

Senior Tennis

# TIMES

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\* \* FROM THE PRESIDENT \* \*

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If you forgot last month, this is the month to forward your signed application and check for your 1990 Senior Tennis Year. (A renewal form is on another page.) Please don't delay!

It's been a real delight to receive a number of extra donations for the club together with your renewals. Thanks very much!

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It is a pleasure to read about the varied and exciting lives of our STPC members. Don Ittner, your VP Public Relations, has arranged to place brief individual writeups in the TENNIS MIDWEST monthly paper. Mary Kaminski, your TIMES editor, has republished these writeups for your enjoyment. Last month the spotlight was on Ed "Doc" Olson. This month, our senior pro instructor and a Director on the STPC Board, Percy Hughes, is featured in the article. If there's going to be a January featured member, the name is still a secret...at least from me.

ENJOY THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, EVERYONE!

JOE STOUTENBURGH

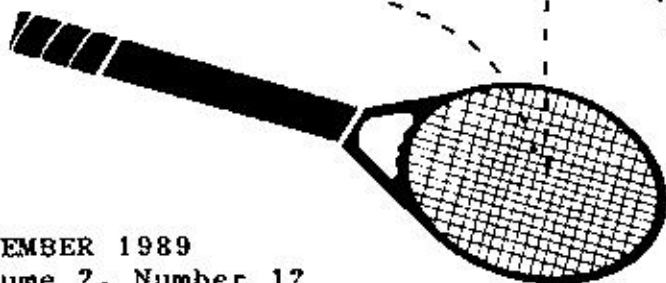


EMILY DAY NAMED HENNEPIN'S OUTSTANDING  
SENIOR CITIZEN

Emily Day of Richfield, well known as an energetic participant in numerous community organizations, has been selected as Hennepin County's Outstanding Senior Citizen for 1989. Emily, who was honored last year with the Richfield Human Rights Commission's Citizen of the Year, is now entered for consideration as Minnesota's Senior Citizen of the Year.

Diverse volunteer experiences have marked Emily's life. She has monitored the environmental effects of volcanos in Chile for the Smithsonian Institute, volunteers each week to assist travelers in difficulties at Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airports, and escorts retarded people to weekly dances at the YMCA and Minneapolis-Richfield American Legion.

Congratulations, Emily, we are proud of you!



DECEMBER 1989  
Volume 2, Number 12

MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR TEAM  
TENNIS INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Competing in a national tennis tournament is a great experience, say the 2.5 and 3.0 women's teams who participated in the Senior Team Tennis Invitational at Amelia Island, Florida November 3-5. There were 20 teams from 12 different states, from as far away as Oregon, Colorado, Arkansas, Wisconsin and Minnesota plus teams from 7 Eastern states.

Each team consisted of six players of the same sex and ability level (no mixed doubles) and played at least 3 matches during the three-day event. All play was at the 3.0 and 4.0 level on Har-Tru (clay) courts; all were seniors. Those who participated from here were the 3.0 team: Connie Metcalf, Mary Croxford, Betty Western, Shirley Zumberge, Kay Sause and Miriam Seim; the 2.5 team: Kay Ronngren, Betsy Sundberg, Carolyn Collins, Margaret Gronseth, Marge Melby and Goldie Glad.

Carolyn Collins and her husband, Les, who had already moved to Florida for the winter drove up from Venice; the others flew down for their first taste of national tournament competition.

The two Minnesota teams battled each other plus Georgia and South Carolina, with South Carolina emerging as the victor.

The event was very well organized by the genial tournament director, Elaine Freeman of Arlington, Virginia, who was extremely pleased to see so many seniors travel distances to participate. There were 120 players plus subs and spouses, with about 175 at the Saturday night banquet.

Wilson Sporting Goods was the sponsor, and provided each player with a red tennis tote bag and a can of balls in addition to many prizes for a drawing at the banquet. Marge Melby and Margaret Gronseth were two of the lucky winners, each receiving oversized duffle bags. Each team captain was presented with a USTA sweat shirt. Prizes were also awarded to the two teams with the most unusual nametags.

Temperatures were in the mid to high 70s. Players shared villas on the oceanfront or fairways at Amelia Island Plantation, located right on the Atlantic. This tropical resort provided many amenities for those who had an extra day or two to spend. In addition to Racquet Park, the magnificent tennis center tucked away in a forest of oaks, there were 45 holes of golf to challenge one, there was biking, poolside sunning, ocean swimming, fishing or just walking the beach, acclaimed as one of the ten most beautiful in the world.

Connie Metcalf and Betty Western rented bikes to explore the island while others visited historic Fernandina, shopped at Palmetto Walk, sampled "Lou Country Cuisine" as well as a vast array of fresh seafood at the island's many excellent restaurants.

Would we do it over again? YOU BET!

--Margaret Gronseth



The latest grads completing twelve lessons are:

Bob Bigelow  
Aileen Eklund  
Walter Olsen

Congratulations!

New members who have completed twelve lessons, be sure to tell Percy Hughes or call him at 545-7696.

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## TENNIS TIPS



By Virginia Morgan

1. When waiting to return a ball, hold the weight of the racquet in your left hand at the throat of the racquet while loosely holding the racquet grip with your right hand. As you go to stroke the ball, then get a firm grip with your right hand.
2. Court courtesy - After a doubles match, shake your partner's hand first and then go to the net and shake each opponent's hand.
3. Don't forget to do some exercise or stretching before going on the court.
4. Never call a ball "good." It confuses players. The main calls would be "out," "let," "fault" or "double fault."
5. Communicating with your partner in doubles is helpful. When going to return a ball that is between you and your partner, call "mine" or "I have it." If a lob is going over your head and you can't return it, yell "help" or "yours" immediately, hoping your partner can return it.
6. Should your partner attempt to return a ball you think is going out, you could yell "watch it" or "bounce it," which helps your partner decide what to do.
7. To prevent blisters and to cushion your feet, wear thick footlets (or socks) or wear two pairs.
8. When phoning a substitute, be sure to let the player know who will be playing and the charges.
9. If someone calls you to sub and you can't, keep the conversation brief as they will have to make more phone calls.
10. Never hit or return a ball unless you have the attention of the opponent.
11. Safety reminders - Respect the ball machine. Never run backwards. Don't play with a ball on the court.

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### BEGINNER TENNIS PLAYERS' SUNDAY TENNIS AND BRUNCH

In an effort to provide court time and instructions on playing doubles for our new beginner players, we are having our first "BEGINNERS ONLY" get-together Sunday, January 14, 10:00 a.m. to noon, at the Williston Tennis Club. Doubles play and instruction will be provided on every court by our teaching pros and members of the STPC Board of Directors. Besides playing, we will have time to meet new players over coffee and rolls. Mark your calendar now for this fun event and watch the January SENIOR TENNIS TIMES for details.

Ginny Owens  
546-9666

"Perc" is well known to us as a tennis instructor. Others know him as a jazz musician. Actually, he's a pro in both tennis and music, and he loves them both. When asked which is more important, Percy replied with a big smile: "That's easy. My wife Dee comes first!" He rates music second, with tennis coming very close, and Percy enjoys the full support of his wife, Dolores, in both endeavors.

Percy became interested in tennis at age thirteen when a family friend introduced him to the game. He was on the Minneapolis Central High tennis team where he also played clarinet in both the school orchestra and the marching band.

After a brief time at the University of Minnesota, Percy joined the Army and in his assignment with the Army Ground Force Band, he had the opportunity to play with some members of Duke Ellington's band and Count Basie's band.

When released from the Army in 1946, Percy formed his own group, the Percy Hughes Orchestra. They played all the Twin Cities campuses and club dates across both cities. In 1950 he was booked into the Flame nightclub where his orchestra played regularly for over five years. During those days Percy found it difficult to make a living on music alone and so in 1955 he became a mail carrier, a job he held for thirty years. Noticing no tennis in their sports program and after being named assistant chairman of the Minneapolis Post Office Sports Council, he decided to start one. Since he needed an instructor and since his game had been neglected almost since high school, he started taking lessons from some of the greats like Ernie Greene and Ron York. After each lesson, he passed on what he learned to his coworkers. Thus started a renewed love for tennis and an interest in tennis instruction.

In 1956, the Percy Hughes Orchestra began an engagement at the Point Supper Club, which ended seventeen years later when the club burned to the ground. Percy moved his orchestra to the Ambassador for a

nine-year stay. During these 26-plus years, Perc led his orchestra five to six days a week, delivered mail five days a week, taught tennis to his coworkers and still found time for some home life, church, and a bit of golf and tennis. Sleep was limited to four or five hours a night.

Coincidental with his retirement from the Post Office in 1982, Perc noticed a story in the Minneapolis paper about a new organization called the Senior Tennis Players Club. He called Jack Dow, the founder and first president, and volunteered to help teach beginners. Dow accepted his offer and Percy transferred his teaching abilities from postal employees to seniors. In a few years, the club had grown to over 1000 members, and the club's board decided that he should be paid for his efforts. Percy, however,

Continued on next page



## bulletin board

Continued from last page  
Percy Hughes

declined pay until he could claim to be a certified pro. He was 63 when he took the USPTA gruelling four-hour written exam, followed by an on-court test in which he had to demonstrate his ability to correctly execute every stroke in tennis. He passed both. The regional USPTA tester said that the next oldest person to ever pass the test was 37!

During the winter months, Percy teaches at the Nicollet Tennis Center, and during the summer months, at Wolfe Park. When asked how many people he has taught over the years, he said, "I don't know. I never kept track, but it certainly has made me a happy man." For his work as an instructor, he has been inducted into the Minnesota Senior Development Hall of Fame, along with greats like Don Budge and Frank Parker.

If you miss him on the tennis courts, check at the Emporium of Jazz in Mendota. He will likely be playing with Red Wolfe's Echoes of Ellington in which he portrays the famous alto sax player, Johnny Hodges. You may also find him playing with the Normandale Community College Concert Band or the Richfield Legion Post Symphonic Band. For his contribution to jazz, "Perc" was named to the Minnesota Jazz Music Hall of Fame.

Percy Hughes is a man who is happiest when he's helping others, which explains why he is almost always smiling.



ADDITIONAL FACILITY... The Greenway Athletic Club at 1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis (6th floor, Hyatt Regency) has been added to our list of facilities. If you're interested in being a regular or substitute player on Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 am, call Marian Pollei, 343-0440, or Bob Western, 735-5761.

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There are openings for permanent and substitute players at Lilydale on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7:30-9:00 am. Call Nancy Karasov, 452-3172.

\* \* \* \* \*

MEMBERS WHO WORK--THIS IS FOR YOU! Men and women with advanced skills interested in being regulars or subs at the Nicollet Tennis Center on Saturdays from 3:00-5:00 pm, call Jean Wallace, 925-4133.

\* \* \* \* \*

WANTED! One regular player for Phalen Tennis Club Mondays, 9:00-11:00 am. Call Frank Beutel, 426-2440.

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There is room for people that want to play at Phalen. Call Bob Western, 735-5761.

\* \* \* \* \*

DECATHLON 1990 TENNIS PLAYERS. Needed! Players and substitutes for 1990! Captains will be signing up players the last two weeks of December for play starting January 2. Also players may leave name and telephone number at the Tennis Desk, 854-0322, or call 888-0551 for more details.

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ADDITIONAL COURTS AT WILLISTON... Regulars and substitutes are needed for Saturday mornings, 9:00-11:00. Call Mary Dulebohn, 545-7142, or Joyce Hautman, 545-4051.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

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-PAID ADS-

### ARNOLD PETERSON A LUCKY WINNER

Arnold Peterson of Richfield was the lucky winner of a Prince racquet in a drawing at the recent "More Joy in Retirement" at Normandale Community College, sponsored by their Continuing Education and Outreach Department. The racquet was donated by Roger Boyer.

Virginia Morgan and her STPC displays attracted many people to her table and everyone there was handed a tennis visor donated by Tom Brain of Wilson. One of the prizes was a free racquet stringing donated by Virginia's enterprise, "Ginger's Racquet Stringing." Margie Woodhouse exceeded the program and "Woody" Woodhouse also helped with the program.

The diverse activities and talents of our members are a constant source of wonder to Your Editor. No matter where I go round the Twin Cities, I meet STPC members, active in the community, doing great things. I'm sure you've experienced the same...makes us proud to be a member of the finest organization. Spread the word!

### IN THE NEWS

O. Donald Smith, recently featured in the Up Close and Personal column of the SENIOR TENNIS TIMES, was written up in the Star Tribune under the caption "Golden People" by P. J. Rader. Nice!

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# IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR TENNIS PLAYERS CLUB

Please complete the membership renewal form and sign the Membership Conditions below. Send the completed form with your check to Joyce Maul, Treasurer, by no later than **January 2, 1990**. Thank you.

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## Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc. 1990 Membership Renewal

Please enter  my  our name(s) as member(s). I/we have read and signed the membership conditions below. The enclosed check includes the following:

\$15 per person for \_\_\_ member(s) \$\_\_\_\_\_

Tax deductible gift for Sr. Tennis Club \$\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Name (#1)\_\_\_\_\_

Name (#2)\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone\_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SENIOR  
TENNIS PLAYERS CLUB. MAIL TO:**

Joyce Maul, Treasurer  
6730 Vernon Avenue  
Edina, MN 55436  
Telephone: 333-8146

### TENNIS SELF RATING

(#1)  Beginner  Intermediate  Advanced  Expert

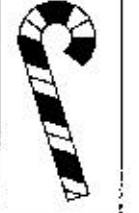
(#2)  Beginner  Intermediate  Advanced  Expert

## 1990 Membership Conditions

As a condition to my application, I agree to participate at my own risk in the activities of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc., which may include tennis lessons, clinics, weekly scheduled tennis, social events and any scheduled tennis trips or extra activities. Further, I waive and release the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc., a non-profit organization, and its officers and members providing services on behalf of the club and all claims for damages due to injuries that I may incur as a result of my participation in any of these events.

Signature (#1)\_\_\_\_\_ Signature (#2)\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE READ AND SIGN THESE MEMBERSHIP CONDITIONS**



'Twas the night before Christmas  
And out on the courts  
Was a jolly old fat man  
In red tennis shorts.

The sweat socks were hung  
In the Pro Shop with care  
And the racquets were strung  
With a Christmasy flare.

The players were snuggled  
All safe in their beds  
While visions of passing shots  
Danced in their heads.

They dreamed about tie-breakers,  
Love sets and aces,  
Wimbledon, Forest Hills,  
All kinds of places.

Whatever the setting,  
Wherever the scene,  
With Lendl or Graf,  
Or perhaps Billie Jean.

A fast match with Martina  
With pre warm-up rituals  
For winner-take-all  
(Plus the TV residuals)

When out through the night  
There arose such a clatter  
I put on my sneakers  
To find out the matter.

And there on the court  
Was the source of the troubles  
'Twas Santa and Mrs. Claus  
Playing mixed doubles.

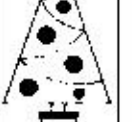
I could tell just by looking  
At Mrs. Claus' face  
That ol' Santa was poaching  
All over the place.

When they saw me they quickly  
Assembled their gear  
And were off in a flash  
With eight tiny reindeer.

As they flashed through the sky  
Disappearing from view  
He had one thing to say  
Which I'll pass on to you

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY  
He shouted to me  
And I hope that your New Year  
Is double-fault free!

Author Unknown  
Submitted by Marian Pollei





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 Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.  
 7449 West Shore Drive  
 Minneapolis, MN 55435

1989-90

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H. Jack Dow

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