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## Jack Harkins, First Flight Founder, Dies in Miami

Jack Harkins, 64, founder of Professional Golf Co., First Flight Co. and chairman of the board of those companies and



Harkins

the Arnold Palmer Co., died in Miami, Fla., Sept. 29, of cancer. During the past year or so he had been in and out of hospitals. Harkins was born in Tipperary, Ireland. He came to Philadelphia in 1920 and was an automobile racer and stunt flier during his early years in America.

He got into golf club manufacturing in Chattanooga to market hickory shafts. The Professional Golf Co. was the development of that enterprise. It became the manufacturing company in which First Flight Co. is the marketing operation, with First Flight International, Ltd., Cork, Ireland, handling foreign production and marketing. Professional Golf Co. also was the parent manufacturing organization for the Arnold Palmer Co.

Harkins was an excellent golfer himself, active in Southern Seniors and other tournaments. Through First Flight he was a sponsor of the PGA National Golf Club championship.

Harkins began several years ago to ease up in his work and set up an executive and operating organization headed by Lew Oehmig as president, and Herb Williams and others as managers and supervisors of First Flight operations.

Surviving Jack Harkins are his wife, the former Emily Nesbitt, who is widely known to professional golfers and their wives, and the Harkins' daughter, Mrs. Irene Yon, and three grandchildren.

The 1965 U.S.G.A. Open will be played June 17-19 at Bellerive CC, St. Louis. Bellerive, built only a few years ago, is one of the finest clubs in the Midwest.