



Ronnie Quinn, second from left, after winning 1966 State Amateur. Also pictured are (L-R) RIGA President Bill Garrahan, winner-up Norm Lutz and RIGA Secretary Ed Perry

This past summer saw the passing of three prominent members of the Rhode Island golf community. Long-time championship golfer and RIGA Past President **Cameron Quinn** (66) and RIGA Past Presidents **Dr. Sumner Raphael** (80) and **Elwin Gammons** (85).

Without question one of the finest players Rhode Island has ever produced, Ronnie Quinn's passing will sadly close a chapter of the state's golfing history. Anyone who has followed golf in Rhode Island over the years will recall Ronnie's many golfing accomplishments. He won the State Amateur five times between 1956 and 1971. He won the New England Amateur in 1962 and the RI Open in 1963.

He won back-to-back Northeast

Amateur titles in 1964-65 a feat matched only by John Cook and Jay Sigel. In 1971, Quinn captured the Porter Cup, a national men's invitational tournament on par with the Northeast.

A lifelong resident of West Warwick and 1956 Providence College graduate, Ronnie Quinn was a partner from 1959-1990 in the Providence law firm of Quinn, Cuzzone & Geremia. He also served as the RIGA's treasurer for many years.

Elwin Gammons served as RIGA President in 1952-53. He was also president of the John Gammons Insurance Co. of Providence, a company that his

father founded in 1902. His long and distinguished career in the insurance industry included holding elected offices on both the local and national levels.

A 1935 graduate of Brown University, he was a lineman for the football team that nicknamed him "Tiny" because of his large stature. "Tiny" was the moniker by which most people knew him.

Mr. Gammons was, at different times, a member at both Warwick CC and Wannamoisett CC. He also served as president of the John P. Burke Memorial Fund. An Army veteran who entered the service during World War II, he served as a second lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers.

Dr. Sumner Raphael, a longtime Ledgemont Country Club member, served as RIGA President in 1982.

Dr. Raphael's career as an obstetrician, gynecologist and medical professor garnered many awards and appointments. A graduate of Tufts University Medical School, he served as an associate clinical professor there and as a clinical professor at the Brown University Medical School from 1984-1994. He received a teaching award from Brown in 1994 for his lifelong dedication to medical education and was appointed professor emeritus of medical education in 1994.

Dr. Raphael was director of Community Reproduction Health Services where he pioneered the use of lasers. He was involved in cancer research and wrote more than 15 articles for professional journals during his career.

He was also a Navy veteran, serving as a lieutenant junior grade in the Pacific during World War II.

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RIGA NEWS

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Golf Association

BUTTON HOLE PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

by Ed Mauro, Jr.

The plan to turn a gravel pit into a nine-hole "short course" and practice facility for inner-city youth is several steps closer to reality. The undeveloped property in Dyerville State Park on the Providence/Johnston town line, known by the neighborhood kids as "Button Hole," has been unused in recent years except for dirt bikers and the occasional golfer with a shag bag and a five iron.

The project was officially named Button Hole earlier this year and many important developments have transpired since that time. In March, Governor Lincoln Almond announced the state's plan to lease the land to the Rhode Island Golf Association. He praised the partnership and called it "a hole-in-one for the state of Rhode Island." Former DEM Director Andrew McLeod also voiced his department's enthusiastic approval of the project.

In late June, there was a fund-raising kick-off at the site which was attended by many dignitaries from the local and national golf community. Local PGA Tour pros and Honorary Chairs of the project, Billy Andrade and Brad Faxon spoke about their excitement and dedication for Button Hole.

USGA Executive Director David Fay was on hand to pledge his support for the project. He emphasized that there are a number of similar projects around the country in various planning stages, but Button Hole is being looked upon as a potential model for future short course facilities. The USGA has made a grant in the amount of \$100,000 to help fund Button Hole.

Because the Rhode Island Golf Association is not a tax-exempt organization, it was necessary to form the



(L-R) Billy Andrade, USGA Executive Director David Fay and Brad Faxon at June 24 Fund-raising kick-off

Rhode Island Golf Foundation, a separate, 501(c3) non-profit to which tax-deductible donations could be made. The RI Golf Foundation will be run by the RIGA in conjunction with the RIWGA, OSWGA, RIPGA, and RIGCSA.

The design of the course is shaping up with productive meetings with architects Ron Prichard and engineer

Steve Garafalo.

In addition to the nine holes ranging in length from 60 to 185 yards, a two-ended, 250 yard, 30 bay driving range is planned. A modest clubhouse will feature indoor practice and video instruction.

The land lease with the State of Rhode Island has been finalized as of September 15th, with the terms being \$1.00 per year for 10 years with two five-year options to renew. DEM approval for course design and construction is expected during the first quarter of 1999.

Fund-raising was officially started with the help of a dedicated committee and volunteer solicitors. More than \$850,000 - most from leadership givers - has been committed to date, which represents more than half of the \$1.6 million fund-raising goal. Pending our overall fund-raising success, construction will begin in May 1999. RIGA members will be given the opportunity to make a donation during the new year.

It is quite evident that Button Hole represents much more than just the game of golf. Its biggest contribution may well be in mentoring single-parent kids and providing internship and education opportunities. Perhaps Billy Andrade put it best at the fund-raising kick-off in June when he remarked, "It's not about golf, it's about life."

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JOEY IACIOFANO WINS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Joey Iaciofano of Metacomet CC has earned 1998 RIGA Player of the Year honors by amassing a record 850 points. With three wins to go along with 2nd, 3rd and 9th place finishes, Joey's entire summer was a veritable highlight film. The biggest win, however, was at Point Judith where he successfully defended his State Amateur Championship by beating '97 Player of the Year Mike Capone in the title match.

The last players to win back-to-back State Amateurs were Paul Quigley (1986-87) and Brad Faxon (1981-82). Joey also won the newly instituted Scoring Average, the absolute barometer of a player's consistency. His stroke play average over 10 tournament rounds was an impressive 72.60 which beat out Wannamoissett's Bill Lunnie by .025 strokes.

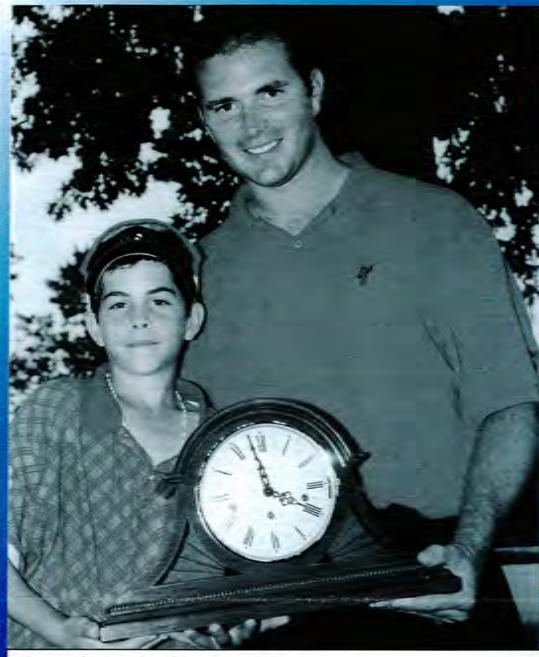
Joey's other big win came at the Four-Ball Championship with partner John Auclair. This was another successful defense as the Metacomet/Kirkbrae duo edged out Lunnie and Charlie Blanchard in a nail-biting seven-hole play-off.

After a credible but disappointing 9th in the Stroke Play at Agawam, Joey turned in a dazzling performance at RICC in the A.T. Cross Open by finishing tied for 3rd with fellow amateurs Paul Quigley and Charlie Blanchard. All three players played spectacularly against a field dotted with former and hopeful PGA Tour players, as well as New England's best club pros.

Throw in a 2nd place finish to Paul Quigley at Alpine in the Mid-Amateur and medalist honors in the weather-delayed Robert Mulligan Inter-Club at Kirkbrae, and you have one of the finest seasons ever by a Rhode Island amateur golfer.

With his game only improving, Joey's dominating performance in '98 would normally be bad news for fellow amateurs. In '99, however, they'll be able to breathe a little easier. With two championship seasons under his belt, the man called "Ice" will embark on a journey that most can only dream about. He'll be turning professional and playing on the mini-tours to see how good he can really get.

Congratulations, Joey, on winning Player of the Year. It definitely won't be the same without you at the tournaments in '99, but we wish you every success as you begin the next phase of your golfing career.



Joey and trusted caddie, Matt Martin

SCORING AVERAGE

RIGA tournament players had another opportunity to accumulate points in '98 with the introduction of the Scoring Average. Points were awarded to the players with the eight low scoring averages for stroke play rounds in the State Amateur (tournament proper, qualifying rounds), Stroke Play Championship, A.T. Cross Open and Mid-Amateur Championship.

The four tournaments comprised a total of ten stroke play rounds. Players were required to play a minimum of eight rounds to be eligible, and all rounds played were calculated.

The Scoring Average proved very popular among the players in '98 and will become a permanent part of the Player of the Year Points System. The results of the top-eight players are as follows:

Player	Club	Scoring Avg.	Points	Rounds Played
1. Joey Iaciofano	Metacomet	72.60	100	10
2. Bill Lunnie	Wannamoissett	72.625	75	8
3. Charlie Blanchard	Wannamoissett	72.70	60	10
4. Paul Quigley	RICC	73.00	50	10
5. Bill Campbell	Wanumetonomy	74.00	40	8
6. Tom Goryl	Wannamoissett	74.875	35	8
7. Dr. George Pirie	Valley	75.75	30	8
8. Brad Edgerton	Wanumetonomy	76.125	25	8

POTOWOMUT'S PETER ERICKSON ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NEW ENGLAND GOLF ASSOCIATION

At the recent Annual Meeting of the New England Golf Association, M. Peter Erickson, Jr. was elected President for the 1999 season. Peter, who is President of Erickson Oil Co., has been the Rhode Island representative to the NEGA since 1992. A four-time Potowomut Club Champion, Peter will preside over the Association's two meetings in '99. He will also be helping with the planning of three major championships. Peter is also a past president of the Rhode Island Golf Association.

The New England Golf Association

was founded in 1926 to conduct a regional championship for men and to foster a means of communication and good will among the golf associations in New England. The Association later went on to add the New England Junior Amateur and, most recently, the New England Senior Amateur to its list of championships.

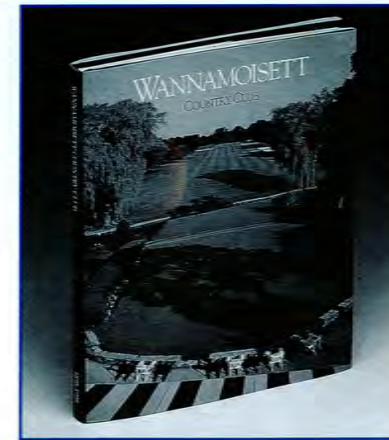
Soon after its inception, the New England Amateur Championship fast became one of the most important tournaments in New England. Rhode Islanders who have won this tourna-



Peter Erickson (R) with New England Golf Association Secretary-Treasurer Harry McCracken

ment in the past include Bob Kosten, Bobby Allen, Ronnie Quinn, Brad Faxon and Billy Andrade. Potowomut Golf Club will host the 70th New England Amateur in 1999 on July 20-22.

THREE LOCAL CLUBS CELEBRATE MILESTONES



Wannamoissett's Centennial Book

Three RIGA member clubs celebrated milestone anniversary years in 1998. Wannamoissett celebrated its centennial year, while Montaup and Ledgemont each

had gala events to mark their 75th and 50th years respectively.

Wannamoissett planned many special events throughout the season to celebrate 100 years as a club. One of its most impressive undertakings was producing a centennial book. At 143 pages, the book is an impressive collection of club history and lore, replete with color and black & white photographs. Wannamoissett member and club historian, Don Paulhus, spent years gathering information and photographs and then another year in writing what is an extremely compelling club history. Copies of the book are still available through the Wannamoissett pro shop for \$39.95.

Montaup marked its 75th year by having a day-long celebration with a tournament and festivities for all the members and

their families. RIGA Vice-President Don Lamb reported that the day's events went over very well. Also in '98, Montaup built a new tee at their 5th hole and a new tee and green at their 7th hole.

Ledgemont ushered in its 50th anniversary in May during its annual President's Ball. The club's 17 past presidents were honored at a black tie gala at the club. One of the evening's highlights was a short video presentation of old photographs and footage of the club. Club president Steve Feinstein reported that it was a great evening, and more events to celebrate the club's 50 years are planned in '99. Long considered one of the finest tests of championship golf in the area, Ledgemont played host to the 99th Tri-State Matches in September and will host the 94th RI State Amateur on July 12-16, 1999.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Joseph J. Sprague

As I wind down my 13th and final season, I can't believe how quickly the time has gone. It's been a most enjoyable experience and one that I'm sure I'm going to miss.

People ask me, "What are you going to

do?" My answer has been, "I'm really not sure. I know that I plan to play more golf. That's one thing I've missed during the past 13 years. We'll just see what develops."

A few reflections: My position has afforded me the opportunity to make many new acquaintances from which some very nice friendships have been formed. This has really been a bonus.

I've been very fortunate in my dealings with everybody connected with the running of tournaments - the Board members, club managers, superintendents, pros and players. I've enjoyed our relationship, and I want to thank you for your friendship and cooperation.

Golf has been very good to me. From my days as a caddy at Wannamoissett up to the present, I have many fond memories. My most recent one was the wonderful retirement dinner given in my behalf in late-September. I very much want to thank my fellow RIGA Executive Committee members for their involvement, and I'd also like to thank everyone who attended. I consider myself one very lucky person to be given this recognition.

I'm sure I'll see many of you next year at some of our tournaments. Till then, keep swinging. Golf is a great game; where would we be without it?

As the year draws to a close here are a few pearls of wisdom taken from Michael Murphy's *Golf In The Kingdom* 1998 desk calendar:

"A round of golf," Shivas said in his journal notes, "partakes of the journey, and the journey is one of the central myths and signs of Western man. It is built into his thoughts and dreams, into his genetic code."

Shivas leaned forward. "So I ask ye first, why does gowf bring out so much in a man, so many sides o' his personality? Why is the game such an X-ray o' the soul?"

Shivas was utterly fascinated with the mystery of the hole in golf. "Do ye know any other game where ye roam so far and wide to reach such a tiny goal?" he asked. "Why do we submit to such a thing?"

One reason for the quiet surrounding the game is that players and onlookers alike sense that something occult is under way and that they should not interfere.

"I will never forget a friend who declared after his tee shot that he wanted to kill himself, but when the hole was finished declared with total sincerity that he had never been so happy in his entire life. No other game is more capable of evoking a person's total commitment."

"The world is a passage back to God, that is the only reason it is here," Shivas had said. And a round of golf can help show us the way, if only we allow it.