

My Favorite Job in Golf

By Lane Osborne

I've worked nearly every job in the golf industry...but only one is my favorite.

Maintenance Crew: I used to work on a maintenance crew which required being at the golf course every morning before the sun rose. I took great pride in my work knowing that later that day I would be hitting from those tee boxes, fairways, and bunkers, and putting on those greens. I enjoyed it...but it was not my favorite.

Bag Drop/Snack Bar: I worked the bag drop, greeting golfers as they arrived. I also worked in the nineteenth hole which was similar to the bag drop, but instead of being eager to play their round, golfers were now lamenting their failures and celebrating their triumphs in the day's round. It was fun meeting new people... but it was not my favorite.

Pro Shop: I worked in the pro shop which was a nice change of pace from the days of working in the heat of summer on the maintenance crew. The pro I worked for was great and I learned a lot about golf course management, tournament hosting, and merchandising. It was educational...but it was not my favorite.

Golf Pro: I turned professional after college and played on developmental tours for several years and that was a blast. I enjoyed traveling, meeting new people, seeing new places, playing a different course each week, and on and on. I loved everything about it...but it was not my favorite.

Writer/Cartoonist: I have been and continue to be a golf writer and cartoonist. Since I first started publishing JustinBoundz in 2001 it has been featured in countless golf publications, websites, seminars, marketing campaigns, and spawned a merchandising line. I love what I do...but it is not my favorite.

Caddy: I've enjoyed all the jobs I've held, but my first job in golf was as a caddy and it holds a special place in my heart.

Setting child labor laws aside, my father hired me every Saturday morning to caddy for him at a hilly municipal course in Kettering, Ohio. I don't remember how old I was when I started...maybe four, five or six...but I do remember being shorter than the handle of the pull cart his golf bag was strapped to and struggling at times pulling it up steep hills, or keeping the clubs from falling out going down others.

Aside from managing the pull cart my job was to find unbroken golf tees lying around. I took the job very seriously and was always proud when I found a few for him and his playing partners.

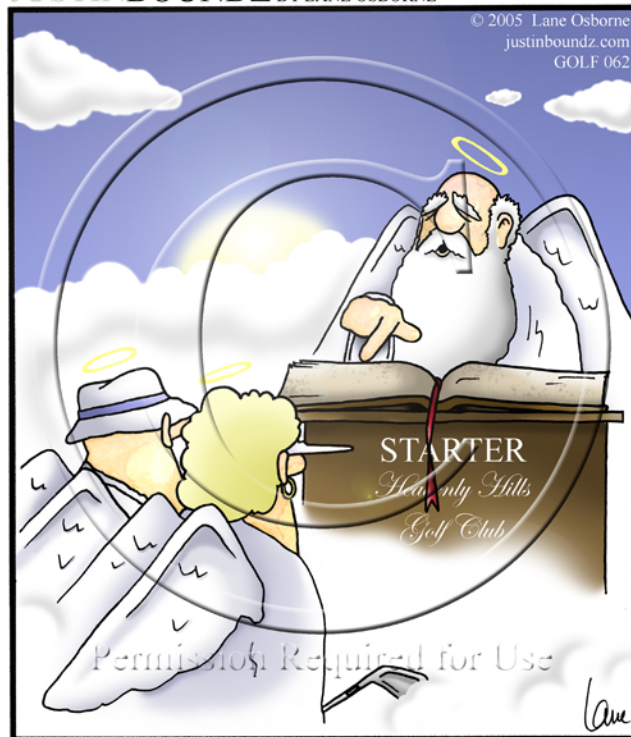
After a long eighteen holes, I always looked forward to the nineteenth hole where I would get paid for a hard day's work with lemonade and pack of peanuts. If I close my eyes I can still see the sunlight filter through the screen door of that snack bar, hear the hum of the ceiling fan over head, and smell the freshly mowed grass.

My father died this past December and I've thought a lot about our time shared on the golf course as his caddy, his playing partner, being his son, and his friend and what it means to be a father. I will miss the rounds of golf, the jokes, the stories, and the camaraderie. I will miss my dad.

Dad: I am a father myself to two young golfers ages four and two. I enjoy teaching them the game of golf like my father did with me. My children love to go to the golf course with their dad to putt, chip, and look for unbroken golf tees...and that is my favorite.

JUSTINBOUNDZ™ BY LANE OSBORNE

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"Welcome to Heaven where time is meaningless and endless.
You two should be able to tee off in about five years."

Lane and his father, Adrian Osborne photographed below
at Pinehurst #1 in October 2009.



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