

*THROUGH
HALF A CENTURY*





THE COUNTRY CLUB
OF ROCHESTER



Through Half a Century

COMMEMORATING
THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF THE
COUNTRY CLUB OF
ROCHESTER



ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

1945



THIS is a chronicle of friendship and good fellowship through half a century. This is the history of an idea. This is the story of a club. If more significant events are passed over hurriedly in favor of lesser incidents, it is not that the former are unimportant. It is because the latter are more interesting.

The Country Club of Rochester was not founded to be a monument to the business judgment of those who kept it going through four wars, two major fires, several business booms, and the economic "unpleasantness" of the early 1930's. Theirs is the credit, although they don't want that. They attained what the founders wanted: "The purpose of the Club is the promotion of outdoor sports and games."

Thus read Article I of the Constitution of the Country Club of Rochester, adopted, with its by-laws, at the Genesee Valley Club on April 29, 1895, set up and approved by a group of Rochester men who were to guide its destinies for many years, lay the foundations of its future, and sow the seeds of pleasurable pursuits in the gently rolling hills of Brighton.

These men formed the Club, but the idea went back further than that. It went back as far as 1893, when the first golf in Rochester was played on the Josiah Anstice farm, then south of Genesee Valley Park.

The enthusiasm which culminated in this startling experiment had been transplanted from Nantucket, Mass. It came about in this way:

John Harry Stedman, Josiah Anstice, William W. Webb, and Frederic P. Allen had taken their families to Nantucket in the summer of 1892. One warm afternoon, while the four

were playing a tennis doubles match, one of them was called to the telephone. He returned to the tennis court and told his friends, "Will Kimball is in New York. He has just purchased a set of golf clubs and wants us to come to New York tomorrow to play with him."

"But we know nothing of golf," one of the others exclaimed.

"What of it?" was the reply, "Neither does Will."

The next morning, the four entrained for New York, cloaked in an air of expectancy. They were athletes and sportsmen, and golf, while it may have held mysteries of which they had never dreamed, was a challenge. The game was new to New York, having gotten a foothold there in 1888 when the St. Andrews Club was formed. It was the first to sponsor the game in this country and was fittingly named for the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, Mecca of all true golfers.

The Rochester foursome was greeted in New York by fellow Rochesterian Kimball, who escorted his friends to the Moors, an expanse of ground near the city. There they were initiated. There, with their handkerchiefs tied to bushes to mark something to shoot at, they courted the royal and ancient game with all the ardor of eager but inexperienced swains courting a tantalizing beauty.

The first five golfers of Rochester topped the ball. They sliced, hooked, and missed. But they were enthralled.

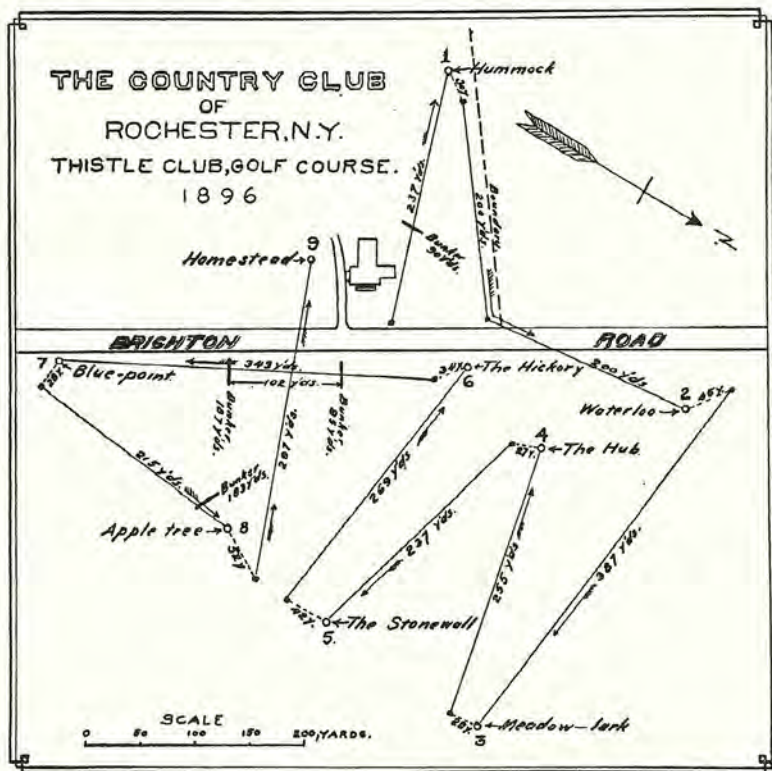
Mr. Kimball returned to Rochester. His friends rejoined their families in Nantucket, where their game of golf became the chief topic of conversation for the remainder of their stay. They came home to Rochester by way of New York, where their ladies went to Peck & Snyder and bought for their spouses sets of "those sticks the men play golf with."

Golf had its Rochester birth the following spring on Mr. Anstice's farm. Full of lore on the ancient pastime, which they had studied carefully throughout the winter, the quintet reunited and pooled their new and untried knowledge and inexperience in laying out the city's first nine-hole golf links.

Hummocks, tufts of wiry grass, unnatural obstacles were in the way. True putting greens were out of the question. Some years ago, one of the men who had helped in the work recalled, "I well remember the day we placed the cups. One of Mr.

Anstice's farm hands hitched up a wagon and drove from hole to hole with us. He dug the little pit and then deposited tiny red flower pots in the ground."

They may have been flower pots, but they were Rochester's first cups. How many countless thousands of dollars have been lost on the lips of their successors these last 52 years—how many tempers strained, how many strong men vanquished, how many vows made and broken?



But dozens of novice golfers came to know those tiny red flower pots. Golf flourished on the Anstice farm. Businessmen and industrialists, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances of the five pioneers, came to watch and then to play. In the next two years, golf dug its toes firmly into the farmland meadows of the place near Genesee Valley Park.

It brought the matter of a country club for Rochester to a head. There had long been talk of organizing such a club. Fashionable sports were becoming so popular that for convenience and sociability the formation of a club of some sort seemed to be almost a necessity. Tennis was widely played and polo and the gymkhana sports were gaining more and more interest each year.

The Genesee Valley Club held its traditional New Year's Day open house on the dawning day of 1895. Some time during the reception some twenty-five men withdrew quietly to a private room. There they decided on the establishment of the Country Club of Rochester. There they fathered the 50-year-old organization of today.

The founding fathers were a Rochester "Who's Who." Men whose names are as Rochesterian as the Genesee River, men like James S. Watson, L. L. Allen, Thomas D. Devine, Erickson Perkins, Josiah Anstice, J. Warren Cutler, Frederic P. Allen, William B. Lee, Gilman N. Perkins, George H. Ellwanger, Eugene T. Curtis, Warham Whitney, Hiram W. Sibley, George Wilder, and William S. Kimball. The last, the original "founding father" of golf in Rochester, was not to live to see the fulfillment of his early dreams for a splendid place to play the game he had introduced to his friends in New York. He died in March 1895.

Hiram W. Sibley was the Club's first president; James S. Watson, vice-president; George Wilder, its secretary; and Gilman N. Perkins, both vice-president and treasurer.

Step No. 1 was to make changes in the club house. Even before the adoption of the constitution and bylaws, Messrs. Sibley, Watson, Anstice, and Perkins were delegated "to make what improvements and alterations they may see fit in the house leased by them from Col. E. Bloss Parsons."

Most significant was Bylaw I: "The membership shall be one hundred and limited to members of the Genesee Valley Club." Although this restriction was later lifted, the ties are still close.

When the groundwork was laid, interest grew; activities increased, and with them, responsibilities mounted.

If the business of the Club was to be transacted, the Club had to have a rig. Messrs. Watson, Stedman, and Whitney

were instructed "to purchase horses and vehicles suitable for transacting the business of the club and to furnish a means of transportation for members to and from the electric cars at Brighton."

There were "dust bowl" difficulties, too, for the stewards found it necessary to take action to assure improvements in the driveway and to "consider the advisability of keeping the road sprinkled."



Clearly having realized that youth must have its day as well as its club, the stewards as early as June 1, 1895, agreed to admit junior members at an annual fee of \$10. Contributing members were also admitted at \$50 annual dues.

Then there was the question of the cinder path, the solution to which was left to Arthur R. Selden, after approving early estimates he had obtained from the best cinder path minds of the day. This was to be a lengthy foot thoroughfare (also useful for cycling). The path extended 3,660 feet from the railroad in Brighton to Clover Street and thence 3,774 feet to the Club House. The cost was \$400.

Founded upon an ideal of sportsmanship and good fellowship, the club opened its doors hospitably. With the approval of the stewards, it established in October 1895 a rule under

which a member might extend the privileges of "the golf field" for one day on registering the name of his guest and on payment of a fee of fifty cents.

So far as is known, this was Rochester's first greens fee. It has perhaps more significance than that. It is an indication that, outside the circle of the club itself, interest was growing in the already venerable game of golf.

The transportation problem was further solved the next year when Mr. Whitney was granted permission by his fellow stewards "to run a coach to the club, with privileges of the club extended to his passengers."

That same year, Mr. Watson's recommendation that annual dues be reduced from \$50 to \$30 was accepted. Despite this reduction in revenue, Erickson Perkins and E. T. Curtis told the stewards that \$250 should be spent on the golf links. At the same time, Mr. Sibley and Mr. Stedman suggested that it was "inexpedient" to charge for golf games. The golf course was surveyed that spring; and the stewards decided that no caddies should be employed on Sundays. Steady play continued on the course and another outlay of \$250 was required.

Golf in the good old days, and they were good, was more of a ritual than it is today. In clubs like the Country Club of Rochester was laid the foundation of a strictly formal pastime, thoroughly enjoyable and yet one in which rules and tradition were often the same thing, one in which character, courtesy, and fair play were combined into a highly formalized procedure.

Golf players stuck to the rules then, or no longer had the privileges of a golf course. As the game has grown, so have the courtesies diminished. It is one of the tragedies of the game's rapid spread. Those clubs which retain the traditions, which do most for golf's long life, which treasure most dearly its venerable regulations, its commandments, its royal and ancient rules, are those to which, in the end, golf will owe its perpetuation.

Back in the days of its beginnings in Rochester, the formalities of the game never detracted from the sport. Golf matches were state occasions. Tournaments were truly gala. The Thistle Golf Club of the Country Club of Rochester outfitted its members in blazing red jackets with silver buttons, and white knickerbockers.

Thistle members played many a match "in uniform." Their red coats became known from Rochester to Auburn, Syracuse, and Utica in the old Central New York Golf League, and from Buffalo to Toronto and Cleveland in the League of the Lower Lakes.

The finest golfers from these cities came to Rochester to compete, and generally more than met their match in the high talent of the Rochester team and the trickiness of its 18-hole course, with its famed Horse Shoe first hole, its Big Tree second, Blue Point third, and the others—the Quarter Pole, Flagstaff, Roadside, Meadow Lark, Crest, Stone Wall, Apple Tree, Corner, Cross Road, Orchard, Midfield, Grape Vine, The Lane, All Over (No. 18) and Oakcroft (No. 14), named for Erickson Perkins' bungalow, which stands today in the grove between No. 1 and No. 16.

"Rochester looks like the victor," said a Democrat and Chronicle headline for June 30, 1898, describing a Central New York Golf League tournament at the Country Club. The reason for this proud optimism is perhaps best given in the words of a visiting Otsego player: "The Rochester club has about four exceptional players and in the next grade about fourteen others, so nearly equal that I should think it would be difficult to make selections for a team. None of the other clubs is so well provided with material which has been well schooled."

The team thus described was composed of Messrs. Curtis, Hudson, Powers, Bowman, Lee, and Averill; the last, the Thistle Club's polo playing member who won equal fame as golfer and poloist until death in the prime of life cut short his distinguished career as a sportsman.

The progress made by these and other Thistle Club players was due not only to their own aptitude and skill, but also to a considerable extent to their tutoring. For the Club from the first was fortunate in engaging professionals of high ability both as teachers and players.

Among the early "pros," who served in the days when professionals (as well as some members) made golf clubs, were Alfred Ricketts, Dave Honeyman, Thomas Gourley, and Willis Smith (a brother of Alex Smith, twice open champion), and George and MacDonald Smith, one of the most talented families in golf's history.

While only a thriving youngster of two years, the club took its first step across international borders by extending its courtesies to members of the Toronto, Montreal, and Quebec golf clubs. That same spring, the Green Committee came into being, and was charged not only with responsibility for the golf links, but also for all other outdoor sports.

Shortly afterward, a committee appointed to investigate a plan for building a "splash closet" (we call them "showers" in the Club House today) reported that "it would not be advisable to build one at the present time."

This, however, was no indication of backwardness. Club life went on apace. The Club joined the Central New York Golf League and set about buying a flock of sheep to help keep the turf short. The splash closet faction won its point when the House Committee was authorized to build a veranda on the west side of the Club House "with a splash closet overhead."

By 1898, the club had acute growing pains. In the first meeting of the year \$250 was appropriated to ease them, temporarily, by using the money as yearly rental for additional land. Another lease was executed on the property then occupied by the club proper, to run five years. The annual rental was \$900.

The membership rates were changed. Enter the wives and the rest of the family. The new rates called for \$35 for a single membership, \$40 for a "membership for two" and \$45 for a family membership.

Even earlier, under their status as contributing members, the ladies had shown their prowess on the links. A sportswriter on October 13, 1897, had this to say of this activity:

"Considerable interest was manifested in the women's handicap golf tournament at the Country Club yesterday afternoon. A large number of spectators was present and watched the play closely. Three prizes were offered, a first and second prize for the two lowest net scores and one for the lowest gross score. Mrs. Whitney developed unexpected strength and took first place easily. She was fairly handicapped from her previous records, but by good play reduced her best previous score by ten strokes. For second place, Mrs. Eastwood and Mrs. Little ran tied, while Mrs. Eastwood took the prize for the lowest gross score."

Others participating were Mrs. William B. Lee, Miss Henrietta Allen, Miss Leighton, Miss Mary Peck, Mrs. C. B. Hudson, Mrs. G. T. Curtis, Mrs. Harold Kimball, Mrs. E. A. Webster, Mrs. George C. Buell, Jr., Mrs. J. Warren Cutler, Mrs. J. Craig Powers, and Miss Grace Otis.

In 1898 there came a slight relaxation of the rules for admission to membership when the stewards voted to give preference to members "or fathers of members of the Genesee Valley Club."

Claude Bragdon was elected to membership at that meeting. Other names joined the roll—Barry (William C. Barry, who later was to give the club a distinguished presidency), Howard, Foote, Bissell, Ford, Churchill, Wright, Beach, Husband, Johnson, Everest.

The old highway problem had a way of rearing up its dusty head every few months. In the spring of '98, Horace O. Brewster, David Hoyt, and E. R. Willard were instructed to see what they could do "about getting an improved road from Brighton Village to Pittsford and Penfield forks." The four-lane highway and blinking signal lights were still decades away.

Sporting blood won official leadership that spring when a Tournament Committee was authorized and Mr. Anstice was made captain for the year. This office carried with it the responsibility of appointing a handicapping committee of two, the membership of which neither the captain nor the committee was allowed to disclose.

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Dry as the dust of old Clover street, this chronicle?

Not for those who saw the main idea take root, send up its shoots, and blossom into the institution it has become. It was a sturdy beginning. Fifty years have proved that. The hills are just as green. The verdant trees are older, more gnarled now, but they give more shade. The turf is thicker, more lush. The Club House spreads out invitingly. All in all, the years have been good. The dust has been laid on Clover Street long since. Who would walk from the Brighton railroad on the cinder path now?

The road has been mightily improved from Brighton Village to Pittsford and Penfield forks. And golf balls are just as hard to

get now as they were 47 years ago, when the club re-engaged the professional services of Alfred Ricketts, at the same time authorizing the Green Committee to buy \$500 "or less" worth of golf balls through him. As in the past, the club house was kept open that winter. The social seasons continued without interruption by the fickleness of Rochester weather. The new road went through the next spring, and the civil engineer in charge and his friends were extended the privileges of the club, which by then had received a flag from Mr. Sibley, a banner from Mr. J. G. Cutler, and a sign from Mr. W. E. Spader.

The century turned, and the 1900's, heyday of golf and country club life, began in earnest. Membership limits were changed from 100 to 200. Mr. George Eastman, who had dropped his membership, took it up again. The club decided to build a caddie house. A movement was afoot to construct a club dormitory building.

Dues went up in October 1900, and by the following February, the "new building fund" was well under way, with 57 names booked and \$1,370 subscribed.

Other projects were on the books. The golfers wanted the greens piped. Modesty and convenience prevailed, however, and the stewards decided that the building of a locker house should take precedence over the matter of watering the greens. But a month later it was decided to hold up purchase of lockers until the completion of the building and to go ahead with piping the greens anyway.

The stewards set up a "special list" for possible membership that May, placing on it officers of the Army and Navy, members of the clergy, and professors at the University of Rochester. Shortly afterwards the stewards ruled that no resident of Rochester be permitted to use the Country Club golf links unless he held a membership in the club.

Up to that time there had been in effect a ruling which prohibited women and boys from playing golf on Saturdays. That October the ruling was suspended. There is no record of which wives put the pressure on their husbands to accomplish this.

Then came polo.

For a starter, the stewards admitted five to ten nonresident members of the Rochester Polo Club, rented a field for \$80 a year, prepared it at Country Club expense, and cared for

ponies and polo clothes at Polo Club expense.

More spectacular than golf, polo had a long, distinguished, and checkered career under the colors of the Country Club of Rochester. Its high spots reflect the continuing interest of the club in horses and hounds and all the riding sports.

The Polo Four, which represented the Country Club in the early 1900's, distinguished itself fully as bravely as did the club's team golfers. Contests were held with Canadian and Buffalo teams. The Rochesterians, sometimes at a disadvantage in competition with the British-trained and highly skillful Canadians, always gave good account of themselves.

The club developed a first-rate polo field with a small grandstand across Elmwood Avenue, on the flat terrain which now forms part of the first, tenth, and eleventh fairways. There the club played its games, achieving victory on occasion over the great Buffalo team led by Devereux Milburn, who later became the great internationalist and formed, with Tommy Hitchcock and Winston Guest, the most notable triumvirate in American polo.

There such Rochester polo players as J. G. Averill, Samuel Wilder, Walter Howard, J. S. Watson, Luther Gordon, Eugene Brown, C. H. Stearns, Norman VanVoorhis, and Captain Jim Sam Wadsworth, the crack Geneseo rider, scored their greatest victories and took their defeats like sportsmen.

When this team retired, polo became a lost sport in Rochester for several years. But it was revived spectacularly by a group of young Rochester horsemen after the first World War, among them William P. Barrows and Raymond J. Bantel. They recruited a new team from younger players, including men who had gained riding experience in cavalry organizations. Captained for a time by Major C. L. Clifford, a cavalry officer stationed here, this team made rapid progress, and polo came back swiftly and colorfully.

One of the early playing captains on the "revival" teams was Col. Kenneth C. Townson. Other players included his brother, Andrew J. Townson, Robert L. Jones, Thaddeus S. Newell, Capt. H. H. Bayette, John H. Kitchen, Frank Sellmayer, Jr., Capt. H. S. Dodd, James Davey, and Col. Philip R. Ward.

When in 1933 the depression threatened to bring to polo a

second demise, it was saved by the sportsmanship and interest of Pritchard H. Strong, who had taken up the game only three years before. He saw that polo was at the end of its rope and immediately combed the markets of the East for a string of ponies and put them into training here. With this interest, polo returned with renewed strength.

Mr. Strong built a practice field on his estate on Allen's Creek Road. Other fields were established at Genesee Valley and Ellison Parks. For the next three years, polo flourished. Its most severe blow was the tragic death on August 27, 1937, of Mr. Strong, then state assemblyman, his wife, and two friends in a crash of the Strong airplane near Albany airport.

The swift onrush of the second World War also had much to do with the suspension of the sport. But youth, well-trained and eager, is coming up. Polo may well come back again in Rochester.

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Even though polo took a firm hold at the Country Club in the early 1900's, golf was here to stay.

In April 1902 Alfred Ricketts was again engaged as greenskeeper and professional.

A month later an ugly head had been raised to ruffle the calm detachment of country club life. So ugly was the head that steps were taken to lop it off. The stewards appointed Mr. Bowman "to appear in support of the proceedings lately taken to prevent fast automobiling through Brighton in front of the Country Club premises by H. S. Woodworth."

That fall, the club resigned from the Central New York Golf League. But far more serious events were shaping. They are best described by John P. Bowman, secretary, in an account appended to his minutes for the meeting of October 18, 1902, at the Genesee Valley Club: "The fire broke out on the night of October 17th at about two o'clock in the morning in the rear of the main club house and was said to have started from the laundry stove, although the servant in charge of that part of the house declared he had extinguished the fire in the rear of the house before retiring.

"A light wind from the east carried the flames over the locker house, which with its contents was completely destroyed.

“The club house proper was consumed except the front porch, though the front walls and a portion of the rear ones remained standing. A subsequent examination by competent builders showed that the walls that remained were so damaged as to be useless. None of the club property was saved except the trophies, some small articles from the men’s cafe, and a few liquors. The loss on the contents of lockers alone was estimated to be \$7,500.

“Mr. Parsons had insurance on the main building of \$5,000.

“The club had insurance as follows: On the main building and contents, on the locker house and locker house contents.

“There was no loss of life.

“The fire appliances were practically none and no water was available except such as was brought in from Allen’s Creek, a distance of at least one-quarter of a mile, and that was through the combined efforts of the Brighton Fire Department and a portion of the Rochester Fire Department, but which was brought too late to be of service.”

Other accounts of the blaze are offered by Harry H. Kingston, Jr. They are extracts from his “Folklore of Brighton,” a book now in preparation. He offers this account, by Frank Caley: “I was asleep in my home just back of our shop on



Winton Road with a window open; being a volunteer fireman, the open window was a habit. I heard the city fire engine with its three horses going east. This was the pumper from the University Avenue house. Our fire company in Brighton Village received no call, but I dressed and on my bike followed out on East Avenue to the fire. It was the Country Club and I was the only volunteer fireman on the job.

"There were no hydrants in those days, and the pumper quickly emptied the well near the house and hadn't enough hose to reach from the creek, so they sent the club trap all the way back to the University fire house for more hose. When the trap got back the old house was gone. Just a few brick walls were standing.

"Herman and a waiter named Smythe were carrying out the bottled goods by the cellar door route, stacking the bottles and cases on the lawn out of harm's way. That's what they thought. The trouble was that the bottles wouldn't stay put. They began to walk off as fast as they came up. Mrs. Horace Strowger, a staunch prohibitionist, appointed herself guardian of the bottles. She would chase one bottle going west and during the chase, three other bottles would head north, south, and east. The good lady did her best, but she lacked support, both moral and numerical.

"Before long the audience was getting quite mellow. Waiter Smythe was much the worse for wear. He probably was overtired by carrying out bottles. Anyhow, he laid down among the remains to sleep it off."

(Note: The Herman referred to above is none other than the Herman who still presides in the club bar.)

Next day club members gathered around the ruins. Beekman C. Little recalls how the men looked at what had once been the locker room. Little piles of golf club heads showed where the wooden lockers once had been.

Three days after the fire, a special meeting was held at the Genesee Valley Club at which Mr. Anstice of the Committee on the Parsons Property reported that the owner wanted the club to take title to the land, etc. The chair then appointed Erickson Perkins, Mr. Anstice, and L. L. Allen to investigate "all available sites for a club grounds."

Other drastic steps were taken at the same meeting. One

was a decision to sell the club's cow to Dr. Ely for \$75. Another was a decision to re-engage Alfred Ricketts as professional and greens-keeper. At the same meeting the treasurer was empowered to send \$25 to the pension fund of the Rochester Fire Department in recognition of the firemen's work at the club fire. Cigars were sent to Hose 6 on University Avenue.

At a meeting of the stewards January 21, 1903, plans were already reported under way for a new club house. The Building Committee submitted two sets, one by Harvey Ellis and the other by Claude Bragdon. The choice of plans and the location of the new house were referred to the House Committee, and the treasurer was authorized "to pay the unsuccessful architect \$100."

A month later, the Green Committee was told to go ahead and lay out a nine-hole golf course on the club grounds. At the same time, the House Committee was empowered to contract for a new two-horse trap "at a price not to exceed \$500."

The Green Committee acquired a polo member that April in the person of Mr. Averill, and at the same time this all-powerful body was given authority to employ extra help in laying out two tennis courts and a croquet ground.

Reconstruction of the club house went on apace. By May 1903 the Building Committee had practically expended all the money allotted to it and required further:

Water motor and engine	\$1,000
Roadway	\$1,000
Decoration	\$500
Furniture	\$500
Shed for autos	\$500

The stewards appointed a committee of three "to present to members of the club the desirability of additions in plant and furniture to an amount not less than \$5,000." The Building Committee was quickly authorized to contract for a driveway and the water supply, and the stewards voted that the club stewards' quarters be put in the third floor of the club and that the rooms above the men's cafe be reserved for the members.

Two hundred and fifty dollars was voted the following September for "grading and beautifying" the grounds about the club house.

Through these formative years, the membership was comparatively static. The nucleus remained. There were some resignations, mostly due to sudden economic instability. In March, 1904, for instance, the resignation of a gentleman of the clergy was brought about in this way: "The treasurer was authorized to accept \$44 in settlement of the amount due the club provided it is accompanied with his (the clergyman's) resignation."

Science and mechanical progress caught up with the club in March, 1906, when the Green Committee was appropriated a sum not exceeding \$2500 for the purchase of a "machine for cutting grass."

That same year it was decided that the House Committee should "evolve some means of keeping the charges and credits of the bar account during the winter months separate from other accounts so as to determine the actual loss or credit of that department."

Stewards also expressed gratitude to Hiram W. Sibley for "his paying the balance due on the cost of the toboggan slide."

That June they took a stand for more proper observance of the Sabbath, ruling "that it be adopted by the members that no card parties be permitted within the Club grounds on Sundays and that the House Committee be empowered to enforce this rule."

Mechanical progress received a setback on October 4, 1906, when the stewards voted that the motor mowing machine so proudly purchased earlier "has not proved of any value to the club because of the inability of any of our employees to run it. Therefore it was moved that the machine be returned and the settlement be left to the president with power."

The next spring Mr. Little, George A. Carnahan, and William B. Lee were named to the Tournament Committee, with John Craig Powers as captain of the team. The Green Committee was voted a fund of \$2,500 for the year. The "polo department" was voted an appropriation of \$375 for the year.

The men struck a blow for privacy in June, 1907, when the stewards decided to "exclude boys from the locker room and men's cafe."

Junior memberships, for sons of members between 18 and 25, were established in March 1908, with an annual member-

ship fee of \$10 and with juniors entitled to the privileges of the club but with no right to vote.

On Dec. 6, 1909, great financial doings took place. The club exercised its option on its lease from August B. Parsons for the purchase of the club premises and borrowed \$30,000 at 5 per cent from the Fidelity Trust Company by mortgaging the property for that amount.

Fire struck a second time on June 16, 1910, destroying the club stables. Insurance of \$840 on the contents and \$2,000 on the barn was collected by Treasurer Gilman N. Perkins, and the questions of location and construction of a new stable were referred quickly to a special committee.

There was some small controversy that June over Rattlesnake Spring when the stewards received a communication from Mrs. Laura G. Benedict in "regard to the release of the spring, claiming it did not belong to the club although apparently deeded to it."

Mr. Harper Sibley was elected to junior membership in the club at a stewards' meeting at which it was again voted that no caddies should be employed on Sundays.

It wasn't until 1911 that the Rattlesnake Spring controversy was settled. This came about when the officers of the club were authorized "to execute and deliver to Laura G. Benedict a quitclaim of a quadrilateral piece of land on the east side of the Kelly Road in the Town of Brighton, embracing what is known as Rattlesnake Spring and containing about twenty one-hundredths acres of land."

The stewards decided June 9, 1911, to buy the 32-acre Thorpe Farm at \$800 an acre.

Road trouble came up again the next spring and the stewards resolved that the secretary, on behalf of the club, "respectfully request the Good Roads Commission of the Board of Supervisors to improve Elmwood Avenue as soon as the same can lawfully be done and provided the said improvement is made without cost or assessment against the abutting property owners as such."

It was decided that year to raise money to build a skating rink for the club and also to make further inquiries about tennis courts, inasmuch as a number of members had asked about the possibility of the construction of modern courts.

In June 1912 the club entered into contract with Oliver E. DeRidder for the sale to him of a triangular piece of land owned by the club on the east side of East Avenue, comprising about 25 acres, for \$50,050. The purpose of the sale, the membership was told, was "to pay off the mortgages on the real estate of the club and assist the board in clearing up the indebtedness of the club."

Mr. DeRidder was to become not exactly a stranger to golf or to the Country Club course, as it turned out. A newspaper account some years later of a gigantic inter-club match between 78 Country Club players and 78 players from the still youthful Oak Hill Country Club over by the river recounts how the C. C. of R. team piled up 17 points before Oak Hill scored. "Then," wrote the sports scribe, "Oliver DeRidder came in with two points and Oak Hill began to climb, taking the lead twice." The Country Club won the match, 117½ to 116½, with J. C. Bonbright, "youthful Harvard star, turning in a 70, one stroke under par. It was the best card of the match."

Irving S. Robeson, claimed by some to have been the best amateur ever developed at the Country Club and who had won fame for a Pinehurst victory over the great Walter J. Travis, American and British open champion, won 2½ points in the Oak Hill match from M. M. Bonney. Gurney T. Curtis, another Country Club all-time golfing great, won 2 points from D. Richardson. J. G. Hickey, the score shows, lost 3 points to his business colleague, C. J. Paisley.

Meanwhile, expansion was going on in other directions. The stewards resolved that the Club's option on some 40 acres of land owned by J. J. Barnard be accepted and that the officers be empowered to purchase the property. The price was \$800 an acre.

The condition of the Country Club golf course was not such that the club could accept the city championship in the season of 1913, and an offer by the Oak Hill Club to take the tournament instead was accepted with thanks by the stewards.

But 1913 was destined to be an historic year for golf, both at the Country Club and nationally. That May, Ronald J. Ross, professional at Pinehurst and one of the finest golf architects the game has known, submitted blueprints for a proposed new course for the Country Club. The plans called

for 15 holes on the east side of Elmwood Avenue and three on the property in front of the club house.

The Green Committee was authorized to proceed with plans to complete the course under the Ross plans, "at an expense not to exceed \$8,000."

While this was going on, the club's youthful professional, a native of Rochester who had been "brought up" in the pro shops of Alfred Ricketts and his successors and who had made clubs and caddied for members through his boyhood, approached the Green Committee, composed of Beekman C. Little and Walter Powers, with a strange request. He wanted to go to Brookline, Mass., for four or five days to compete in the United States Open Golf Championship. Sportsmen though they were, Mr. Little and Mr. Powers looked upon this request with some little doubt. For one thing, professionals were supposed to stay on their jobs. For another, as far as they knew the young Rochester "pro" had never played in a tournament worthy of the name and, to their knowledge, had never swung a stick outside Rochester. He was an unknown and his prowess was untested. But they granted his request and he went to Brookline and bumped right into golfing history.

At the end of the National Tournament's 72 holes, Ted Ray and Harry Vardon, the crack British golfers, were tied with a young New Englander named Francis Ouimet, who was the sensation of the tournament. He won the three-way play-off, and all the spotlight. No one paid much attention to the young golfer from Rochester who had posted the second lowest score at the end of the regulation 72 holes and who consequently finished fourth in the tournament, his first. His name, of course, was Walter Hagen.

His performance in the Open not only amazed but gratified club members. Mr. Little recalls that Hagen returned to Rochester less disappointed than bitter.

He had been treated shabbily by the other professionals, the well-knowns who had never heard of him, he said. "They pushed me off the tee and told me I could practise when they got through. I'm going back next year and win that tournament."

Walter Hagen entered the National Open at Chicago in 1914 and won it, beginning then his virtually undisputed 20-year reign over professional golf here and abroad. No pro-

professionals ever pushed him off a tee again because they had not heard of him. His name and the game of golf became synonymous. Trained, brought up at the Country Club of Rochester (he had been born near by), he remains the finest golfer ever produced by the city and one of the greatest of all time. Some say the greatest.

* * *

A new era opened in September 1913 when the stewards directed the Green Committee to "discontinue the use of the three holes on the north side of East Avenue."

Once there had been seven holes across the avenue, and three tees required driving across the road itself. Gradually, as additional land was acquired on the club side of the road, the older course fell into disuse.

Four thousand dollars more was expended on the new 18-hole course in 1914, assuring its completion.

By 1916 the automobile had moved in to such an extent that the stewards advised the Green Committee that it would be a good idea to enlarge the parking place in the rear of the club. Albert B. Eastwood contributed an elk's head that year. Breaking down slightly in their resolution to hire no caddies on Sundays, the stewards also voted to instruct the Green Committee "to enforce the rules that no caddies be employed on Sunday by the Country Club without the written consent of their parents or guardian."

Walter Hagen apparently went to the Open Championship again that year, for this note is carried in Mr. E. L. Williams' minutes of the meeting of the Board of Stewards September 20, 1916: "On motion, duly seconded, Mr. Walter Hagen was given \$100 towards defraying his expenses at the Open Championship Tournament. Carried."

Less than a month later, according to Mr. Williams' minutes, "The Green Committee was authorized to interview Mr. Walter Hagen in regard to engaging him as professional for the following year, with the understanding that he take full charge of the care and upkeep of the course."

But now history was on the move again.

Early in April 1917 the United States entered the first World War and young golfers were on the march along with

everyone else. The stewards voted that "any member joining the Army or Navy of the United States for the war with Germany have his dues remitted. Also have any unpaid installment of the initiation fee postponed until such member is discharged." This indeed was history, and no one knew that it would be cruelly repeated twenty-four years later.

Up came the food problem in 1917, as now. "On motion," wrote Mr. Williams, "Messrs. Anstice, Morse, and G. N. Perkins were appointed a committee to take up the matter of cultivating all available land not used for golf purposes; the manual labor to be done as far as possible by club members." Thus entered the victory gardens of 1917.

Club functions took on a patriotic tone. On May 24, 1917, the House Committee was authorized to arrange for a dance on the night of Decoration Day at \$2.50 a plate, the proceeds to be given to the Red Cross.

All was not rosy in other quarters. That August the caddies' payroll was stolen from Mr. Hagen and the stewards, coming to the rescue, voted "refunding of the moneys."

Wartime conditions were beginning to have their effect. The fuel shortage required closing the club house in January 1918 for two months.

The Green Committee was instructed to "use strict economy for the coming year," and seven Naval and four Army officers were elected to membership under a new ruling providing for such admissions. All were stationed in the city.

Walter Hagen's association with the Country Club was terminated in that year. The war ended. The club house remained open that winter. Five days before the Armistice a new ruling of the Fuels Administrator permitted such action, but rulings were not needed. The Kaiser fled his Reich; the Armistice was signed.

Next spring George Christ was hired as professional and thus began a long and illustrious career as friend and teacher of many a Country Club golfer, himself one of the finest the city has ever seen, holder of many championships, winner of many matches and tournaments, and creator of many record low scores.

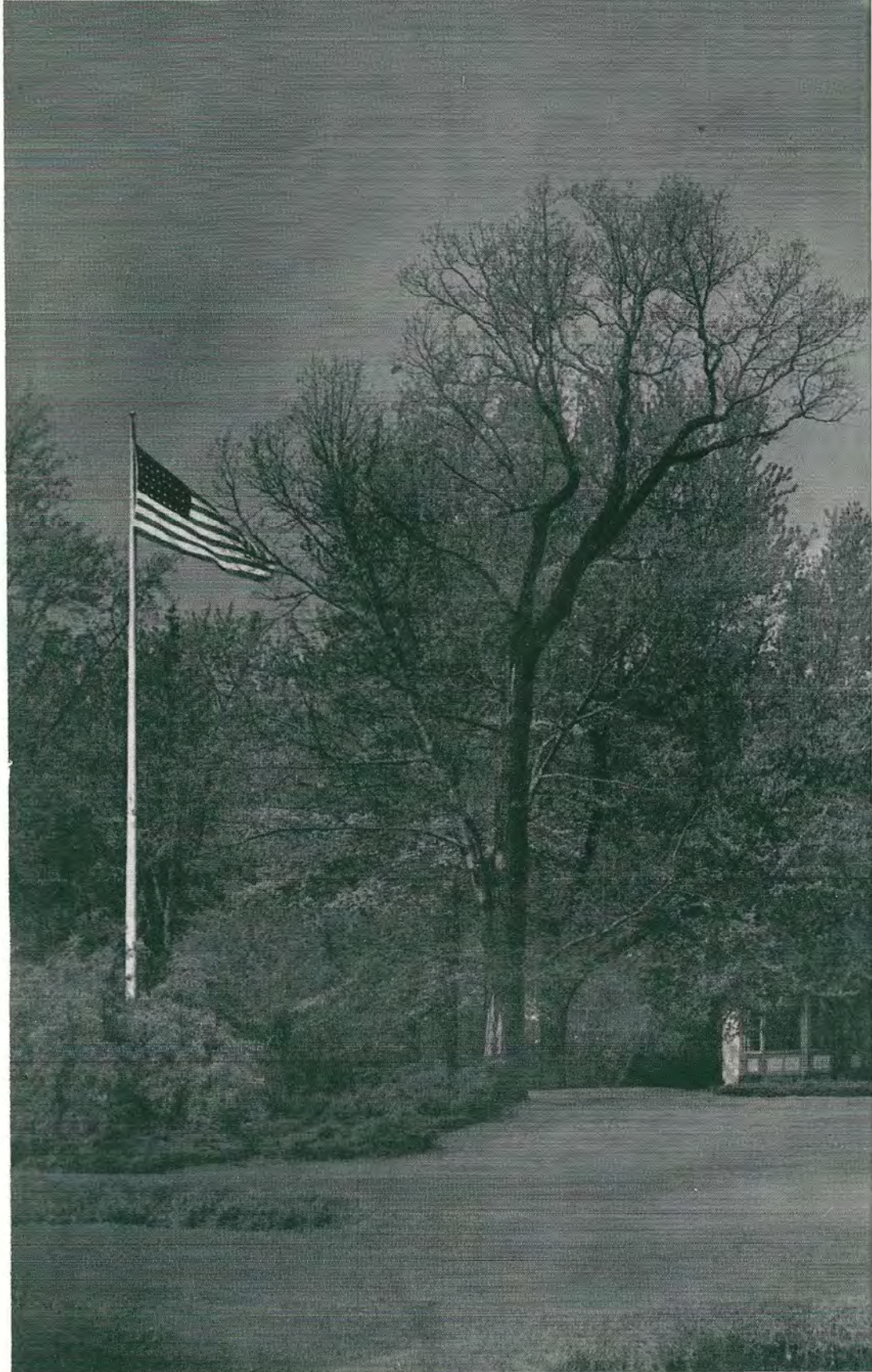
The Country Club entered a new era in that first postwar year. There came the early postwar depression and the lush

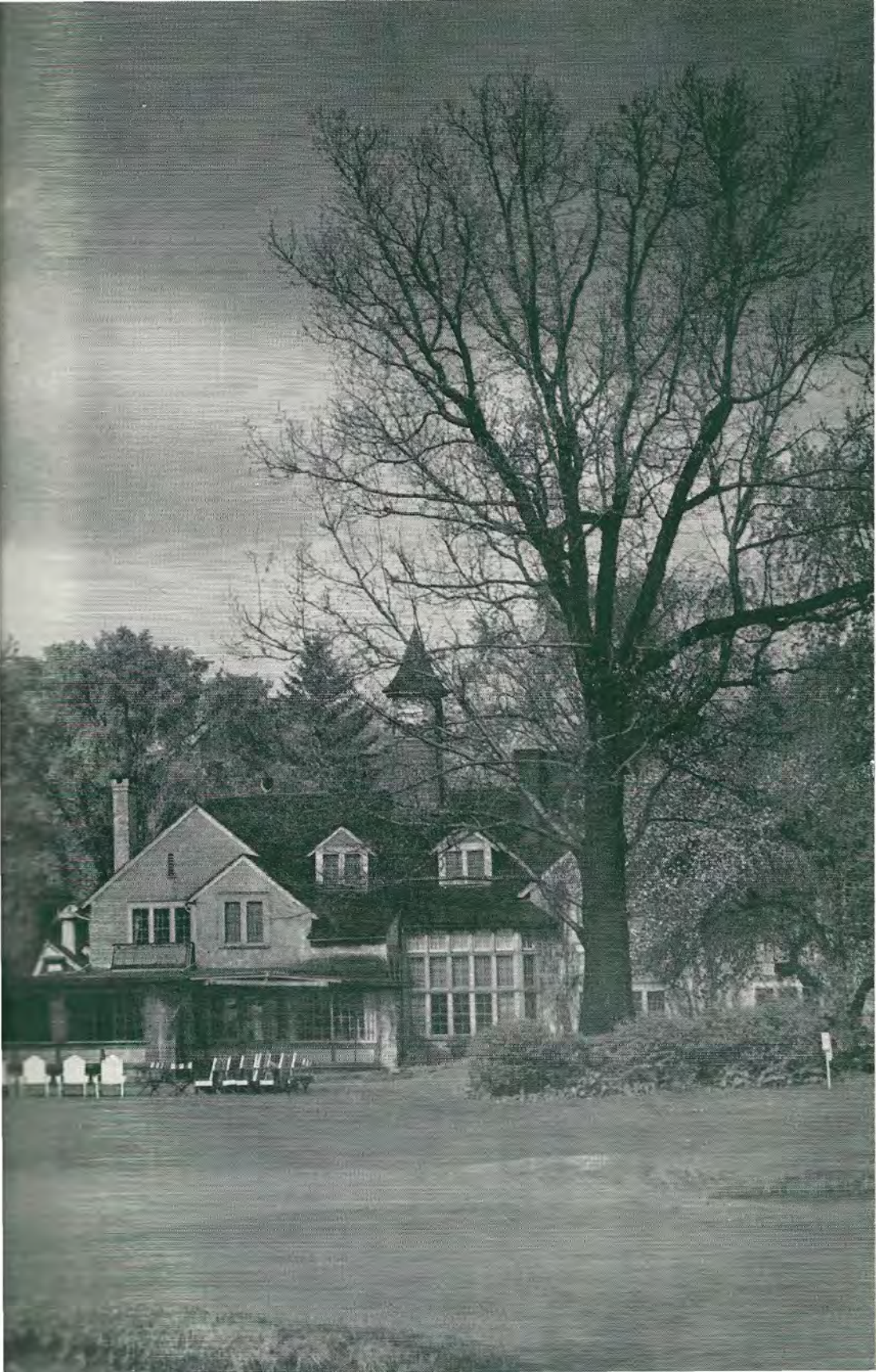
boom days of the 1920's, the sad Thirties, and the tragic years of 1940's decade, with their bloodshed and destruction. In all these the Club's character has stood out because its human personality is made up of those men and women who have weathered the shocks and blows of both war and peace with their compatriots.

Yet from a long-range view, the Country Club of Rochester has changed little from its first years. It was fortunate in being steeped in tradition when it was still young. Its character was formed early and has not changed. It remains what its founders wanted it to be, a sociable place "for the promotion of outdoor sports and games."

In keeping to this, it has fulfilled its promise and has justified the labors of those who worked to bring it into being.











AND NOW

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

THE Country Club has been here so long, and is so familiar—so apparently unchanged—that most of us are inclined to take it pretty much for granted just as it is. But, when we think back to that small group of men who got together half a century ago to organize the Club to, as they expressed it in their business-like fashion, “promote outdoor sports and games,” we can appreciate how much the Club has changed, and, at the same time, how much we still have of what they planned and began.

The changes have been largely in the concept we each have of “the Club,” which, at first, meant just this group of charter members. Soon the term had to be expanded to include their leased house, and the grounds for what they called a “golf field.” Gradually through the years, many other facilities and functions were added or changed—some, like croquet, discontinued—until now “the Club” holds many different meanings. It means, first, a group of several hundred families . . . then, a comfortable clubhouse and especially attractive grounds . . . a well-kept, challenging golf course . . . a good place to which to come for lunch or dinner . . . a gathering-place for all the family on Decoration Day and the Fourth of July and New Year's Day . . . or, a group of friends with whom to play backgammon on cold or rainy weekend afternoons . . . or, again, a place at which to entertain, or skate—or, in winters like the last one, to skii . . . or play tennis, or dance, or see the movies on Sunday night. Or, as it is to members back home on leaves, just familiar, pleasant headquarters.

It would be possible, I suppose—it would certainly be in-

teresting—to go back through the years and relate the changes which have taken place in the way we live to the changed ways in which we think of, and use the Club. It would probably show that the Club has reflected the effects of everything from the first automobiles and paved roads and Francis Ouimet's winning the Open at Brookline and our proximity to the Genesee Valley horse country all the way down through today's gas rationing and red points and staff problems and high property taxes and the waning popularity of large houses.

That the Club has thus continually changed with changing conditions, and yet kept the essential spirit and purpose of its beginnings is something for which we owe a great deal to those who have directed and managed it through these fifty years—through the wars and depressions which have caused many other clubs in this country to make drastic changes, or become real estate developments. It is a tribute to these men that they were able to keep the Club flexible and, as a result, to make possible its continuance for us today.

There is much to be read between the lines of the meetings and committee reports of all these years—much to indicate that the strong, if unexpressed, desire to maintain the character of the Club was complemented by a continuing desire to have the facilities of the Club reflect the changing needs of changing times. The records of improvements and additions to the first Clubhouse . . . the addition of property and the progressive improvements of the golf course . . . the building of this clubhouse—on leased ground, were all typical advances.

I believe there is example for us in these fifty years of experience. We are now in a rather delayed transition, and it is impossible for us to predict just what we ourselves will want in the future—or to tell just what our sons will want “the Club” to mean to them. Right now a great many of our more enthusiastic golfers are away in service. Their return to the course, together with the youngsters who will resume or start, will, with the added stimulus of more plentiful caddies and golf balls, certainly result in a heightening of interest in the course itself. At the same time, others of the younger men returning from the war—and the youngsters just growing up, may prefer somewhat more energetic activities. Their answer may be tennis—or perhaps we will even see an airfield over on

Clover Street someday. But, regardless of just what they, and the next generation, will follow in the way of "outdoor sports and games," I believe that we all want the Country Club to continue to be their headquarters as it is ours now. And I believe that the spirit and atmosphere of the Club are important enough, and real enough, for us to help maintain—and build upon—in the changing future.

* * *

It seems appropriate to incorporate in this commemorative booklet something of a report on the status of the Club on its Fiftieth Anniversary. And, with so many of our members away from home, this booklet is being sent to them as a message from the Country Club which, we believe, is a part of "home" to these men.

First, the officers and stewards for 1944-45 . . .

OFFICERS 1944-45

<i>President</i>	JOHN H. KITCHEN
<i>Vice-President</i>	CARL L. BAUSCH
<i>Secretary</i>	EZRA A. HALE
<i>Treasurer</i>	CHARLES T. DEPUY

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Term of Office Expires 1945

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EDWARD S. FARROW	FRED H. GORDON
EZRA A. HALE	

Term of Office Expires 1946

JOHN H. KITCHEN	T. CARL NIXON
CARL L. BAUSCH	CHARLES T. DEPUY
DONALD G. CLARK	

Term of Office Expires 1947

SCHUYLER C. WELLS, JR.	MARO S. HUNTING
LESLIE H. JACKSON	WILLIAM G. KAELEBER
WADSWORTH C. SYKES	

And, the 1944-45 Committees . . .

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LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE	ADRIAN DEVINE ARTHUR A. BARRY
GREEN COMMITTEE	LESLIE H. JACKSON, <i>Chairman</i> T. CARL NIXON FRANK E. DEVANS EVERETT D. DAVIS
TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE	LEON W. SAGE, <i>Chairman</i> ROBERT E. REILLY BURTON C. SMITH
TENNIS COMMITTEE	F. IRVING HUTCHINS, <i>Chairman</i> MRS. M. C. BARRY DANIEL E. SLOCUM
SKATING COMMITTEE	F. IRVING HUTCHINS, <i>Chairman</i> MRS. WADSWORTH C. SYKES MISS JUDY WEIS CHARLES JEREMY CROUCH
STABLES COMMITTEE	MARO S. HUNTING, <i>Chairman</i> EDWIN ALLEN STEBBINS JOSEPH F. WELLER MISS LOUISE DEVINE RUDOLPH C. SEIBERT NEIL LOUIS BRODERSON, JR.
ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE	F. RITTER SHUMWAY, <i>Chairman</i> MRS. M. C. BARRY MRS. D. G. CLARK WADSWORTH C. SYKES JOHN H. KITCHEN MRS. B. E. FINUGANE
JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE	THOMAS SEIBERT, <i>Chairman</i> LINDA REMINGTON CLARK PIEPER BRIAN QUINN

The membership list . . .

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CASTLE, KENDALL B., JR.	FIELD, KENNETH H.
CATHER, J. HOWARD	

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GRIFFITH, H. W.
GUMEAR, W. ELLIOTT

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KAELBER, WILLIAM G.
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KITCHEN, JOHN HILL
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KLINE, WILLIAM B.

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LANE, GEROULD T.
LANGIE, LOUIS
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LINDSAY, R. BRUCE
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LUNT, CLARENCE S., JR.

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 MACOMBER, F. ALLEN
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 NIXON, T. CARL
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 NORTON, REV. GEORGE E.
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 OBERLE, KENNETH C.

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 PIEPER, ARTHUR O.
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 REED, MERTON
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 REMINGTON, THOMAS H.
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 RIES, EDWARD J.
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 ROYER, WILSON
 RUSSELL, HERMAN

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 SAGE, FRANK T.
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 SCOTT, DR. W. J. MERLE
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 SIBLEY, F. HARPER
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GOSNELL, THOMAS H.	MORSE, JOHN W.
	RAE, JOHN, JR.
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HARGRAVE, THOMAS J., JR.	SIEBERT, THOMAS
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HENDERSON, HOWARD J., JR.	

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- GRAY, EDWARD LE B.
Newton Center, Mass.
- HANSON, DR. W. T., JR.
Knoxville, Tenn.
- HOPEMAN, ALBERT A., JR.
Waynesboro, Va.
- HORTON, ELLIOTT
Geneseo, N. Y.
- HOYT, WHITNEY F.
New York City
- ISELIN, O'DONNELL
New York City
- KIMBALL, CHARLES P.
Nantucket, Mass.
- LOCKHART, DR. JAMES
New York City
- MCINERNEY, BRENDAN
New York City
- MCINERNEY, JOHN J., JR.
Albany, N. Y.
- MCINERNEY, KEVIN
New York City
- MURPHY, VINCENT B.
Long Island
- NIXON, RICHARD
Armed Forces
- NORTON, HAROLD R.
Hector, N. Y.
- PERKINS, GILMAN C.
LeRoy, N. Y.
- PHELPS, STANFORD N.
Detroit, Mich.
- PLATT, WILLIAM B.
Armed Forces
- RENSHAW, PAUL
New York City
- RICHARDS, MRS. GLADYS M.
Cedar Valley, Texas
- RICHMOND, GEORGE L.
Newark, N. Y.
- SHAW, HENRY, JR.
Chile, S. A.
- SIBLEY, HIRAM
Washington, D. C.
- SIBLEY, JOHN R.
Spencer, Mass.
- SLOCUM, JAMES, JR.
Denver, Colo.
- SPENCER, THOMAS D.
New York City
- STEERE, THOMAS, E.
Providence, R. I.
- STEVENS, ROBERT S.
Ithaca, N. Y.
- STUART, LYMAN K.
Newark, N. Y.
- TAYLOR, ROBERT D.
New Haven, Conn.
- TAYLOR, THOMAS C.
Wynnewood, Pa.
- THORNTON, KNIGHT
Wellsville, N. Y.
- TILTON, BENJAMIN E.
Syracuse, N. Y.
- TOWNSON, ANDREW J., JR.
Geneseo, N. Y.
- WANZER, MRS. CHARLES W.
Miami Beach, Fla.
- WARREN, FRANK H.
Naples, N. Y.
- WEBSTER, DONALD
Elmira, N. Y.
- WELLS, MRS. JOHN C.
Chatham, Mass.
- WHELOCK, AUSTIN
Armed Forces
- WILCOX, PERLEY
Kingsport, Tenn.

WOLCOTT, JAMES G.
Williamsville, N. Y.
WOODWARD, ERNEST L.
LeRoy, N. Y.

WOODWARD, TALMADGE
LeRoy, N. Y.
YOUNGS, LOCKWOOD F.
LeRoy, N. Y.

And we are honored to list our members . . .

IN THE ARMED FORCES

ANGLE, GEORGE M.	HALE, WILLIAM B., II
ANGLE, RICHARD W.	HALL, EDWARD B., JR.
*ANSTICE, GARDNER	HANSFORD, NELSON VAN B.
BAIRD, GORDON C.	HARGRAVE, ALEXANDER
BAIRD, WILLIAM	HARGRAVE, THOMAS J., JR.
BARRY, MARION C.	HARRIS, EDWARD, JR.
BARRY, POMEROY	HAWKS, GEORGE H., JR.
BECHTOLD, KARL K.	HENDERSON, HOWARD J., JR.
BETTEN, ROBERT S.	HICKEY, E. JAMES
CARTER, PAUL E., JR.	JACKSON, BARRINGTON H.
*CASE, CHARLES V., JR.	JENKINS, H. MACY
CASE, CHARLES Z.	KEATING, KENNETH B.
CASTLE, GEORGE V.	KITCHEN, JOHN H., JR.
CASTLE, JOHN H., JR.	KLINE, RICHARD B.
CASTLE, KENDALL B., JR.	LAWLESS, DAVID F., JR.
CLARK, DONALD B.	LAWLESS, JOHN
CONNOR, SAMUEL P., JR.	LINDSAY, ROBERT B., JR.
CROUCH, T. RYDER	LOVEJOY, DR. FRANK, JR.
CUNNINGHAM, PETER F.	MACOMBER, EDWARD R.
CURTIS, EDWARD P.	MACOMBER, F. ALLEN
DEUPREE, RICHARD R., JR.	McCANN, DR. WILLIAM S.
DEVINE, THOMAS	McCURDY, GILBERT G.
DRYER, JOSEPH F.	McINERNEY, BRENDAN
DURAND, SAMUEL E.	McINERNEY, JOHN J., JR.
FARNHAM, SHERMAN	McKINSTRY, DR. GEORGE C.
FIELD, CHARLES W.	MESSLER, ROBERT A.
FINUCANE, FREDERICK T.	MIDDLETON, E. W., JR.
FITCH, JULIAN M.	MILLARD, ERNEST B., JR.
FOX, JOHN R.	MILLARD, JOHN E.
FOX, JOHN R., JR.	MILLS, ALLEN P.
GILMAN, E. HARRY, JR.	MORSE, JOHN W.
GOODWIN, FRANK J.	MORSE, WILLIAM B.
GOSNELL, ARTHUR, JR.	NIXON, RICHARD
GOSNELL, THOMAS H.	
GRAY, EDWARD LE B.	

*Killed in Action

PLATT, WILLIAM B.	SOLBERT, PETER
QUINBY, H. DEAN, JR.	SPENCER, G. HOLLISTER
	SPENCER, THOMAS D.
	SYKES, ROBERT
RAE, JOHN H., JR.	TAYLOR, ROBERT D.
	TRIPP, HULBERT W.
SAGE, F. DWIGHT	WARD, DONALD R.
SHEPPARD, S. ROGER	WARD, HAWLEY W.
SIEBERT, ROBERT C.	WEIS, RUDOLPH G.
SIEBERT, THOMAS F.	WELLER, GORDON
SLOCUM, DANIEL	WELLS, WALTER H.
SMITH, BURTON C.	WHEELOCK, AUSTIN
SMITH, SHERWOOD, W.	WOLCOTT, E. MALCOLM
SOLBERT, COL. OSCAR N.	

And now the reports of the operating committees on their responsibilities. If, in their reports, there seems to be considerable emphasis on "today's conditions," let us all understand that this is in no sense a complaint but is, rather, a reminder to us that these committees have all been working under wartime limitations and, consequently, have not been able to accomplish as much as they would like—as much as we hope will be possible again in the future. Then considered against the background of these circumstances, there is no question but that they have all done remarkably fine jobs.

A committee which has had at least as many of these difficulties as any other group is . . .

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

OPERATING the Clubhouse is not unlike operating one's own home—except that the problems are multiplied in both number and scale. Instead of four or six or eight for dinner, there may be two or three hundred. The guests are not always quite as responsive to suggestions that it is time to go in for dinner. And so on.

The war years have presented the House Committee with the many new, though now familiar, problems of ration points, increased prices of supplies, acute labor shortage, and, now, an extreme scarcity of cigarettes. The Clubhouse staff has worked with great loyalty to help overcome these handicaps, and the changes have been taken in stride by the membership—with understanding, but not without an occasional nostalgic backward glance at the luxuries of former days. They recall the tables loaded with Homer's roast beef, lobsters, chicken, oysters Casino, and the desserts of pre-war Thursday nights . . . the days when reservations were not absolutely

necessary, and Miss Barrett or Otto could always manage somehow to take care of you and your party . . . and there were plenty of cigarettes, not only at the bar, but in the locker room, and in George's shop.

Sunday dinners have grown into family affairs almost on the scale of former holidays . . . the holidays themselves have had overflow crowds . . . movie nights are booked to capacity for supper . . . and the Thursday night buffets, despite the less bountiful tables, are even more popular than they were before the war.

Miss Barrett has worked tirelessly to meet these circumstances, and has struggled hard and successfully with insufficient help, the high costs, and the scarcities—and has, moreover, been able to explain these things to the membership.

Otto carries on alone, where we used to have four waiters to help serve fewer tables—he is now ably helped with part-time waitresses. Marc still does the roast beef to a turn, when we can get it, and somehow he manages to get the dinners even though he sometimes has to call on Ray and Frank.

The drinks Herman and Johnny serve still have the old authority but occasionally now they have to blush for the quality and hold their hands over the label. However, they still have a cache large enough to welcome the boys coming home from the services, and to enable them to at least start in where they left off.

Herman is celebrating his Fiftieth Anniversary as well as that of the Club's. There is documented evidence that he was there the night of the fire in 1902—and he is such a familiar part of the Club, we are glad to take his word for all fifty of the years. Johnny is just a newcomer, of course, having been at the Club for only thirty years.

The Clubhouse itself has been maintained in all essential respects and there have even been some positive improvements made. The old hand-fired boiler has been replaced by an automatic stoker which is a joy to Herman Stark—and, to give him something to use in it, the cellar arrangements have been altered to allow for a coal bin large enough to hold 45 tons, or half a year's supply. By piling the other half back of the Clubhouse, we have been assured of our supply regardless of weather conditions. And, for the information of members who did not spend last winter in Rochester, they were real conditions.

The wine cellar has been doubled in size, and certain alterations which were made in the way of a steel door have helped Herman Garbers to sleep better nights. A deep freeze room, and an additional storage room, are needed but are postponed until the equipment and materials can be obtained.

Some essential painting is now being done but, wherever possible, it is being deferred. A complete painting inside and out is in order and will be done when material becomes available.

Mrs. Burton Smith's Committee did such redecorating in the lounge as was imperative, and has drawn up a long range scheme which will be followed as the furniture supply improves.

Mrs. B. E. Finucane, Mrs. M. C. Barry, and Mrs. Donald G. Clark have been very helpful in an advisory capacity to Miss Barrett in planning the menus.

The House Committee appreciates the understanding attitude of the membership and will continue to make the best of the difficult circumstances of the present.

Before too long, we hope that the Clubhouse will again become headquarters for receptions, dances, and other postwar parties.

Wadsworth C. Sykes

I think we should certainly go on record here with our thanks to the House Committee for the splendid work they have done in the face of wartime limitations—and, also, to express our appreciation to Miss Barrett and to Otto, Herman, Johnny, and the rest of the Clubhouse organization for their loyalty and service. And, a special salute to Herman on his Fiftieth Anniversary.

The whole subject of golf seems to be such serious business to most golfers that we will turn to those in charge—first . . .

THE GREEN COMMITTEE

THE first responsibility of a green committee is not, as some seem to think, the weather—but the course itself. And I would like to establish that I think we are extremely fortunate in having our Country Club course. In the first place, it is convenient, selective, and, certainly, attractive. And I think it is difficult enough. Every now and then you hear someone who feels that the course is too simple or too easy, but, if you will look into the question further, you will find that not much of this is heard from top golfers. The course does not have the terraced greens, or yawning traps, or the number of water hazards which some golfers say they like but, as the efforts of many of the country's leading golfers have proved through the years, it doesn't need them. George Christ had a dream round of 62 some years ago which is many strokes better than anyone else has ever been able to do. And the amateur record was par for years until just last summer when "the lawyers" had a

guest from Boston who, starting off with birdie 3's on the first, third, and fifth holes, finished up with a record 69. I have heard the theory advanced that the answer—or at least part of the answer—was that he had never seen the course before, and didn't know how tough it really is. It is a matter of record that after the visitor became familiar with the course, he also became appropriately impressed and was never able to come anywhere near par on subsequent rounds.

The Club course is an interesting course, and yet is not too tiring for the casual weekend golfer who is the typical club member. There are few steep fairways—most of us feel that one third hole hill is just about enough, and are relieved that we do not have the continuous up and downhill grind of many other courses.

During the last year we have shortened a few of the holes—not permanently, but for the purpose of enabling the average golfer (of whom we have approximately 100%) to have a chance for the green on his second shot, or tee shot, as the case may be. After the war, if we have improvements in clubs or balls (or golfers) which justify it, these tees can be moved back to where they were.

Unfortunately, Adrian Devine's excellent work toward beautifying the course last year was nipped in the bud by a bad freeze or something that happened to the trees he planted. Nevertheless, those that did live have improved the appearance of the course considerably and are a tribute to his Landscape Committee's efforts.

Aside from the course itself, there can be no question but that we have the best golf professional in the business. George Christ is an outstanding man—kind, considerate, and thoughtful of the members, caddies, and everyone else with whom he comes in contact. Of course, the caddie situation today is not what it used to be but that is no fault of George's. I have played golf all over the United States and elsewhere, as have many others in the Club, and I think everyone will agree with me that one never finds a better, or more courteous, or more carefully trained caddie that is found at the Country Club. And this is attributable to George.

In these days when manpower, fertilizer, seed, and other things are so difficult to obtain, I think tribute is also due to Bill Cowan who, though getting along in years, and suffering occasionally from a bad leg, still insists upon being out on the course early and late in all kinds of weather. He has done the very best job possible under the circumstances and, as a consequence, the condition of the course compares very favorably with any of the others in the area.

This year's program includes changes in the style and location of traps, and still further improvement of the greens—as well as anything else the members think will make the course more en-

joyable. One such change is that the rough is cut shorter than it has ever been before—not to minimize the penalty for wild hooks and slices, but simply because golf balls and caddies are so scarce.

Leslie Jackson

Most of us are finding our lawns and shrubbery at home problem enough to make it easily understandable that the acres of rough, fairways, and greens present a tremendous job in maintenance. We want to express our appreciation to the Green Committee, as well as to George Christ and Bill Cowan for their splendid work. Because of the pressure of business—especially in having to spend so much time in other parts of the country, Les Jackson has found it necessary to resign the chairmanship of the Green Committee and Carl Nixon has assumed this responsible post.

Competitive golf—matches with cups and golf balls and titles at stake, “animals” and “dogmeat”—is the concern of . . .

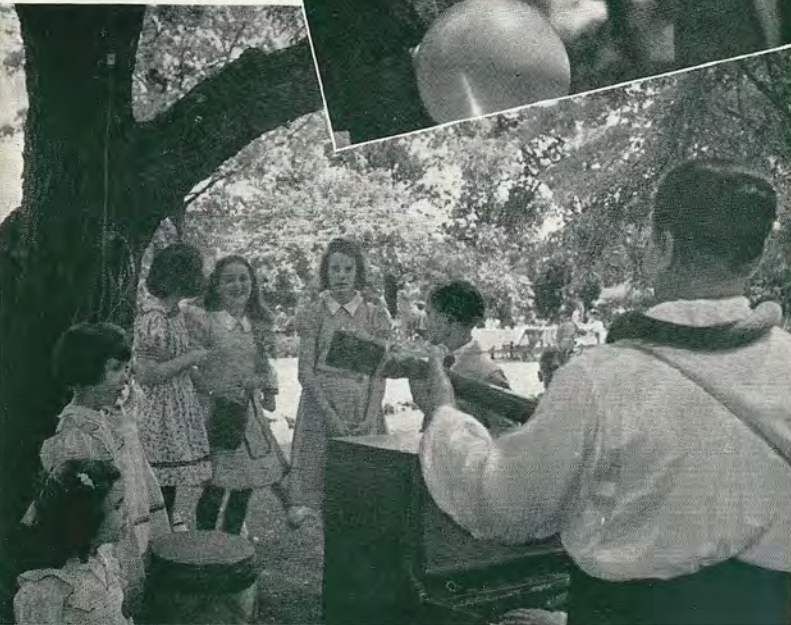
THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

THE Club's outstanding fixture, the Annual Country Club Invitation Tournament has been discontinued since the last one was held in June, 1942. In the years before the war, this twenty-two-year old tournament was the highlight of the golfing season with many visiting players from Buffalo, Syracuse, New York and other cities competing. Special Club team matches were played against the Buffalo Country Club visitors as part of the qualifying . . . and the big stag dinner with its auction pool of the players in the first flight . . . the popular tournament dinner dance . . . and the finals and prize presentations made this traditional event one of the most enjoyable occasions of the year.

Although very few out-of-town guests could come for the last tournament, it was very well attended by local golfers. The stag party, auction pool, and Friday night dance were up to the high standard of our tournament parties and we are looking forward to the time when the Invitation can be resumed.

In addition to the Invitation Tournament and the interclub matches, the Tournament Committee is responsible for all competitive events within the Club membership, and it arranges the special tournaments on the Fourth of July and Labor Day. The Saturday ball tournaments have been continued regularly and, as under our handicap system everyone has an equal chance to win a prize, a large number of players have participated.









The Club Championship was played last fall in three flights, and there appeared to be more than the customary enthusiasm among the participants. Dr. French won the 1944 title, and succeeded Sam Conner

The "George Christ Days," annual week-end event for George, have been held each fall, and the play during these days has taxed the capacity of the course.

My able and loyal committee members, Bob Reilly and Tom Lunt, have greatly contributed to the success of these activities, and George Christ has cooperated in every possible manner in the detail and actual operation of these tournaments.

Leon W. Sage

I am sure we are all anticipating the resumption of the Invitation Tournament—even the non-golfers. And, as practically a non-golfer, I might say that I hope the day will also come when a Country Club golfer will win one of the Country Club tournaments—the last time was when Hike Gouverneur won and that was seventeen years ago.

There is another discontinued activity, trapshooting, which has, of course, been entirely out during the war years. While never a major sport of the Club, there has always been a very enthusiastic group of trapshooters and we hope there will be again. We look forward to the Sunday morning shoots at the Club, particularly on those days like Thanksgiving and Christmas, when prizes were turkeys, ducks, and chickens. This activity suffered the loss a few years ago of one of its greatest devotees, George Bonbright, who was continually interested in establishing a permanent trap layout when and if a suitable location would be found on the Club property. Recently there has been a revival of interest, and we hope that when again shotgun shells and clay pigeons can be obtained, the Club will again hear on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings the ping of the 12-gauges.

Although polo is still another on the list of discontinued features at the Club, the horsemen are active in other ways, thanks to . . .

THE STABLE COMMITTEE

THE Club has, for many years, been interested in horses and dogs, and every effort has been made to interest the children and provide

instruction for them, as well as to stimulate horse-back riding and hunting among our adult members.

In 1931, a number of members active in riding were instrumental in having facilities established for the stabling of horses on the Club property. Riding became very popular, and horses were added from time to time. At present there are two saddle horses owned by members, four more owned by non-members, and six Club-owned animals in the stables. There are stalls for 27 horses, and in the past years, the number boarded at the Club has varied from fifteen to twenty-six mounts.

Last year there were 83 members who, themselves, or some others in their families, rode actively from our stables. For the convenience of members who do not own their own horses, cards good for twelve hours of riding on any of the six Club-owned animals are sold for \$15.00. There are now 54 of these cards outstanding.

Suitable wheeled equipment, and sleighs of various types, are owned by the Club, and are extensively used at appropriate seasons by many of our members, as well as by members of the armed services to whom we extend courtesy guest cards.

Equitation lessons are available at a nominal charge, in our own ring under Stable Manager Ray Thrasher.

Organized horse-back rides of from ten to twenty members are held periodically during the year on the many nearby trails—usually ending with outdoor suppers or picnics.

Once or twice a year we have held children's parties at the Stables, featuring donkey, pony cart, and wagon rides; and, in the winter, the children have enjoyed ski-joring and sleighriding, with supper in the Club Room at the Stables. At the June, 1943 Stable picnic, there were over two hundred children and adults.

In the spring and fall of the past few years, weekly drag hunts have been conducted under J. F. Weller, M.F.H., using our Club-owned pack of eight fine American Foxhounds, presented to us in late 1942 by the Aiken Hunt. These replaced the English Foxhounds used at the Club when our hunt was founded about ten years ago.

In 1934 the Stable Committee put on their first Horse Show, in a ring where the old sixteenth fairway used to be. The show proved a success and became an annual affair. After the popularity of the first two Shows, it was decided to have an outside hunter course around the outside of the present seventeenth and eighteenth holes, which proved a great success. After several years of conducting the Show in this ring, we had two Shows on the Polo Grounds on

Clover Street, a location which lent itself much better for Horse Show purposes, primarily because the turf is level and smooth. Here again an outside course was arranged with the start and finish in this case being in the ring.

The Horse Shows were continued through June, 1941, but were then discontinued on account of the war.

A fine Club Room is available on the stable property for small supper or dinner parties.

Under the present unfavorable conditions, too much credit cannot be given to our Stable Manager, Raymond N. Thrasher and his assistant, George Martin.

Maro S. Hunting

The Horse Show is being eagerly awaited by many members and their families for, as the Committee reports, those in the past were very popular with all ages sharing interest in the colorful competition. We hope that more members will take advantage of what the Stable Committee has to offer—especially in getting children started in riding so they can enjoy it as they grow up. We want to thank the Committee and Ray and George for their fine operation of the Stables.

Next to the Sunday night movies, the Club activity which has probably widest age group of devotees is ice skating, the joint responsibility of the temperature and . . .

THE SKATING COMMITTEE

THE Club Skating Rink is certainly one of the most enthusiastically used facilities of the Club. Throughout the winter months, skaters of all ages are out—some learning to skate, some practicing their figures, some playing tag, and others just enjoying the fun and exercise. Recent years have shown a definite trend from hockey and racing to figure skating and Mr. Raymond I. Yaeger, or another competent skating instructor, is at the rink on weekends, and some evenings each week, for instruction in figure skating, at a nominal fee

A heated skating house is kept open and warm . . . a big log fire is kept burning outside on cold days . . . an attendant is on hand during the skating season to keep the surface of the rink in good shape, and to help look after the youngsters . . . and recorded dance music is provided through a loud speaker system.

Each winter we have Club Skating Parties with exhibitions by talented figure skaters from Toronto and Buffalo, as well as special

programs of events on the ice by some of our own members and the children.

The rink is used by children of non-members, upon invitation, for a modest fee, and it may also be rented for private parties by arrangement at the Club Office.

F. Irving Hutchins

Thanks to the efforts of the Committee, and of Mr. and Mrs. Yaeger, I believe we can expect an increasing interest in skating as the youngsters grow up. For judging by both the seriousness with which many of them practice, and their ability as shown in some of the children's exhibitions, a number of them should be accomplished skaters before they are very much older—if we have enough ice. Still another "outdoor game" is the responsibility of . . .

THE TENNIS COMMITTEE

THE Committee is planning on trying to stimulate Club interest in tennis—especially when the younger members return from the services. The Club courts are good and well kept . . . in peacetime, Mr. George Armstrong was on hand certain afternoons each week for competent instruction at reasonable rates . . . and there has been a tournament program which will be expanded after the war.

F. Irving Hutchins

And now for the groups responsible for our entertainment and special events. First . . .

THE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

THIS Committee of the Club initiates, sponsors, and promotes the social, recreational, and other special activities of the Club which are outside the regular program of golf, horseback riding, ice skating, tennis, and regular restaurant service.

During the past few years, the Activities Committee has provided movies at the Club on alternate Sunday nights during the fall and winter season, together with special suppers. These nights have proved to be especially popular with the children and their families, and have been probably our most popular regular fixtures.

The Committee sponsors such annual events as the Autumn Clambake, at which the members always seem to enjoy themselves . . . the carol singing program on the Thursday night before Christmas . . . the New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance . . . the Winter

Carnival of skating, skiing, sleighriding, and exhibitions . . . entertainment provided at the annual meetings of the Club, and the special programs in observance of Decoration Day and the Fourth of July—two more family functions which, with their bands, pipers, flags, parades, and special golf events, have become traditional club fixtures.

In addition, the Activities Committee is responsible for such activities as the Game Nights, the social program in connection with the Invitation Golf Tournament when held, the dinner honoring the members in the armed services, special dances, and outings such as Club attendance at the University of Rochester football games.

The Committee also cooperated last year with the Stable Committee in the children's picnic and party on a Sunday afternoon in June. This party was so successful that it will undoubtedly be repeated in future years.

Typical of the Committee's special activities was the Club's participation in the triangular backgammon tournaments with The Genesee Valley Club and the Chatterbox Club, a few years ago—a successful participation, for the cup is on the mantle in the Grill.

Ritter Shumway

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

THE purpose of this committee is to organize activities for the children. At a meeting of the sons and daughters of Club members held early last year, the following were elected to the Junior Activities Committee: Carol Slocum, Chairman; Thomas Siebert, Vice Chairman, Clark Pieper, Linda Remington, and Brian Quinn. After Carol Slocum's departure for college, Thomas Siebert became Chairman.

Our first event in 1944 was a dinner dance and a treasure hunt in April, which was very well attended. The next event sponsored by our committee was dinner followed by a scavenger hunt in the latter part of June. In the fall, the Committee assisted with the outdoor family picnic by seeing that the children enjoyed themselves. We also chose the movie program for the past winter.

The Junior Activities Committee will try to see that the children have a good time during the coming season.

Thomas Siebert

Due to the efforts and direction of these two Committees, the Club Calendar has become considerably more varied—

and lists more interesting fixtures—in the past several years. These occasions are doubly important—they are not only very enjoyable in themselves but they contribute materially to our associations of the Club—to what the Club means to all of us and to the youngsters growing up—our future members.

* * *

That sums up the story of the Club's first fifty years—now that the war is half won, we can look forward to the final victory and begin planning for the rest of the Century.

JOHN H. KITCHEN

President

We would like to express our appreciation here of the efforts of those who have contributed toward the preparation of this booklet. Messrs. Powers, Eastwood, and Little drew upon their memories of the days of the "Thistle Club"; Messrs. Hargrave, Shumway, Weller, and, especially, Forgie, contributed photographs; Harry H. Kingston, Jr., generously provided the account of the 1902 fire; the committee chairmen reported upon their responsibilities.

We particularly want to thank Howard Hosmer for the time and research represented in his account of the club's beginning and early years.

Five hundred copies of this book were printed, of which this is No. 221

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