



## ZANESVILLE SENIORS' CLASSIC HISTORY

Back in 1964, Athens Country Club hosted "Butch Grover Day" and Kermit Blosser from Athens, Ohio was chairman of the tournament. Curt Shaw and Clay Littick of Zanesville participated and were both friends of Mr. Grover and both enjoyed the day very much.

After the event was over, Kermit had a chance to talk to Curt Shaw and Curt remarked about the number of senior golfers present and how much they enjoyed the event. During this discussion, Curt stated that a seniors' golf tournament should be started in Southeastern Ohio. Senior golf was beginning to become very popular.

After analyzing the Athens area, there were no 18 hole country club golf courses available in Southeastern Ohio. Mr. Shaw stated he would go before the Zanesville Board of Directors to see if they would permit a seniors' golf tournament to be played at the Zanesville Country Club. He obtained approval and the tournament started in 1965.

The tournament has been going strong for these many years with great cooperation from the Zanesville Country Club Board of Directors, the club's membership, various golf professionals, assistants and greens superintendents.

The first Board of Directors of the Seniors' Classic in 1965 were: Curt Shaw, President, Zanesville; Hamilton Huntington, Vice President, Newark; John

## HISTORY (Continued)

Hardesty, Treasurer, Zanesville; Kermit Blosser, Athens; Clifton R. Downs, Cambridge; John Jacob, Canton; William Margraf, Columbus; and Ed C. Thompson, Bellefontaine.

In 1965, the first year of the tournament, we had 55 players, age 50 years and up. At that time, the big question was if the Zanesville Seniors' Classic would ever go. However, it was an immediate success.

In 1966, we had a full tournament of 140 players and a waiting list that required us to officially raise the age group eligibility to 55 years and over. We also placed the restriction that all prospective members be associated with the Ohio Golf Association. The tournament was patterned after the Ohio Seniors' at Westbrook Country Club of Mansfield.

After Curt Shaw passed away in 1981, President Don Blancett changed the format to a shotgun start which has proven very popular with senior golfers. Curt Shaw's name was added to the tournament name one year after his death.

The following have served as president of the Zanesville Seniors' Golf Classic:

*Curt Shaw, Founder	1965 - 1981
*Don Blancett	1981 - 1989
*Eugene Mizer	1990 - 1991
*William Phillips	1992 - 2011
Douglas Waltman	2012 - <del>2016</del> 2018

*\*Deceased*

*Note: This history was provided by Kermit R. Blosser, a charter member of the Zanesville Seniors' Classic.*