

across all greens. In addition to labor efficiencies, the RG3 provides the most consistent putting surface possible, the company says, by combining rolling and mowing in the same unit and eliminating the influence of an operator.

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10. E.R.I.C. Charging System

CLUB CAR'S Precedent i3 is supported by the company's new advanced electrical charging system known as E.R.I.C. (Efficient, Reliable, Intelligent and Connected.) The system has been designed around an intelligent long-term storage algorithm that continuously monitors changes in voltage and



9

charges the golf car's batteries when needed. E.R.I.C. draws a maximum of 7.5 amps and is designed to operate with AC input voltages of 85-270 VAC, which ensures reliable charging through voltage spikes and



10

sags. E.R.I.C. features a system of visible and audible indicators that communicates to cart barn staff that a car is receiving electricity from the AC outlet and confirms that a charge is in process and/or complete. Club Car

estimates that E.R.I.C. will deliver significant utility savings over the life of a fleet when compared to its previous charging system.

clubcar.com

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2. Quick Coupler Key Hose Adapter

3. Sprinkler Head Hose Adapter

4 Sizes Available

OPTIONS:
(2) Male Ends or
(1) Male and (1) Female End

Keeping up with The Jones



Continued from page 6
to oblige (see page 9). I've always admired Rees and his family's work from afar, but in recent years I've been fortunate to add Rees as a friend and even a father figure of sorts; he looks out for me and is always happy to help me out when he can.

When he arrived at the *Golfdom* booth this year, he quietly pulled me aside. "I brought you something," he told me. He then pulled out some papers from his jacket pocket and stuffed them in my hand. "This is a letter Herb Graffis wrote to my father... I want you to have it."

Let me be clear: it's a copy of the letter, not the letter itself. And yet, Rees Jones took the time to bring me a gift, dated August 16th, 1970, a letter written by the founder of this very magazine, addressed to Mr. Robert Trent Jones.

That doesn't happen everyday, you know?

The letter is scathing and also hilarious. Graffis bashes the Tour players of that era for their bad manners. He

mentions that Gene Sarazen used to criticize the U.S. Open course every year just to get his name in the paper. He mentions a caddie who "must be embarrassing to his family." He also writes, "the old poet who wrote that you can't make a velvet purse of a sow's ear might be amazed to see how you can make a golf star out of a pig's ass."

To read the letter, stop by the *Golfdom* blog (golfdom.com) where I'll post the letter in its entirety. And thank you to Rees for the kind gift.

The next souvenir has become something of an annual tradition. Mike Bavier, CGCS-Retired, a former president of the GCSAA (1981) brought me the June, 1967 issue of *Golfdom* during the GIS.

Bavier is another guy I've

been lucky enough to befriend since taking over *Golfdom*. I now have a nice chunk of his back issues of *Golfdom* that were mailed to him when he was a young superintendent. I hope I'm lucky enough to one day pass them on to my successor in 30 or so years... and I'll be sure to name-check Bavier and his kindness for keeping these gems out of a recycle bin.

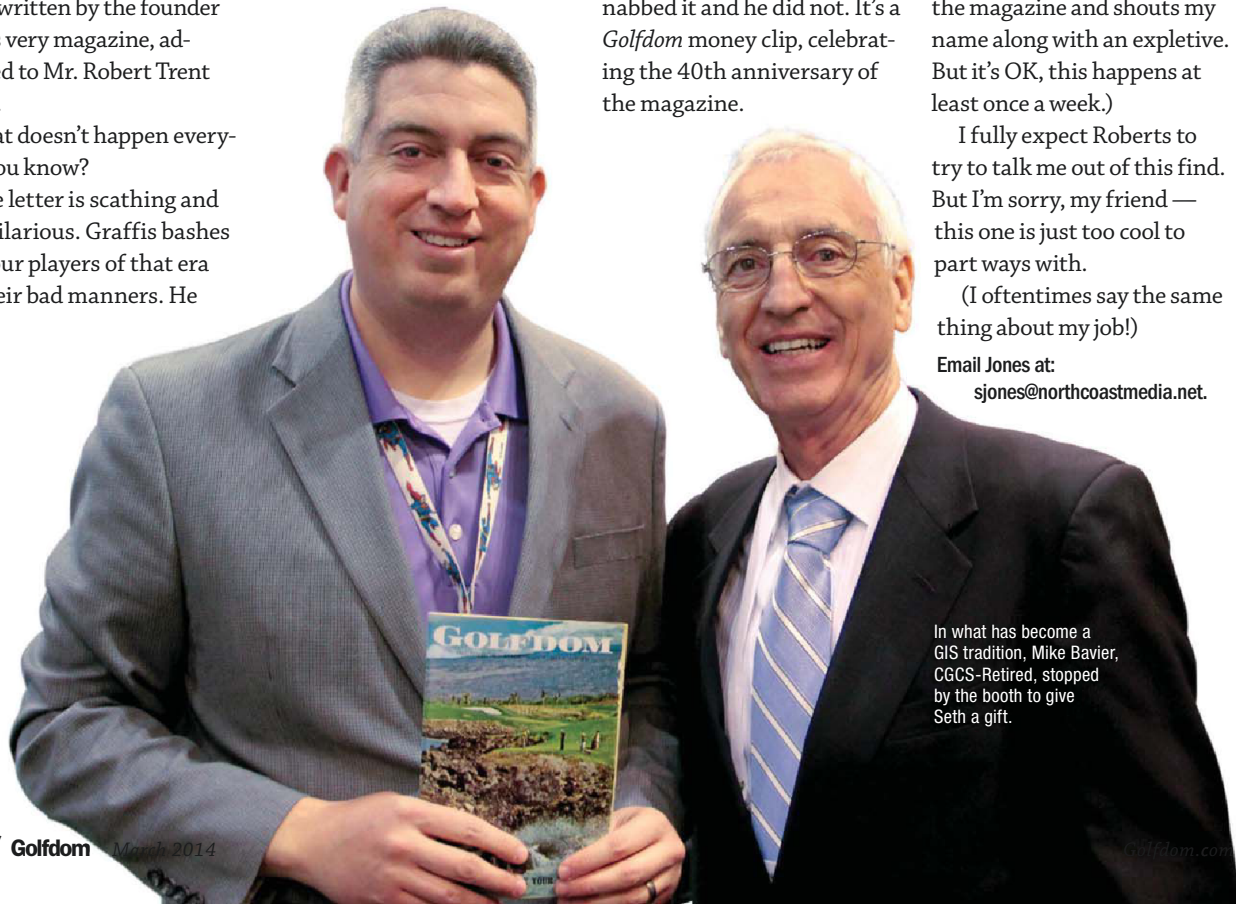
Finally, this last one is going to frustrate my publisher, Pat Roberts, that I nabbed it and he did not. It's a *Golfdom* money clip, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the magazine.

Several things amaze me about this piece of memorabilia... the fact that it's almost 50 years old and still in such great shape... the fact that it's celebrating the 40th anniversary of this magazine, and that was way back in 1966-1967... and the fact that I snagged it for the low, low price of \$12.50 on eBay (and this is the moment where Roberts slams down the magazine and shouts my name along with an expletive. But it's OK, this happens at least once a week.)

I fully expect Roberts to try to talk me out of this find. But I'm sorry, my friend — this one is just too cool to part ways with.

(I oftentimes say the same thing about my job!)

Email Jones at:
sjones@northcoastmedia.net.



In what has become a GIS tradition, Mike Bavier, CGCS-Retired, stopped by the booth to give Seth a gift.

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What are you drinking? I'll have an ice-cold Dr. Pepper, on the rocks.



How did you meet your wife? We met in the baby nursery, when she was a newborn and I was two. True story. We knew we knew each other for a long time — our moms are longtime friends — but it wasn't until we were looking through her baby book that we saw her mom mentioned that we visited her in the nursery.

And you and your wife, Siri, have four kids? Yes, Gunther (9), Ingrid (7), Erick (4) and Klara (1).

I don't want the best advice you've ever gotten... how about the most ironic, or unusual? Well, a superintendent once told me that a good mechanic is more valuable than a good assistant... and I was his assistant at the time. But I get his point: As a superintendent, you have the same skill set as your assistant, but rarely do you have the same skill set as the mechanic. You only know enough to be dangerous.

Who doesn't get the credit that they deserve at your place? We couldn't get it done without our two superintendents, Joe Marafiot and Andrew Buchholz, and our two mechanics, Fred Baker and Dennis Hilmas, at



"(MEETING ANNIKA SORENSTAM AT THE GOLFDOM SUMMIT) EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS, BOTH HER PERSONALITY AND HER PROFESSIONALISM. I'VE MET ARNOLD PALMER BEFORE, BUT I THINK THIS MEETING TRUMPED THAT."

our two courses. We have one team, but with two maintenance shops that are three miles apart from each other, so it really is two different operations. And I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the corporate support we get from Troon Golf. They're the unsung heroes, they don't get credit for the passion they have.



Who are you taking in your bracket this year? I went to Michigan State, I was there when they won it all in 2000... I think they have a shot at winning it all every year. (Tom) Izzo knows how to coach them up. Final Four is a given.



So are you an exercise nut? I saw you do a backflip while wearing cowboy boots, that takes some athleticism. No, but I get enough workouts between the golf course and chasing my kids. I do enjoy skiing and basketball.

How do you even get started doing backflips? I wouldn't do piano lessons when I was a kid, so my mom took me to gymnastics for a year. I learned enough to still be doing backflips, but my body is telling me to slow down. I just want to be able to do a backflip for long enough that my youngest kid can remember me doing them... I need to stop having children.

As interviewed by Seth Jones, February 21st, 2014.



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