



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."

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

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