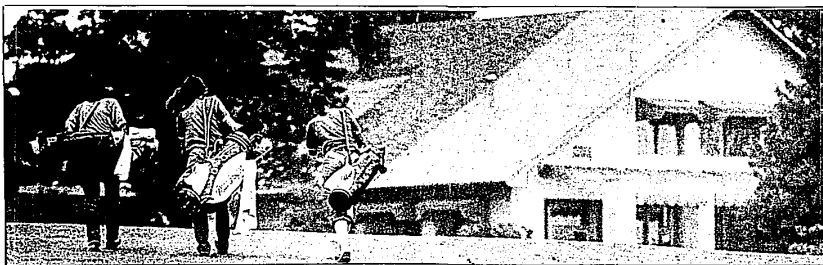


# Female caddies master course



Andrea Polk, Michelle Kahn and Kelly Brown (left to right) head for the clubhouse. They think caddying has it all over babysitting for earning money.

By Louise Okrusky  
staff writer

Hunting through the bushes for a lost golf ball and ending up caked with mud is far from most teens' idea of a great summer job.

**'You know what the hardest thing about being a girl caddy is? It's getting your hair stuck under the bag's strap.'**

— Michelle Kahn  
Farmington Hills

But it's as much a part of a caddy's typical day as handing over the 6-iron. What's not so typical for some golfers is the sight of a caddy in pigtail. "They'll say, 'Oh, you're the caddy,'" said Kelly Brown, 11, who will attend West Bloomfield's Abbott Middle School in the fall. Brown and other female caddies at a West Bloomfield country club are among a group of young pioneers who over the last few years have managed to widen their summer job market beyond babysitting.

THEY DON'T really view themselves as trailblazers. Instead, they see their jobs as caddies at Tam-O-Shanter Country Club as a good way to earn money.

First-year caddies earn \$6.50 plus tips for an 18-hole round. For the same distance, a captain earns \$7 and an honor caddy earns \$7.50. "I'm not old enough to get any other job yet," said three-year veteran Michelle Kahn, 15½, Farmington Hills.

"Only a few of my friends know I'm a caddy," said Kathy King, 16, of Pontiac. "Most of my friends baby sit."

"This is better than baby sitting. I don't really like babies." King and her sister, Kristin, 12, both work at Tam-O-Shanter. Some of the girls have had brothers who were caddies. Others, like Brown just decided that the job sounded interesting.

"MY MOTHER read a story in the newspaper and asked me if I'd be interested. It was my own choice," said Brown, who lives in Keego Harbor.

"I thought I'd try it to see how I'd like it. After one lesson. I sort of liked it," she said. Neither of her older brothers, a law student and a communications major, ever caddied.

After a few weeks of being an apprentice caddy, Brown finds she likes golf.

"On Mondays, we can play. It seems like fun. I don't want to get too involved in the game. Some people get mad when they don't do so well," she said.

Occasionally, they'll meet a patron who isn't sure a girl can competently

**'Most of my friends babysit. This is better than babysitting. I really don't like babies.'**

"You can't go too far along with them — they're adults," said Brown.

"Usually, they're nicer to you because you're a girl," said Andrea Polk, 13, Farmington Hills.

As all caddies from time immemorial, they confess to avoiding difficult golfers.

One of the advantages of the job is they can set their own hours. Sometimes Brown will rise at 6:30 a.m. and be at the club about 7:30 a.m. On Sundays, she can show up at noon after church services.

Not all who sign up in the spring become regular caddies, according to chief caddy Mike Monson. Of the 250 caddies who signed up this year, about 150 are regulars. Of his regular caddies, about 11 are girls.

SOME OF the boys find themselves in competition with the girl caddies.

"They hate when you're promoted over them," said Polk.

There are other minor problems, too. "You know what the hardest thing about being a girl caddy is?" asked Kahn.

"It's getting your hair stuck under

— Kathy King  
Tam O'Shanter caddy

attend the flag and carry the clubs.

"They'll say things like, 'I bet you can't even caddy.' Or they'll say to each other, 'Can't cuss today. We'll have to watch our language,'" Brown said.

"YOU HUMOR them along. You make fun with them," said Kahn, who's reached the top spot in the business — honor caddy.

the strap of the bag," she said, tugging at the her long hair which had done just that.

And when the day is done and the girls go home, bringing with them the towels they use to wipe mud off countless clubs, there seems to be one thing they have in common with their male counterparts.

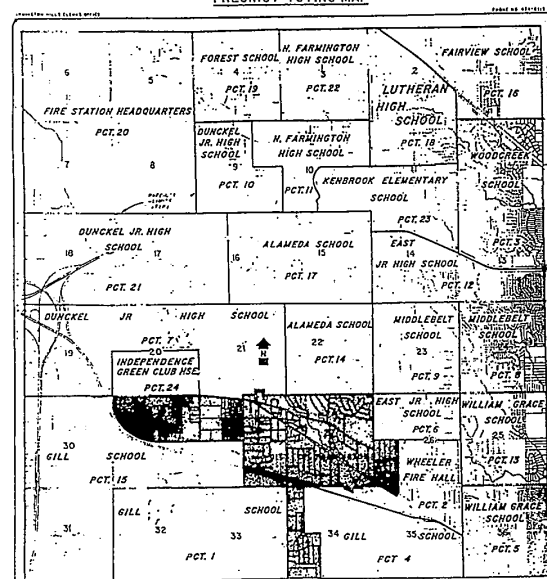
Mom does their laundry.

Staff photos  
by Dick Kelley



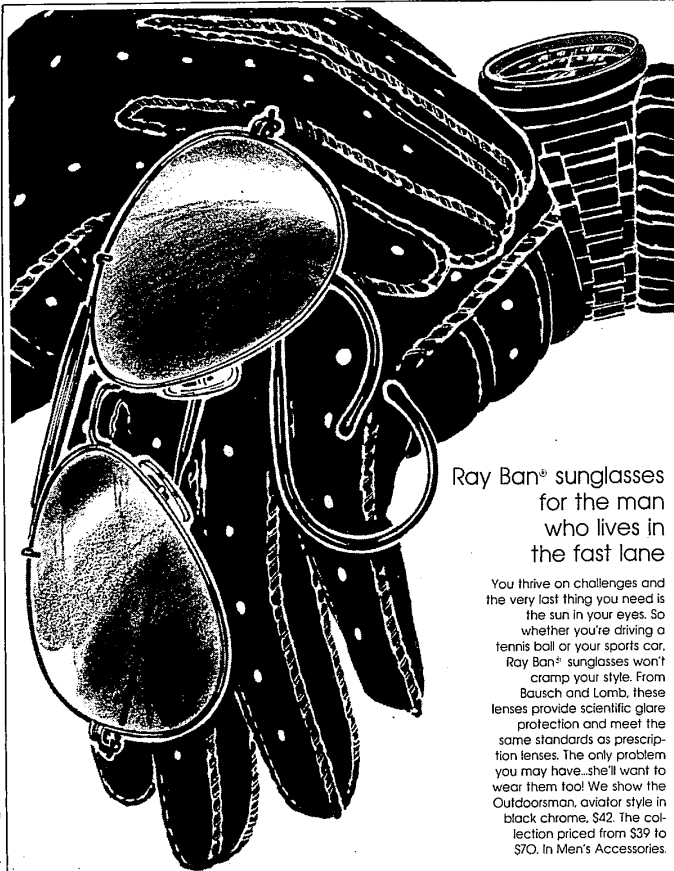
Kelly Brown's older brothers never caddied. She likes it and is learning to like the sport of golf.

## PRECINCT VOTING MAP



### PRECINCT LOCATIONS

1	Gill School	21195 Gill Road
2	Wheeler Fire Hall	21420 Wheeler St.
3	Woodcrest School	28350 Danvers Dr.
4	Gill School	21195 Gill Road
5	William Grace School	29040 Shilavasee Road
6	East Jr. Hl. School	29000 Middlebelt Road
7	Dunckel Jr. Hl. School	32800 Twelve Mile Road
8	Middlebelt School	24400 Middlebelt Road
9	Middlebelt School	24400 Middlebelt Road
10	Dunckel Jr. Hl. School	32800 Twelve Mile Road
11	North Farmington Hl. School	32900 Thirteen Mile Road
12	East Jr. Hl. School	29000 Middlebelt Road
13	William Grace School	29040 Shilavasee Road
14	Alameda School	32400 Alameda
15	Gill School	21195 Gill Road
16	Fairview School	28500 Oak Crest Ct.
17	Alameda School	32400 Alameda School
18	Lutheran Hl. School (Highmeadow)	30175 Highmeadow
19	Forest School	34545 Old Timber Road
20	Fire Headquarters	28711 Drake Road
21	Dunckel Jr. Hl. School	32800 Twelve Mile Road
22	North Farmington Hl. School	32900 Thirteen Mile Road
23	Kenbrook School	32130 Bonnet Hill Road
24	Independence Green Club Hs.	24360 Washington Ct.



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