



Selva Marina CC "champagne" Tony Lema Greater Jacksonville Open 1966

Caddying My Way Across The USA 1965-66

Andrew Haddow

Mon. Oct. 11. 1965

BBC Radio: "What gave you the idea of caddying on the American PGA Tour?"

Answer:

"This has been my final year at my Edinburgh school (Merchiston Castle) and I had no idea what I wanted to do when I left. Everybody else seemed to know what they would be doing and this made me feel very insecure and didn't exactly energise my A level studies. ....I knew what I didn't want to do but that was all and in my effort to come up with something to reassure myself, even if only temporarily, I tried to think of something to do with golf, as apart from exams, it was all I ever thought much about.

It was the famous photo of amateur Francis Ouimet aged 19 and his caddie aged 9 winning the US Open (1913) which I saw in one of my Henry Cotton books.... and photos in American golf magazines of what looked like college boys caddying for famous pros in tournaments in their summer holidays that first gave me the idea.

And it must have gelled in the weeks before my A level exams in July ('65) because I thought of it more and more as it slowly turned from a fanciful idea into a practical one. I had never worked for money before. I knew I could caddy. The glamour of golf was in the States and its "Sunshine Tour". There would be no language problems. I would see America. The job and earning money would go wherever I went. I could earn a fortune if my man won."

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I wrote to the USPGA for their Tournament Calendar and one look at all the exotic locations and my dream became an obsession. I even managed to pass my driving test at the second attempt in the Easter holidays. My handicap had come down to 6 and as captain of golf this summer term, apart from exams, I now thought about little else.

I said goodbye to school in mid July and started to try to turn my dream into a reality. I got my first "professional" caddy job in the July monthly medal at Gullane GC, caddying for my famous fellow member and ex British Amateur Champion (1956) R Reid Jack, now in his 50s. "We" won in a howling gale and it was an education. At the par 3 fourth, I thought, what would I take here? Normally it was an 8 iron but given today's wind and thinking of what my dad would say if I took a 5 iron, I would play a 4. Reid Jack who was much longer than me, chose a 2 iron. And so it went on as he simply caressed his shots through a wind I have not experienced before or since, and shot a 72 to win easily.

Then after playing in the British Boys, also at Gullane, I caddied for John Jacobs in the Senior Service tournament at Dalmahoy in Edinburgh.

The organisers had flown in a team of "unknown" Americans to play and as an appetiser they staged a mini Ryder Cup the day before the event. I and 10,000 spectators watched in the pouring rain a 22 year old Ray Floyd in the top match just beat Eric Brown who had never lost to an American in his 4 Ryder Cup singles. Doug Sanders was also in the team.

Caddying for John for the first 2 rounds (he missed the cut) I learnt the golden rule of "assist your pro in every possible way without actually getting in his way". Common sense but you would be surprised at the stamina and concentration this needed.

John Jacobs gave me a copy of his new book and some very useful contacts in the USA and UK to help me on my way. One of these took me down to London but at no expense because I hitched from my home which was just off the A1 near Haddington, 20 miles south of Edinburgh..



**R Reid Jack**



**John Jacobs**



**Eddie and Francis Ouimet**

A day or two later I took the train to Brighton to meet a name John had given me. JJ wrote a regular column for Golf World and its HQ was there and Ken Bowden was the managing editor. Ken and I discussed my writing for the magazine if and when I got on the Tour and he gave me some more very useful names and addresses in the US.

Ken also encouraged me in my idea of seeking out Arnold Palmer at the Ryder Cup at Birkdale in early October. I was thinking, if I went there, I might be able to get a recommendation from Arnold to his fellow PGA pros that they hire me.

**ps.** Ken in recent years has been living and working in the USA as Jack Nicklaus' right hand man and official biographer.

Hitching back home to Scotland I enjoyed my 18th birthday and farewell party (Oct. 3) at home and by the time my dad let me drive him and me down to the Ryder Cup in my mother's new Hillman Imp we had already discovered a fantastic USA travel offer from the Greyhound Bus Co...I could travel anywhere and everywhere in North America for "\$99 and 99 days".



Dad had also offered me £100 in American Express travel cheques as spending money and booked me on the cheapest flight, £103 ret. to New York with Loftleidir (Icelandic) Air Lines; and mum had persuaded me to join the YMCA in Edinburgh so I could use my membership to stay at YMCA hostels across the States.

So the trip not only seemed real now; it looked to be happening!

Dad and I stayed in the Dormy House at Formby GC where I had played in the British Boys Championship in '64 but by the Sunday and final day of the Cup I still hadn't plucked up the courage to speak to Arnold Palmer (and there were no security barriers in those days) I nearly had...but each time I chickened out, despite having rehearsed and rehearsed what I was going to say. But this time I had written it out, like a letter, thinking it easier that I could hand it to him and he might sign it.



**Winnie with Arnold's mother Doris**



**1965 programme**

Come lunchtime and the break before the final afternoon singles I still hadn't found the courage but walking through the tented village trying to pluck it up I recognised Arnold's wife with an older lady (whom I was to meet again weeks later, his mother, Doris) and I was relaxed enough to speak to her.

Winnie was so charming I was able to tell her my whole plan and show her the letter. I hoped she would give it to Arnold to sign and I could collect it later.

To my horror she took me with her into the US players lunch tent and introduced me to him. My words went by in a blur but he signed along with Julius Boros and Don January and I remember him saying "come and visit us".

Letter of Introduction: Royal Birkdale Golf Club Sun. Oct. 6 1965

The U.S. Ryder Cuppers are pleased to introduce  
Andrew R. Haddow who is flying from  
Scotland with the express intention of caddying  
on the American winter circuit and we would  
be very pleased if members of the U.S.P.G.A  
would give him every assistance.  
Signed :-  
Arnold Palmer  
Ken Bowden  
Tony Lema

\*I later heard from Ken Bowden, before my flight departure, that he had been having a drink with Arnold Palmer on the Sunday evening after the matches and mentioned me and Arnold had expressed his doubt as to whether I would be allowed to caddy on the tour without actually getting "acclimatised" first as the tour caddies were a pretty tough bunch and he didnt want me to come to any harm. (ps. how right he was!)

He went on to suggest to Ken that I visit his father at Latrobe CC and he could give me caddying jobs and have me doing odd chores around the club to gain some experience. This was so considerate and a marvellous opportunity which I certainly looked forward to but at this particular time my thoughts were mainly on a 3000 mile plane trip and the knowledge that I hadnt flown since I was seven and I hadnt enjoyed that flight one bit!

The 1965 Ryder Cup produced 2 stars winning the most points for their teams. Tony Lema and Peter Alliss each won 5 matches and lost one.

**DIARY: Quick Find**

Bob Rosburg, Mason Rudolph, Paul Runyan jan,feb  
 Doug Sanders nov to apr  
 Gene Sarazen, RH. Sikes dec, apr  
 Sam Snead, Mike Souchak dec,mar  
 Dave Stockton jan  
 Dave Thomas apr  
 Ken Venturi dec,jan,apr  
 Tom Weiskopf apr  
 George Will apr  
 Dudley Wysong dec,feb  
 Bert Yancy dec  
 Kermit Zarley mar

**Pros:**  
 Tommy Aaron feb  
 Peter Alliss mar,apr  
 George Archer feb  
 Tommy Armour nov  
 Butch Baird dec  
 Jerry Barber feb  
 George Bayer apr  
 Frank Beard feb  
 Homero Blancas dec,jan  
 Tommy Bolt dec  
 Julius Boros apr  
 Gay Brewer dec,apr  
 Peter Butler mar,apr  
 Joe Campbell, Billy Casper jan,feb  
 Bob Charles mar  
 Don Cherry jan  
 Neil Coles jan-apr  
 Gardner Dickinson feb  
 Jay Dolan mar  
 Dow Finsterwald dec  
 Ray Floyd jan  
 Al Geiberger jan  
 Randy Glover mar  
 Bob Goalby jan  
 Paul Harney dec  
 Jay Hebert dec  
 Lionel Hebert dec  
 Dave Hill feb  
 Jimmy Hitchcock apr  
 Ben Hogan apr  
 Bernard Hunt mar, apr  
 Tommy Jacobs dec,mar,apr  
 Don January dec,feb  
 Tony Lema jan,feb,mar,apr  
 Gene Littler jan,feb  
 Dave Marr, Don Massengale nov,dec,mar  
 Kel Nagle apr  
 Byron Nelson apr  
 Bobby Nichols dec, mar  
 Jack Nicklaus dec,jan,apr  
 Arnold Palmer nov to apr  
 Gary Player, L Platts nov,mar,apr  
 Phil Rodgers, Chi Chi Rodriguez jan,mar

**Amateurs:**

John Blackwell apr  
 Michael Bonallack apr  
 Bill Campbell apr  
 Joe Carr oct  
 Clive Clark, Charlie Coe oct,apr  
 Richard Davies apr  
 Rodney Foster apr  
 Bob Kiersky nov  
 Michael Lunt oct  
 Craig Metz feb  
 Curtis Person, Curtis Sifford nov,jan,feb  
 Peter Townsend oct

**Writers/Media**

Jim Mackay feb  
 Ken Bowden intro,dec,apr  
 Leonard Crawley, Ronald Heager apr  
 Henry Longhurst mar,apr  
 Sam Mackinley apr  
 John Ross nov,apr  
 Pat Ward-Thomas apr

**Admin:**

Fred Corcoran nov,mar,apr  
 Joe Dey apr  
 Doc Giffin dec,mar  
 Mark McCormack jan  
 Dick Tufts nov,dec

**Celebs:**

Bing Crosby jan  
 Clint Eastwood, T. Ernie Ford jan  
 Pres. Eisenhower, James Garner feb,mar  
 Jackie Gleason dec,mar  
 Bob Hope feb  
 Gordon Macrae, Dean Martin jan,mar  
 Andy Williams jan