The award is presented to an individual who, through a continuing, selfless commitment to the game of golf, has helped to further the welfare of the game with the same dedication and zeal demonstrated by Old Tom Morris," said James W. Timmerman, CGCS, President of GCSAA.

Ford brought international attention to this popular leisure time activity while serving as President of the United States. His golf outings have been portrayed both positively and frequently by the press. Ford is renowned as a man of integrity, and his associa-



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tion with the game of golf only results in further enhancing golf's attributes of honor and sportsmanship in the eyes of the world.

During his term in the White House, he clearly expressed his love for golf and his respect for the golf course superintendent. In a 1976 letter to GCSAA, President Ford explained, "Countless numbers of Americans derive pleasure, relaxation and exercise on our nation's golf courses. Evidence of the sport's growing popularity is seen from the increasing numbers who play it, from the rising sales of golf equipment, and from the media attention given to its major events. Holding a fascination for players of all levels and every social background, golf has become and important part of our national life.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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CSSA Elects Beard



Dr. James B Beard of College Station was voted President-Elect of the Crop Science Society of America. A charter member of the organization, he previously served on the CSSA Board of

Directors. The Crop Science Society of America as a membership of over 5,500 researchers and educators working in the areas of crop genetics, physiology, culture, seed technology, and crop utilization.

Beard earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Ohio State University and both Master of Science and Doctoral degrees at Purdue University. He is a Professor in the Department of Soil & Crop Sciences, Texas A&M University, where he holds a joint researchteaching appointment in the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the College of Agriculture, parts of the Texas A&M University System. Beard heads a major turfgrass research and teaching program with emphasis on environmental stress physiology and allied cultural practices. He is the author of five books in the turfgrass field. Dr, Beard formerly was a member of the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Michigan State University.



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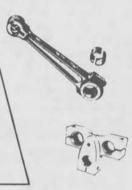
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HISTORY OF THE HOLE CUP

by Brad Earl Anderson, Asst. Supt. Old Elm Club, Highwood, Illinois

"Golf means the long and leary putt that glides into the cup." Robert K. Risk, Songs of the Links. 1919 Golf historians believe that the first hole cup was a common length of land tile which golfers at St. Andrews placed in the holes of their greens. Legend has it that they were distressed over the constant degradation suffered of the hole and its rim, and that perhaps the land tile may have helped to control the problem. Apart from environmental wear of the hole, the golfer himself was largely responsible for degradation; for what with the wooden tee not yet in existence, the golfer would - upon holeing out - grab a handful of soil from the hole for shaping into a tee for his proceeding tee shot. Midnineteenth century photos of golfers on putting greens show that very often the hole was ragged, and in some cases at least one foot wide!

Some clubs had their own rules against "robbing the hole of soil" as it were. The 1815 rules of Aberdeen stated that... "No sand is to be taken for teeing within ten yards of the hole", and the 1834 rules of the Royal Musselburgh Club stated that... "The turf of the putting green shall not be raised up for a tee, and no caddy shall be employed who does not carry a bag of moist sand or clay for tees." The legendary St. Andrews land tile/hole cup was in use as early as 1850. Its dimensions were 5½

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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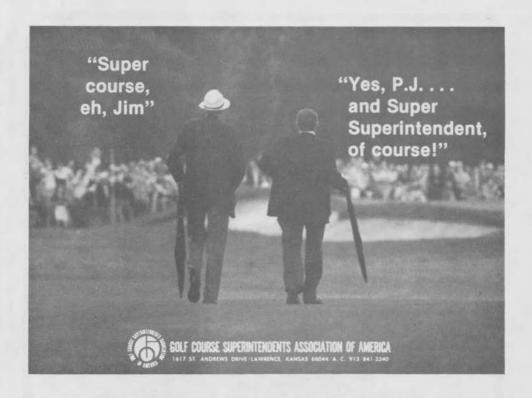
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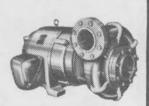
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to your tasks assure our nation's golf enthusiasts of the world's finest courses."

Since leaving office, Ford has continued to bring international attention to golf through his participation in charitable golfing events, as well as sponsoring his own charitable golf tournament, the Jerry Ford Invitation-

al Golf Tournament.

"President Ford was selected for this award because he exemplifies some of the same characteristics that Old Tom demonstrated throughout his life. Ford's love for the game of golf is known around the world. Mr. Ford, like Old Tom, is a gentleman first, a gentleman last," said President Timmerman. Old Tom Morris, one of golf's first greats, was a greenkeeper, golf professional, club and ball maker, golf course architect and accomplished player who won four British Open Championships between 1861 and 1867. At the Royal and Ancient, St. Andrews, Scotland. Old Tom acquired worldwide fame, boosting the popularity of golf throughout the British Isles and in many other parts of the world.

Golfing great Arnold Palmer and entertainer Bob Hope are previous recipients of the Old Tom Morris Award. President Ford will accept the Old Tom Morris Award during GCSAA's 56th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Washington, D.C., February 5-13, 1985. The presentation will be made at GCSAA's annual banquet the evening of February 12th at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. An international golf audience and representatives of every major golf association will be on hand for the banquet ceremonies. The banquet attendance is expected to reach 2,000. Country and Western singer Tanya Tucker will be the evening's featured entertainment.

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History Of The Hole Cup, cont.

inches outer diameter by 6 inches deep. The 5½ by 6 dimensions of the original hole cup as for years raised a serious question as to why the Royal and Ancient went on to lay down the law of 4½ inches outer diameter by at least 4 inches deep. . . some 40 years later. Was the 5½ outer diameter too easy, or were other considerations taken besides that of degree of difficulty. The exact reasoning is unknown, but there are at least two very good theories as to how we have arrived at the present day dimensions.

1). It could be that the 4½ by 4 was common for any years at many clubs long before the R&A made it rule. It is known that the oldest hole cutter in existence today (part of a collection of golf antiquities from the Royal Musselburgh Club) had/has the very same dimensions of 4½ by 4, and according to the Musselburgh minutes of March 13, 1829, the Hon. Secretary was "authorized to pay the account of Mr. Gays for the instrument for forming the holes". So as early as 1829 these dimensions were common to at least one club.

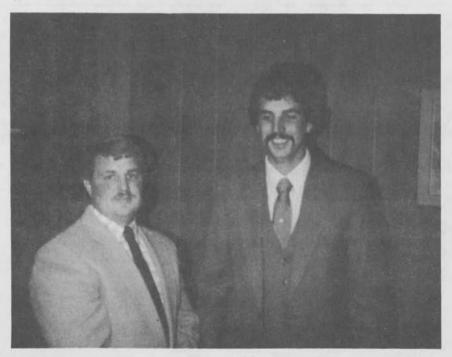
2). The practice of inserting flag poles was not yet generally common at St. Andrews during the time when the land tile/hole cup was being developed. Perhaps the later use of flag poles may have been coincidental to the hole cup becoming standardized, and the metal cup being adapted to receive it.

In any event, the dimensions of 4½ by 4 seems to be with us to stay, despite the various attempts throughout history to tamper with it. In 1934, at the Year-round Open at the Miami Biltmore Course in Coral Gables, Florida, Gene Sarazen actually convinced the officials to enlarge the hole to 8 inches! The event served only to prove that good putters still sunk em, and poor putters still missed em.





(Left to Right): CLEM WOLFROM, DAN UZELAC, KEVIN DUSHANE, CHARLIE GAIGE, KEN DeBUSSCHER, JON MADDERN, CRAIG ROGGEMAN (rear), ED HEINEMAN (front), BRUCE WOLFROM, MIKE EDGERTON, TOM MASON.



Two New Directors for 1985 - left, ED HEINEMAN; right, JON MADDERN.

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But I am exacting . . .

I am a jealous mistress; yet sometimes you seem hardly to notice me at all. Infact, you make slighting remarks about me at times and neglect me.

Considering the fact that you need me, not only for the material things of life but the spiritual as well, I wonder that you neglect me as you do.

Suppose that I should get away from

you?

Your happiness would flee, for a time at least, your friends would worry and your bank account would dwindle. So, after all, I'm pretty important to

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Bits & Pieces, July, 1980.



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