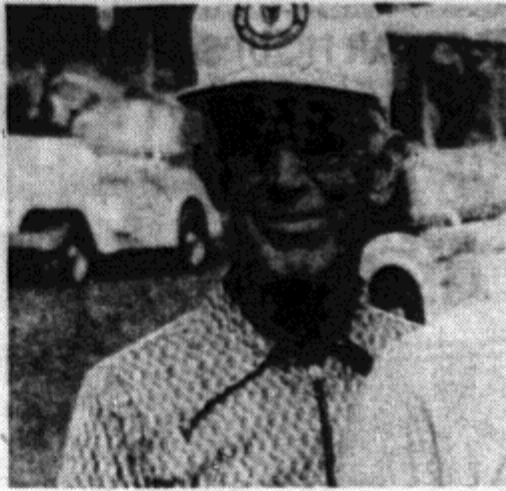




Gary Hylton Shot 74 With One Arm and Leg



Alvis Hylton Was Known for His Teaching

## Golfing Hyltons Honored

A father and son who overcame enormous physical problems to make lifelong contributions to golf are this year's winners of the Roanoke Hall of Fame awards.

The late Alvis and Gary Hylton, both former professionals at Boonsboro Country Club in Lynchburg, are the 1976 honorees.

The third Hall of Fame Tournament will be held June 11-13 at Botetourt Country Club, Roanoke Country Club and Blue Hills.

Previous winners of this coveted award are the late Joe Jamison and longtime Blue Hills pro Clarence King and many times Roanoke amateur champion George Fulton.

The story of the Hyltons, father and son, is one of courage. They never gave up in the face of crippling injuries and operations that would have ended the careers of most people.

Both were born in Roanoke, Alvis Hylton in 1910 and Gary in 1946. Alvis lived most of his life here, but spent the final 20 years as the Boonsboro pro. Gary succeeded him at Boonsboro when Alvis died in 1974. Gary died two months ago.

The elder Hylton was considered one of the finest teachers of the game. Among his pupils was Vinny Giles, a Lynchburg native who went on to become Virginia's finest-ever amateur player, winner of both the U.S. and British

Amateurs. Another who often came to Alvis for advice was touring pro Lanny Wadkins.

Alvis worked for the Norfolk and Western in Roanoke while also teaching as a golf pro in the summer. Two train accidents left him with a withered right arm, but he never gave up the game and continued playing right until his death.

While his physical disabilities reduced his playing capabilities, it never dimmed his enthusiasm for the game. He remained until the end one of the finest teachers in golf. And, with the Hyltons, it was strictly a family love affair. His wife Virginia also worked at Boonsboro.

Gary Hylton was one of the state's most promising golfers when he was struck by bone cancer at 16. At the time, he was a cross country runner, a fine basketball player, and a golfer who already had recorded a 66.

Gary underwent more than 50 operations. The first removed his left leg. Later, he would lose an arm and part of his right jaw. Yet he never gave in to the incredible pain and played golf until his death in April.

With two arms and one leg, Gary Hylton shot a score as low as 69. With one arm and one leg, he fired a 74.

Yet it was not so much the raw golfing ability of this father and son that brought them the award of the Hall of Fame committee, but their lifelong devotion to the sport. It was a devotion that never once wavered.