

frugality was given when Byron was asked if he intended entering his pedigreed walkers in the horse shows.

"Oh, my no," was his quick reply. "That would take money. I'd have to hire some one to polish and groom them, give them hours of training."

Obviously, the Nelson ranch is not going to be operated as a luxury.

"This place must be self-sustaining," he remarked. "I want it to take care of itself—and to take care of me. After all, I couldn't play tournament golf forever. You slip fast in that game. There would soon come a time when I couldn't win expense money."

Byron modestly thinks he has contributed something to golf, and he admits the game has been grand to him. In return, he stands ready at all times to do whatever he can for the benefit of the sport.

He will continue to be actively interested in golf for many years, he hopes. He has concluded already that he will probably compete in at least two tournaments each year—the Masters' at Augusta, and the National Open.

"I will not compete with any anticipation of winning," he confessed. "I'm too smart, I think, to play as little golf as I'll be playing and then harbor any idea I can step out and beat the competition you have to face in those tournaments. I am looking forward, however, to enjoying the fine fellowship and hospitality those events provide."

HE plans to continue playing in a number of exhibition matches each year as long as his services continue in demand. He also will attend an estimated half-dozen major tournaments each year as a spectator to keep alive contacts for his other interests.

He still is listed as vice president in charge of sales promotion for an umbrella company in Toledo, Ohio, from which he realizes a substantial revenue on a profit-sharing arrangement. All through his golfing career, Byron has had an eye open for the future. The umbrella business is one means to this end. There is an interesting story how he got this job.

Cloyd Haas, president of the umbrella firm, was chairman of the committee commissioned with the task of hiring a new golf pro for the Inverness Country Club in Toledo in 1940. He got interested in Nelson, hired him, and as time passed they became staunch friends. Haas was attracted by the young pro's personality and his salesmanship, as revealed in the Inverness golf shop. Learning that Byron was interested in a sideline connection that might stand him in good stead in his later years, Haas proposed that he take charge of umbrella sales. Evidently Byron has done a grand job, for although Nelson's connection is on a yearly basis, he has the assurance he can continue it indefinitely.

How he ever became the greatest golfer in the business, twice winning the Masters', once the National Open

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and the National PGA, along with such other fixtures as the Tam O'Shanter All American, the Canadian PGA Open, the Miami Open, the Western, the North and South, and others too numerous to mention, seems to be a mystery even to Nelson himself. Those familiar with the story, however, know it was through sheer hard work, ability to master the power of concentration, serious and constant study of every minute detail, and clean living.

Why he decided to retire is simple.

"When the war came, I played so hard and so often that I just got burned out," he explained. "In addition to all the tournaments that kept me constantly on the road, racing from one place to another and living in hotels, I played as many exhibitions as I could at servicemen's hospitals. I wanted to settle down on a real ranch of my own where I could finally begin to live. I realized I could not go on many more years winning, so I decided to quit while I was on top—not a has-been. The game had been good to me and had provided me with the means to attain this goal. So now I'm definitely through with year-round tournament golf. I'm going to stick to that decision."

There were only two things about being an international sports hero that really irked Byron Nelson. One was looking out on a rainy morning after a tournament had started and

knowing that he had to go out and play, regardless. The record shows, however, that he was a very good "mudder." His other pet peeve was having to get up in the middle of the night, as he frequently did, to settle a golf argument centering around him that some slightly inebriated golf-bug would deliver to him over the telephone.

Nelson has had his share of thrills in golf. One of his greatest was his selection to play with the Ryder Cup team in England in 1937. Tops for actual playing was winning the National Open in 1939 in a double play-off with Craig Wood and Denny Shute.

He doesn't expect the stars of the future to do much pruning of the present record golf scores.

I DON'T think greater perfection will be attained than we already have," he says. "Low scoring seems to run in cycles. The boys are playing with the same clubs now that they did two years ago, when cards seemed to run unusually low. But they're using up more shots. Maybe it's the pressure of shooting against an increasing number of top-notchers."

Whatever the answer, Byron Nelson from now on will leave the strain to others. Talk to him as I did—study the expression on his face—and you'll know he's already found contentment as a part-time golfer.