

A Great Man

For the first time in 18 years, a Herb Graffis golf story does not appear in this issue of TROPIC NEWS. At age 91, the dean of American golf writers has finally slackened his pace, but continues to live a luminous life at his gracious Fort Myers Beach home where he remains the most knowledgeable historian on the game he has covered for some 70 years.



Herb is still one of the world's wittiest, most proficient after-dinner speakers and he continues to make occasional sorties onto the golf course, particularly at his home course, Cypress Lake Country Club.

He is the only writer ever enshrined into The World Golf Hall of Fame. Inducted into this Pinehurst, N.C. showcase in 1977, Graffis joined the likes of Hagen and Hogan, Berg and Zaharias — all contemporaries and close friends.

In 1963, along with his late brother Joe, Herb received the Richardson Award, given annually by the Golf Writers Association of America (GWAA) for consistently outstanding contributions to golf.

In 1978, Herb and Joe again shared a prestigious honor, The Donald Ross Award presented by the American Society of Golf Course Architects for achievement in architecture.

And then in 1983, Herb won his own award — The Herb Graffis Award of the National Golf Foundation. This honor is presented yearly to an individual for his contributions to golf as a recreation, good fellowship and as a happy pastime. No one is more qualified for this tribute than Herb Graffis!

A friend of kings and presidents — The Duke of Windsor, who abdicated the throne of Great Britain for the love of a woman; and President Harry S. Truman — Graffis is probably one of the game's best-known personalities.

He ghost-write Tommy Armour's immortal book, "How To Play Your Best Golf All The Time," the only sports book to ever make the No. 1. spot on the Nation's Best Seller list.

For Herb Graffis is a very humble guy. No matter that just about every notable figure who has ever appeared on the world golf scene holds him in high esteem and awe ... Graffis laughingly sloughs this off with some self-deprecating phrase of blue humor.

The year 1984 was not the best of years for Herb Graffis. He underwent three major operations within a period of five days — a supreme test of courage for any one person ... but for a guy of 91?

Still very active in the United States Golf Association's Green Section, Herb was delighted to discover the organization was going to promote the slogan "Golf Keeps America Beautiful" on as many sites as it can find. Herb will never admit it, but "Golf Keeps America Beautiful" was his own catch-phrase from the very beginning.

Stories of Herb Graffis are legend ... just ask Barbara Nicklaus, Jack's wife; or Harry S. Truman's daughter, Margaret, among others ... or Patty Berg or Ben Crenshaw or Ben Hogan ... they'll all tell you what the name Herb Graffis means to golf and to the United States of America.

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