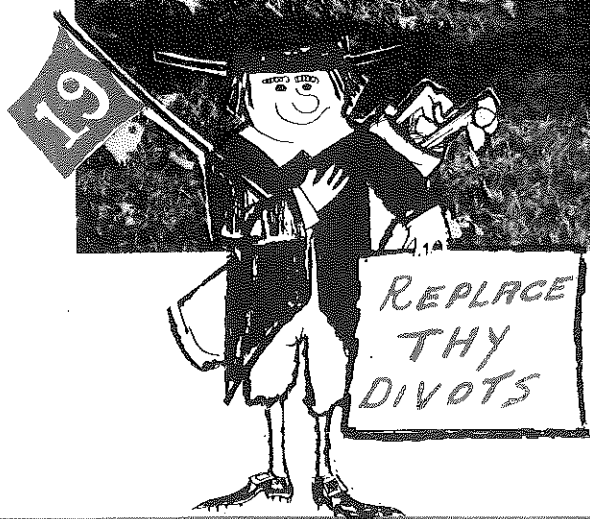


# PHILADELPHIA GOLFER



NAZZ & TINY

DECEMBER 1964

THE

# EDGMONT

STORY

## A PRO AND HIS ANGEL

The date, Aug. 30, 1961 may have been important to a lot of people for many, and various reasons, but to Tanino, "Tiny" Pedone, who was leaving his job as professional at Overbrook Golf Club, it was the day on which he decided to move mountains, and streams, if necessary, to build his own golf course, and to provide the golfers of this area with a club that would offer a first class course and full country club facilities, within the means of the average golfer and would, at the same time, protect him from such odious contingencies as minimum house charges and annual assessments.

There is nothing really new about this idea. Almost every pro, from the days of old Tom Morris to the very newest assistant, has, at one time or another, some idea about designing his own course and then managing it. It is unique, however, to find a man with the rare combination of ability, determination, and financial responsibility to make this dream come true.

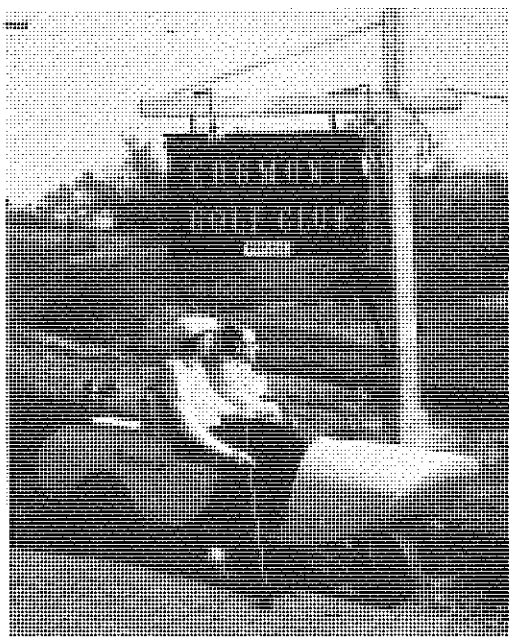
By the time he had made his decision to proceed with his plans to build his own course, Tiny was 34 years old, and he had been in the golf business, in one way or another, for twenty years. He had caddied, served his P. G. A. apprenticeship under some of the top pros in the North Jersey section, built and managed his own driving range, and succeeded Bill Leach as pro at Overbrook, and

held the job for seven years. His knowledge of golf was unquestionable; his ability as a golf course architect had yet to be tested.

He took a job as Director of Golf at Kimberton Golf Club and helped organize the membership there while seeking the ground on which to build his course. One after another, proposed sites were inspected and found wanting as Pedone sought the ideal setting. The search ended when, through information supplied by a friend, he discovered that the Barrows Estate, on West Chester Pike in Edgmont Township was for sale. The property contained 183 acres of gentle rolling hillside and was within a few minutes driving time of most of the Western suburbs of the city, and the main line, and it was generously irrigated by the waters of the Ridley Creek.

Day after day was spent measuring off imaginary holes, as Tiny appraised the property for his singular purpose. When he was satisfied that this was the site he wanted, he negotiated with Mr. and Mrs. Donald Barrows, the owners. A purchase price within his range was arrived at and Pedone agreed to buy the property.

Golf courses are seldom built on the finances supplied by just one man and Tiny needed backers. Among the first to come forward was George Thomas, the former locker man at Overbrook. George



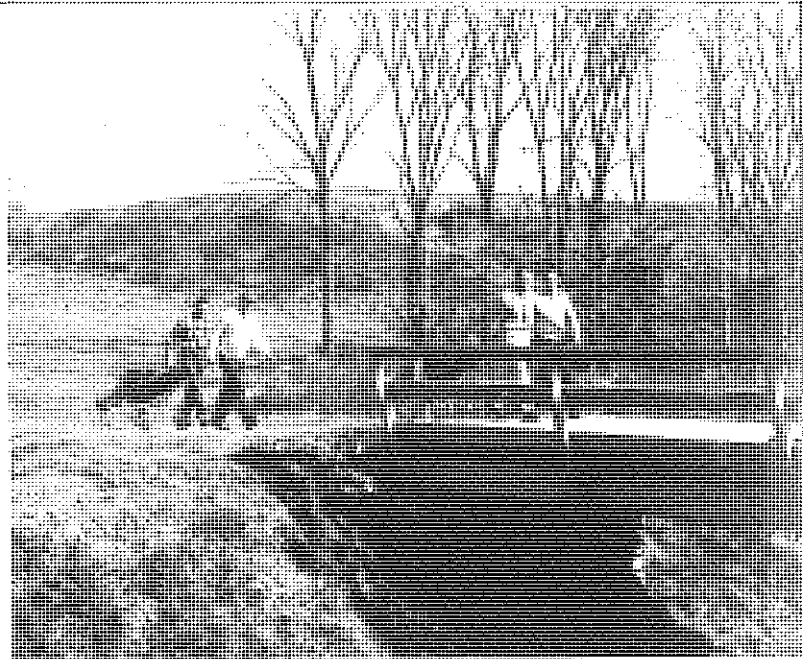
had often heard Tiny speak of his dream course and wanted a part in it's realization. He invested his life's savings in the project and, when the new clubhouse has been completed, George will be in charge of the locker room which will have a complete indoor health department, including a steam room, massage room, barber shop, and a putting green on it's roof.

With his own, and Thomas' savings in the kitty, Pedone was soon able to attract the additional financing needed to acquire the Barrows property. He was now faced with finding an additional \$400,000.00 to build the course. Since building a golf course is largely a job of earth moving he decided to find a contractor who had equipment, knowledge, and experience in this field, and to offer him, as a fee, a proprietary interest in the project, if he would build the course.

Like an earlier day Italian, the fifteenth century Columbus, he travelled from office to office with his idea and it turned out that his Ferdinand and Isabella was to be a Media contractor, and road builder by the impressive name of Nazzareno J. Mariani. Nazz, as he has been known since his boyhood days in Haverford, had had no previous experience or association with golf but he was so impressed with Tiny's sincerity that he listened to the proposition the golf pro had to make. That's one of the good things about honest sincerity..it starts an epidemic of enthusiasm and Nazz caught the bug from Tiny and you will to, if you talk to him. He honestly believes that Edgmont Golf Club will, in a few years, when the grass has had a chance to become turf, and the seedlings have grown into trees, be as fine a course as you can find anywhere, and we think he may be right. Well, Nazz agreed to build the course to Tiny's design and the two men shook hands on the deal. They have never found it necessary to have a more formal contract.

"He didn't know the first thing about golf", explained Tiny. "I had to point out the simplest things, like, why your early holes can't run to the East and your late holes to the West, and that the length of the shot largely controlled the size of the green. He eventually got it all down pat, though, and then he showed me something about earth-moving that I could never even imagine. In order to keep this course from having any blind holes or steep climbs, and, at the same time offer a lay-out that would challenge a good player without putting undue pressure on a beginner, Nazz moved 500,000 yards of fill, dried up a swamp, changed the course of a stream, and built a beautiful lake."

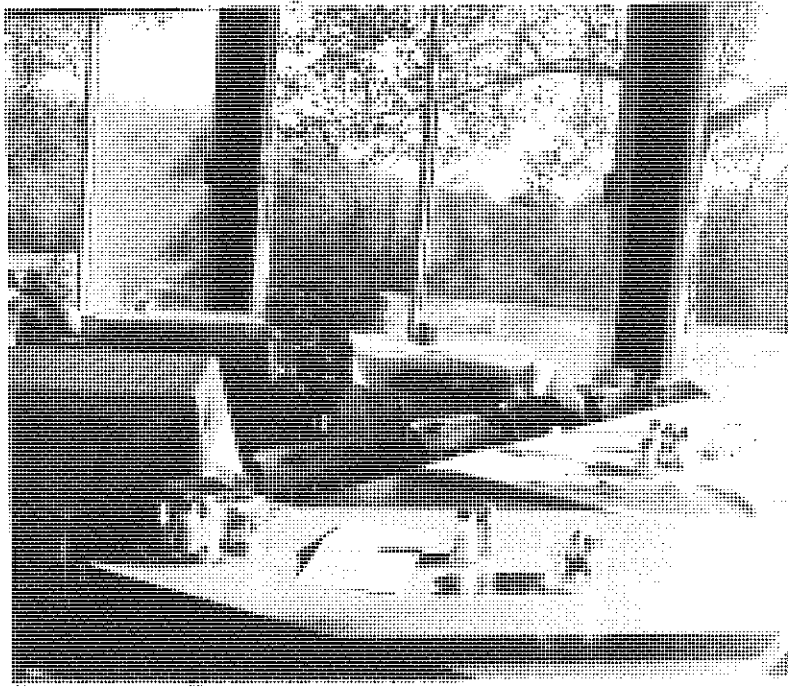
"The irrigation system," pointed out Nazz,



Wine barrells and an "I" beam.  
The Italian-American Bridge.

will water the entire playing area, including the roughs, and our greens, which average in excess of 7,000 square feet in area, all have tile fields under their subsoil for proper drainage. Another thing about our greens," continued Nazz, now, under Tiny's instructions, able to break 100...almost,"they offer a variety of pin-placements and the shot into the green can be tough or easy." Nazz Mariani, a stocky, 44 year old former co-captain of Haverford High School's first and only undefeated and untied football team, is married to his first girl friend, the former Phyllis Durant. They have one child, an adopted daughter, four and a half year old Phyllis Anne. His only previous interest in golf was to admire the beauty of the

A view of the course through the enclosed dining room.





Wide board floors, beam ceilings two dining rooms and a cozy bar. The clubhouse at Edgmont.

courses he had seen. No doubt the spectacular beauty of the terrain surrounding the site of the proposed new club had much to do with influencing his decision to venture into the golf course building business. To tackle the job of building a golf course without ever having been associated with the game is a little like becoming a bishop without first having been in the church choir, but Nazz did it, and quite successfully.

The course itself has a rare quality of golf integrity not often found in courses that are designed primarily for pay-as-you-play activity. There are no wide open areas with several holes running back and forth in reciprocal directions to accommodate an excessive number of players. Entrances to the greens are fair but well trapped and where water is used as a hazard you will find that it is part of the hole, and not just a decoration to the landscape. Throughout the entire course good shots are rewarded and poor ones punished. The latter in direct proportion to their inaccuracy. Our favorite hole is the seventh, a rambling 5 par that offers a classic second shot from an elevated plateau. The shot will have to carry about 240 yards to a green which is guarded by a creek in front, a small patch of trees on the left, and a boundary down the entire right hand side. Like a beautiful woman, there is the ever-present invitation to try. Conversely however, your trouble comes on Edgmont's seventh hole if you try, and fail.

Mariani moved his first piece of equipment on to the property in April, 1963, and it was originally intended that the course would be in

condition for play by the spring of 1965. The greens and tees, which were seeded early, have been playable since early summer of this year, and the remainder of the course, aided by a giant watering system which pushes 1,100 G. P. M. through its six inch mains, has come along much faster than was originally expected. The course was opened for limited play on Aug. 21 of this year, although the official opening is still set for April 1, 1965.

During the building of the course, Nazz and Tiny were invited to draw on the vast resources of the Lawn and Golf Supply Co. of Phoenixville, Pa., for technical advice and much of their golf course maintenance equipment. From this supplier they purchased the Nelson Rainbird Sprinklers which, when coupled to the fantastic watering system Mariani designed, makes you think of fire boats greeting some V. I. P. rather than a couple of fellows growing grass on a fairway. Apparently the combination worked for the depth of grass, on both the fairways and roughs, is surprising. The Penn Cross Bent, which Tiny planted on the greens and fringes, has grown lush and thick. A top dressing early next year will make them as smooth as any greens in the area.

In addition to the course, Edgmont offers a practice field which is 300 yards long and 200 yards wide. An interesting feature of this facility is an unusual practice tee which, according to Tiny, offers an opportunity to practice the five shots of golf; the uphill, downhill, side-uphill, side-downhill, and flat lie. The tee looks like a pyramid that hardly got off the ground. The practice area will be lighted for the convenience of those members who may wish to practice in the evenings.

The clubhouse is the early American mansion that was formerly the Barrows house. It has been converted to accommodate clubhouse facilities and two cozy dining rooms have been equipped. Under the supervision of Mrs. Charlotte LaPoint, who was manager at Overbrook Golf Club, luncheons, and dinners, are being served every day. Members, and their guests are invited to make use of these facilities, and the meals being served by Mrs. LaPoint, and her staff, are already building an enviable reputation.

Mrs. LaPoint had accepted a position on the west coast and had finalized her plans for moving when Tiny approached her with an offer to manage the dining room at Edgmont. She inspected the facilities, looked into the possibilities, and cancelled her plans for moving.

In the pro shop, Tiny will have, as his assistants, Bob Gleeson, a former amateur

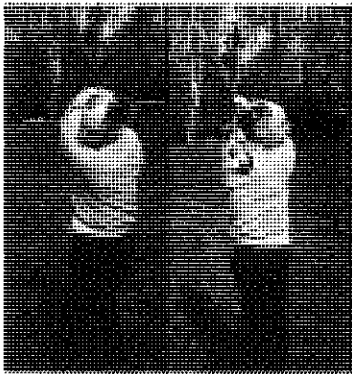
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## EDGMONT from page 10

star from Florida, and winner of Edgmont's first tournament, and Frank Barber who was with Pedone at Kimberton.

Membership in the new club has already passed the first year expectations of Tiny and Nazz, and acceptance by the golfing public of the Main Line, and suburban areas of Delaware, and Montgomery Counties, has been most encouraging. If you are interested in a good place to play golf why not get in on the ground floor at Edgmont. Drive out to the club, (just beyond Newtown Square, on the West Chester Pike) and talk to Tiny. He'll take you around the course on one of the club's electric carts and show you such wonders as "The Italian-American Bridge" the "Nose Cone Green" a green built near the boundary of the Niki Missile Base; "The Left Foot Green", a green built in the shape of Mariani's left shoe; and "The Bonus Landing Area" a spot on the difficult seventh hole, where your ball, if hit properly, will have the advantage of a flat lie for your second shot.

Pedone and Mariani are an interesting team. There can be no doubt in the minds of those who know them that, under their supervision, and, to a large degree, through their own effort and labor, Edgmont will provide the average golfer with all those advantages that Tiny dreamed of in August, 1961.



Harlan Will, Overbrook G. C. pro who won low pro honors in a recent Pro-Member test at Rolling Green, shows two parts of the swing that helped him to victory. Harlan's 70 led runner-up Henry McQuiston by a shot. Tied for third place, at 72, were John Berry, and Norm Hammer. Low front nine honors went to Bobby Schoener, and George Izett, who each had 34s. The same total, a tie between Will, and Howard Turner, won low back nine. Joe Huntzberger headed a team consisting of Jim Bye, Joe Glasgow and Ted Iwan to win low foursome with a net score of 29-28-57.

## MALMED from page 11

Sam Robinson	Green Valley	38-39-77
Fred Charistia	Phoenixville	40-37-77
Jack Penrose	Torr. Fkd.	38-40-78
Curt Young	Atlantic City	41-37-78
Joe Evans	Medford Lks	37-42-79
Todd Anthony	Llanarch	40-39-79
Roy Marquette	duPont	39-40-79
Murry Kleimon	Brandywine	39-40-79

Previous winners of the Larry Malmel Memorial are:

1957	Robert Johnke, Springhaven
1958	Ted Sall, Green Valley
1959	Bill Robinson, Whitemarsh
1960	Bill Robinson, Whitemarsh
1961	Bill Robinson, Whitemarsh
1962	Willard Mc Connell, Kenneth Square
1963	Doug Adam, Bala.



Bill Care, left, and Boltusrol C C playing pro, Babe Lichardas. For a while their 67 looked real good in the Atlantic City Pro-Am. They finished in the runner-up spot. The New Jersey professional received 275 dollars for his afternoon's work.

## FRASER from page 13

1953	Howard Everitt
1954	Don Weiland
1955	Howard Everitt
1956	" "
1957	Wm Hyndman
1958	Don Norbury
1959	" "
1960	Ed Johnson
1961	Wm Hyndman 111
1962	Don Norbury
1963	Wm Hyndman 111
1964	Don Norbury.