

A TRIBUTE . . .

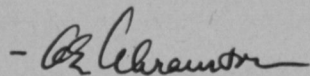


For the past year, the pages of GOLFDOM have resembled a stroll down memory lane. During this period, we have been celebrating GOLFDOM's 40th Anniversary, and in addition to lighting the candles on the cake, we opened up the columns of the magazine to some of the pioneers of the golf industry whose own growth has been closely linked to the progress of GOLFDOM. It has been a priceless brand of nostalgia as well as an impressive summary of how the game and industry have grown and prospered. And, undoubtedly, it will serve to inspire and encourage a younger generation.

In this, the final issue of our festive Anniversary year, it is most appropriate that we reserve some space for two men who have devoted practically all of their lives to the game and the industry which serves it. They are, of course, Herb and Joe Graffis, the founders of GOLFDOM. Their own reminiscences are on the pages that follow, but they do not touch on some of the things that should be said about the Brothers Graffis at this time.

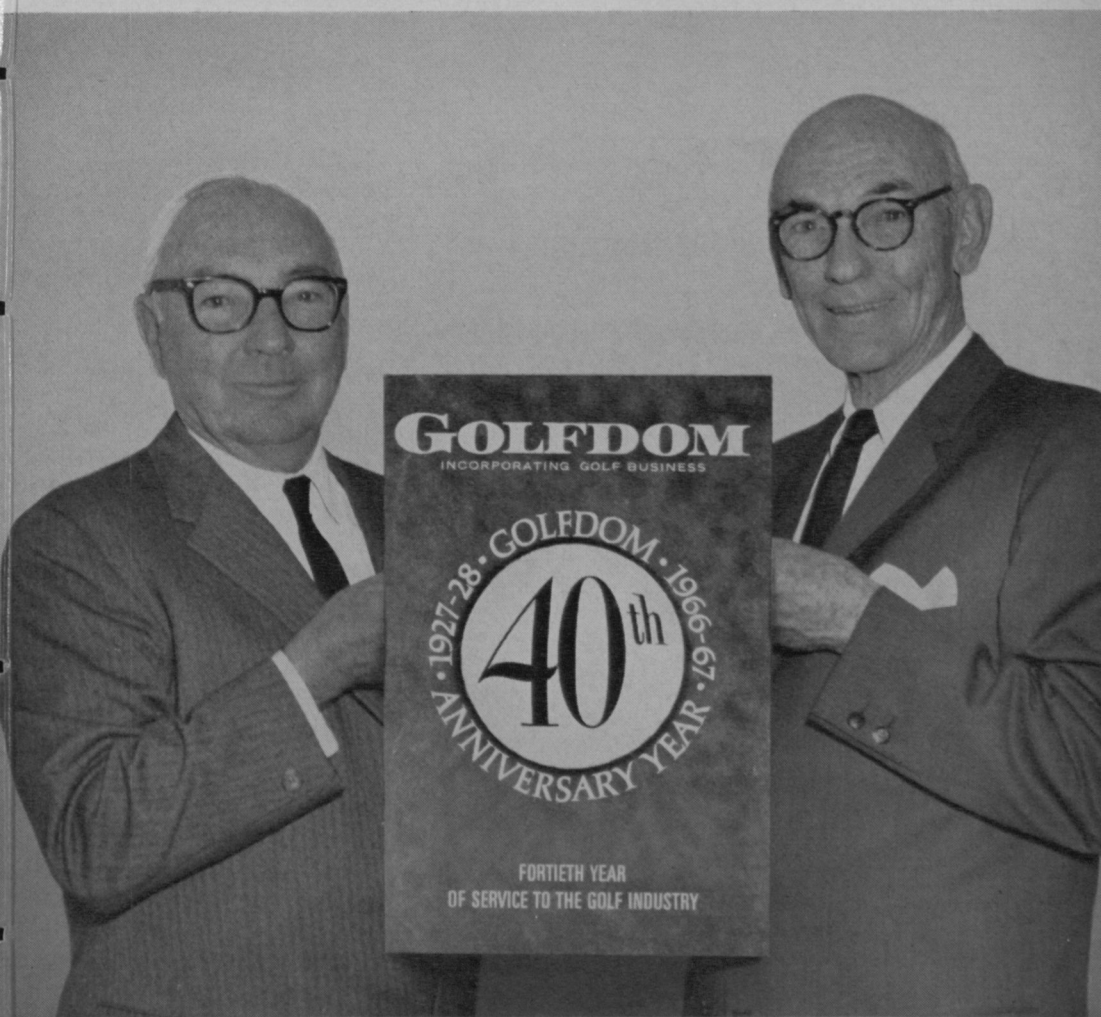
Herb and Joe were the pioneer publishers in this sport and for over four decades they have been the proponents of a type of personal publishing that stresses courageous independence and the integrity of a warm handshake. They have traveled the length and breadth of America, listening to the problems of the club pros, the club owners and course operators, the course superintendents, and anyone else connected with the game. They have spoken out at times when things had to be said, but weren't being said. They have helped bring new stature to the professions of the game; new dignity; now prosperity. They have guided manufacturers, and the industry as a whole, to a better understanding of the needs of the golfer and the golf course complex and have put them on the road to better business and greater success. They have left footprints in the sand that those of us who follow will have a difficult task in filling.

And so, as we turn into the 41st year of GOLFDOM, I want Herb and Joe to know that I am honored to be associated with them and that all of us at GOLFDOM look forward to continuing the work to which the Graffises have dedicated the best parts of their lives.



ARNOLD E. ABRAMSON

Publisher



HERB AND JOE GRAFFIS
Founders of GOLFDOM