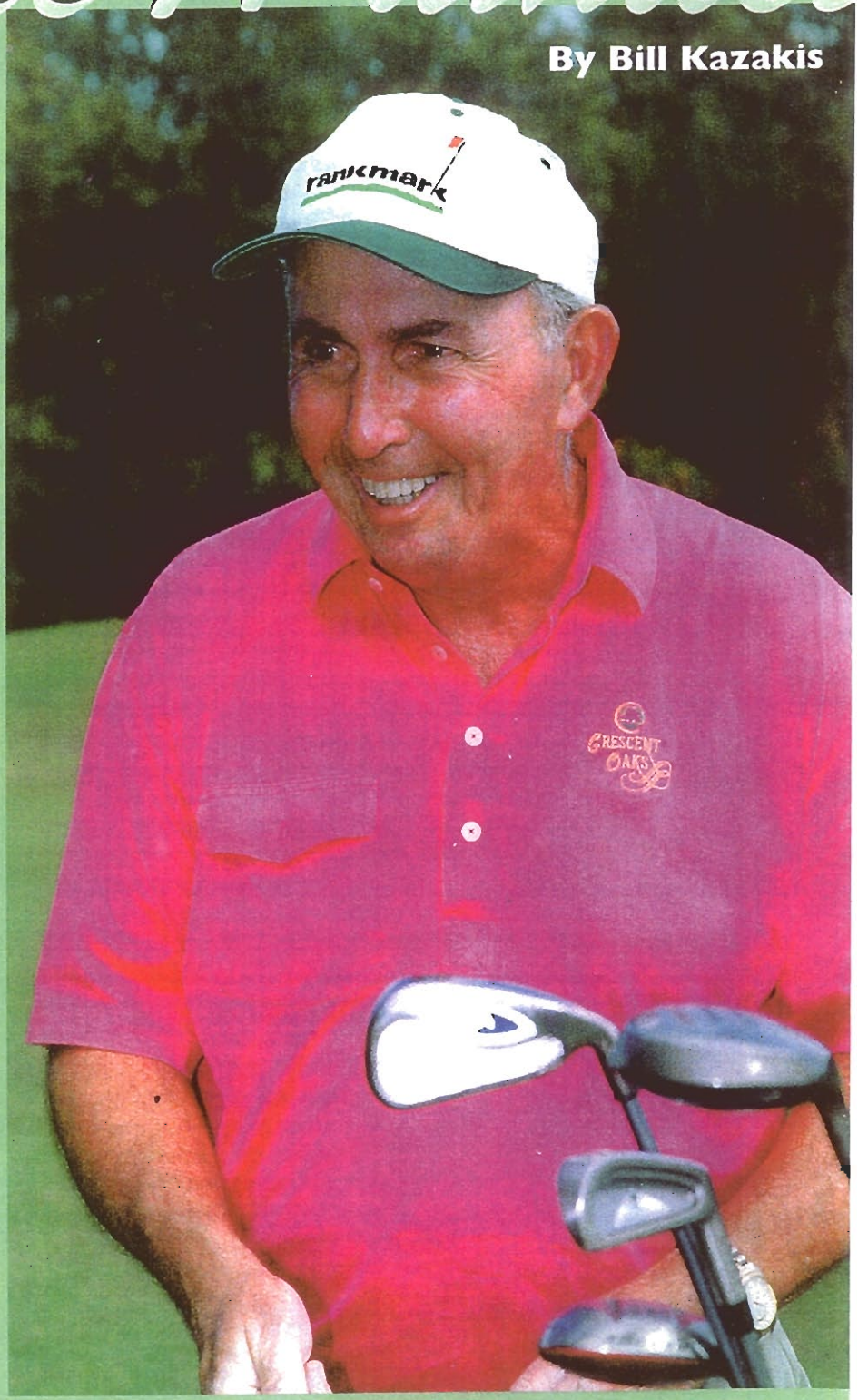
Meet Charlie Mandel

By Bill Kazakis



On Thursday November 11th, 1999 at high noon, my life changed for the better. I met Charles Mandel. Charlie was sitting in the men's grill of the Crescent Oaks Country Club in Tarpon Springs, Florida, holding court. That in itself is not so unusual. Most days at about noontime is where you will find Charlie talking to all his friends, generally about the latest new piece of equipment in golf. Why, you might ask, is everyone asking this Mandel guy about new "stuff?" Well, after I try to tell you the story of Charles Mandel I hope you'll understand why.

Before I get to the part about golf equipment I have to give you some background on the man. At about 65 years old, Charlie has lived a life of five men. From Broadway show producer and director, rubbing shoulders with famous writers and directors, bonding friendships with the senior management of Penthouse Magazine, to being a founder of several publications such as *Omni* and *Country Living* magazines and *Science Digest*. This man has seen and done a lot. I hope you're getting the picture. Interesting might not be a strong enough word to describe Charlie Mandel. The stories abound. If your are all lucky enough to ever sit and talk to Charlie you will understand what I mean. But enough of my fascination, let's get to the golf part.

About five years ago Charlie had finally retired to Tarpon Springs for the good life of golf and grandchildren. On an uneventful morning after his usual round with the boys he decided he needed a new set of irons. Well Charlie is a fairly analytical type of guy so he set off on a journey that would add a whole new chapter to his already bountiful life. Charlie spent the next few weeks traveling to all the golf

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