



Chester "Chet" Mendenhall

(1895 - 1991)

Pioneer Course Builder and Superintendent

Known as the "Dean" of golf course superintendents, **Chester "Chet" Mendenhall**, a native of Kingman, Kansas began his career working for the Wichita Parks Department where he helped design and build his first golf course (Sim Park).



Taken by the process, Mendenhall attended night school to learn surveying, drafting and the related subjects he felt he would need to design and build good golf courses. Before he was done, he would go on to build eleven courses in Kansas and Missouri and consult on many others.

Mr. Mendenhall became superintendent at the Wichita Country Club in 1928. In 1934, he accepted appointment as superintendent of Mission Hills Country Club in Kansas City where he served for thirty-one years until his retirement in 1965.

He was a charter member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America; served as a Director from 1940 - 1946; Vice President in 1947 and President in 1948. He received the GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award in 1986 and was honored by the USGA in 1990 with the Green Section Award.

The *Mendenhall Award* is given annually by the GCSAA in his memory, providing scholarships for deserving college students majoring in turfgrass research or golf course management.