

5/7/2012

Dear Kevin,

I wish I had more information to share with you. When my Dad passed away in 1990, I hadn't caught the golf bug yet; if he had lived longer, I am sure I would have more info. I had always known that Wayne was a golf course designer, but that was about it. During my very first golf lesson, my pro asked me if golf was in my blood...as I picked up the game very quickly. I told her that it was, but only by marriage. When she heard about Wayne, she just about fell over. She was very much into design and knew about him. She gave me a book.. "The Architects of Golf" which I pick up now and then. From that day, golf has been a very important part of my life.

As a child, I heard nothing but good things about Wayne. He was the only father my Dad knew since his birth father died during WWI when he was very young. I wish I knew when Wayne and Viola met, but I think it was not long after HSSmall, Sr. died, but I am not sure. I do know that everyone loved Wayne. He knew my brother, Jonathan Wayne Small, but died a year before my birth. My Mom, Joan Brown Small loved him dearly, but had her issues with Viola. Apparently Viola was a very controlling and demanding woman, who would not meet my Mom until their wedding day in 1950. She did not want anyone taking her son away from her! I never saw that side of her. She was a very kind and extremely generous (thanks to Wayne's success) Grammie. I loved her dearly. We had so many fun times together at her home in Wellesley...I remember after she died, asking my Mom if we could move into her house..it was huge and so beautiful. She spent her winters in Palm Beach and died of a heart attack at breakfast one day. I remember the phone call my Mom got, and her fretting about telling my Dad the news. It was a sad day for me.

I hope this little bit of information fills in some blanks for you. If I do come across any more photos, I will gladly share them with you.

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