

Henry J. McQuiston  
2005 Philadelphia Section PGA Hall of Fame

Henry grew up next to the Chester Valley Golf Club where he and his two brothers learned to play golf. He caddied and worked for the pro-green superintendent Dick Murphy. At the age of 14 Henry began to show his leadership qualities when he substituted for the caddy master who had to serve time in jail for arson. Under Dick Murphy he received an apprenticeship equal to any PGA Business School. He hand weeded greens and learned how to regrip clubs with the new Golf Pride slip on grips. If you never had to remove one of those pre Golf Pride vulcanized rubber grips you can't appreciate the problem. Henry's solution was to set fire to the grip and place the club in a bush outside the bagroom until the grip was ashes. It seems like he may have been getting his guidance from the caddy master instead of the pro. From there he moved on to West Chester State Teachers College. He had planned to play basketball at West Chester but he ended up playing on the soccer team and the golf team. After graduation he served two years in the United States Army and then turned pro in 1958. For two years he taught school for nine months, worked at Chester Valley part time and with an "Approved Players Card" he played in some of the PGA Tour events during the summer. In 1960 he entered the golf business full time when he went to the Bala Golf Club as the assistant pro under Bob Marshall. Forty-five years later he is still at Bala. After two years as the assistant he became the head professional and held the position for 37 years. He is now the pro-emeritus at Bala.

During his career at Bala he has been a player and a leader. As a player Henry finished second in both the Section Championship and the Philadelphia Open after being defeated in playoffs. His most impressive accomplishment may be that he qualified for the Philadelphia Golf Classic at Whitemarsh Valley 10 times and made the cut 3 times. He played in the 1962 PGA Championship at Aronimink, the 1963 U.S. Open at Brookline and a PGA Senior Championship. He qualified for the Club Professional Championship 4 times, the Senior Club Professional Championship once and he was a member of 10 Challenge Cup Teams.

As a leader Henry was the Section's 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for two years, and the Section president for two years. During his 45 years in the Section he has served on every committee including the old "Board of Control". He served many years on the tournament committee and the education committee, which he chaired. In 1960 when the PGA of America held its first PGA Business School the Philadelphia Section decided to conduct their own school for assistants. For several years Henry was one of the instructors at that school.

In the community he taught the blinded golfers and played in their tournaments. He taught adult education classes and served on the township golf committee for the American Cancer Society. In 1970 he and several other pros built the Avalon Golf Club, which he helped oversee until they sold it 16 years later. During his 37 years at Bala he trained more than 30 assistants and many went on to head pro positions like our past national District Director Leo DeGisi. After 45 years Henry is still supporting and participating in the Section's tournaments and programs. For more than 20 years he has hosted the Section's Senior-Junior Championship, which is now called the Henry McQuiston Senior-Junior Championship and in 1997 he was the Section's "Golf Professional of the Year".

It is my honor to welcome Henry J. McQuiston, Jr. into the Philadelphia Section PGA Hall of Fame.