

In Memoriam
Robert Hakon Lorentzen
1930 - 2016



I am saddened to report the passing of a Golf Collectors Society pioneer Robert “Bob” Lorentzen (member #00057) of Seattle, Washington on May 25, 2016. Bob was on the GCS board in the early years, and as his wife Joyce recalled, that when they attended the annual meetings there would be all of about ten people there.

Bob was born in 1930 in Seattle and graduated from the University of Washington in 1952, having played on the Husky Golf Team. He worked as chemical engineer for the Hanford Nuclear facility before joining the Navy. He returned to civilian life to pursue a career in corporate law for the next 40 years.

Bob was involved in many civic activities and was a long-time member and former president of the Seattle Golf Club (est. 1896). He was a top amateur golfer winning many tournaments.

Bob was also an avid golf collector, an accomplished hickory player, and a learned golf historian. He was a USGA History Committee member, a former GCS Region 8 Director, and a club historian at the Seattle Golf Club.

I first met Bob in 2000 when we played together in the Washington State Hickory Championship. At the age of 70, he shot a 77 at the Jefferson Park Golf Course to beat out two golf pros to win the title. I think Bob was more proud of that performance than perhaps many of his other victories.

His love of golf history never abated. Only recently I was able to make a small contribution to his research into Robert Johnstone (1874 - 1937), the golf pro at Seattle Golf Club, and whom many regard as the father of Pacific Northwest golf. A tribute to Johnstone prepared by Bob is now housed in the clubhouse at his home course.

Those of us who love golf and its history have lost a friend.

By Martin Pool
GCS Region 8 Director