

Extensive working hours fit this family to a tee

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — When Honora Tindale was attending the former St. Agnes High School in the mid-1960s, she wasn't even aware there was a golf course practically right across East River Road.

For that matter, she said, "Growing up, I never knew there was such a thing as golf."

"Oh, would she ever make up for lost time.

Jack Tindale may have pledged his heart to Honora when they got married Nov. 4, 1967, but there was also the matter of his lifelong devotion to Genesee Valley Golf Course — where, coincidentally, he was announced as the new head professional on his wedding day.

So to create the best of both worlds, Jack had his bride go to work in the Genesee Valley pro shop. And in the nearly 28 years since, this arrangement has continued nearly non-stop.

Not even child-rearing kept the Tindales away from Genesee Valley, their daughter Sandra pointed out.

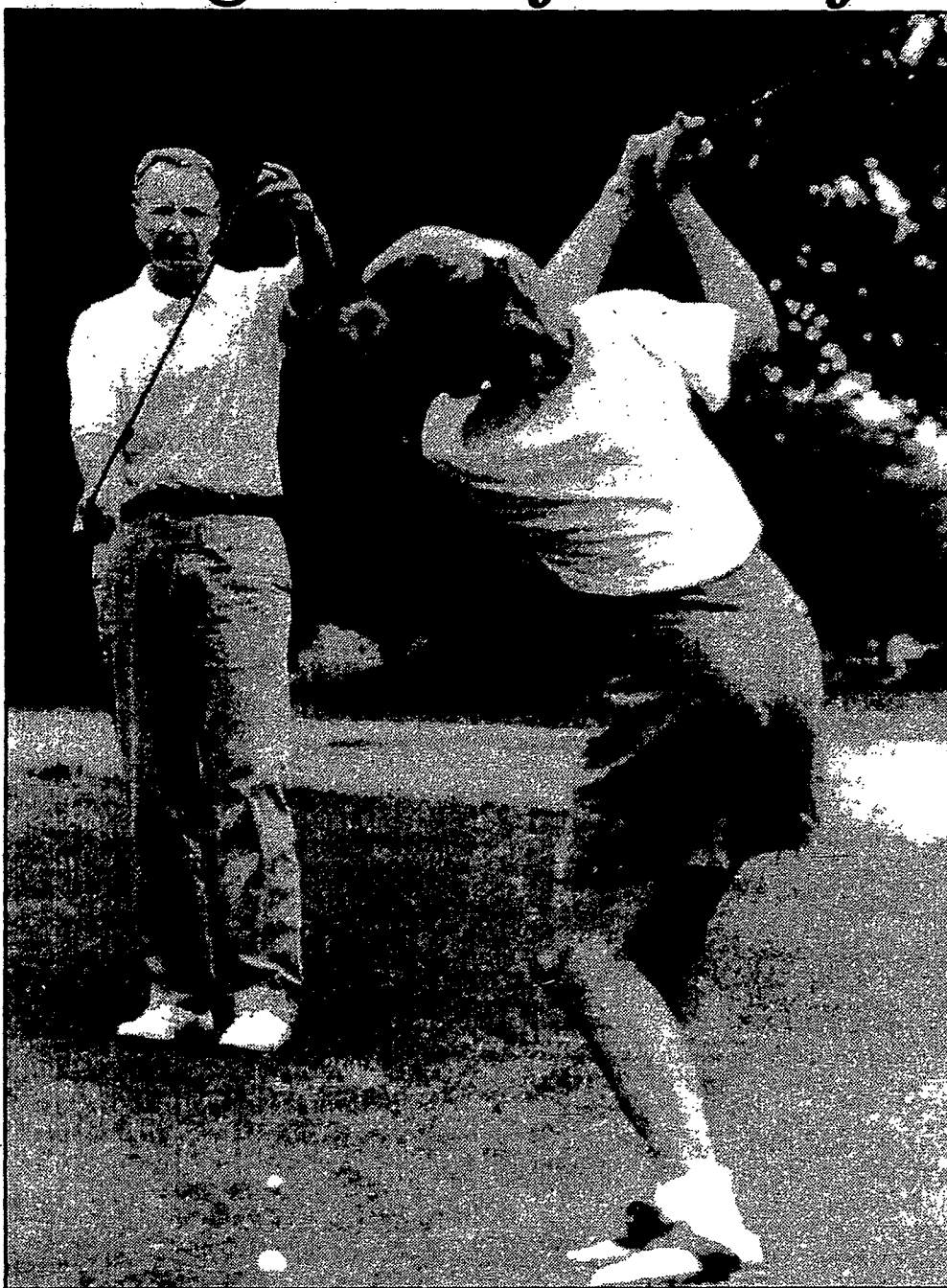
"We took our naps under the (pro shop's) counter," she said.

Sandra, now 24, points out a memento of those early years which still hangs from a pro-shop wall: a painting of her as a 2-year-old, holding a golf club.

With all this early exposure to the game, it's not surprising Sandra has become just as entrenched at Genesee Valley as her parents. She serves as assistant professional to her father, and is an apprentice in the LPGA teaching-professional program.

Furthering the Tindale/Genesee Valley connection is Sandra's younger sister Barbara, 19, who works part-time at the course. In addition, Honora's parents even help out by fueling the golf course's gasoline riding carts each weekend.

This family affair all started with Jack, 53. He spent much of his youth at Gene-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Although she now serves as assistant pro at Genesee Valley Golf Course, Sandra Tindale still relies frequently on the expert advice of her father. Jack is one of only 140 pros in the United States who has achieved the rank of master professional.

see Valley playing golf with his parents, and has never left the Monroe County Parks-operated facility.

He became the course's assistant pro in 1963 and moved up to head pro four years later. In 1986, Jack attained the rare status of PGA Master Professional — a distinction currently belonging to only about 140 pros in the United States. Master professionals combine expertise into several areas such as playing, teaching, course layout/design, bookkeeping and marketing.

Innovation has paid off for Jack in his pro shop. He owns patents on two putters, and a computer club-fitting program he designed will be featured in next month's issue of *PGA Magazine*.

As an instructor, Jack is a valued source for LPGA pros such as Jerilyn Britz, Stephanie Farwig and Patty Jordan.

Yet despite his many lofty credentials, Jack maintains an affable, down-to-earth rapport with the vast (450-member) and varying assemblage of Genesee Valley golfers who converge on the public golf course.

"We probably know 2,000 people on a first-name basis. We have people who play here who are multi-millionaires, and people on welfare. I just try to treat everybody the same," Jack said.

Jack is also a prolific player: he has flourished in senior (over-50) events, earning three straight top-three finishes at the Western New York Senior Championship and winning the event in 1993.

But with Jack giving 25 hours of lessons per week and Sandra logging 20 hours, neither father nor daughter have played more than nine holes of golf a week as of late.

In fact, their work schedules are staggering: with the exception of Tuesday mornings off for Sandra, she and her parents are at Genesee Valley from sunup to sundown — seven days per week — during the golf season. At this time of the summer, that's about 100 hours a person each week.

The Tindales reside in Brighton and are parishioners at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church. However, Jack said he frequently ends up attending weekend Mass at St. Anne's Church, located five minutes from the golf course.

"We give him an hour off on Saturdays so he can go to church," Sandra quipped.

Jack acknowledged there's only one way his family can manage this lifestyle.

"If you didn't enjoy it, you couldn't put the hours in," he said.

Charity organizations announce summer events

The following organizations have notified the *Catholic Courier* of benefit sporting events to be held in the upcoming weeks:

July 16 — "Swing With the Legends" Sports Auction: Gateway Banquet and Party Center, 4853 W. Henrietta Road, Rochester; 7 p.m.; guests to include former major-leaguers Doug DeCinces and Jimmy Wynn; to benefit Monroe County Special Olympics; call 716/586-7400.

July 22 — Mud Volleyball Tournament: corner of Westfall Road and Clinton Avenue South, Brighton; to benefit Epilepsy Association of Greater Rochester, Inc.; call Randi Nunn,

716/334-6400.

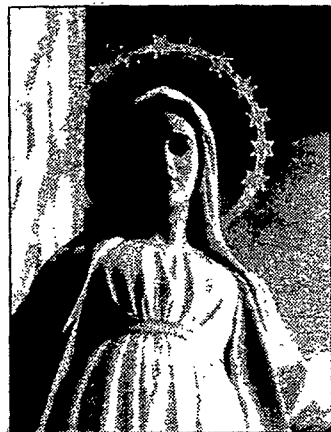
July 29 — "Walk-a-Thon": Silver Stadium, 500 Norton St., Rochester; 10 a.m.; 10-kilometer walk to benefit Monroe County Special Olympics; call 716/586-7400.

July 31 — "Sisters' Scramble" Golf Tournament: Eagle Vale Golf Course, Fairport; to benefit Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester; call 716/586-1000, ext. 151.

Aug. 7 — James McCuller Memorial Golf Outing: Green Hills Golf Club, Mendon; features ex-Dallas Cowboy Tony Hill; to benefit Action for a Better Community; call 716/325-5116.

Aug. 14 — Veterans Outreach Golf Tournament: Green Hills Golf Club, Mendon; to benefit Veterans Outreach Center, Inc.; call 716/546-1081.

Aug. 21 — "Love Links" Golf Tournament: Ontario Golf Club, Ontario; to benefit Faith Haven, a residence facility for unwed women in crisis pregnancy; call 716/374-5659.



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