

Bede Johnson's** dad, Fred 'Stoney' Taylor, wrote the book. He was, to some after all, 'the world's greatest putter'. The book arrived in Bede's family home in 1968, and was titled, ***Three Hacks Plus One Putt Equals 4'.

Do you recall your dad writing the book? Dad wrote the book around 1965 while recovering from heart issues. Golf was a big part of my family. I mostly remember hanging around our stone mill in Bradenton or his shop where he made clubs. One of my brothers also made clubs with him. We had access to all of his tools, shafts, heads, inserts and the like,

Yes, that's me!



THE PROFESSOR'S DAUGHTER

and as a kid it was so much fun for me to just be able to use all of his tools and machines. My kids still get a kick out of the fact that he used mercury to weight clubs and we always had that to play with.

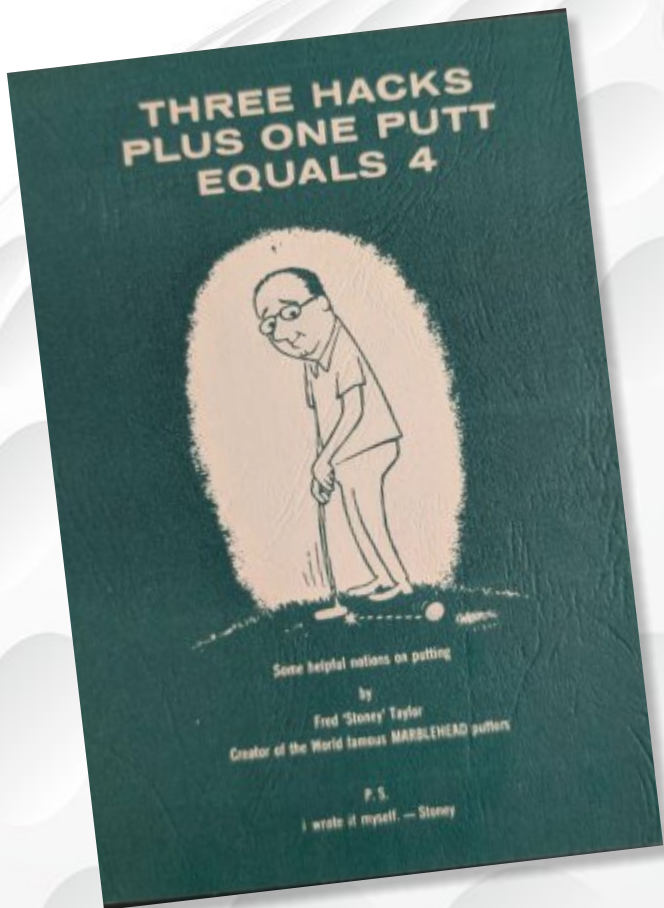
What was life like in a "golfing household" then? Were there golf clubs in every corner, or was it more about the mindset and conversations around the game? Golf was a constant in our house growing up. I don't remember a day without golf every round was replayed at the dinner table. Often with guests like Tommy Bolt, Joe Horlyn, Henry Shakespeare were included. There were clubs, prototypes always. I am the only member of the family that did not play golf. I took it up after retirement.

Did your father test ideas from his book at home? For instance, were family members ever recruited to "test putts" in the living room or backyard? There was always someone putting, swinging a club inside and out or on a course. I swam competitively so I was in the pool until dinner. Then, many nights and weekends were spent at the club or on a course.

"There was always someone swinging a club in the house or out on a course."

Continued





How did growing up with a father so passionate about golf influence your own relationship with the game?

I chose not to play as I beat one of my brothers in a contest when I was about 6 and my Dad was livid with him for not winning. How words affect you!

How did he share his enthusiasm for golf with others?

He was a very passionate man. Also an inventor, artistic and a visionary. Sarasota where I grew up was a melting pot of inventors, artists and writers. Dad worked on many projects, patents. So being around creatives was normal for us.

When you step onto the green today, do you ever think of him? What moment or image best sums up what golf meant to your family?

I do think of him, and my brothers sister and Mother. Golf still runs deep in our family. My nephew is a golf coach in Indiana. Those of us still here today all play.

Can you tell us what you remember about the connection with Gary Player in 1966 that you mentioned?

He had a relationship with Gary Player prior 1966. I was very young so I do not have a lot of memories. Dad made the woods he used to win the U.S. Open in 1965. I just remember him as always in black and just a genuine nice man. Dad created Marblehead Putters, and woods, later Taylormade and had a relationship with Henry Shakespeare.



Dad, left, with Henry Shakespeare

****Bede is a nickname that I have been called since birth. My brother David started it from the first time he saw me. I never use my legal name. It is only used if I'm in some kind of trouble! If you called out my legal name, I wouldn't even turn around.****

