

# HOW THE HAWK MASTERED AUGUSTA

**BEN HOGAN** WAS MORE THAN A PLAYER AT THE MASTERS. HE WAS A PRESENCE. NO ENTERTAINER, HIS PASSION FOR PERFECTION HELPED WIN TWO MASTERS TITLES—AND MILLIONS OF ADMIRERS.

By Ron Green Sr.

Sixty years ago, Ben Hogan finally won the Masters, wedding the tough, tenacious Texan's incomparable shotmaking and Augusta National's deceptively beautiful defiance in a union that had seemed predestined for years.

It had been a long and tumultuous courtship, but that was basically the story of Hogan's life, in which little came easily. It took him more than 20 years as a professional and nine attempts before he finally claimed the green jacket.

Clifford Roberts, Chairman of Augusta National at the time and not a man easily impressed, said, "A great player finally rendered a very great service to the Masters Tournament by adding his name to the list of champions. Ben Hogan had played enough good golf on the Augusta National course to win, with a little luck, several first prizes. Each



The Hogan Bridge plaque at No. 12.