

Alice Cooper

This rocker is 18 (under par)

By Mandy Savoie

Golf helped you to overcome your addiction to alcohol. Why golf, why not gardening?

That would be the most boring thing on the planet. I just went out and said, "I've got to find something as addictive as alcohol." I didn't realize it was *more* addictive than alcohol. I play golf six days a week, for the last 30 years. I warn people, "It's probably going to ruin your job." If you're in a band, it's fine. Nobody needs a concert at 7 a.m.

Do you remember the first time you played?

The first time I picked up a club, I hit a 7-iron right down the middle. I was like, "What's so hard about this?" I was a nine handicap the first year I played, so I was a natural golfer.

Would you trade your music career for one in the PGA?

Oh, never, never, never. There's nothing creative about golf.

Have you ever thought about going pro?

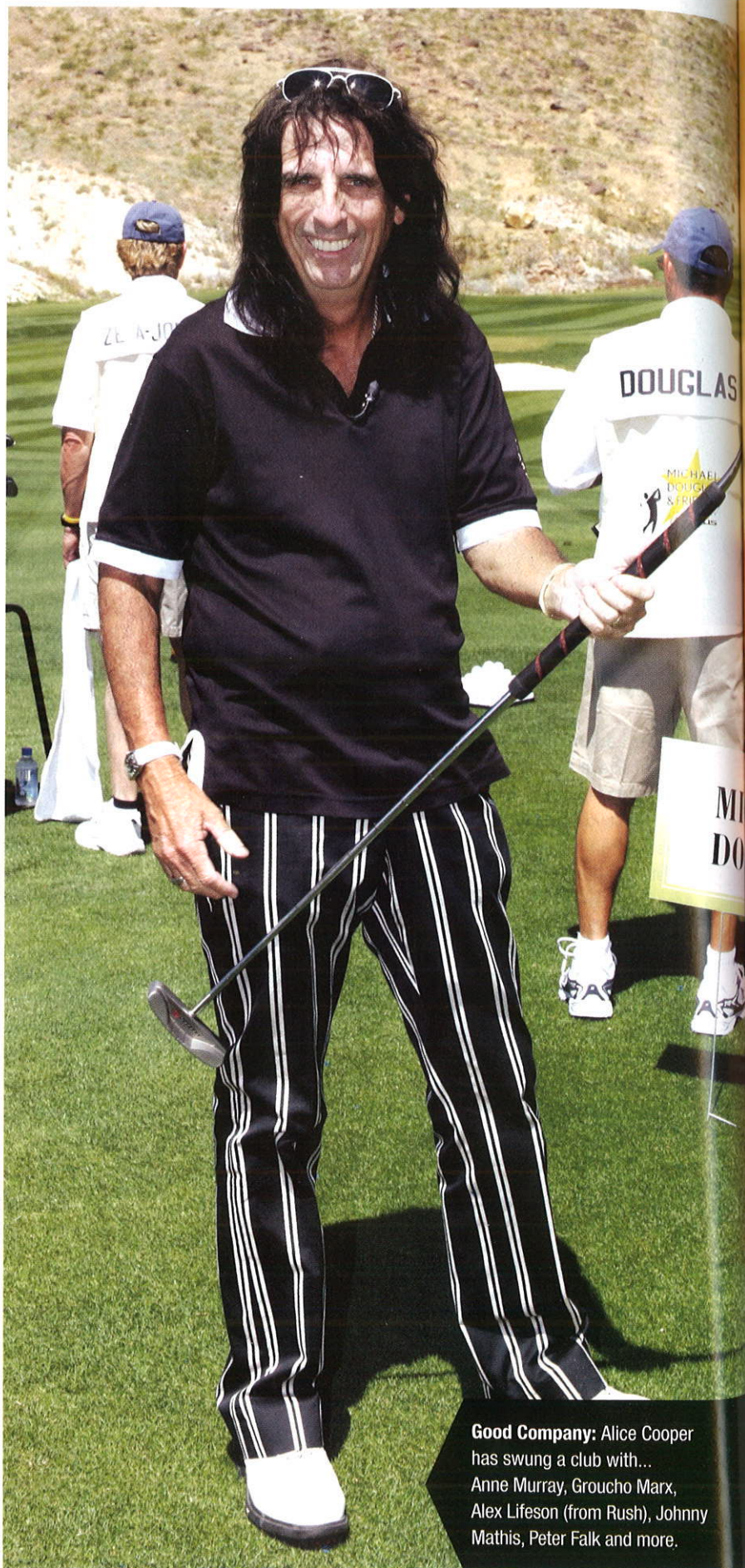
When I was about 50, I thought, "If I retired from music, I can probably be on the seniors tour," and it just didn't appeal to me. It was one of those things where it would be a great story, but I had 10 albums that I was thinking about at the time, so there was really no reason to retire, at all.

What is it about golf that attracts musicians?

It's surprising who plays. I mean, Bob Dylan plays golf. Lou Reed, Iggy Pop, Neil Young. I think there's a certain amount of challenge to it, but, at the same time, there's a certain amount of repetition to it, like music. Nobody's ever sat down and said, "I've played my best round of golf." I think all of us sit around going, "I haven't written the perfect song yet." I don't think [Paul] McCartney thinks he has written his best song yet.

Where are your favourite places to play in Canada?

I play from Vancouver all the way to Halifax. White-water Golf Club in Thunder Bay is one of my favourite courses, and I like The National Golf Club [in Woodbridge] and Glen Abbey in Toronto. I feel a little guilty being a Christian boy playing at the Devil's Pulpit course [in Caledon].



Good Company: Alice Cooper has swung a club with... Anne Murray, Groucho Marx, Alex Lifeson (from Rush), Johnny Mathis, Peter Falk and more.