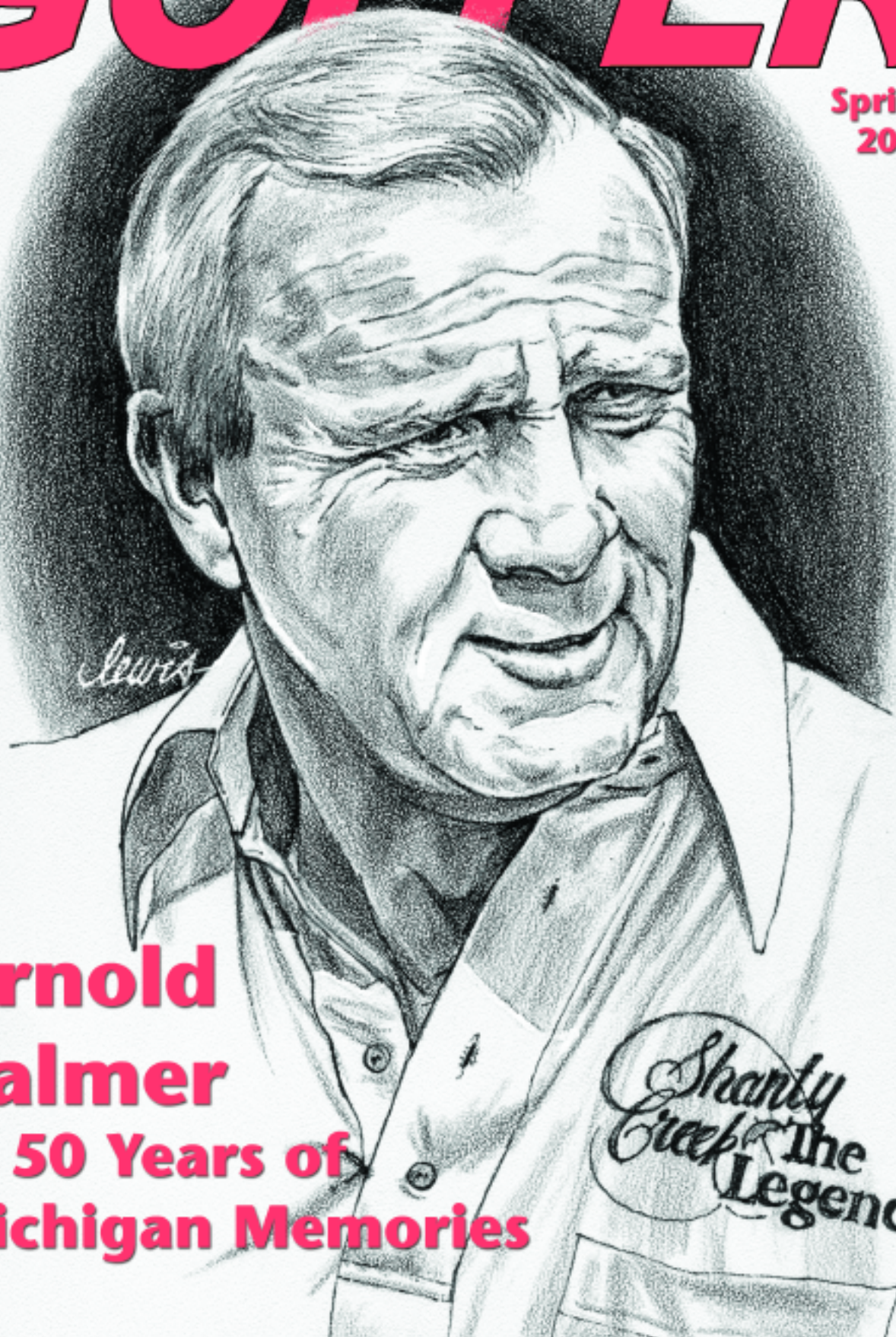


Michigan
GOIFER

Spring
2005



**Arnold
Palmer**
— 50 Years of
Michigan Memories



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Arnold Palmer follows through at the Turning Point Invitational.

– Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios.

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Cover illustration by Larry Lewis



Arnold Palmer

– 50 Years of

Michigan Memories

By L'anse Bannon

Michigan golf history came full circle for Arnold Palmer last year, as he celebrated 50 years of outstanding golf with the Arnold Palmer Turning Point Invitational.

The Invitational was a wonderful moment in time— when past U.S. Amateur champions assembled at the storied Country Club of Detroit. This was the course where Arnold Palmer won the U.S. Amateur. The which gave him the confidence to take on the game full time. The Arnold Palmer Turning Point Invitational, coupled with his 1954 U.S. Amateur win, provide impressive bookends for his great career.

We invite you to share this wonderful moment at <http://michigangolfer.tv/2005shows/palmer/>.

“The King” was to have another great moment in Michigan golf lore when he won the U.S.Senior Open in 1981.

Arnold Palmer also had a tremendous impact in Michigan through the work of his Palmer Design Company.

The company, which features the Arnold Palmer and Ed Seay team, has designed 214 courses in 38 states and 14 countries. Of that number, five have been built in Michigan. His first— and probably most memorable

Photo page 4:
Arnold Palmer's The Legends course at Shanty Creek, Hole No. 1.
Photo by Art McCafferty

Palmer Designs in Michigan

The Legend at Shanty Creek

Bellaire

Website: <http://www.shantycreek.com/golf/>

King's Challenge at Lakeview Country Club

Cedar

Website: <http://www.kingschallenge.com>

The Preserve Golf Club

Fenton

Website: <http://www.thepreserve.org>

Northville Hills Country Club

Northville

Website: <http://www.northvillehills.com>

Ravines Golf Club

Saugatuck

Website: <http://www.ravinesgolfclub.com>



The Preserve, Hole No. 17. Photo by Art McCafferty



Arnold Palmer tees it up at Threetops Par-3 Shootout.

foray in Michigan golf architecture— was his work on The Legend at Shanty Creek Resort.

Finally, Arnold Palmer partook in one of Michigan’s great moments when he flew in to be part of the Walter Hagen Testimonial dinner in Traverse City on August 20, 1967.

Arnold Palmer said, "The biggest thrill I got when I set a British Open record of 276 strokes at Troon, was to have Walter

Hagen phone me from Traverse City to congratulate me.

"I didn't even know The Haig knew I was alive until then."

At the testimonial dinner at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club, Palmer told Hagen that the testimonial dinner "could be held in the pro shop if it weren't for all you did to help build the game."

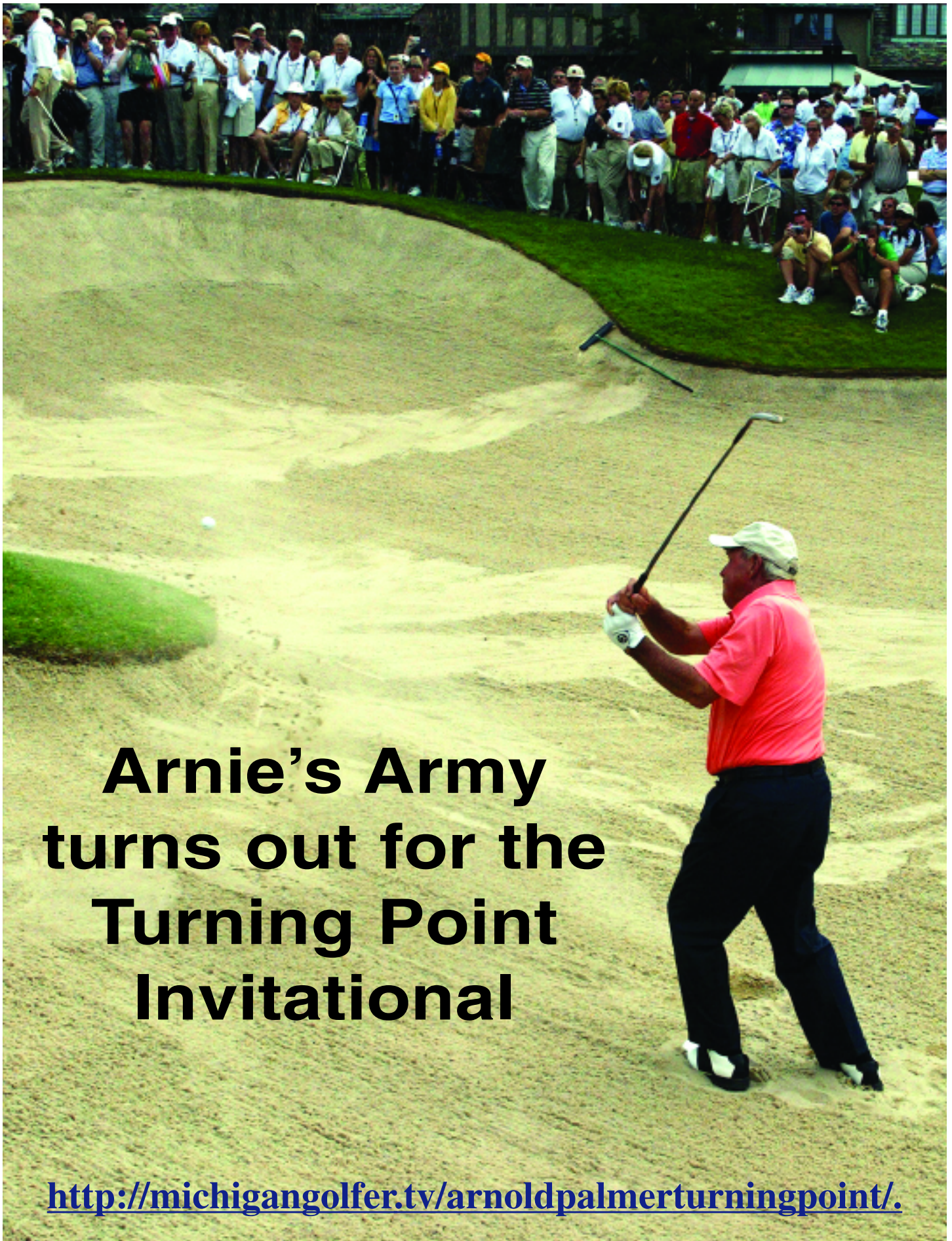
The Michigan Golfer wants to share some of these great moments with you, including Arnold’s com-

ments on Hagen at the Par 3 Shootout:

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2002shows/show21/index.html>

We conclude our story with “The Haig’s” comments on Arnold Palmer coming to Traverse City: <http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/hagen/>. **MG**

Photo page 7: Arnold Palmer at the Turning Point Invitational.
Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios.



Arnie's Army turns out for the Turning Point Invitational

<http://michigangolfer.tv/arnoldpalmerturningpoint/>

50 Things I Love About Golf



Robert Trent Jones has a legacy of four courses in Michigan: Point O' Woods, The Heather, a major renovation of Oakland Hills and the great Treetops course, which is featured here with Hole No. 11.

By Art McCafferty

My dad was not into sports. As a kid who emigrated from Canada at 15, he was always working and trying to make his way in this new country. One of his kid jobs was at Oakland Hills in the late 30's searching for golf balls to resell. He picked up an appreciation of the sport during that time that manifested itself 20 years

later when he brought home a somewhat non-descript driver and gave it to me. That club whetted my appetite for the game and it became a sports connector between dad and me.

Frankly, I might have hit only one or two golf balls with that club during the thousands of swings that I took. My main projectiles were small rocks found on the gravel road we lived by or dandelions and other flowers and

weeds that grew in our lawn and garden.

As I enter my 50th year of participating in the game, I thought I would identify 50 things that I love about the game. Actually, 49 things, as the first thing about the game was that battle-scarred club that never broke, bent, tasted a bogie or had the satisfaction of making a par. These are the remaining 49 things I love about golf.

Golf Courses

Duck Lake GC– Duck Lake GC in Highland was my home course. It was also the only course on which I got a par round. I still can remember each hole and my best shot on each one of them.

Treetops (Jones Course)– I fell in love with that course the minute I played it with Rich Smith and his assistant, Jimmy “Wags” Wagner. I also met Robert Trent Jones when the course opened. I had the forethought to hire Tom Durant, a videographer, to capture that moment. You can see that 1987 interview on our website at <http://michigangolfer.tv>.

Oakland Hills CC– This is our most storied course in Michigan. I’ve enjoyed watching the U.S. Open, the PGA Championship, the Champions Tour, the U.S. Amateur and the Ryder Cup played there.

The Heather Golf GC at Boyne Highlands– The Heather was my first exposure to great golf architecture. It was a major departure from Duck Lake and the “dollar a day” Bogie Lake GC that I grew up playing.

Banff Springs Golf Course– This Stanley Thompson gem is nestled in one of the most beautiful areas in North America. What’s not to like.



Hole No. 18 at Whistling Straits.

Pebble Beach– Jack Nicklaus says Pebble Beach is his all-time favorite course. Who am I to second-guess him? It is spectacular.

Augusta National– I have never seen such perfect conditions on a golf course. Unbelievable.

Castle Pines– I hit a drive from an elevated tee on this mountain course with a mighty wind at my back. I thought the ball would never come down. Sweet.

Eagle Crest Golf Club– This was my home course during my tenure at Eastern Michigan University. It was great day for our university when we got our own course.

Shanty Creek Resort– Arnold Palmer and his design team, put together one of Michigan

truly great golf courses, The Legend. It was an exciting time to have him in our state with his first project. He found Michigan to his liking with other work at The Preserve, King’s Challenge, The Ravines and Northville Hills,

Grand Hotel’s Jewel Course– One of the great views in golf is looking back from the 6th tee at the Jewel GC to see the magnificent Grand Hotel looming at the top of the hill. And where else do you take a horse drawn carriage to your second nine?

Whistling Straits– This is the greatest course I have ever played. Whistling Straits is the Pebble Beach of the Midwest. In fact, the four-course complex at Kohler is possibly the greatest assembly of golf courses in one area that exists today.



Hole No. 18 at High Pointe.



Tom Doak got his start at High Pointe and has become one of the world's most sought-after architects.

Wawashkamo GC— One of our century old courses in Michigan, Wawashkamo GC has a book written about it, and rightfully so. One of its bunkers was dug by some of British troops who held the fort on one occasion.

Threetops— This is the course on which Rick Smith cut his architectural teeth and is the course that all par-threes in the future will be measured against. The Par 3 Shootouts

played on the course, have brought the likes of; Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Phil Mickelson, Raymond Floyd, Fuzzy Zoeller, Lee Trevino, Fred Couples and Lee Janzen— up close and personal— to Gaylord. This year, Andy North and Gary McCord will join the group.

The Bear— If The Heather GC started designer golf in Northern Michigan, The Bear helped launch one of the greatest golf course building booms ever experienced in our state. Nicklaus still shakes his head when reminded about his battles with former Grand Traverse Resort CEO Paul Nine. Nine, who did not want a resort course at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, wanted a tough course that would create enough buzz to bring people to the resort. He got it. While The Bear is not the bear it used to be, it still lives up to its name.

High Pointe— Golf course architect phenomenon, Tom Doak, got his start at High Pointe. The grand-opening of the course occurred during a torrential rain, but the course was so unusual, that our foursome kept playing.

Other courses I love include Sultan's Run in Jasper, Indiana; Muirfield Village in Dublin, Ohio, The Links at Spanish Bay in California, Blackwolf Run River Course in Kohler, Wisconsin, Arcadia Bluff, Point O' Woods, Timberstone, and The Gailes.

Golf Personalities

Dave Richards

Dave Richards and his team have helped to put Michigan golf on the map. They have brought in the best golf writers and photographers in the country to capture the essence of our courses.

Randy Erskine

One of Michigan's greatest golf professionals, Randy Erskine was also our neighbor. Randy is great talent, great person, great family man and a great neighbor. Who can forget his mad dash to the PGA Championship, when a no-show created an open slot. He had to be on an Oakland Hills tee from his Ypsilanti home in 50 minutes and made it.

J.P. McCarthy

Our own Marconi legend, J.P. was the voice of Michigan golf for many years. He started the famous

Pals Golf Tournament that attracted some of the greatest golfers in the world to Wabeek year after year. J.P interviewed me on his Focus show and it was all that I thought it would be. I walked in to the interview room along with fitness guru, Dr. Joe Arends and he interviewed the two of us— sans notes— for 45 minutes.

Pete Dye

I have been with Pete on four golf course openings; Blackwolf Run, Whistling Straits, Walt Disney's Eagle Pines and Eagle Eye in East Lansing. Former U of M President Harlan Hatcher gave him his start at the Radrick Farms course. He is one of the great ones.

Arnold Palmer

Like a million other golfers, I have an autograph from The King. I also had the opportunity to tape his Turning Point Invitational Tournament last year. However, my biggest thrill was to track down Arnold during the opening of The Legend at Shanty Creek. My dad, who was a pilot, chatted with Arnold about flying (at the time Arnold held a couple of records with his corporate jet).

Jack Nicklaus

I attended two-course openings by Jack: The Bear at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, and The Bull at Sheboygan, Wisconsin. His recall on how the courses were designed was astounding.

Bob Walters

Bob was the son of the owner of Duck Lake Golf Course and an excellent golfer. I remember going there to set up a tournament for the Milford Jaycees. He invit-



Ben Davis – a true pioneer of golf in Michigan.

ed me for a quick round one morning, while setting up the watering system. I was amazed by how good he was. It was my first exposure to a golf professional's talent.

Rick Smith

My partner, Mike Duff, and I stopped by Treetops before its grand opening to try out the course. We met Rick and his assistant, Jimmy "Wags" Wagner, at the temporary clubhouse and they invited us to play. Two things— the awesome game that each player had and Rick Smith's assuming a teaching role, struck me at the time. Mike had started hitting some snap hooks in the round and Rick immediately gave him a lesson during play.

Ben Davis

I recently met Ben, after having heard and read about his life for a number of years. He was a real pioneer in creating space for black

golf professionals in the sport. He is mentioned in Calvin Sinnette's book, "Forbidden Fairways." When asked to discuss his early days as a pioneering golf professional, Ben said, "I could say a few words, but when I start talking about that and things of that nature, I start crying. So rather than cry, I would just say, that I had some tough times along the way."

The interview can be found at <http://michigangolfer.tv/2005shows/davis/index.html>.

Terry Moore

I worked with Terry in Grand Rapids and was first introduced to his game and to his mind there. Terry is a fine amateur player whose finest moment was, most likely, his hole-in-one with a one-iron. Obviously, an excellent golf writer, Terry has provided writing for the MG for two decades.



The Michigan Golfer Television Show debuted in March 2001. Our crew included host, Bill Shelton, Thad Gutowski, Jennie McCafferty, Art McCafferty, Catherine Jones, Chris Lahiri and Joe Yunkman.

Jack Saylor

Jack's best friend was Harold Horn. Harold Horn was also one of my father's best friends. When I proposed starting the Michigan Golfer magazine, Jack was very supportive.

Jack Berry

Jack constantly made me aware of the standards of golf journalism. On a number of occasions, Jack pointed out mistakes in stories I had written. They were all tough lessons, but ones I appreciated.

Mike Husby

Mike has been a client, a subject of many stories, and an example of somebody who has accomplished much in golf through hard work and talent.

Walter Hagen

This great golfer adopted Michigan and it has been my pleasure to resurrect his life with a video series on the Ryder Cup. The series featured my friend and former President of Eastern Michigan University, William Shelton, and my son, Michael, who played "The Haig."

Bill Shelton

Bill, former President of Eastern Michigan University, was the host of the groundbreaking Michigan Golfer Television Show for four years. He is a knowledgeable golfer who also was a natural in front of the camera.

Events

The most memorable events are The Masters, The Ryder Cup, Jeff Daniels Comedy Golf Jam, PGA Merchandise Show, U.S. Open, PGA Championship, the World Golf Village and the first Novi Golf Show.

Two other memorable moments for me were the Michigan Golfer's launch of the first online golf magazine in 1995 and the world's first online golf television show in 2001.

Well there you have it. For those who are interested in some of my thoughts over the past 50 years, you now have them. **MG**

<http://michigangolfer.tv>

2005



Vanessa Bell & Tony Jacklin

Golf Architects and Their Courses

- The Natural with Jerry Matthews
- The Majestic Golf at Lake Walden with Jerry Matthews
- The Jewel and Woods with Jerry Matthews
- Timberstone Golf Course with Jerry Matthews
- The Tribute Golf Course with Gary Koch
- The Loon Golf Club with Mike Husby
- The Concession with Tony Jacklin, Jack Nicklaus and Vanessa Bell
- Hawk's Eye with John Robinson

Destination Golf

- Grayling Golf-Grayling CC, Fox Run, Grandview and Twin Birch
- Ireland Golf & the Ryder Cup with Vanessa Bell

Michigan Golf Hall of Fame Series

- Dan Pohl: Michigan Golf Hall of Fame with Jack Berry
- Elaine Crosby: Michigan Golf Hall of Fame with Jack Berry
- Jerry Matthews: Michigan Golf Hall of Fame with Jack Berry

Michigan Golf History

- The Ryder Cup Opening Ceremonies with Vanessa Bell
- Arnold Palmer and the Turning Point Invitational
- Memories of the Ryder Cup with Vanessa Bell
- The Irish Invasion of The Henry Ford
- An Evening with Tom Doak

New Courses

- Forest Dunes Golf Course with Jennie McCafferty
- Sundance Golf Course with Jerry Matthews
- Macatawa Legends with Ray Hearn
- Twin Lakes with Ken Niblock
- True North Golf Course with Dave Mocini

Tournament Golf

- 2005 Bay Mills Open Players Championship
- Jeff Daniels 10th and Final Comedy Golf Jam
- Tom Izzo Coaches Charity Golf Tournament

Summer Tournament Schedule One Event Lighter

By Kelly Hill
Managing Editor

The loss of a title sponsor has cost Michigan one of its major annual tournaments. The Champions Tour will not visit the Grand Rapids area this summer as the long-running tournament, last known as the Farmers Charity Classic will no longer be played. The event had been billed as “West Michigan’s Premier Sporting Event.”

Golf fans around the state who wish to see some of the legends of the game will still have the opportunity, however, at the annual Ford Senior Players Championship at the TPC of Michigan, in Dearborn.

Michigan golf fans also may have to make a few logistical decisions this summer, particularly during the final week of July. The Buick Open, Western Amateur Championship and the Michigan Women’s Open all will be played during the same week.

Here is a quick look at the upcoming summer tournament schedule:

The Buick Open

Vijay Singh will attempt to defend his championship when the state’s only stop on the PGA Tour is played July 25-31 at Warwick Hills in Grand Blanc. Singh’s victory last year was his fourth of the season and came by just one stroke over John Daly and two over Tiger Woods.



Wild Bluff Golf Course hosted the 2004 Bay Mills Open Players Championship.
Photo by Art McCafferty

The Ford Senior Players Championship

Now the only Champions Tour stop in Michigan, the event played at Dearborn’s TPC of Michigan is scheduled for July 4-10 and will carry a purse of \$2.5 million. Mark James became a first-time champion on the Champions Tour when he won last year’s tournament by one stroke over Jose Maria Canizares and two over Bruce Fleisher. James finished at 13-under, despite a 1-over 73 in the final round.

The Bay Mills Open

The Canadian Tour stops in Michigan August 22-28 this year, as

the Bay Mills Open Players Championship will be played at Wild Bluff Golf Course in Brimley. Golf fans can enjoy a full week of quality action by attending the Michigan PGA Championship Monday through Wednesday of that week, prior to heading to Bay Mills.

The Western Amateur

Tiger Woods, Hal Sutton and Andy North are among the stars who won this title before turning professional. Played at Point O’ Woods Golf Club in Benton Harbor from July 25-31 this year, the tournament is known as the “Masters” of amateur golf. Ryan Moore beat Australian James

Nitties on the first extra hole to claim last year's crown. Moore also won last year's U.S. Publinxer, the U.S. Amateur Championship and won Arnold Palmer's Turning Point Invitational at the Country Club of Detroit.

The Michigan Open

The state open will be played for the 25th time on The Bear at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme. Slated for June 27-30, the Michigan Open was won last year by Knollwood Country Club pro Jeff Roth, who will be inducted in the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame on May 15. Roth shot a 4-under 68 in the final round to finish three strokes ahead of Eric Jorgensen of Grandville and Mike Austin of Burton. It was Roth's second Open title, as he also won in 1998.

The Michigan Women's Open

Scheduled for July 25-27 at Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville, the state's top women's tournament was won last year by Grandville native Stacy Snider, who played collegiately at Michigan State. Snider won a year ago on the first hole of a playoff with Amy Malinaric of Rancho Mirage, CA.

The Tournament of Champions

The most unusual event in the state each summer, this tournament features men, women, professionals, amateurs, seniors and juniors. Played on the Monument and Alpine courses at Boyne Mountain Resort, and scheduled for July 18-20 this year, the tournament was won last year by Eric Jorgensen, who last summer played regularly

on the NGA Hooters Tour. He finished four strokes ahead of five-time Michigan Open champion Scott Hebert and six strokes ahead of two-time LPGA Tour champion Elaine Crosby.

The Michigan PGA Championship

Slated for Aug. 22-24 at Shanty Creek in Bellaire, the state's PGA Championship was won last year by Joe Pollack, who almost blew the six-stroke lead he enjoyed entering the tournament's final eight holes. Pollack, who was a part-time instructor at Boulder Creek Golf Club in suburban Grand Rapids, won his first major Michigan championship by one stroke over Ron Beurmann of the Country Club of Jackson.

The Michigan Amateur Championship

The 94th state amateur championship is scheduled this year for June 21-25 at Muskegon Country Club. Last year, 19-year-old Jeff Cuzzort of Grosse Ile won the title at Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club, where he had served as a caddie for two seasons. Cuzzort defeated MSU sophomore Matt Harmon 3 and 2 in the championship match.



Ryan Moore won the 102nd Western Amateur, then took top honors at Arnold Palmer's Turning Point Invitational. – Photo by Clarence Sormin.

The Women's Michigan Amateur Championship

Now presented by the Golf Association of Michigan, the tournament is scheduled for July 13-15 at Radrick Farms. Sarah Martin and Jenna Walter, both of whom had finished second in previous women's state amateur championships, needed four extra holes before Martin won the 88th playing of the tournament last year. Martin was a senior at MSU last year. **MG**



The K Club will host the 2006 Ryder Cup

Irish Eyes Are Smiling

By Bernice Phillips

One of the great treats during the 2004 Ryder Cup was the involvement of the Irish contingent in our state. They arrived in mass to start their preparation for hosting the next Ryder Cup at the K Club in Ireland.

They were involved in a myriad of activities, aimed at introducing the media, VIP's, travel agents and the like to what they could expect once they arrived there. They sponsored a Ryder Cup Breakfast, where they offered a sumptuous buffet breakfast and the added enticement of the Heinzman School of Irish Dance.

In the evening, with the help of scribe Jack Berry, they hosted an evening party at Birmingham watering hole, Dick O'Dow's. What an evening it was. An abundance of laughter and wonderful Irish singers accompanying the downing of a dram or two of Irish spirits.

Later on in the week, they visited The Henry Ford. Again, visitors were treated to a terrific buffet, great music, dancing and enough laughter to last until you arrive at the K Club for 2006.

Michigan Golfer Television captured all of the excitement of the Irish at the Ryder Cup. We ask you to join us for a little laughter, a lit-

tle music, a little singing and a lot of fun.

The Ryder Cup Opening Ceremonies

Donald Trump kicks off the opening ceremonies that feature past Ryder Cup Captains, Governor Jennifer Granholm, The Saginaw High School Drumline, and the official presentation of the 35th Ryder Cup teams.

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2005shows/irish/OpeningDay/>

A Visit With Members of the Sam Ryder Family

Vanessa Bell chats with her Ipswich, England neighbors, the Sam Ryder family. They talk about the 35th Ryder Cup, their



Tee No. 17 at the K Club.



The K Club, one of Ireland's finest golf courses, was designed by Arnold Palmer.

famous ancestor and past Ryder Cups they have attended.

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2005shows/irish/ryderfamily/>

Breakfast with the Irish

Vanessa Bell joins the Irish Ryder Cup contingent for breakfast, entertainment and information about the upcoming 36th Ryder Cup in 2006. The entertainment is supplied by dancers from the

Heinzman School of Irish Dance
<http://michigangolfer.tv/2005shows/irish/irishbreakfast/>

Ryder Cup Celebration at Henry Ford

Put on your dancing shoes for this show, as some lively Irish music provides the backdrop for our look at the great items on display at Henry Ford. Our Irish visitors put this visit right at the top of their list of favorite Ryder Cup memories.

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2005shows/irish/HenryFord/>

An Evening at Dick O'Dow's

Ben Crenshaw was one of many who stopped by this terrific Irish-

themed watering hole to wet their whistle. The Irish Tourism Board sponsored the event. Harp and Guinness beers and Irish music were all flowing freely at this joyous event. On hand to fill their hands with frosted mugs were Jack Berry, Tonia Branch, Vanessa Bell, Tim Broe, William McMachan, Rosie and Brandon Zylstra, Dave Richards, Phyllis Barone, Kevin Frisch, Craig Brass, Jason Deegan, Irish singers and the representatives of the Ryder Cup 2006.

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2005shows/irish/DickO'Dow's/> **MG**

SLICE OF LIFE



By Terry Moore

As a few of my ear-weary golf cronies will attest, I love this quote from Walter Hagen: "I never wanted to be a millionaire; I just wanted to live like one." Indeed through my various golf endeavors, I've been fortunate to travel around the country and overseas to play golf and to live at times like a millionaire. This is especially gratifying when one is, in publisher Art McCafferty's patented phrase, "merely a thousandaire." With that as an introduction, permit this wayfaring thousandaire your indulgence as he recalls some golf journeys from the past year.

Tucson, Arizona: What a break to have a good friend like Jack Berry now owning a winter home here. ("There's only one thing better than owning a home in Tucson, that's knowing someone....") I've never been to Tucson before this winter but let me tell you it's a beautiful, sunny, and most attractive area. Besides golf, there's plenty to do in terms of outdoor activities and interests. Jack introduced me to one of his favorite haunts, the Saguaro National Park (east district) located in the southeast part of Tucson. Coming out of wintry Michigan, a desert rookie hiker like me found the park particu-

larly breathtaking. The park encompasses an aging saguaro (the renowned giant cactus) forest at the foot of the Rincon Mountains and offers an extraordinary variety of desert environments and panoramas. And in a bit of serendipity, I happened to strike up a written conversation with a fellow hiker boasting a Cypress Point logo on his pullover. With his voice impaired, this gentleman communicated with me by notepad. The two of us thus engaged in an historic first: two hikers on a desert trail exchanging notes about playing Cypress Point GC. (This is why I'm proud to be an American!)

Since I've now mentioned golf, let me report that Tucson is teeming with public, private and resort golf offerings. Local aficionados steered us toward two fine courses on this trip. One day we played Stone Canyon, a private development course designed by Jay Morrish. From a photographic standpoint, Stone Canyon (<http://www.stonecanyon.com>) is a stunning layout as it weaves around and through some remarkably rocky and cacti-strewn terrain. Immaculately manicured and painstakingly constructed, it possesses a dazzling collection of holes.

On a more modest scale but equally enjoyable is the venerable and classic-minded Tucson Country Club. Designed by the father-son duo of William F & William P Bell in 1947, Tucson CC is a walker's delight to play as the greens and next tees are close to one another and the terrain's generally flat. Known for its conditioning and its large, quick greens, the layout has a variety of strong and sporting holes, many of which are tree-lined. In a classy homage to one

of its revered members, the championship tees here are named the Updegraff Golds in honor of Dr. Ed Updegraff, three-time Walker Cup player, many-time Arizona Amateur winner, and the '81 USGA Senior Amateur champion.

Orlando, Florida: I've been playing golf in Orlando every January since the PGA Merchandise Show made the move there in the '80s. This year our golf group sampled both the new and the old in terms of courses. The new sampling was at the Reunion Resort & Club of Orlando (<http://www.reunion-resort.com>) which is located only a few exits past and southwest of Walt Disney World. For accommodations, there are smartly designed one- and three- bedroom Resort Villas each with kitchen and big living areas.

For golf, you have two very solid and reputable layouts—the Tom Watson Independence Course and the Arnold Palmer Legacy Course. The Watson course has undulating terrain and large, bold bunkering-- especially in the fairways. The Palmer course is the more forgiving of the two but it offers quite the test as well. The overall course conditions and the quality of greens are top-notch. One item for the Reunion suggestion box: scrap the confusing "Independence" and "Legacy" titles for on-course signage (the courses overlap) and instead simply use "Watson" and "Palmer."

Our appreciation of the old and the venerable was enhanced by our visit to the Mountain Lake golf course in Lake Wales, Florida. Not widely known except by those mavens who genuflect at the altar of designer Seth Raynor, Mountain Lake is a (very) private club surrounded by a gated hous-

ing community that was founded in 1915 and landscaped by the world famous Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr.

The course was designed in 1916 by Raynor who's acclaimed for his work with C.B. MacDonald (Yale, National Golf Links, Piping Rock) and also for his own masterful handiwork at such traditional stalwarts as Shoreacres (IL), Camargo (OH) and the remodeled Chicago GC (IL).

In 2003, a renovation project by the noted Brian Silva was completed, deftly restoring many of the original features and signature Raynor holes. As such, the wonderful playing experience at Mountain Lake is compounded by a primer in classic golf course design. There's the par-three Biarritz fifth hole with its namesake chasm in the middle of the green; the par-four seventh hole named "Road" in tribute to St. Andrews' 17th hole; the par-three 11th hole named "Redan" for its imposing "kickback" contours in the green complex; and the par-three 17th hole named "Eden" inspired by the 11th hole at St. Andrews.

The superintendent of Mountain Lake is GCSSA member Scott Scamehorn (arriving this year from the well-regarded and nearby Southern Dunes) who has the course in excellent shape and with most slippery putting surfaces. Scamehorn also carries on the yeoman work, begun last fall, of pruning and clearing hundreds of trees in and around the course that were lost and/or damaged by the wicked hurricanes that raked through the area. But have no fear, Mountain Lake survived and in fact may have been even improved by Mother Nature's forced tree-trimming project. Rest assured, Mountain Lake will continue to illuminate the legacy of its most admired architect.

Ireland: Arise from your slumber, this tale is nearly over. But before it

ends, a few comments about some golf on the Emerald Isle, the host country of the 2006 Ryder Cup Matches. Last April, I played some stirring links courses in Ireland's remote northwest region not usually trafficked by Americans and the big golf travel companies.

Considered by some to be Ireland's ultimate hidden gems, The Links of Ballyliffin--on County Donegal's Inishowen Peninsula--include The Old Links, which was completed in 1968 by the legendary Irish designer Eddie Hackett and two British designers; and Glashedy Links designed by Pat Ruddy and Tom Craddock and opened in 1995.

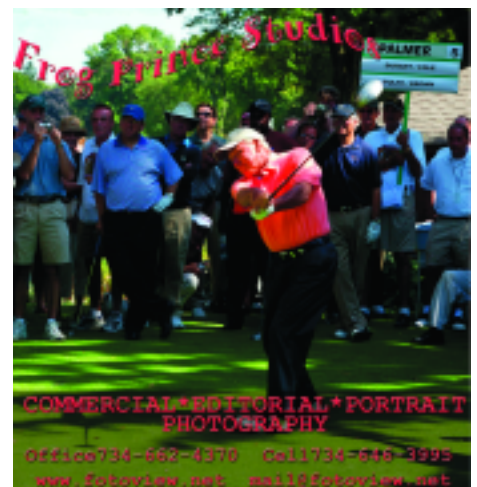
The Olds Links is somewhat of a museum piece but it still delivers an invigorating golf experience with its magnificent views of the Atlantic and Glashedy Rock, an Irish Ailsa Craig, that sits two miles off shore. Ruddy and Craddock meanwhile designed an exceptional test with Glashedy Links. The course winds its way effortlessly through rugged sand dunes and natural valleys, all the while imparting spectacular vistas. The bunkering (many of which are revetted or turf-stacked) is diabolical at times but ingeniously designed and placed. I could ramble on but simply put, Glashedy Links (<http://www.ballyliffingolfclub.com>) is a "must play" links course on anyone's itinerary.

Ruddy's reputation as Ireland's "modern day Eddie Hackett" will only grow as more players discover his links course in County Donegal located at the four-star Rosapenna Hotel and Golf Links (www.rosapenna.ie). Overlooking an Old Tom Morris course (1891) and the gorgeous Sheephaven Bay, Ruddy's Sandy Hills course is nestled within some gigantic and towering dunes. Although the fairways are somewhat constricted and thus penal due to the natural and care-

ful routing through this magnificent landscape,

Sandy Hills affords a most spirited and imaginative round of golf. (It's also quite physically taxing for walkers.) The views alone are priceless. Yet when the turf fully matures and a few tweaks are made, Sandy Hills will someday stand with the best links courses in the land. Kudos to Rosapenna Hotel owner Frank Casey for envisioning this project and hiring Ruddy who's a trusted steward and practitioner of authentic links design.

The quirkiest links course I've ever encountered was a little known and sadly neglected Eddie Hackett course called St. Patrick's in the nearby village of Carrigart and owned by Carrigart Hotel owner Dermot Walsh (an eccentric and charming character). And get this: if you stay at his hotel, you play St. Pat's free! The only catch is the course is sorely lacking in regular upkeep, maintenance and equipment. Greens are mossy and abysmally slow, fairways are shabby and undefined, and many bunkers don't even have sand. Putting blinders on to these major shortcomings, one still feels lucky to have played here, awed by the majestic sights and moved once again by Hackett's genius buried and now overgrown here like some Celtic ruin. Oddly enough, playing St. Patrick's will make you feel like a millionaire. **MG**



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