two holes left in the tournament I was leading by one. But I made bogeys at 17 and 18. That's what cost me a chance to win outright or get into a playoff."

Dickson said the oversight taught him a lesson. "What it taught me, and I knew it beforehand, [was that] had I counted my clubs on the first tee, it wouldn't have happened. Now of course, and for the past thirty-two years, I count my clubs religiously, so that doesn't happen anymore."

Afterward, the new champion, Bob Murphy, who later earned close to $10 million on the regular and senior PGA Tours, was philosophical: "I wouldn't like the life of a pro golfer. After college, I just want a nice job as a football coach."[16] Murphy never coached football, but he did return to Southern Hills for the PGA Championship in 1970 and tied with Arnold Palmer for second place.

The eventual champion in 1970, Dave Stockton, switched caddies early in the week, ending up with Tulsan Jed Day, a near-scratch player and a member of Southern Hills.

"Getting Jed was the biggest break I could have possibly gotten that week," said Stockton. "Before Jed came into the picture, I had a caddie who had no idea what he was doing. He was putting the bag in a bunker, putting the bag on the green. I later found out he was the son of a guy who owned a neighborhood bar the caddie master frequented. I had never fired a caddie in my life, but I had to fire him. The next thing I know, I've got a guy who's a 1 or a 2 (handicap). I go from the worst I could have had to the best. Jed was great that week."[17]

So strong was the sentiment for Palmer that according to Day, Stockton felt some in Arnie's Army wore combat boots. "Dave knew how popular Palmer was and that most of the cheering was a natural reaction," Day said later, after he had become a banker in Tulsa. "But there were some things Dave didn't appreciate, like people cheering when he hit his ball into the lake."[18] Stockton's one-under-par total of 279 was two better than Murphy's and Palmer's. Jack Nicklaus and five others tied for fourth at 282.

The U.S. Open came to Southern Hills for a second time in 1977, and on that occasion there was a more intense heat than Tulsa's typical ninety-degree afternoons in June. Midway through the final round, someone phoned in a death threat against leader Hubert Green. Green has declined to talk about the incident, but Sandy Tatum, the USGA official walking with Green's group, remembered it vividly.

"It was on the 10th hole when the chief of security got a hold of me and said they'd received a call from a woman," Tatum recalled. "The woman said there was a plan by three men to shoot Hubert when he came to the 15th green. The thing that made it of some substance was that Southern Hills had a construction fence around it, and the fence was heavily hedged. The only place on the golf course where there was a hill to see down on the green was behind the 15th hole."[19]

As FBI agents peered through ABC-TV cameras, scanning the crowd, Tatum felt obligated to inform Green, even though the head of security said he believed the threat was a hoax. Between the thirteenth green and fourteenth tee, Tatum told Green of the threat. He was leading by two at the time.

"Hubert had those extraordinarily penetrating eyes," recalled Tatum. "He looks and says, 'You don't suppose it was somebody I was taking out?'"[20]

Tatum asked Green if he wanted a delay while security checked things out. But Green said to play on. After snap-hooking his tee shot into the rough at No. 15, Green's approach somehow found the putting surface. His fellow competitor Andy Bean and both caddies had been told of the threat. Tatum said once the players marked their balls, Bean and both caddies moved smartly away. Nobody was left on the green but Tatum and