

## Meet Plum Hollow's golf pro

By ANITA CRONE

Meeting new members, giving golf lessons, selling golf equipment and giving pointers on the links—it's all in a day's work for Plum Hollow Golf Club professional Bill Uzelac.

An early riser, Uzelac usually arrives at the Southfield country club around 7 a.m. His lessons usually start by 7:30.

"I like to get the lessons over early," Uzelac said. "Once you get on the practice ranges, you're lucky to get off them during the day."

Although Uzelac is given a "nominal" retainer by the club, most of his income comes from the pro shop, which he operates. Members can purchase most of their golf and tennis equipment. The shop also carries a

full line of sporting apparel. The air-conditioned pro shop is a nice place to relax after watching golfers practice in 90-degree weather.

Uzelac's Wednesday lesson was with Lewis Rockwell, "one of our better golfers," according to the teacher. Rockwell was trying out a new set of clubs, primarily to correct a shank—driving the ball at an extreme angle from the intended direction.

"Shanking is a disease," Uzelac said. "Once you start, it's hard to cure it."

But Rockwell's new clubs seemed to help. The lessons seemed to help too. After a recent lesson, he shot a round of golf and made a hole in one.

But that's an unusual occurrence. Uzelac has been golfing since age 10, and he's never made an ace.

But not all of Uzelac's activities center on his lessons. A large part of his job comes in meeting new members and talking golf with members dedicated (if not addicted) to the sport.

"It's a courtesy," he said. "If someone is having trouble with a particular shot, maybe we can help them improve. If they tell us about it, we charge them. If they ask for help, it's a service."

Plum Hollow's golfers come in all age groups from a five-year old to a 32-year old, who plays once a week. Many members—buy their equipment from Uzelac because they know and trust him.

And of course, they are supporting his four-man pro shop operation. "A lot of golf is having the right set of clubs," he said. "Manufacturers are coming up with clubs which really improve the golfers' games."

"They're casting clubs now, rather than forging. That eliminates the imperfections on the club faces. This gives a truer shot and makes for a more uniform game."

Uzelac is in constant communication with the starting area. Here he handles his business affairs, takes his telephone calls, and directs the pro shop operations while he is out on the course or practice area.

He estimates that roughly 60 per-

cent of his work is outside the shop with the lessons occupying the majority of his day.

Although the shop is a year round operation, Uzelac spends his winter in Florida relaxing with his favorite pastime—playing golf.

It almost seems that Uzelac should be paying the club rather than the other way around. He enjoys what he's doing, and has no intention of changing his way of life. What better way of making a living than doing what you enjoy?



Plum Hollow pro keeps an eye on Glenn Alexander during a lesson



Uzelac may be selling Andy Sisto on a new set of clubs.



With his ever present golf glove and sun glasses, Uzelac tends his pro shop.

Photos by

Kathy Willens



The end of a working day finds Uzelac and golfing partners rolling back from a bout with the Plum Hollow links.