

# MABGA INVITATIONAL

GOLF TOURNAMENT



NOV.6

Benefit of MIDDLE ATLANTIC BLIND GOLF ASSOCIATION

EDGMONT GOLF CLUB Route 3 (West Chester Pike), Edgemont, Pa. 19028



NAZZ MARIANI, President

## *The President's Message*

Today's competition featuring leading club professionals from seven PGA districts from New England to Virginia is the climax of a series of activities with Edgmont Golf Club in the privileged role of host club.

The extended program began with the Third International Blind Golfers Tourney, the "Hope for the Blind" Golf Tourney and the Blind-Celebrity Golf Tourney. These were held over a three-day period from Oct. 2 through Oct. 4.

And now we are host for the 6th annual MABGA Invitational golf tourney, offering the largest one-day prize to professional golfers along the East Coast.

This has been a memorable year for Edgmont Golf Club. We not only played host to the blind golfers tourney, but we were also privileged to welcome the Free World's No. 1 citizen, Bob Hope, who took an entire day out of his extremely heavy schedule to participate with the blind golfers and also to speak at the awards dinner. He was joined by Pennsylvania's First Citizen, the Hon. Raymond P. Shafer.

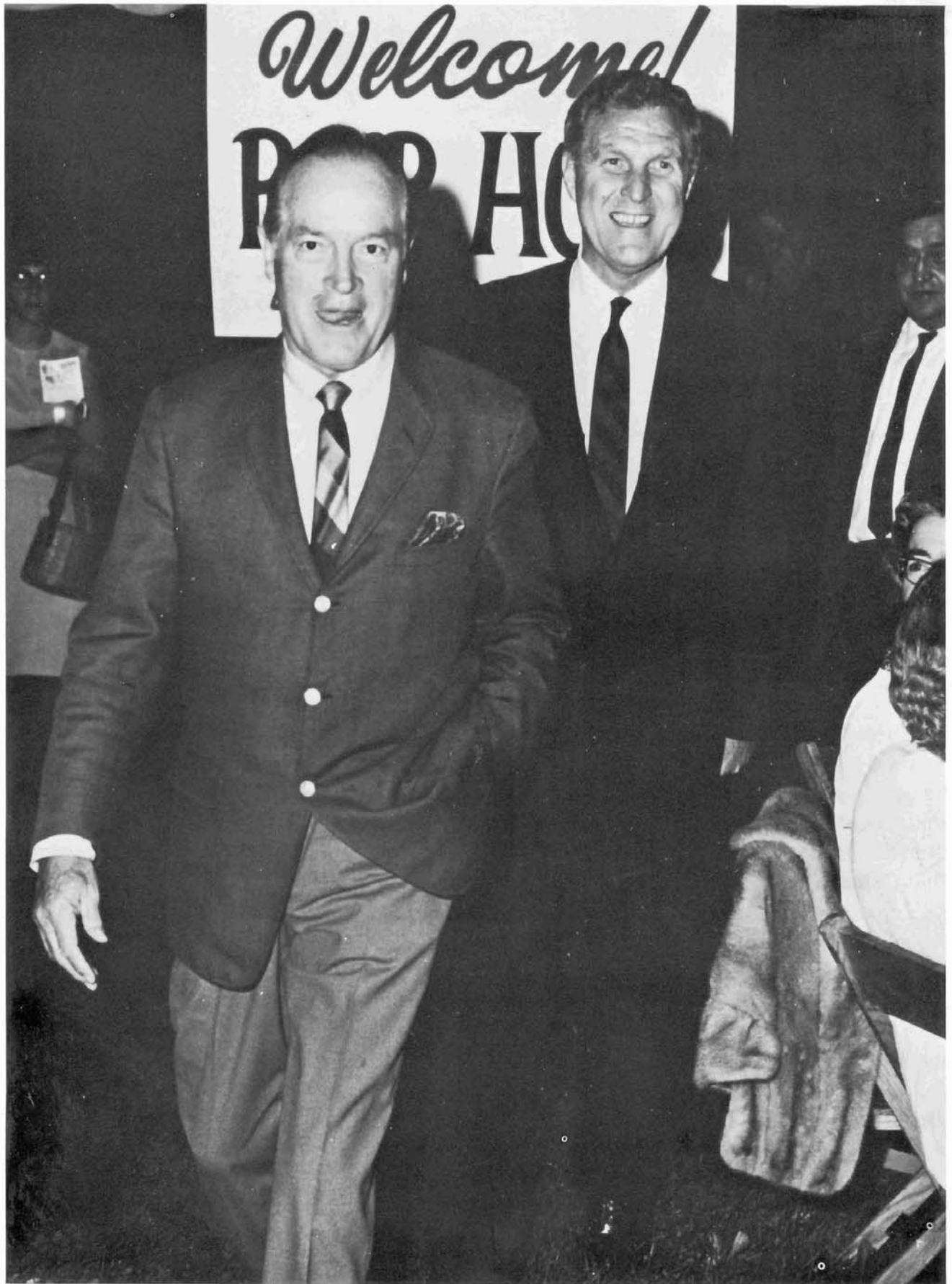
We are a club young in years, but one that has already established its mark as a leader in golf in the metropolitan Philadelphia area. Much of this progress is due to the efforts of my associate, Head Coach Tiny Pedone. He is not only a fine pro. More important, he is a fine person, as his work throughout the years on behalf of blind golfers can testify.

Conducting tournaments of this type cannot be done without an understanding and hard-working membership. We at Edgmont Golf Club are fortunate in having such a tremendous membership.

They have been joined in these various activities by organizations like the Delaware County Lions, the local fire and rescue squads, the Pennsylvania State Police and Edgmont Twp. and nearby police and fire officials. And finally, a word of thanks to Jack Trinsey, who coordinated much of the promotion, and to our own excellent club staff.

I know you will agree that we live in troubled times. Yet it has been my privilege to learn first-hand in these activities that there are more people who are anxious to give of themselves than to receive. So long as we have such people we need not worry.

Nazz Mariani  
President  
Edgmont Golf Club



Bob Hope and Gov. Raymond P. Schafer enter the tent for the awards dinner of the Third International Blind Golfers Tourney.



## **DiFrancesco Heads MABGA Group**

Dozens of blind golfers throughout the huge Delaware Valley area are able to enjoy the sport and the opportunity for wonderful relaxation throughout the period from spring through late fall because of the activity of the Middle Atlantic Blind Golfers Association.

The association fosters an interest in the sport among blind golfers at many area courses. It also seeks to enlist support for this program. It strives to interest more sightless golfers, both men and women, to take up the sport that the Scotch created as an antidote to the tranquilizer, and the reason why many golfers enjoy a good drink of Scotch whiskey after a round of chasing the frustrating white ball.

The work of the Middle Atlantic Blind Golfers Association is directed by an active volunteer,

Joseph C. DiFrancesco, a leading Delaware County executive and civic leader. He succeeded the late Frank Strawbridge in the post last year.

Mr. DiFrancesco brought to the post a broad background in business and community activity. He is a senior partner of V. DiFrancesco & Sons, Havertown, and also president of Bit Con., Inc., Exton Quarries, DiFrancesco Sand and Gravel Corp., DiFrancesco Industries, Inc., and Garrett-Grubb Corp.

He is also a trustee of Rush Hospital and chairman of its building committee. He is a member of Edgmont Golf Club, Llanerch Country Club, West Chester Golf and Country Club and the Pocono Manor Country Club. He is on the dinner committee of Ducks Unlimited and is a member of the Upper Darby Rotary Club.

# MABGA TOURNEY WINNERS



WINNER	CLUB	SCORE
1966 BILL COLLINS	Bonnie Brae, Purchase, N.Y.	72
1965 TONY ALDORELLI*	Edgmont GC	69
1964 BOB GLEASON	Edgmont GC	68**
1963 BOB SCHOENER, JR. (tie) AL NELSON	Green Pound CC Whitford CC	70 70
1962 HOWARD (IKE) TURNER	Kennett Square G&CC	71

\*Amateur.

\*\*New course record at Edgmont GC.



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# GROWTH OF MABGA GOLF GROUP A HEARTWARMING STORY

Bob Allman is blind.

He is also an attorney, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, a former wrestling captain at the University of Pennsylvania and a graduate of the Overbrook School for the Blind. Bob was a member at Whitmarsh Country Club when he entered the National Blind Golfers tourney in Detroit in 1950.

Bob Allman returned to Philadelphia full of high hopes of starting a similar organization in this area. He enlisted the help of several Whitmarsh members, got the support of the late Frank Strawbridge, a great sportsman, and the Middle Atlantic

Blind Golfers Association was a reality.

Today, it is one of the most active groups in the world dedicated to making golf a part of the life of blind golfers. And also dedicated to making more blind golfers aware of the joys of golf—with its fun, frustrations and happy companionship.

Through the active cooperation of many golf clubs in the Philadelphia area, plus the help and support of dozens of citizens from all walks of life, many blind men and women are able to enjoy the sport, and more young men and women who are sightless are taking up the sport.

## The Secret of Golf

People often wonder why blind people take up the game of golf. It is a tough, frustrating and often aggravating game for a person with good sight. Charley Tooth, a 74-year-old blind golfer

who has a hole in one to his credit, explained it beautifully: "The greatest pleasure is the pleasure of association."

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## Tourney Play Limited to Pros

This year's tourney marks the first time in the six-year history of MABGA that competition has been limited to PGA pros and their assistants. In former years leading area amateurs also participated. Tourney officials decided that this year the play should be restricted to club pros and assis-

tants. But amateurs had an opportunity to participate in the Hope for the Blind tourney. Two years ago amateur Tony Aldorelli was the tourney winner with a 69 score—the only time an amateur has won the MABGA crown.

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TINY PEDONE, Golf Director

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## Tourney to aid blind golfers had humble beginning

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Tiny Pedone, head golf pro at Edgmont Golf Club, was a pro at Overbrook Country Club when he became aware of blind golfers and their need for help.

This interest on his part was the start of a personal crusade to help sightless men and women enjoy the sport of golf—and to encourage sighted people to assist them. Pedone moved to the Kimberton Golf Club and decided to stage a profes-

sional tourney, with part of the proceeds going to aid the blind golfers.

Initially, each pro put up \$10, with half going to the prize money and the other half going to assist the blind golfers.

Today, close to 125 golfers from several states are participating in the sixth annual MABGA Invitational—a testimony to Tiny Pedone and his effort on behalf of blind golfers everywhere.

### **MABGA Shows Growth from Humble Start**

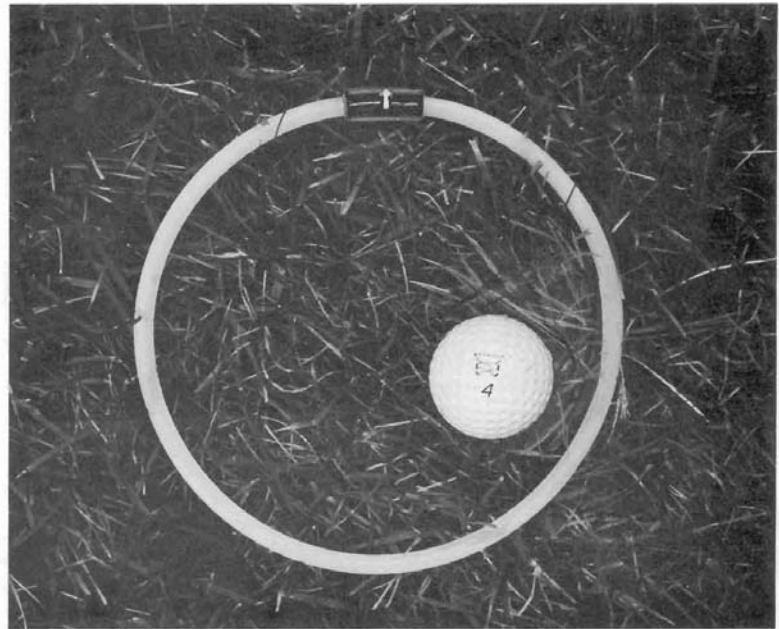
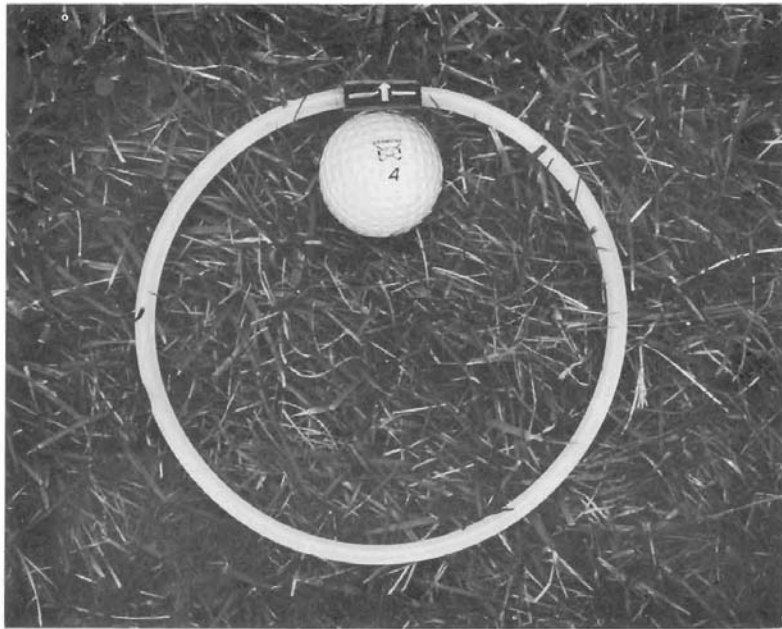
The contingent of leading pros competing in today's MABGA tourney is a far cry from the initial event held at the Kimberton Golf Club. When Tiny Pedone started to aid the blind golfers, the first

request was for equipment. Then it was decided to stage a tourney with an entry fee of \$10. "Five bucks would go into the prize money and the other five would help the blind golfers," Tiny explained.

### **'Coaches' Aid Blind Players**

Coaches are valuable assets in football and basketball, but for blind golfers they are a necessity. A blind golfer cannot play without his "coach." The coach of a blind golfer serves as his eyes; he helps the blind linksmen to see where the pin is, where the shot has landed and where the next shot must be directed. For many blind golfers, coaching friendships have been built up over the years

and the coach accompanies the player on his rounds. Atty. Robert Allman, a blind golfer, explained that "to be coach for a blind golfer requires a person who is very dedicated and understanding." To the dozens of unsung coaches who make this contribution of time and effort, a tip of the hat for a job well done.



## MABGA ring solves touchy golf problem

Tiny Pedone is a stocky, intense young man with an interest in life, golf, his family and blind golfers.

It is not exactly easy to pinpoint the order in which each interest rests. But his wife, Mae, will tell you that after golf, Tiny's chief interest may be blind golfers. Yet he never forgets his wife and family and his role as a partner in Edgmont Golf Club. This represents one of his life's dreams since his boyhood in Asbury Park, N.J.

Ever since Tiny took up the sport of golf as a caddie he has been bugged by one thing: Golfers playing the so-called winter rules have often used "elastic" rules in moving their ball out of a damaged area. This is especially true during the spring, when thaws, rains or extreme heat make it difficult for heavy mowing equipment to be used.

As a club pro Pedone discovered that the golfer who always demanded honesty in his business or profession was ready to stretch a point when it came time to measure on the golf course. The rule called for a six-inch movement of the ball. But golfers sometimes had rubberized fingers and the

ball moved more than the allowed minimum.

This problem bothered Pedone, especially on the advent of the first MABGA Open at Edgmont in 1966. Finally, after a great deal of thought he came up with the idea of a six-inch diameter wire ring which he and one of the club aides made. The initial reaction from the pros was tremendous and Pedone was encouraged.

Participants in the 1966 MABGA competition were enthusiastic about the ring. So much so, that Pedone had a ring made in plastic form for sale at clubs throughout the Philadelphia area.

But true to his spirit as a golfer, proceeds from sale of the ring now go to the Middle Atlantic Blind Golfers Association. The six-inch rings are available at most golf clubs in the area at three for \$1.00.

The pros like them; more amateurs are using them; the blind golfers are thrilled that this is another project to aid them—and Tiny Pedone is happy that something that has bothered him for almost 20 years has been solved. Now he is ready to tackle his next problem.



# A HISTORY OF EDGMONT GOLF CLUB

The Edgmont Golf Club is host to the sixth annual MABGA tourney for the third successive year.

The course is built on the former Donald Barrows estate and is rated one of the best 18-hole courses in the metropolitan Philadelphia area. In addition to its 18 holes, it also has its own lighted practice area plus space for an additional nine holes. When these holes are added it will be one of the most complete golfing facilities on the East Coast.

Edgmont was designed by host pro Tiny Pedone to give better golfers a challenge while not punishing the average golfer. Leading pros who have played on courses throughout the world have been highly impressed with the course, its terrain and its facilities. Bob Hope said he found it one of

the finest courses he has ever played—and Hope is at home on golf courses around the hemisphere.

Construction of the course was directed by Nazz Mariani, club president and a construction expert. Nazz said an estimated half million yards of dirt were moved in the rebuilding program.

The course covers 6200 yards from the regular tees and 7000 yards for championship play. The former Barrows home is now the club house, complete with dining facilities.

Yet the beauty of the course in the Ridley Valley is protected on three sides by Project 70 land. Edgmont opened for play in August, 1964 and today has almost 1000 members. Within little more than three years it has established its reputation as one of the golfing centers of the East with its beauty, fine course and excellent facilities.

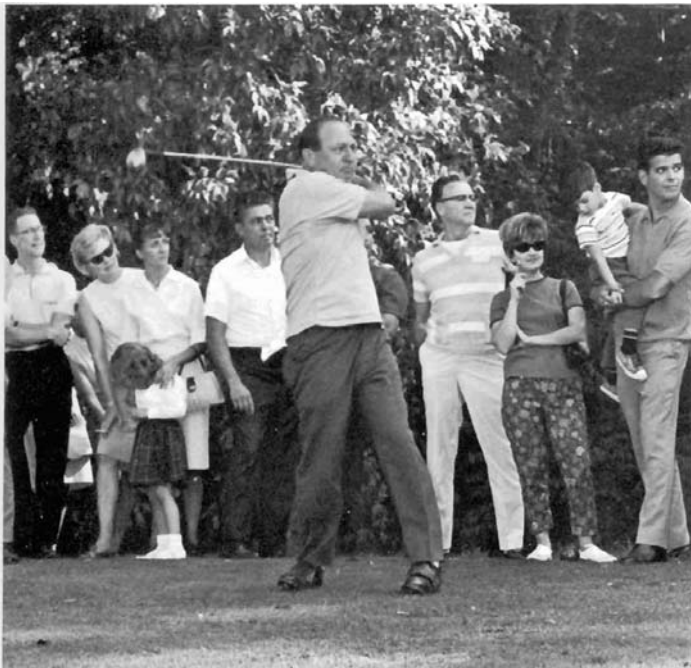
*First Federal Saving & Loan Assn.*



# "HOPE for the blind!"



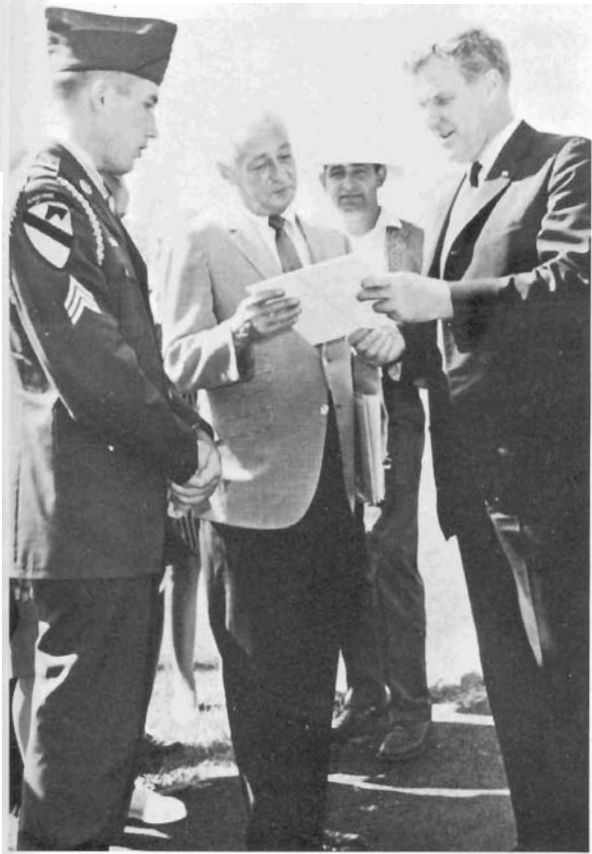
Bob Hope lines up a shot for Charles Tooth, president of the U. S. Blind Golfers Foundation. Watching with interest are Jack Trinsey (left), George Fazio, William Jenkins, vice-president of Coca-Cola Co. and Gov. Raymond P. Shafer.



WFIL-TV's sports director Les Keiter finds a full house as he completes a drive from the tee during the 3rd International Blind Golfers Tourney and the Celebrity Golf Tourney held in conjunction with it. Keiter was among a host of prominent sports-TV-radio-newspaper personalities who participated in the tourney.



The combined celebrity-blind golfers competition attracted many fine players. This group includes John Dubeshko (left), Benny Pearlman, Lou Bevilaqua, Bob Allman and Ray Uccelletti. The caddy is Jimmy Lynch.



Gov. Raymond P. Shafer chats with Marty Schrenn and Sgt. David Dolby, Congressional Medal of Honor winner before the governor donned his golfing attire to participate in the "Hope for the Blind" Celebrities tourney.



They're off to play in the tourney. Bob Hope and George Fazio (partly shaded) escort defending blind golf champion Charley Boswell of Birmingham, Ala., at left, while Gov. Raymond P. Shafer and Ralph Ebing guest PGA Professional flank Charles Tooth, president of the blind golfers. That's promotion coordinator Jack Trinsey at far right.



The winners in the low net competition pose with Congressional Medal of Honor winner Sgt. David Dolby. Dolby congratulates Tony Domenick, who tied with A. Fred Manno for top honors and won the coin flip. Also pictured are Mike von Moschzisker, Ron Golz and Fred Manno.



Two familiar television figures and ardent golfers, Ch. 10's John Facenda and Tom Brookshier with Sgt. David Dolby, Congressional Medal of Honor winner outside the Edgmont clubhouse. Facenda and Brookshier competed in the celebrity golf play.

# Awards



Tiny Pedone (left), host pro at Edgmont Golf Club, and Naz Mariani (right), Edgmont president, hold an award citing them for their humanitarian work on behalf of blind golfers from Bob Hope and Charles Tooth, president of the U. S. Blind Golfers Federation. Pedone and Mariani were tourney hosts.



The awards dinner attracted leading figures from many fields. Pictured with Edgmont President Naz Mariani (left) and his wife (right) Philadelphia Eagles head coach and general manager Joe Kuharich and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Green. Mr. Green is President of the First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Philadelphia.



Bob Hope at the awards dinner. At left is former Gov. George Leader; at right is Mrs. Raymond P. Schafer.



Jack Trinsey, former Olympic oarsman and the promotion coordinator for the many activities in connection with "Hope for the Blind" Golfers Week, was the surprise recipient of a special award from the U. S. Blind Golfers Foundation for his work. The presentation was made by Bob Hope. Also pictured are Charles Tooth and Gov. Raymond P. Schafer.



Gov. Raymond P. Schafer, Bob Hope and Jack Trinsey

## **“HOPE for the blind!”—tournament is born at Edgmont Golf Club**

Bob Hope is surely the patron saint of the blind golfer because of his twenty years service to that cause.

It was at Los Angeles in 1948, that Hope first teamed with blind golfer, Charles E. Tooth, who last year founded the U.S. Blind Golfers Foundation, Inc., and serves as its president.

Both these men have nurtured the blind golfers program over the years and this Fall the 3rd International Blind Golfers Tournament was awarded to Edgmont Golf Club, Edgmont, Pa. October 2, 3, 4.

The tournament format consisted of play-offs for international individual and team champions and exhibition rounds... blind contenders matched with Bob Hope, Gov. Raymond P. Schafer, plus other celebrities.

When Edgmont's President, Nazz Mariani, and Pro Tiny Pedone, took on the tournament they wanted to do something extra special to honor Bob's 20 years service to the blind golfers. paradoxically, they went to a nongolfer, a former Olympic oarsmen, idea-man John S. (Jack) Trinsey, Jr.,

of Upper Merion Township.

Jack was the rowing partner of Jack Kelly, Jr., the brother of Princess Grace, at the 1948 London Olympics.

Trinsey's "Hope for the Blind" Tournament could become one of the big classics in the golf game, to say nothing of the financial aid it could bring to the blind.

An 18-hole medal play, open to amateurs with an approved club handicap, it has a "Hope for the Blind Gold Trophy," for low gross and "Hope for the Blind Silver Trophy," for low net. Both trophies were awarded by Bob Hope at a gala "Hope for the Blind Awards Banquet." A copper embossed picture of the presentation is affixed on the trophy—a handsome plaque.

The tourney concept was new but it drew a welcome appreciation from 46 golfers in its first effort.

But it did happen. It proved an exciting challenge to compete for a golf trophy named in honor of Bob Hope . . . and for its purpose—Help for the Blind!