

INDIAN HILL
COUNTRY CLUB
1899 - 1999

INDIAN HILL COUNTRY CLUB

by

Nesbit H. (Bill) Caughman

1899



1999

INDIAN HILL COUNTRY CLUB 1899 – 1999

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DEDICATION

This history of our golf course is dedicated to all Indian Hill Country Club members – past, present and future. To the past members for their effort and perseverance in establishing the course, to the present members for their commitment of support and improvement, and to the future members that they may continue to improve and preserve what has been established and enjoyed by so many.

PREFACE

Over the course of the research, writing and assembling of this book, many concerns were addressed — accuracy, completeness, clarity and content, among other things. Every attempt has been made for accuracy and clarity. Completeness and content are left to the limits of research. As you go down that highway of research, myriad exits and side roads appear before you, beckoning and tempting you to “take a look.” One can research endlessly into all nooks and crannies of every facet and personality. It could turn out to be a never-ending endeavor. Being curious, I chose to look down some of those side roads and found a number of interesting facts in the process. Research reveals many facts — some pertinent to the subject and some not, but all of these facts are interesting. The question arises: Shall I include the extraneous, but interesting, information? I opted to include some of it. It makes this presentation a little longer but, hopefully, more intriguing.

History is, obviously, an ongoing process. I hope that someone, in the not-too-distant future, will continue to add other chapters to this account — especially while the participants are present, making it easy to obtain all of the facts. Perhaps the Board of Directors could appoint an interested party to chronicle events as they occur throughout each year. This should also include photographs of significant events. This diary-approach would assure that the information is both accurate and thorough.

These historical bits of information should be archived and protected for the future. It is strongly urged that the Board of Directors address this issue as soon as possible. Additionally, the Board should pass a rule that if anyone should be caught discarding any such documents or pictures, he will suffer his score on all par-threes to be amended to triple-bogies for a period of three full years!

Gathering the information for this book has been time-consuming, and sometimes frustrating. But, make no mistake, it has been fun! I thank everyone concerned.

Nesbit H. (Bill) Caughman
Wethersfield, CT
May 5, 1999

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is appropriate to give special thanks to those who have contributed to this book with information, pictures and assistance. Without their contributions, this history would not have been possible.

Marion Wieczorek and her daughter, Karen Martin, were the caretakers of the original leases and other important papers from the early days. Beverly Accarpio, our general manager, was ever so helpful in many ways. Jim Bedus, our golf professional, fielded questions and helped track down various pieces of information. Ed Seremet and the staff of the Newington town clerk's office were very helpful in wading through the town's land records. Mike Schless was invaluable in deciphering some of the past transactions of the club, as well as reviewing the portions of our history in which he was a participant. Ed Shirley also contributed his recollection of events during his watch. Henry Budney supplied a great deal of information about the early days of the course and its previous layout and assisted with auditing. Michael Budney too, contributed his memories and recollections of the past and also assisted with auditing. Grace Lenczyk Cronin was the source of some special information and pictures. Arlene Palmer, curator, New Britain Public Library, was a great help in obtaining information and pictures. Rod Chamberlain, Jr., of Suches, GA, was kind enough to send a copy of his father's paper written about our early days. Larry Dupont, Jr., located minutes of the Board of Directors for earlier years. Thanks also to Jack Burrill for his help in obtaining some priceless pictures and assistance with editing. Many thanks to Debby and Richard Hans, and Liz Mumford for their auditing help. The Connecticut State Golf Association and the United States Golf Association were extremely helpful in locating information that otherwise would not have been found. The Connecticut State Library's Archives History and Genealogy staff was also extremely helpful in every way. My wife, Gerry, contributed greatly in researching, proofing, editing and general support.

I would like to offer copious, posthumous thanks to *The Hartford Times* for its ever-faithful and diligent reporting of the events of our club over the years until their unfortunate demise in October 1976.

We are also deeply indebted to Jeff Ziruk and his company, Color-Lith Graphics, Inc., for their contributions of technical guidance, numerous photo scans and prepress work. Likewise, we are indebted to Bill Dockins and his company, Dockins Communications, Inc., for their work in the quest of an appealing graphic design. We also wish to thank the Mansir Holden Printing Company for their fine work.

Last, but not least, special thanks go out to the many members, friends of Indian Hill and others, too numerous to list, who came forth with information, stories and pictures that enhanced this book in so many ways. You may be assured that your help was indispensable. I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to each and everyone.

N.H.C.

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ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES



The Apple Tree Gang
Mr. John Reid and Friends

Courtesy USGA

MAPLE HILL GOLF CLUB (1899-1912)

No one knows where or how the game of golf began. It has been said that attempting to establish the origin of golf is as futile as trying to capture lightning. There is strong evidence that the beginnings of this popular sport originated with the Dutch; however, the legend that it began in Scotland is so deeply ingrained that no amount of proof to the contrary would change that belief. It is further believed that the game came into being in the 14th or 15th century. It spread to France, and then to England sometime in the 1500s, but it wasn't until the mid-1700s that the first golf associations were established in Europe — the most notable being the Honorable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, which was established in 1744.

The beginnings of golf in America are somewhat hazy. In 1786, the South Carolina Golf Club in Charleston was organized, and it appears to be the first U.S. golf club for which there is any authentic record. The Savannah (Georgia) Golf Club was started in 1794. What type of golf courses these were is unknown. Both seemed to flourish until about 1812, when they dropped out of existence for no apparent reason. During the next 76 years, another 16 clubs were formed, but these organizations were initially devoted to varied sporting pursuits, with golf following later in their history. In 1888, the St. Andrews Golf Club was organized in Yonkers, New York, by Mr. John Reid and four friends. Their course had only three holes; as their golfing interests grew, however, their course grew along with them. Today, St. Andrews Golf Club has the distinction of being the first continuously operating golf club in America, and Mr. Reid holds the unofficial title of the "Father of American Golf."

Once started, love for the game grew rapidly in America. Herbert Warren Wind, a sportswriter of renown, wrote that in 1888 there were fewer than a dozen golfers in the United States; today's golfing population

exceeds 25 million. In 1895, there were approximately 75 golf courses in the United States. In 1900, there were more than 1,000. Today there are over 14,000.

There is no documentation about when golf came to Connecticut, but it is believed to have been in 1888, at a course near the present location of the Shennecossett Country Club in Groton. That original course did not endure. Other prominent golf clubs established in Connecticut prior to 1900 were Brooklawn Country Club, Clinton Country Club, Country Club of Farmington, Country Club of New Canaan, Country Club of Waterbury, Greenwich Country Club, Hartford Golf Club, Innis Arden Golf Club, Litchfield Country Club, New Haven Country Club, Sharon Country Club, Shennecossett Country Club, Wallingford Country Club and Wee Burn Country Club. By the end of 1898, it is estimated that there were fewer than 20 courses in Connecticut, all of which were nine-hole (or fewer) courses. Today, according to the Connecticut State Golf Association, the state has 178 18-hole golf courses.

The Connecticut Magazine of April 1900 printed an article entitled "Golf Clubs in Connecticut," by W. D. Freer. The article stated: "Golf has taken a strong hold on Connecticut and at last a use has been found for many abandoned farms. Old pasture lots are used for links and the stonewalls serve their purpose in the game. The lands being utilized for links are increasing at an amazing rate and if the ratio keeps up, the scientists of a few thousand years hence will obtain queer ideas of the purposes to which this state was put to in 1900."

Mr. Freer was writing about early 1900. Before the turn of the century, however, not only was there a dearth of golf courses, but travel to the few that were available was not easy. In spite of the difficulties of traveling by horse, wagon or carriage over rutted dirt roads that were at times almost impassable,

MAPLE HILL GOLF CLUB (1899-1912)



*Courtesy New Britain Public Library
Charles F. Smith*

quite a few New Britain residents wished to play the game of golf. It was a period in which industry in New Britain was booming. Companies such as The Stanley Works, Stanley Rule and Level Co., P. & F. Corbin, Corbin Cabinet Lock Co., New Britain Machine Co., Russell & Erwin Manufacturing Co., North & Judd Manufacturing Co., Skinner Chuck Co., Union Manufacturing Co., and Landers, Frary & Clark, to name a few, were robust. The executives and management had a strong desire to participate in this relatively new sport.

Since no course existed in New Britain, the golfer had to choose between the Country Club of Farmington and the Hartford Golf Club. It appears that the course of choice for these New Britainites was the Country Club of Farmington. Traversing the mountain road from New Britain to Farmington, however, required well over an hour. This led a group of New Britain businessmen to consider founding their own course closer to home. The prime mover and “father” of the effort was Mr. Charles F.

Smith, president of Landers, Frary and Clark of New Britain.

A suitable site was found outside New Britain in Newington’s Maple Hill section of town. Not only was it nearby, but access to it was available by the trolley that ran from New Britain, through Newington and on to Hartford.¹ It might be interesting to note that about five years before the founding of Maple Hill Golf Club, the Connecticut Railway and Lighting Company planned to locate the trolley line on the very same property on which the golf course is currently located. Roger W. Eddy, the present-day 14th-hole neighbor, remembers hearing that Mr. Henry Robbins, a landowner and political power of his day, changed the minds of the trolley planners. It seems that he owned most of the land along Robbins Avenue from Willard Avenue to



Map of trolley line running through Maple Hill

¹ The fee from New Britain to Newington was five cents, and from Newington to Hartford was another five cents. Trolley service began at 5:30 a.m. and ended at 11:30 p.m. Departure was every 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the time of day.



Courtesy Nick Bellantoni
The Maple Hill trolley, ca. 1906, as seen from the south side of Robbins Avenue looking toward Thompson Street.
The trolley has left Golf Station heading east toward Willard Avenue.

Main Street, but this land was not good for much because it was low and was frequently flooded — property that a farmer might refer to as “back pasture.” Mr. Robbins proposed and strongly supported the idea to route the trolley easterly along Robbins Avenue, then northerly at today’s Walsh Avenue toward the center of town, and on to Hartford from there. This would greatly enhance the value of his land, owing to the accessibility and convenience of the trolley line. It is not known whether the townspeople realized what Mr. Robbins was trying to accomplish, but at an 1894 town meeting, it was voted 56 to 34 in favor of his proposal. The favorable vote was fortunate for him and, in retrospect, for Indian Hill as well. Otherwise, the property would not have been suitable for a golf course, since a trolley line would have run through the middle of it.

The property needed by the New Britain businessmen for their course consisted of three contiguous parcels of land, each containing approximately 35 acres, totaling 109 acres, that were owned by various

members of the Welles family — Roger Welles, Fannie Welles, and Edwin Welles and his wife, Lucy. (These property boundaries can be seen in the survey map drawn by Mr. Louis Oldershaw, shown on page 12. Mr. Smith negotiated a lease with each family member, but they all contained, essentially, the same wording. These original leases are still in existence today. The terms of these leases were somewhat restrictive, in that some of the property was set aside for cow pastures, and they also contained a puritanical no-golf-on-Sunday clause. Specifically, the lease of Fanny Welles read, “...a certain piece or parcel of land...for the purpose of a golf ground... excepting and reserving out of this present lease to the said Fannie A. Welles, her heirs and assigns, all the trees of every kind and the growth, use and fruit thereof on said premises with free liberty to the lessor, and her representatives, during said term, to enter on said premises to cut and carry away the trees and gather and carry away the fruit herein reserved and to prune and

MAPLE HILL GOLF CLUB (1899-1912)

trim said trees on said premises, and to carry away any wood or fencing materials thereon... It is also agreed between the parties hereto that no golf or other games shall be played on said premises on Sundays, during said term, but said premises shall be kept quiet and free from sport by said lessee on every Sunday during said term." (Note the property restrictions shown as "Pasture Lots" on the map on page 12.

Apparently, Roger Welles was interested in golf because his particular lease had an additional clause reading: "It is further agreed between the parties hereto that the lessor and the members of his family shall have the right to participate in any games played on said premises as if members of said golf club without charge."

The Welles families signed their leases in early April 1899. The annual rent was set at \$110 each per year and rose to \$410 each per year by 1911. On April 4, 1899, the Articles of Association for the fledgling Maple Hill Golf Club were signed by the following:

Charles F. Smith, President of Landers, Frary & Clark

L. Hoyt Pease, Treasurer of The Stanley Works

H. Abbe, Proprietor of a New Britain hardware store

Fortis H. Allis, Proprietor of a men and boy's clothing store in New Britain

Marcus White, Principal of the State Normal School (today's Central Connecticut State University)

Harry B. Boardman, Teller, Mechanics National Bank

William P. Felt, Brick manufacturer

James E. Cooper, Attorney

The tracks of the trolley ran between Robbins Avenue and Thompson Street, and a trolley stop called "Maple Hill Golf Station" was established at a path leading to the golf course. This path was on land owned by Dr.

Albert B. Johnson, a New Britain dentist, who developed much of the property in Maple Hill. He was quick to realize the potential enhancement of the value of his property by having a golf course nearby. For this reason, and perhaps others, on April 15, 1905, Dr. Johnson leased to Maple Hill Golf Course for \$1.00 per year "...the right to pass and repass on foot over, across and



The Connecticut Magazine
On the first tee at Maple Hill Golf Club, ca. 1899

upon a strip of land running from the Maple Hill Golf Station of the Connecticut Railway and Lighting Co. as at present located to the clubhouse of said golf club and also the right to pass and repass on foot, with vehicles and teams over another certain strip of land extending from Ten Rod Road to said golf club." The path to the golf club was eventually named Golf Street, and Ten Rod Road was later renamed Maple Hill Avenue.

According to the original Articles of Association, which still survive, the club's stated objective "...shall be the promoting and playing of the ancient and royal game of golf; the cultivation of other outdoor sports and the social intercourse incident to the same." The Articles further outlined the organizational structure, their responsibilities, and the mechanics of the operation of the club. They also stated that, "It shall be the duty of this Board to vote upon each name separately and three

negative votes shall exclude a candidate for membership. This Board shall also have the power to expel by a two-thirds vote any member who shall, in their opinion, be detrimental to the welfare and good will of the club." Annual dues for active members were set at \$25.00 per year, and family memberships were \$35.00 per year.

Our founders certainly did not waste too much time getting started, as evidenced by the following list of events:

Early April, 1899: Negotiated a lease for the land.

April 4, 1899: Signed the Articles of Association.

April 14, 1899: Article in *The Hartford Times*, "The Maple Hill Golf Course of New Britain, whose grounds are located at Maple Hill in this town, are having considerable work done on the 135 acres of ground they have leased for the game. A man is in charge of the grounds who makes the care of golf grounds his 'profession' and under his supervision the entire tract is being rolled, bushes, sticks and stones are being removed and everything being done that can be to make the place appropriate for the game..."

April 20, 1899: Article in *The Hartford Times*, "The new Maple Hill golf grounds are receiving careful attention from the superintendent James Henderson, who is laying them out and preparing them for playing. This is the fourth course he has made ... [Springfield, Hartford, Yale College]... The ground is nearly all evened, bushes are cut and stones are removed and the rolling will soon be finished. The new clubhouse will be begun (sic) about May 1. ... Mr. Henderson expects to be constantly on the grounds and will have a room in the new clubhouse, boarding near by. He will be prepared to give lessons to new scholars. The golf course will be open about the middle of May to the members of the club."

May 20, 1899: Article in the *New Britain Record*, "Work on the golf links was finished

today and some good games indulged in by members of the club."

May 31, 1899: Article in *The Hartford Courant*, "The Maple Hill Golf Course formally opened its links yesterday and a large number took advantage of the day and



The Connecticut Magazine
H. L. Curtis, Captain, Maple Hill Golf Club

went over the course. The view from the clubhouse is grand. A collation was served during the afternoon. There were 150 members and guests ... The best score was made by Harry Hart, 18 holes in 100 points. The most interesting match was between Fred Williams and Herbert Pease, won by the latter. ... "

It took only 56 days to make the leases final, complete the Articles of Incorporation, hire a greenkeeper, prepare a golf course, start the construction of a clubhouse, open the course and hold a tournament, complete with collations. (It don't get no better than that!)

By early 1900, the club had 280 members, and in March of 1900, they held their first annual meeting at which it was voted to require the payment of an initiation fee of \$5.00 from all who join in the future. A Mr. H. L. Curtis was made the Captain of

MAPLE HILL GOLF CLUB (1899-1912)

Maple Hill Golf Club.

From several written accounts of the club's early activities, it is apparent that the ladies thoroughly enjoyed the new course as much as the men. During the club's first year, Miss Etheline W. Hart won the ladies' championship; interestingly, no men's championship was held that year. The following year, *The Hartford Times* reported: "The ladies of the Maple Hill Golf Club are taking unusual interest in the tournament now in progress for the cup offered by Mrs. J. A. Traut. The cup, which is of solid silver, was presented to Miss Ruth Chamberlain..."

An article appearing in the July 7, 1899, issue of the *New Britain Record* described the current style of dress for lady golfers as having material for her costume of heavy linen goods, appliquéd with fancy white braid. The skirt was shoe-top length (shoe tops were calf high), was close fitting over the hips and had pleats at the back. A shirtwaist of fine white cambric was worn with the skirt. Over this was buttoned a long-sleeved, short Eton jacket, trimmed with braiding and buttons. A hat was worn, made of fine white straw with feathers. The shoes were laced from top to bottom. (It makes one wonder what was worn when it got cold.)

Aside from a few original documents, a paper written in 1961 by Mr. Rodman W. Chamberlain, former vice president of sales at The Stanley Works, is the only source



Courtesy USGA



Courtesy USGA

for detailed information relating to the formative years of the golf course. Old newspaper accounts provide some facts, but Mr. Chamberlain was able to interview some of those who participated in these early days, therefore, much of his account is included in this history.

According to Rod Chamberlain, the original clubhouse was a shingled, framed structure about 50 feet square, including porches. The 16-foot-wide porches extended across the entire east front of the building and halfway back on the south and north sides. One 25-foot-square main room was used as both a lounge and dining room. The sole source of heat was from a fireplace. At the back there were men's and ladies' locker rooms at the south and north corners, respectively, with a small kitchen in between. The locker rooms were equipped with shower baths, but with no means for heating the water, only the hardy used them, except on the hottest days of summer.

One of the club's earliest stewards, wrote Mr. Chamberlain, was a man "...who had been a waiter in the old New Britain Club, which was then located in the Russwin Hotel building, now the City Hall. How long a tenure he held I don't recall; two or three years, perhaps. His wife served as waitress. He was a pleasant, genial type but I believe that nocturnal drinking parties eventually persuaded the directors that the club would be better off without this convivial couple left in charge. It was the club's good fortune to next engage a rather elderly, dignified English gentleman, a Mr.

¹ William Kinner's position of club steward was apparently a part-time occupation. From 1915 to 1919, he worked as a clerk at the Sage-Allen & Company department store, and from 1920 to 1930, he was a salesman at the G. Fox & Company department store. About 1931, he and his wife moved from Connecticut to Ohio.

William A. Kinner, as steward.¹ Mr. Kinner (he was never called Bill or even William) was tubercular. He had lived in New York and had been advised by his doctor to find a place in the country where the air was fresh and clean. That kind of air abounded at Maple Hill. He built a small cottage next door to the club; one of the first houses on Dr. Johnson's newly opened Golf Street. It was an ideal arrangement for both the club and Mr. Kinner, which prevailed for several years, until his health eventually broke down. Old members of Maple Hill may recall Mr. Kinner gliding out of his tiny kitchen, white napkin neatly folded over his arm, and obsequiously asking: 'And what will you have, gentlemen, bacon and eggs or ham and eggs?' There was the whole menu wrapped up in one sentence."

The house in which Mr. Kinner lived still stands today at 107 Golf Street and is, in fact, the house adjacent to the practice putting green. Dr. A. B. Johnson sold the property to Christine N. Kinner of Haddam, Connecticut, on October 24, 1907. William Kinner and Christine were husband and wife. Although the Newington land records do not show a transferal of the property from Christine to William, later legal documents mention William as the owner.

Mr. Chamberlain continued, "Of course, the



House next to today's practice putting green. Built by Mr. & Mrs. William Kinner, ca. 1908

most memorable and interesting character on the Maple Hill staff was Bob Rutherford, the greenkeeper, pro, clubmaker and general factotum. I don't believe that Bob had ever seen a golf stick before he was hired to tend the links. But along with his job of nurturing the fairways and greens, at which he was really an expert, Bob taught himself to play golf and fancied himself in the class of Harry Vardon and James Braid. He did, upon occasion, make some marvelous shots but those were unhappily interspersed with miserable slices and hooks, which were never his fault but always the fault of the club. When he encountered a spell of slicing, for example, he would conclude that he needed more weight towards the toe of his clubs. With chisel and drill he would gouge holes in the wooden heads into which he would plug leaden weights. With irons he would file away the metal towards the shank and braze or weld extra metal at the toe. That might work fine for a few shots but then when perhaps his swing got a little off and his shots began to spray he would damn the clubs and begin all over again with his abnormal weight experimentation. His was the craziest set of golf clubs to be found anywhere."

Rutherford's assistant was an ex-caddie by the name of Gippy. Bob and Gippy took turns with the horse-drawn mower and roller on the fairways, but whenever the greens needed hand-mowing, Bob was usually busy playing golf himself or remaking his clubs in his workshop under the front porch, and Gippy was sent off to tend to the more arduous task of mowing.

In his younger days, Rod Chamberlain was a caddie at the club, and he related the following humorous story: "The fee for caddies at Maple Hill was fifteen cents for nine holes. Back in 1904 and 1905, that was my principal source for pocket money. The trolley fare out and back was ten cents, so that a mere nine-hole job, especially when you had the bad luck to carry for one of the non-tippers, yielded only enough for a single chocolate soda without ice cream. No wonder that we

hid in the woods to avoid the stingy non-tippers.”

The restrictive terms of the original leases became increasingly irksome to the members of the club. They could not play golf on Sundays, they could not expand the course beyond nine holes, and they had to share what land they did have with a bunch of damn cows! These circumstances would continue until they obtained ownership of the property. Therefore, it is easy to understand why the members began serious discussions about buying the land.

At their meeting in July 1910 with E. Stanley Welles about the lease renewals, the club's committee also discussed the possibility of purchasing the land. On July 30, 1910, options to purchase the land were included in the lease renewals. In his letter to Julius H. Pease, George P. Hart stated: “You will notice that these leases are an option and are in very good shape for the club, and that we can take up the questions of the purchase of the grounds probably without detriment to our interests after the extension of these papers. It

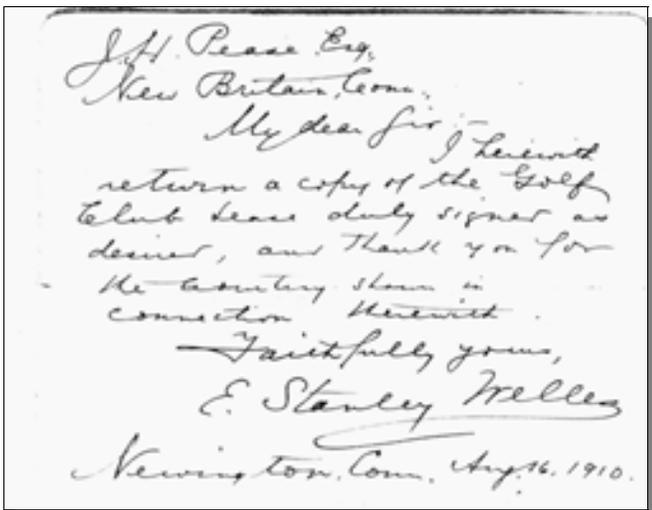


Letter from George Hart to Julius Pease pointing out that the leases are virtually options to purchase the land which he feels the club will more than likely do before the leases expire.

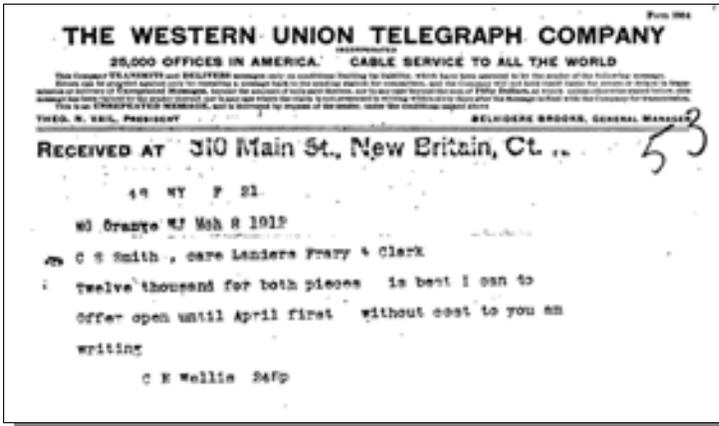
is the judgment of the committee that we ought to buy the property if it is going to be possible to do so on a fair basis and we rather think that it is possible.”

After much debate and discussion, the club received a telegram from Charles E. Welles on March 8, 1912, offering to sell two of the Maple Hill parcels for \$12,000. (At this time, Charles E. Welles was the administrator of the estate of Edwin and Lucy R. Welles and was also authorized to act for his sister, Fannie A. Welles.) E. Stanley Welles, administrator of the estate of Roger Welles, set the price for the third strip of land on the northern end at \$5,000. A club meeting was quickly held to consider the land purchase.

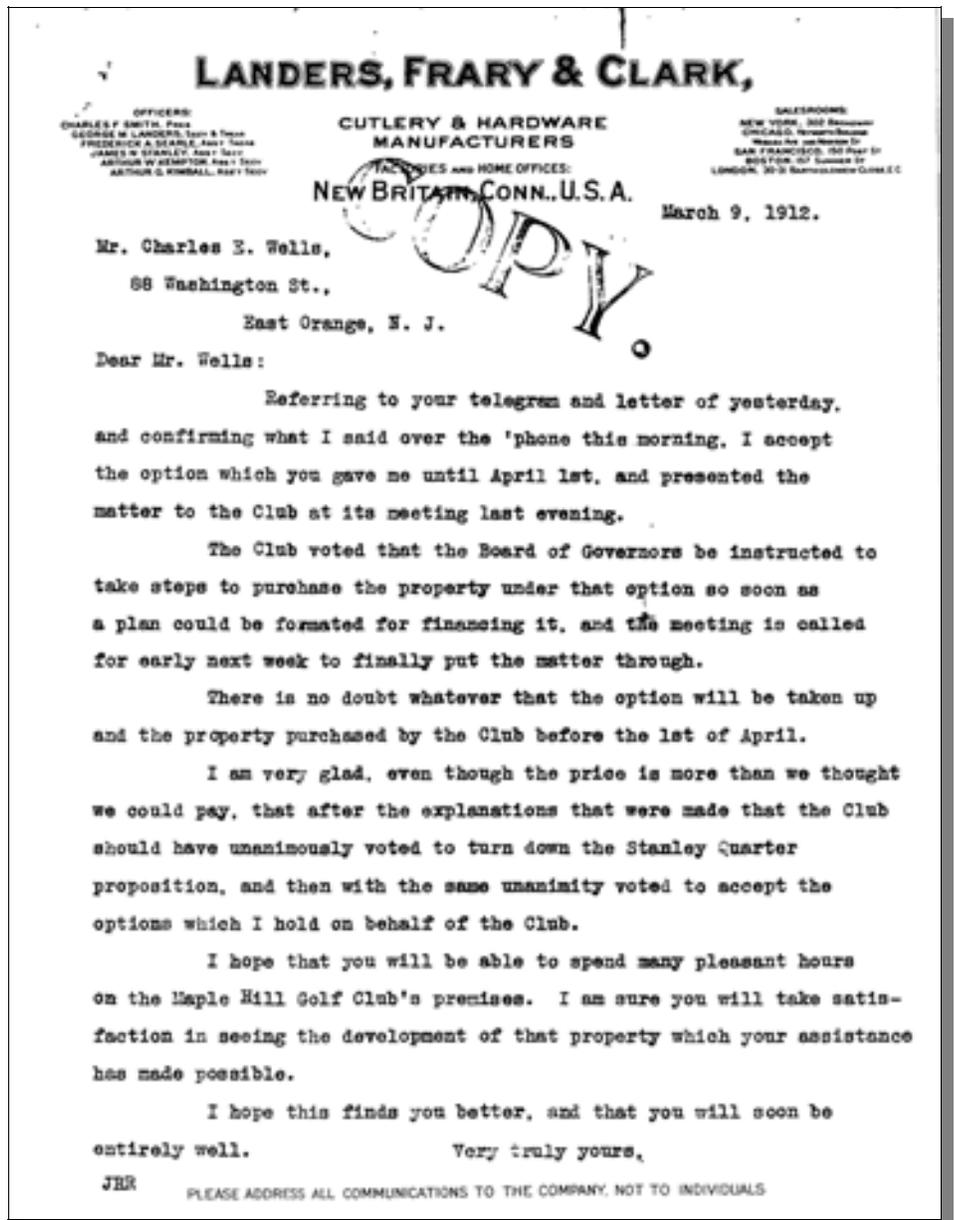
Prior to the actual purchase of the Welles' property, other options were also explored. Mr. E. Allen Moore, vice president of The Stanley Works and a member of the club, made a strong bid to William H. Booth, president, and to the directors to consider



A note from Stanley Welles to Julius Pease on returning the signed lease for the golf grounds in 1910.



1912 telegram from Charles Welles to Charles Smith offering to sell two of the three lots for \$12,000. (The third lot was later priced at \$5,000.)



Letter from Charles Smith to Charles Welles accepting Welles's offer to sell.

moving to property he owned in Kensington in lieu of remaining in Newington. On March 13, 1912, *The Hartford Times* reported: "The Maple Hill Golf Club has plans under consideration for buying land in Kensington and laying out links. ... The club has the purchase of the links at Maple Hill also under consideration. Another meeting of the club will be held at an early date when it is expected that the matter will be decided upon. The location of the links in Kensington appeals very favorably to a large number of the members." Also under consideration, was "a farm for \$12,000 in Stanley Quarter" in New Britain, owned by Alix W. Stanley. Mr. Stanley and George P. Hart reported that in their opinion, the most suitable

site would be in Stanley Quarter.

Even though there seemed to be a greater consensus of members who favored the property in Kensington or in Stanley Quarter over the Newington property, the strong will of Charles Smith and others prevailed in favor of the Newington property. The governing board of the Maple Hill Golf Club met on the evening of March 13, 1912, to consider all their options and adjourned after making the recommendation that the present land be purchased.

E. A. Moore later noted that, "Owing to the opposition of the president [Charles Smith] of one of the large manufacturing companies, it [moving the club] was defeated."

New Britain, Conn., March 14, 1912.

A Special Meeting of the Maple Hill Golf Club will be held at the New Britain Club, Wednesday evening, March 20th, 1912, at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of confirming the action taken at the last meeting authorizing the Board of Governors to purchase the Maple Hill Golf Links, and to re-authorize said purchase; also, to authorize and empower said Board to finance such purchase by mortgaging said property, or taking such other action as may be deemed necessary in the premises, including the formation of a joint stock corporation in place of the present corporation without capital stock, and to transact any other business in connection with the said matters that may be deemed to be necessary.

At this meeting a plan for financing the purchase and carrying of this property will be placed before the Club.

WILLIAM H. BOOTH, President.

E. W. EDDY, Secretary.

Notice to membership for a special meeting to purchase the golf grounds.

NEW BRITAIN GOLF CLUB (1912-1917)

In March 1912, the Maple Hill Golf Club purchased the three parcels of land that it had been leasing from the Welles families since April 1899.

To expedite the transaction, Charles F. Smith advanced the needed funds to meet the purchase price of \$17,000, and he accepted a written promise from the club for his repayment.

On May 15, 1912, a new corporation was organized and was named the New Britain Golf Club, Inc. The club stock was sold to the members, which allowed Mr. Smith to recoup \$12,000 in one month and his remaining \$5,000 a year later.

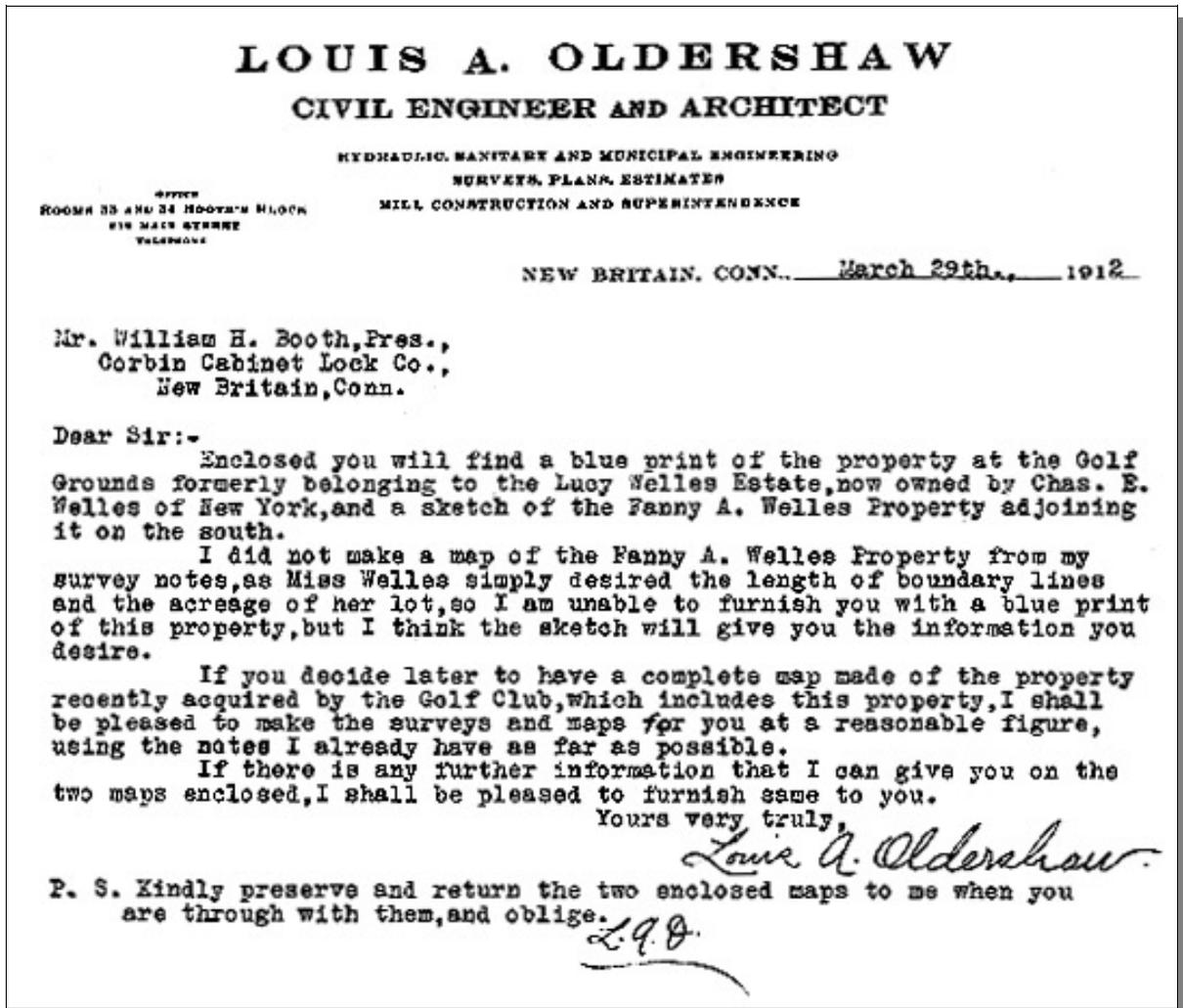
The property was surveyed by Louis A.

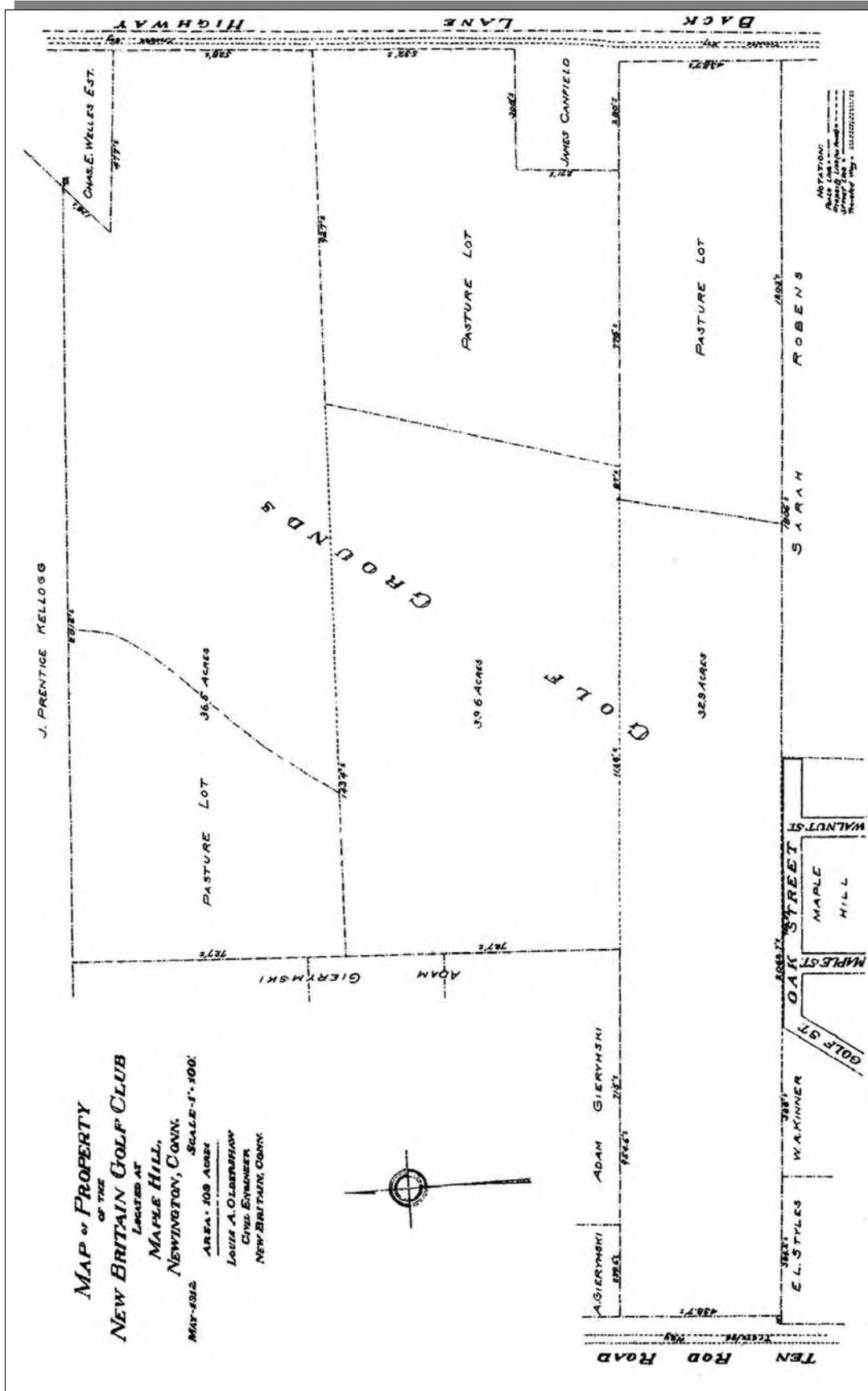
Oldershaw, civil engineer of New Britain, and he drew a survey map, entitled, "Map of Property of New Britain Golf Club," dated May 1912.

The by-laws of the New Britain Golf Club were very similar to those of the Maple Hill Golf Club and included the annual dues structure as follows:

- Family membership — \$35.00/family
- Single male membership — \$25.00
- Single female membership — \$7.50
- Single junior membership — \$5.00

(continued on page 13)





Courtesy Lewis Mirante

With their newly purchased property, the club members were free to expand the original nine-hole course by another six holes. Unfortunately, sufficient land was not available for a full 18 holes, and therefore, to play a regulation 18 holes, it was necessary to replay three holes to complete the 18-hole round.

The original financial records of 1913 through 1917 show expenses for a tennis court. It is not known where it was located, but fees, or dues, were charged for tennis. The records also show that the golf club sold an average of \$158 per year in cigars. In 1913 dollars, that's a lot of smoking. Additionally, these reports show that the workhorse used at the club cost an average of \$183 per year. (When the horse was purchased in 1909, it only cost the club \$200.) It appears that the members smoked almost as much as the horse ate! (Unfortunately, the horse's name is not known.) Also found in the treasurer's report for March 1, 1912, was a notation regarding an

expenditure of \$57.80 for goats. Yes, goats!

In spite of the recent purchase of land and the expansion of the course, a number of members were not totally pleased with the

Income & Running Expenses 1909-1912				
Years Ending March 1				
	1909	1910	1911	1912
Dues	1890.00	1700.00	1880.00	2062.50
Lockers	187.50	172.50	211.50	317.50
Guests	18.50	5.50	6.00	37.50
Sundries	53.65	12.20	6.31	
Admission Fees				85.00
Receipts Total	2149.65	1890.20	2103.81	2502.50
Greenskeeper	452.20	515.85	452.63	572.00
Extra Help- Grounds	250.89	154.55	290.25	264.00
Supplies	74.49	76.95	127.12	53.90
Tennis	142.84	66.06	128.57	122.12
Horse & Keep	144.55	328.03	185.19	180.94
Steward	207.00	276.00	310.00	276.80
Gen. Expenses	270.55	271.41	284.77	441.05
Expenses Total	1611.52	1688.88	1778.55	1910.81
Surplus	538.13	201.32	325.26	591.69

NOTE — Surplus for four years as shown above was applied as follows:

	Cr.		Dr.
1909	538.13	Paid for Rent 4 years @ \$270.00	1080.00
1910	201.32	" " New Lockers	434.18
1911	325.26	Added to Cash in Treasury	396.53
1912	591.69		
	<u>1656.40</u>		
Add profits on restaurant, etc.	254.31		
	<u>1910.71</u>		<u>1910.71</u>

Estimate for year ending March 1, 1913.

Receipts for 1912 as shown		Expenses for 1912 as above	
above	2502.50	1910.81	
Add for increased dues as proposed	1145.00	Interest @ 5% on \$17,000.00	935.00
		Sinking Fund to retire bonds	500.00
		Taxes, etc.	198
		Surplus	116.69
	<u>3562.50</u>		<u>3562.50</u>

Working Capital

Cash in Treasury	441.38	
101 Shares Stock @ 25	2525.00	2966.38
	<u>2966.38</u>	

Expense sheet for 1909 through 1912

overall situation of the New Britain Golf Club. In his book entitled *The Life and Times of Andrew Jackson Sloper, 1849-1933*, William Thompson Sloper described the course and clubhouse in caustic terms: "Until 1915, New Britain golfers had had to be satisfied to play for several years on the cheaply constructed, hard razor-back golf course, so-called, made up of several cow pastures joined together with sparse grass fairways at a comparatively inaccessible place on the way to Newington called Maple Hill. The membership dues were \$25 per year. The clubhouse was a small, square bungalow building containing two entirely inadequate locker rooms with two tiers of little wooden lockers which extended to the ceiling on each wall of the two small rooms. The tiny little kitchen wasn't large enough for two servants to work in. There was no proper dining room or sitting room – just one square room with folding doors without screens which opened up three sides of the room during the daytime. The two tin shower baths were dark little places which I remember now were not provided with enough hot water to take care of many bathers." The foregoing may not have been the opinion of all the members, but it does provide some insight into the situation of the club at that time.

Debate over moving the club to a new location resurfaced (or had never died) and options for moving to a new site continued to be discussed. Attempts were made to assuage the dissenters. The Board announced that the golf course would be expanded to 18 holes by 1916, and that if possible, a curling rink (a favorite of A. W. Stanley) and a skating pond would also be established.

The debate continued at the annual

meeting of March 15, 1915. It has not been possible to find any formal record of this meeting, but according to Mr. W. F. Middlemass,¹ who was at that time the assistant treasurer of the New Britain Golf Club and who attended the meeting himself, it was a long evening's session, and quite a dramatic one.

Some of the comments made by the members at this meeting are summarized below.

Mr. Charles F. Smith was the first person to take the floor, and since he was practically the father of the Maple Hill layout, he maintained that it would be pure folly to consider any other location, especially after having so recently purchased the land and after having made real strides in improving and enlarging the course. Mr. Smith was



*Courtesy New Britain Museum
of Modern American Art*

Alix W. Stanley

¹ Mr. W. F. Middlemass built his home in the early 1900s at 59 Golf Street where his daughter-in-law, Louise Middlemass,

New Britain, Conn., July 18, 1916.

TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE NEW BRITAIN GOLF CLUB:

You are hereby notified that a special meeting of the New Britain Golf Club will be held at the New Britain Club, New Britain, Connecticut, July 24, 1916, at 8 o'clock P. M. to take action on the following recommendation of the directors made at a meeting held July 17, 1916:

"Voted that F. A. Searle, G. T. Kimball, L. B. Mallory, C. F. Smith, G. P. Hart, A. W. Stanley, P. B. Stanley, P. Corbin and C. W. Nichols be and hereby are appointed a committee with full power and authority to sell and transfer the entire assets of the New Britain Golf Club, including its real estate in the Town of Newington, making provision, however, for use of the property by the club for such time as the committee may deem necessary, and to authorize and empower the President to execute and deliver a deed or other written instruments in the name and behalf of this corporation to the purchaser at any time prior to October 2nd, 1916, at a price not less than written offer of purchase by A. W. Stanley of July 12th, 1916, action by not less than two-thirds in number of said members of said committee as shall accept this appointment to be deemed the action of said committee; provided further, that if above committee does not carry into effect a sale prior to October 2nd, 1916, that the President of this corporation be, and he hereby is authorized, empowered and instructed to sell, convey and transfer on October 2nd, 1916, in the name and behalf of this corporation, its entire assets of that date including its real estate in the Town of Newington, to A. W. Stanley as per his written offer of July 12th, 1916, and to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of the corporation the necessary deed or other instruments therefor. The President is empowered and instructed to forthwith enter into and deliver a contract in behalf of this corporation with said Stanley, providing for such sale and transfer to him on October 2nd, 1916." To transact any other business concerning the matters referred to in said vote of the directors.

Yours respectfully,

C. W. NICHOLS, President.

Attest: GEORGE P. SPEAR, Secretary.

property of 400 acres, on which the Stanley Golf Course and the Stanley Park are now located, was subsequently donated to New Britain.)

Mr. George P. Hart, E. A. Moore's brother-in-law, then spoke and quietly extolled the virtues of Hart Quarter, which is the same acreage that Mr. E. A. Moore promoted in 1910. Being the tactful salesman that he was, Mr. Hart succeeded in swaying the majority of the members in favor of this property.

Apparently, at this contentious meeting, nothing was agreed upon except that the club should be sold to allow the stockholders to withdraw their money. Mr. F. A. Searle was appointed to chair a committee of nine men to find a suitable buyer that, after more than a year, they eventually found in West Hartford.

In his paper, Mr. Chamberlain wrote that Mr. Searle contacted Mr. Samuel

strongly backed by Professor Marcus White.

E. Welles Eddy, who was closely related to the Newington Welles family, was in favor of staying in Newington and advocated the purchase of additional property to the north of the course for future expansion.

Herbert H. Pease, who was unquestionably the most expert golfer among the group, asked his friend Robert Pryde, the golf professional and clubmaker from New Haven, to look over the property of Alix W. Stanley. Bob Pryde pronounced this property to be one of the most suitable natural settings for a golf course that he had ever inspected. (This is the same land that was voted down in 1912. A. W. Stanley's

Doty, a real estate gentleman from West Hartford, to buy the Newington property and form a new corporation named Sequin Golf Club, Inc. On July 18, 1916, a notice was sent to the stockholders of the New Britain Golf Club stating that a committee had been named



*Courtesy Geer's
City Directory
Samuel C. Doty*

with the full power to sell and transfer the entire assets of the club. The purchase price of \$26,000 included all of the land, buildings and equipment.

The Hartford Times reported on April 10, 1917: "All arrangements for the transfer of property from the New Britain Golf Club to the Sequin Golf Club will be completed today. This includes the clubhouse and golf course of the New Britain Golf Club which will in the future be used by the members of the Sequin Club. The deeds will be drawn up

and passed today with Judge John H. Kirkham acting for the New Britain club and Senator Edwin W. Broder for the Sequin. The New Britain Golf Club is to disband officially in a short time, owing to the fact that the New Britain Country Club, the newly formed organization, will take most of its members, and will have new links located near Lake Shuttle Meadow. ..." ¹

In June 1917, a notice of dissolution was sent to the creditors of the New Britain Golf Club.

New Britain, Conn., June 1917.

To creditors of The New Britain Golf Club: and all other persons whom it may concern:

The stockholders and directors of the New Britain Golf Club, a Connecticut corporation have voted to dissolve said corporation. All creditors of said corporation are hereby warned to present their claims to William F. Middlemass, P. O. Box 543 New Britain, Conn., not later than October 1st 1917.

By order of directors of The New Britain Golf Club,

Secretary.

¹ The dissidents of the New Britain Golf Club met in Booth's Hall at Main and Church Streets in New Britain on May 15, 1916, and successfully solicited subscribers for shares of stock in the new Country Club of New Britain, Inc., that had been legally filed with the New Britain city clerk on May 11, 1916. Shortly thereafter, the name was changed to The Shuttle Meadow Club, and on July 11, 1916, the name was again changed to the Shuttle Meadow Country Club. Charles Smith, in spite of his opposition to the New Britain/Kensington site, became a board member of the newly formed Shuttle Meadow Country Club. Later, E. A. Moore's observation was that the same opposition appeared as it had some three years previously, and that made the new project difficult in several ways. However, the difficulties were overcome, and the work of building the golf course and clubhouse were soon under way. Mr. Moore's previously rejected acreage in Kensington later became part of the total parcel on which the Shuttle Meadow Country Club is now located. The *New Britain Herald* reported that on July 4, 1917, the course was dedicated, and the club's first tournament was held. It was called the "Liberty Tournament," in keeping with the recent start of World War I. C. W. Nichols and Walter H. Hart tied for the prize.

SEQUIN GOLF CLUB (1917-1929)

Mr. Samuel Doty became the treasurer of the new Sequin Golf Club, Inc. Also participating in the transaction as being duly authorized by Sequin were Merritt A. Alfred and Edward B.

Pratt. Membership was composed of men and women from New Britain and Hartford, as well as those who did not choose to join the new Shuttle Meadow Country Club.

This purchase was recorded with the Newington town clerk on April 10, 1917. The entry describes the transaction as well as the property involved. It also records: "Reference is hereby made also to map of said property

surveyed and drawn by Louis A. Oldershaw, CE, of New Britain, May, 1912, entitled 'Map of Property of New Britain Golf Club.' Also all the personal property, including equipment of New Britain Golf Club located upon said premises and automobile lawn mower, one

horse, tools, supplies and all other personal property owned by and belonging to New Britain Golf Club, ..."

To facilitate the sale of the New Britain

Golf Club, the Sequin Golf Club borrowed \$18,000 from A. W. Stanley, using the land as collateral. This is the same A. W. Stanley whose land was rejected for the New Britain Golf Club. Mr. Stanley also became a member of the newly formed Shuttle Meadow Country Club, apparently holding no grudge because they did not buy his land. Later, he assigned the administration of his Sequin mortgage to the Burritt Savings Bank, and sometime about 1921, Mr. Stanley moved to

his home on the French Riviera.¹

Curiously, there was no overt animosity between the golfers waiting for Shuttle Meadow to open and the golfers who remained with Sequin. In fact, all the old members were invited to play at Sequin upon

Treasurer's Voucher

CHECK NO. 1029 NEW BRITAIN, CONN. *Apr 9/17*

The New Britain Golf Club, Dr.

To *Samuel C. Doty*
Hartford Conn

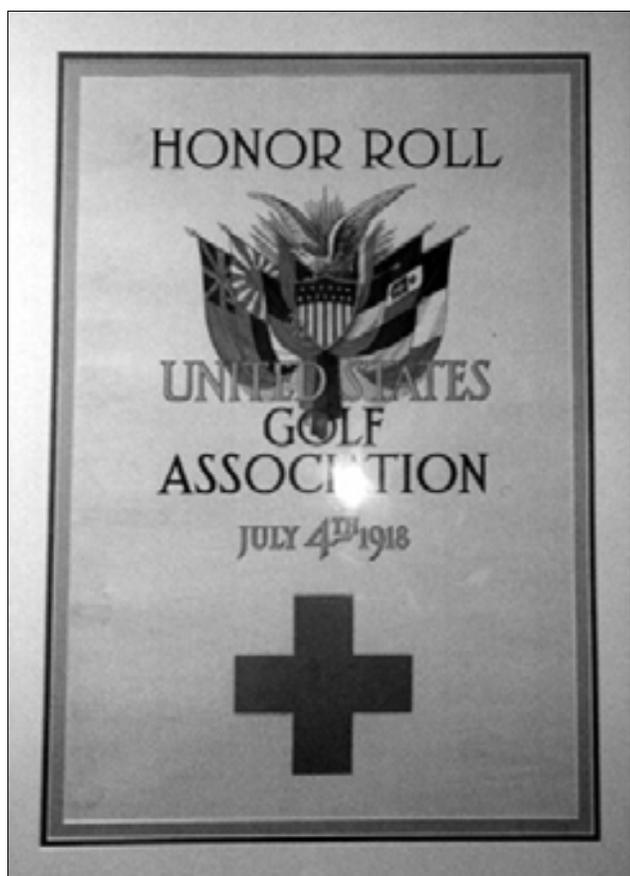
<i>Commission on Sale</i>	<i>of property</i>	<i>100000</i>
---------------------------	--------------------	---------------

Received Payment as Above *St Doty*

Receipt and Return This Statement to _____ Treasurer

Above is Samuel Doty's commission receipt. In spite of becoming a principal in the new venture, Mr. Doty apparently did not want to pass up the opportunity for a commission on the deal.

¹ Mr. Stanley no longer had business responsibilities due to the purchase of the Stanley Rule and Level Company by The Stanley Works in March 1920.



*Courtesy USGA
World War I Poster*

payment of dues. Since the new Shuttle Meadow course was not opened for play until July 1917, the New Britain golfers still trolleyed to Maple Hill during that spring and summer in which the United States was preparing for war. This sale to Sequin Golf Club was recorded on April 10, 1917; one week later, the United States entered World War I.

After purchasing the new Sequin club, the owners immediately set about making significant changes to the facility. Their first priorities were to build a new clubhouse and to improve the golf course. The first two years of ownership must have been filled with meetings, discussions and planning. In 1919, their efforts came to fruition with the start of construction of a beautiful clubhouse that was completed in 1920.

While this work was in progress, they were also busy with planning for a new course layout that would include expanding to a full 18 holes for the first time in the history of the course. (This golf course layout is described in detail in the chapter entitled "Golf Course.")

In the spring of 1920, Sequin purchased from Welles Eddy (who had remained with the club after the sale) 15.7 acres of land along the northern border that allowed for expansion of the course. This is the property on which the present-day 14th and 15th holes are built. The Newington land records do not indicate the price paid for the land and in an interview with Roger Eddy, he said he did not know what his father's price was. However, he does remember his father saying that it was "a very modest amount."

Roger also related that the land sold to the club by his father, as well as the property of the Eddy farm, was used by a small group of Indians called the Sequins. This was their hunting ground. He has found many arrowheads while plowing the ground near the 14th fairway, mostly in the area of the pond. Golfers of earlier days looked forward to reaching a wonderful spring there. On a post nearby, a metal dipper was hung that everyone used for drinking. The spring is now underneath the pond. The Sequin Indians of long ago used the same spring and also used the area for a campsite. There were also springs on the second fairway and on the sixth fairway. In fact, there were springs all along that gulch, possibly as far out as Maple Hill Avenue.

Newspaper articles of the day stated that the construction of the new clubhouse and golf course was to be accomplished with no increase in dues, even though the club did borrow \$50,000 on March 1, 1921, from the Hartford-Connecticut Trust Company. However, two years later at its annual meeting in January 1922, it was voted to increase the dues.

Another huge undertaking during those years was a second major course renovation in 1925 and 1926. Why this work was undertaken is a mystery. Extensive research did not reveal why two major course modifications were done in such a short period of time. The architect of the new layout, Robert Jack Ross, was the president of the club in 1924 and 1925. His position and influence may



Courtesy Roger Eddy
E. Welles Eddy

have facilitated the change, but there must have been other compelling reasons to prompt such a major course revision, because it disrupted play for one and a half years and more important, it cost a significant amount of money. In spite of the large expenditure for the new course, once again, the Board of Directors announced that there would be no assessment or increase in dues to be "laid against the membership."

Sequin Golf Club was a very active club during the 12 years it was in existence. Major transformations occurred in both the golf

course and the clubhouse. Important people of the business community from Hartford and surrounding towns chose Sequin for their club. Two such notable men who had a profound effect on the club were Alfred C. Fuller, founder of the Fuller Brush Company, who had been a member since before 1918, and the aforementioned Robert Jack Ross, the Hartford city engineer and

golf course designer.

Neighborhood youngsters could work and caddie at the course, which gave them the opportunity to become interested in golf as well. Fred Hollis, a Newington resident who lived near the course, caddied from 1924 to 1932. He received \$.60 to carry a bag 18 holes. He remembers that the popular golf balls were the Silver King at \$1 each, the Dunlop at \$1 each, and the Kro-Flite at \$.75 each. The player normally carried only nine or 10 clubs which were all hickory-shafted.¹

Stanley Pisk grew up near Sequin Golf

¹ The USGA did not sanction steel-shafted clubs until April 1924. The debate of steel versus hickory continued for some time. Even as late as 1929, the prevailing wisdom was: "Of the vexed questions of steel shafts versus wood, the golfer need only to consider the fact that if the former kind were better, we would not see Glenna Collet, Bobby Jones and Walter Hagen using hickory."

Club. Ted Pisk, Stanley's son, remembers his father talking about growing up near the golf course where he caddied and learned to love the game of golf. When George Siebert, Louis Chiapetta's assistant, left Sequin to become the head professional at the Golf Club of Avon, he took Stanley with him as his assistant. Stanley later became the popular, longtime head professional at the Stanley Golf Course in New Britain.

Unfortunately, very little additional information can be found about the operation of the Sequin Golf Club during those years in which so much was done. Perhaps the overly enthusiastic membership overextended themselves financially, because on February 16, 1929, *The Hartford Times* reported: "The plan for a refinancing of the Sequin Golf Club at Maple Hill in Newington, voted some time ago by the directors, was ratified at a special meeting of the club held yesterday afternoon at The Hartford Club. A special committee will handle this revamping of the financial basis and is composed of the following

members of the club: A. C. Fuller, chairman, C. R. Burt, Major Frank G. Macomber, Russell P. Tabor, Franklin A. Morley.

"This committee will arrange for the purchase of the physical assets of the Sequin Club from the present club membership and for the transfer of the same to the new holding company, the title of which has not been decided upon, but which, it is supposed, will have the name of 'Sequin' as its principal designation.

"There has been a general approval of this policy which was broached late last fall just before the closing of the club for the season.

"It will result in a more substantial and generally more satisfactory financial situation at Sequin; the club indebtedness, which is not of size as applied against the value of the clubhouse and the fine eighteen-hole course, has been carried by a few individuals and now will be assumed by this holding company."

SEQUIN COUNTRY CLUB (1929-1932)

On March 14, 1929, the Sequin Golf Club's physical property — the clubhouse, course and all equipment — was put up at auction. Frank G. Macomber bid for the Sequin Country Club.

The Sequin Country Club filed a Certificate of Incorporation on March 15, 1929. Eleven days later, on the 26th of March, it assumed ownership of the Sequin Golf Club, the victim of financial problems. The price of \$114,100 included the assumption of two outstanding mortgages for \$20,000 and \$50,000.

The incorporators were:

Clayton R. Burt, Chairman of the Board, Pratt & Whitney Co. in West Hartford and a member of the Hartford Golf Club, Wampanoag Country Club and the Country Club of Farmington.

Franklin A. Morley, senior partner in the insurance firm of Morley, Watson & Baldwin, a principal of the Industrial Bank of Hartford and a member of the Hartford Golf Club.

Frank G. Macomber, Treasurer of Stern and Co., Executive VP of the West Hartford Chamber of Commerce, former editor of the Hartford Sunday Globe and a past president of the City Club.

At a meeting at the Hartford Club, the above three men and the two listed below were elected as Sequin Country Club's directors:

Russell P. Tabor, owner of R. P. Tabor, Inc. (automobile dealership for Cadillac).

Alfred C. Fuller, President, Fuller Brush Co.

It was reported that these men handled the negotiations whereby this new holding company took over all the assets of the Sequin Golf Club.

In their Certificate of Incorporation, they stated that the nature of the business to be transacted was: "To purchase or otherwise acquire, to hold, own, maintain, use, develop, build, construct, remodel, repair, sell, convey, mortgage, release, lease, exchange or otherwise dispose of...in any territories of the United States personal property and real property of all kinds and descriptions...To acquire real estate by purchase, lease or otherwise and develop and fit up the same for country clubs, inns, resorts, athletic sports, pastimes, recreation and other purposes; to own, operate and maintain country clubs, inns, resorts, restaurants, speedways, dancing pavilions, amusement devices of all kinds and description; to provide, promote, conduct and carry on golf, tennis, baseball, football and other athletic games, sports and pastimes; to conduct and carry on such business for the accommodation of the public; to buy and sell cigars, cigarettes and tobacco; to provide meals and food for the public and to buy and sell all things necessary in the connection therewith." It is not known what they had in mind, but the above could very well serve as a Statement of Purpose for an international conglomerate.

At this time, Prohibition had been in effect since January 1920, and the sale of liquor was not *legally* permitted at Sequin Country Club. Also, little did they know that the Great Depression was looming just around the corner. The mid-October 1929 feverish selling in the stock markets reached its peak on October 29, only seven months after the purchase of Sequin Country Club. The Great Depression, precipitated a severe economic downturn that not only spread throughout the United States, but in the early 1930s became worldwide. By 1932, hundreds of banks had closed, mortgages on farms and homes were being foreclosed, and more than 10 million workers were unemployed.

In 1929, the annual dues for membership in

Sequin for a single male was \$140. For anyone suddenly forced to watch every penny, \$140 became more than many people could afford. To have enough funds to prepare the course for the opening day of the 1930 season, it was necessary to borrow \$5,000. By the end of 1930, income of Sequin stood at \$28,867.57 and expenses at \$31,650.74, yielding a year-end loss of \$2,783.17. Increased membership was sorely needed.

The Board of Directors formed a committee to study the problem and formulate a promotional plan to attract new members. Emphasis was placed on targeting

the old Sequin Golf Club members.

It was not a good time to own a country club. Roger Eddy remembers his father, Welles, president of the club at that time, coming home on many occasions saying, "They are losing money over there. They are losing money over there." Between 1929 and 1932, the financial strain was evident at Sequin with an outstanding mortgage on the land and buildings with the Hartford-Connecticut Trust Company for the sum of \$41,400. Financial ruin for Sequin Country Club loomed ominously, but Mr. Alfred C. Fuller chose not to give up.

APPLICATION
for
**Annual Privileges of Golf, Social and
Recreational Facilities**
of
THE SEQUIN COUNTRY CLUB
INCORPORATED
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT

I apply for complete and unrestricted annual privileges at THE SEQUIN COUNTRY CLUB, INC., subject to the Rules and Regulations established by its Executive Council.

Name _____

Home Address _____

Business Address _____

Sex _____ Age _____

Business or Profession _____

Of what other Social, Fraternal or Recreational Organizations are you a member?

If application is for a Family Privilege, list full names of each member of family for whom credentials are desired.

If this application be approved, I agree to pay the annual established fees in three equal installments on the 1st days of March, June and September, and to pay any house or other charges incurred by me, promptly upon receipt of bill therefor. It is understood that the Club shall have the right to revoke these privileges at any time. I agree to be bound by all rules and regulations promulgated by the Executive Council.

Every applicant MUST give on the reverse hereof the full name and address of at least three references who preferably, but not necessarily, are at present affiliated with THE SEQUIN COUNTRY CLUB, INC.

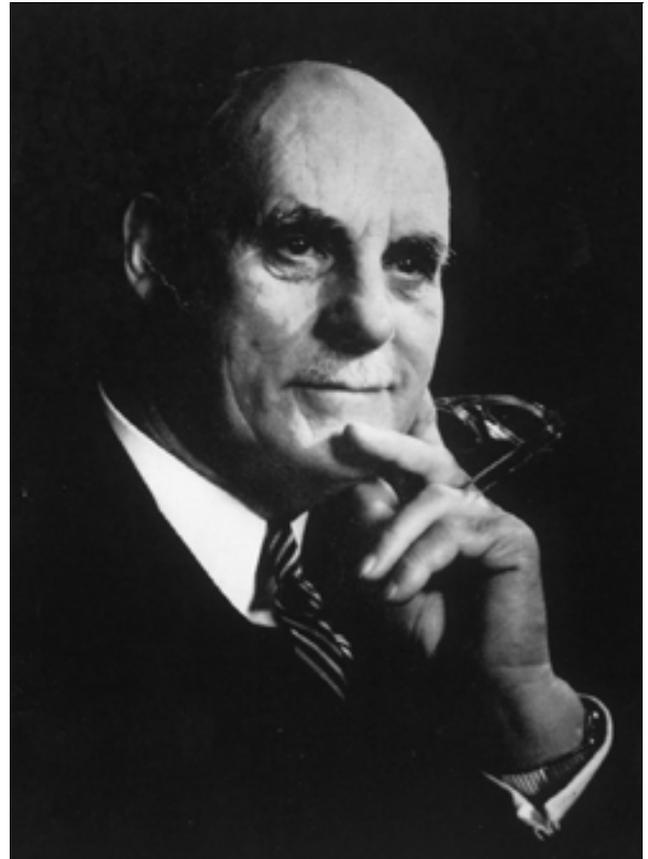
INDIAN HILL COUNTRY CLUB (1932-1969)

Mr. Alfred C. Fuller had been a member of the golf club since about 1918. He had served on the Board of Directors of the Sequin Golf Club, and was its president in 1923. He was one of the directors of the Sequin Country Club and his deep involvement with the club's operations exposed him to all financial notes negotiated during his tenure. Apparently, one or more of those financial commitments continued through the Depression and "caught up" with him later. In his book, *A Foot In the Door*, Mr. Fuller states: "During the Depression, I found myself involved in a bankrupt country club. Legally, if several persons band together to guarantee the debts of a club, and the organization fails, any one of the guarantors who has sufficient funds may be made liable for the entire debt. One day in 1930, I discovered myself with a pile of worthless bonds and a mass of bills payable. They were unquestionably mine in the eyes of the bankers because my name was on the note, along with the signatures of many others who, through circumstances, were no longer able to bear their share of the obligation. Everyone, including the bankers, advised me to liquidate the club, take my loss, and profit from the lesson. Instead, I reorganized the enterprise, made it semi-public instead of exclusive, opened its private rooms to public and business functions, and permitted anyone to enjoy the golf course for a fee."

In the early 1930s, the West Hartford Country Club, "located near Park Road," (the Buena Vista Golf Course, now owned by the town of West Hartford) was also having financial difficulties. The cost of leasing their course was becoming prohibitive and no land was available to expand to an 18-hole course. Meetings between the two clubs

were held as early as the summer of 1931 to discuss the mutually beneficial arrangement of merging West Hartford Country Club's 200 members with Sequin Country Club's 150 members.¹

Alfred Fuller had already made the



A Foot In the Door
Alfred C. Fuller

decision to assume the financial liability of the Sequin Country Club and to reorganize its operation. Accordingly, he was the majority stockholder and guiding light of the proposed new club. His major requisite for further planning was that a commitment of membership be secured from a minimum of 225 people from the two clubs by February 1,

¹In his 1961 paper entitled *Early Golf in New Britain*, Rod Chamberlain stated that the 1917 sale of the New Britain Golf Club involved the members of the West Hartford Golf Club. This is incorrect. Mr. Chamberlain apparently confused the date of this event with the 1932 sale of the Sequin Country Club. In 1917, the property known today as Buena Vista Golf Course was owned by the Southern New England Ice Company, which harvested and sold ice from the reservoir there. As near as can be determined, the West Hartford Golf Club did not come into being until sometime in the mid-1920s.

1932. Many viewed this edict as a monumental task on such short notice. Furthermore, it was to be accomplished in the wintertime, and in the difficult financial times of late 1931. Surprisingly, the positive response was overwhelming. Subscriptions exceeded the required minimum, thus advancing the plans to merge the memberships.

At a meeting of the West Hartford Country Club at the American Legion Hall in West Hartford, December 14, 1931, it was voted unanimously to disband their organization and to join the Sequin Country Club members in a new golf club at the Newington facility.

On February 2, 1932, *The Hartford Courant* reported: "The successful merging of the West Hartford Country Club and the Sequin Country Club into a unit that will be known as the Indian Hill Country Club was assured last night when a meeting of joint committees reported that the drive for 225 members by February 1 had gone over the top." A committee was named to draw up by-laws, formulate the dues structure and complete the organizational details.

On February 24, 1932, the name was changed from Sequin Country Club, Inc. to Indian Hill Country Club, Inc. This was approved by more than a two-thirds majority of the stockholders and signed by the directors. E. Welles Eddy was elected president. Annual dues were set at:

- Family ——— \$85
- Single Male — \$75
- Female ——— \$40

It should be noted that the 1932 family membership of \$85 is a significant drop from the aforementioned \$140 fee set by the old Sequin Country Club in 1929 — an effect of the Depression.

This same day, a group of men led by Alfred C. Fuller purchased the club for \$122,550 (first mortgage at \$20,000, second mortgage at \$44,550, third mortgage at \$39,200 and preferred stock at \$18,800). The others in this group were Franklin A. Morley, Clayton R. Burt, Michael C. Wauteruach, Frank G. Macomber and Russell P. Tabor. Fuller owned 136 of the 214 shares of the holding company. The balance of shares were owned by the above-named men, four of whom were also shareholders in the defunct Sequin Country Club. This was the second time Fuller was involved in a major reorganization of the golf club.



Courtesy USGA
Slot Machine

In an interview for Newington's bicentennial year, sponsored by the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Newington in 1976, Mr. Frank V. Eddy, a Newington businessman, stated that: "...Mr. Alfred C. Fuller came into the picture, stating that he did not want to see the golf course go down the drain. He proceeded to buy up most of the stock and took it as a personal hobby to see that it kept going and stayed in decent shape."

Roger Eddy remembers that the club was in serious financial straits at the time Alfred Fuller and his associates purchased it. Roger said that Mr. Fuller should be given full credit for saving the golf course. He purchased the club during the Great Depression at a time when money was a precious commodity.

Roger Eddy said that one reason Mr. Fuller purchased Indian Hill was to have a place to entertain his people from the Fuller Brush Company. He considered the club to be an adjunct to his company, and when he wanted a place to entertain someone from his company, he could do so conveniently.

In 1933, after 13 years, Prohibition was repealed with the ratification of the Twenty-First Amendment, and Mr. Fuller was not slow about getting a license for alcoholic beverages, even though he did not drink. Also, he apparently did not object to a little gambling entertainment. It has been reported in several

interviews that some slot machines were located downstairs near today's grillroom. Bill Middlemass, son of W. F. Middlemass, tended bar at Indian Hill in the early 30s, and he also remembers the two slot

machines. Bill remembers business in general as being slow in the early 30s, but "people were free with their money at the bar." He also related that Sundays had the most golfing activity of the week and that the club would send him out to the fifth tee with an umbrella and beer in a cooler to serve the golfers. Beer was \$.35 for golfers and \$.10 for caddies.

Jim Killington, now 88 years old, said that he was a member from 1933 to 1938 before joining the Wampanoag Country Club. He used to work with the Fuller Company (for \$17 a week) and was given a membership by "AC," as he was known. He, too, remembers the slot machines and laughingly remembers

that the club always received advanced notice regarding any raids for gambling devices. Jim proudly stated that he won the 1933 Indian Hill Club Championship, and he was captain of the Fuller Golf Team in the Industrial League. To play Indian Hill, Jim would catch the trolley near the Fuller Brush Company in north Hartford, go to Hartford, change to the New Britain trolley, get off at the Golf Station and walk down Golf Street to the club. After playing, he would then have to look for someone who lived in West Hartford to get a ride home. He did not own an automobile.

The club flourished under Mr. Fuller's guidance, in tandem with the recovering U.S. economy after the Depression. There were many social functions in addition to golf, and to stimulate the membership's camaraderie during the off-season, the Board



The club tractor of 1948

Courtesy Stan Bedus

appointed a Winter Activities Committee.

The years of World War II, from 1941 through 1945, were also weathered, but not without difficulties. (Those were tough years for everyone.) General membership was extremely low at this time, and maintenance help was difficult to find. There were not too many golfers, and the condition of the course was not at its best.

Because of the labor shortage, youngsters were hired to work with the greenkeeper. Dr. Walter Leckowicz, Dr. Bob Huszar and Stan Hollis worked together at the course. These three men remember the greenkeeper, "Mr. Mike," as being strict, but

“not too industrious.” They mowed the greens with push mowers, and the tees with the only power mower the club owned — however, the drive wheel kept coming off, so it really was not all that useful. The fairways were mowed with a gang mower pulled by a tractor. The kids were paid about \$.45 an hour to work days and \$.75 an hour for night work. It was necessary to return to the course at night and make the rounds to turn off sprinklers that had been left running.

Dr. Leckowicz said the kids loved to play golf and frequently they used a loop of holes from number 11 through number 16 when they played in the evenings. They would mark the end of play at nightfall with a handkerchief for continuation as soon as they could get back to it. In the afternoons, during lulls in work, the kids would hide in the sand bunkers of the 15th hole to play cards. “That’s where I learned to play poker,” Dr. Leckowicz proudly said.

Ben Lewon started to caddie in 1930 at

located behind the golf shop next to a thickly wooded area (today’s practice range) that he described as a jungle. Ben said he had to instruct the caddies and classify them as A (\$.75/rd), B (\$.65/rd) or C (\$.50/rd). Sometimes as many as 100 kids would show up hoping for an opportunity to caddie. Money was hard to come by in those days, and it would occasionally get a little rowdy among them. Ben said he was even threatened a few times.

The membership of Indian Hill during the mid-30s and mid-40s was predominately made up of professional people from Hartford and surrounding towns and usually numbered about 340. The club had an aura of exclusivity about it. It was not until after World War II that nonprofessional applicants were considered, and preference was given to those who had served in the war. Reportedly, Bob Smith, the golf professional, was the driving force behind this change.

Although Alfred Fuller was the major stockholder of Indian Hill, the club was essentially run by the Board of Directors. However, Fuller continued to monitor the needs of the club. In 1936, some clubhouse improvements were necessary, at a cost of \$10,000. The treasurer was instructed to borrow the money “from the sources to be made available by Mr. A. C. Fuller.” In 1937, Fuller offered to paint the walls of the clubhouse and install a new asphalt tile floor in the grill room on the condition that the club proceed at once to install a new bar with new bar equipment. Judging from the extant minutes of those years, Indian Hill was a profitable business.

It was because of Fuller’s foresight that the property behind the clubhouse was acquired. Over the time period 1938 through 1963, many lots on Green Avenue and Juniper Street were purchased a few at a time as they became available. Some were purchased for \$25 each, some at \$37.50, some for \$80 and still others for as much as \$600. These



*Courtesy Stan Bedus
1948 greenkeeping crew resting*

age 10. In 1937, he was made caddiemaster. For this job, he was paid \$13.50 for six days of work that started at 7 a.m. and finished at 7 p.m. In those days, the caddie shack was

properties now form the expanded present-day parking lots and some of the maintenance area.

In 1956, Mr. Fuller made the decision to sell the golf course. Several reasons have been advanced about why he sold, but the most logical one was that he wanted to arrange his estate while he still could. Not surprisingly, rumors began to circulate about his decision, and many groups expressed interest in the potential sale. There was a group from The Travelers Insurance Co., one from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, one from the Hartford Golf Club, one from Hamden, CT, and still another from Manchester, CT, that was willing to pay \$600,000. A public statement was made that said that "... preference would be given to the present playing members. It is considered of great importance, however, that future owners of the club shall be men of substantial means, willing and able to maintain the property permanently as a good golf club." Even at this early time, the proceeds from any sale of Indian Hill were "mentally earmarked for an educational foundation." Mr. Fuller said in his book: "...years later, I sold the club, which I had not wanted in the first place, for a half-million-dollar profit. Because I did not feel I had earned this gain, I gave it to the Hartt School of Music."

The golf club was first offered to the membership. In Mr. Fuller's view, the members had the right of first refusal, but only if each member purchased *equal* shares. He did not want to sell to any special group, in spite of several efforts made by some groups to obtain ownership.

The *New Britain Herald* reported in May 1957: "A plan for buying Indian Hill Country Club was approved by golf playing members last night when they met with the committee which has been negotiating for the purchase. Judge Walter J. Sidor, chairman of the committee, which has been negotiating with A. C. Fuller, submitted the plan to more than

100 members. It was reported that members will be asked to purchase a \$1,000 stock membership. The asking price for the purchase of the club is \$500,000 with a mortgage expected to reduce that figure. It is expected that upon completion of the stock



*Courtesy Elmer Nicholson
Edmund Keleher, left, and Elmer Nicholson*

sale the committee will discuss details with Mr. Fuller. James M. Curtin, president, and the group are not expected to take over the club before the next playing season. Committee members, in addition to Judge Sidor, are Henry Gwiazda, Henry Budney, Percy Burnham, Ziggy Gow, Joe Wandy, Anthony Garro, Leo Milewski, Stanley Gierymski, Peter Primis, Anthony Rao, Al Levine, Robert Radcliffe, Edna LaFlamme and Bertha Dennis."

Not enough members were willing to invest \$1,000 in a golf club; therefore, by October 1, 1957, plans for the members to purchase the club had fallen through. The proposed

purchase had been under discussion with Mr. Fuller since May, but the member's committee reported to Mr. Fuller that "... they would be unable to meet the terms..."

When the word went out that Mr. Fuller wished to sell the golf course, several real estate developers expressed an interest in purchasing the property. The most often heard price was \$500,000. Serious offers were received, but the town of Newington did not want to see this land used for housing, and neither did the members want to lose their club.

The chairman of Newington's Board of Finance, Elmer Nicholson, knew of Mr. Fuller's desire to give his proceeds from the sale of the club to the Hartt Musical Foundation. It was he and the First Selectman Edmund Keleher who approached Mr. Fuller for the town of Newington regarding a list of sale conditions that would prove to be beneficial to all three parties. Their approach was favorably received, and in August 1957, about 40 people attended a special meeting held at the Lucy Robbins Welles Library to discuss the purchase of the club at \$500,000. Members of various town boards expressed their views on the matter, which resulted in unanimous support for further negotiations with Mr. Fuller.

Mr. Fuller was asked whether he would be willing to sell to the town of Newington if it could be shown that he could net more money to donate to the school by selling to the town rather than to the developers. Fuller said he would be happy to do so if that were the case. It was proposed that Fuller donate all of his shares of Indian Hill stock to Hartt, and the town would purchase those shares, as well as the shares of the minority stockholders, from the school. By donating the shares directly to the school, he would incur no capital gain taxes, thereby obtaining the full tax deduction for the gift versus paying

November 26, 1957

Mr. John A. Lee, Chairman
Board of Regents
The University of Hartford
Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Lee:

I am well aware that the University of Hartford will campaign to raise \$7,000,000, and that others, both individuals and corporations, have pledged or will pledge to give substantial sums to the University. As you know, for many years I have financially aided the Julius Hartt Musical Foundation, Incorporated. It is my intent to give further aid to it.

Therefore, and in consideration of the promises of others, I hereby freely make the following pledge:

1. I pledge to give to the University of Hartford, for the immediate general uses and purposes of the division thereof which does or may correspond to what was formerly or is now or shall be known as the Julius Hartt Musical Foundation, Incorporated; or to said Julius Hartt Musical Foundation, Incorporated for its own general uses and purposes in the event that said University of Hartford ceases to exist or ceases to incorporate said Julius Hartt Musical Foundation, Incorporated, all the shares of common stock now owned by me in Indian Hill Country Club, Incorporated, namely, one hundred thirty-six (136) shares, as follows:

(a) Twelve (12) shares of said stock in the year 1957;

(b) Not less than twenty-two (22) shares of said stock in the year 1958; and

(c) Not less than eleven (11) shares of said stock in the year 1959 and not less than eleven (11) shares of said stock in each succeeding year until I have given The University of Hartford my total holdings of one hundred thirty-six (136) shares of said stock.

- 2 -

2. In the event of my death prior to the fulfillment of the pledge set forth in paragraph "1" above, then I hereby bind my heirs, executors and administrators to fulfill my said pledge of said shares of stock, provided, however, that my executors or administrators may accelerate the making of gifts of said stock as they may see fit.

I sincerely hope that the series of gifts of shares of said stock pursuant to this pledge will materially assist you in the attainment of the goal you have set and will encourage others to join in the project for a great community university, serving the vocational and cultural needs of our area.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred C. Fuller

a capital gain tax if sold to the developers.

Ed Keleher checked the laws to see whether a town could own stock in a private corporation. It could not. Mr. Keleher then started work with the Connecticut legislature to overcome this obstacle, and he was successful in getting an enabling act passed that allowed Newington to own the stock. The matter was put to a vote in a town referendum, and by a vote of 858 to 81, approval was given for a bond issue of \$253,000 to acquire the property. Having done this, the town was in a position to carry out the proposed purchase plan from Fuller through the Julius Hartt School. In round numbers, the price was set at \$500,000 for the land, buildings and equipment. Terms were set and accepted that the town of Newington would buy 51 percent of the stock from the school in its first year of ownership and the remaining balance at five percent per year over a 10-year period at no interest. The town issued a bond for the initial 51 percent of stock and the subsequent purchases over the years were paid for by the lease income from the Indian Hill members. Thus, Newington purchased the golf course and its buildings

with a cash outlay of approximately \$253,000.

In the *Newington Annual Town Report*, "Report of the First Selectmen," dated 1958, Edmund J. Keleher reviewed the details of the sale: "A forward looking step was taken at a Town Meeting on March 7, 1958 when the efforts of many months were consummated, and it was voted that the Town of Newington expend \$499,904.00 over a period of years for the acquisition of the Indian Hill Country Club for recreational purposes. The terms of the purchase agreement were such that the Town expended \$253,000 immediately for the purchase of the majority of shares, with the remainder of shares to be purchased by an agreement with the University of Hartford and the Julius Hartt Musical Foundation over a period of years at \$2,336.00 per share. It is interesting to note in this connection that as far as we have been able to determine Newington is the first town in Connecticut and possibly in New England to purchase a private corporation through the method of becoming the majority stockholder while acquiring the remaining shares of stock over a period of years. By acquiring the Indian Hill Country Club, Newington is preserving for its



1963 Indian Hill Country Club Board of Directors

*Seated, left to right: John Seremet, Ed Keleher, Elmer Nicholson, Merrill Louks, Paul Menz
Standing, left to right: Joe Materese, Judge Walter Secore, Bobbie Pratt, Rusty Glennon, Don Turner*

recreational use one of the last centrally located recreational sites, and one of the finest golf courses in the Hartford area.”

Alfred C. Fuller made a pledge on November 26, 1957, to give 12 shares of his stock in the club in 1957, 22 or more in 1958, 11 or more in 1959, 11 or more in each succeeding year until he had given the university his 136 shares of the 214 total outstanding. The value of each share was \$2,336 for a total value of \$317,696 for his shares. His gift of these 136 shares was completed on May 7, 1968. This agreement immediately provided a ready market in which the other stockholders could, and did, willingly, sell their 78 shares to the Hartt School at the same price.

In the intervening years of 1957 to 1969, the club ran pretty much as it had, except that the town now had a vested interest in its operation. In January 1959, there was a change of the guard. James H. Curtin, the president of Indian Hill since 1937, retired and Elmer Nicholson was elected to replace him. Elmer held this position until 1963. Additionally, a new position of executive vice president was created, which was filled by First Selectman, Edmund Keleher. In that capacity, Mr. Keleher would be in charge of administering club activities and would supervise all committees. Directors from the town of Newington were also elected. They were Edmund Keleher, Henry L. Brophy, Alan E. Hanbury, Judge Waldemar J. Lach, Edna M. LaFlamme, Bertil A. Larson, Merrill A. Louks, William F. Middlemass and Elmer L. Nicholson.

On the same day that the Julius Hartt Musical Foundation's stock ownership reached 51 percent, the town of Newington purchased this stock. Thus, the town became the majority stockholder and, as such, was responsible for the club's profits or losses until the signing of the 1969 lease when the membership accepted this responsibility.

As the date approached for the complete ownership of the club by the town and for the

signing of the anticipated lease by the Indian Hill Corporation, there appeared many people who, by this time, had formed other opinions about the disposition of this new acquisition. Lively, and sometimes heated, debate took place. It seems that some saw the property as a potential cash cow, others saw it as a lever to expand their realm, and still others envisioned other agendas. Amid all of these divergent views, the *New Britain Herald* reported that ex-First Selectman Keleher addressed the issue from his historical perspective, noting that, "... back in 1958 when Newington negotiated to buy the Indian Hill Country Club all we were really sure of was that it [the town] was to keep that acreage unchanged, open and green, as opposed to one or more housing developments." He pointed out that in 1958, there were less than 6,000 people in Newington. Keleher continued, "Some 12,000 have moved here since – persons who have no knowledge of the original intent of the purchase. For this reason the history of the purchase should be reviewed...Fuller most particularly did not want to sell the club out from under the membership and for that reason, it was continued as a private organization under the town's administration for the past 10 years... The intent of the purchase, explained at various neighborhood meetings and at the town meetings in 1958 was to use the 18-hole golf course as it stood...At no time was the idea of breaking up the golf course ever considered... The matter should still be how best to make use of the golf club, an 18-hole course that has provided sport and pleasure to innumerable golfers for 68 years." Fortunately, the views and intents of Mr. Fuller and Mr. Keleher prevailed with the Town Council.

In 1963, the Indian Hill Board of Directors gave Elmer Nicholson a lifetime membership in recognition of the exemplary work he did prior to, during and after the sale by Fuller to the town of Newington.

INDIAN HILL COUNTRY CLUB (1969 - 1999)

The gift of Alfred Fuller's stock, and that of the minority stockholders, to the Julius Hartt Musical Foundation was completed in May 1968.

On November 14, 1968, the Indian Hill Country Club changed its name to the Newington Golf Club, Inc., to enable a new nonstock corporation by the name of Indian Hill Country Club, Inc., to be formed in preparation for the upcoming purchase by the town of Newington, and the subsequent leasing by the club.

An organizational meeting held on November 15, 1968, was attended by about 200 eager members to discuss the terms of the

lease proposal and other matters pertaining to the new club. The dues structure was set at:

Family	— \$425 per year
Single male	— \$335 per year
Female	— \$235 per year
Junior	— \$195 per year
Social	— \$50 per year

February 25, 1969, was the beginning of another chapter in the history of Indian Hill Country Club. On this day the town of Newington assumed full ownership of the golf club property and its buildings.

Three days later, February 28, 1969, a



The Official Signing of the Lease
Seated, left to right: Michael Schless, IHCC, and Clifford Vermilya, Town Manager
Standing, left to right: Edward Seremet, Town Clerk; Thomas Purtell, IHCC;
Mayor William Reynolds and William O'Brien, IHCC

lease between the town and Indian Hill Country Club, Inc. (the members) was signed. The main points of the 15-year lease stipulated that Indian Hill must:

- (1) Assume all liabilities of the existing corporation.
- (2) Maintain all buildings and furnishings at the members' expense.
- (3) Ensure that the golf course is properly maintained.
- (4) Carry the proper insurance coverage.
- (5) Install a fairway watering system at the members' expense.

The *Newington Town Crier* noted that those most responsible for obtaining the club's lease with the town were John Seremet, Tom Purtell, Mark Shipman, John Grogan, Bill O'Brian, Mike Schless and Joe Doyle.

The Board of Directors was determined to make Indian Hill a viable operation and an enjoyable place to play golf. However, things got off to an awkward start with the resignation of Tony Stempien, club manager, and David Burr, greenkeeper, both of whom were veteran employees. The good news was that the membership stood at 364. Enthusiastic board members studied data from previous surveys of other area golf clubs to determine the parameters for a golf course operation.

Work was started to locate sufficient well water on the course for the anticipated irrigation system, and a search was started to obtain estimates for its installation. With this preliminary work done, seven companies were solicited for bids to install the irrigation system. Larchmont Engineering Co. was the low bidder at \$135,450.

It was obviously necessary to secure financing for such an endeavor. This was not an easy task, for here was a fledgling organization, encumbered with several difficult mandates, very little capital, no track record and no assets. However, through the good offices of Mr. Fritz Wamester, the managing officer of the

Connecticut Bank and Trust Company (CBT) of Newington, a loan for \$125,000 was negotiated in August 1970.

As the irrigation system and other necessary projects progressed, the need for capital also grew. CBT suggested that the club increase its loan from the initial \$125,000 to \$150,000, which would provide for additional operating capital. In December 1970, it was necessary to increase dues by \$50 to cover the expanding costs. By the beginning of 1971, the total debt to CBT was \$194,000, which included the money borrowed for the irrigation system and the assumed debts of the previous Indian Hill Corporation.

By 1972, the membership had declined to 337, and expenses began to outpace income. CBT was reluctant to grant a loan to the club, since its lease was due to expire within 12 years. Undaunted, the Board negotiated an extension to the lease with the town in return for the promise to construct four tennis courts and a swimming pool of 25 meters.

For many years, the tennis courts and swimming pool were a dilemma for the Board of Directors. Initial cost estimates for both were placed at \$165,000 to \$200,000. Additionally, it was calculated that it would cost \$13,000 a year for debt retirement and maintenance of the two facilities. These were hefty numbers for a start-up club already encumbered with more than its share of problems. Surveys were conducted of both town residents and club members about their interest and support for the courts and pool. Very few Newington residents, and less than one third of the Indian Hill members, supported the building of the pool and tennis courts. Not nearly enough support was evidenced to warrant undertaking these two projects, but the Board wished to honor the commitment and therefore persisted in its struggle to find a solution.

The Board of Directors continued to address routine problems as they were brought to its attention. The club's loan with CBT was being paid, and it was reported in June 1973 that the loan balance had been cut to \$115,000. The

financial position at this time was very healthy. The cart fleet was expanded, some cart paths were paved, and other future improvements were discussed; 1973 and 1974 were good years for Indian Hill.

By the beginning of 1975, general expenses had again begun to overtake income, necessitating an assessment of \$50 per member. This caused consternation among the members, which resulted in a special membership meeting. Explanations were given by the Board, the membership was assuaged and the assessment stood.

While ongoing monetary problems in 1976 and 1977 kept the Board of Directors busy, and probably worried, the 280 members of Indian Hill continued to enjoy fine golf. Joe Curtin and Jim Ashwell gave many lessons, and members made good use of the practice range. Men and women could be seen standing near the golf shop or on the clubhouse terrace discussing their game and enjoying the beautiful view of the course. Still others used the grillroom to discuss their round of golf over lunch or a cool drink. Some members enjoyed a friendly game of cards in the card room, particularly on Friday nights after dinner. Some families took advantage of peaceful evenings by playing a round of golf with their children. Friends gathered at the course not only for a game of golf, but also for evening social events.

In 1977, a \$20,000 year-end loss was projected. Attempting to address the situation, a \$25 assessment was approved and the first restaurant-spending minimum was set. The assessment alleviated some of the financial pressure but did not solve the underlying problems.

In August 1978, to improve cash flow, Richard Kablik (president from 1978 to 1981) began negotiating with the town of Newington to restructure a more appropriate rent schedule, to eliminate any future rent tax, and to rescind the agreement to install tennis courts and a swimming pool. Kablik's requests were granted, and in return Indian Hill agreed to allow Newington senior citizens to play free on

Mondays, to allow the Newington High School team use of the course, and to allow residents to play at certain times on Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays at reduced rates. These negotiations spanned many months and were finally completed in February 1979. The *New Britain Herald* reported that Richard Kablik beamed broadly and gave his wife a kiss after the Town Council voted 5-3 to approve the club's lease extension. He told a *Herald* reporter that he was going to celebrate by "going over to the club to have a drink." Also, it became necessary to levy an assessment of \$125 per member.

Three problems continued to be financial drains on the club. The first was the declining membership, which was at a record low of 197 by 1983. This may have been due to the excessively high inflation rate prevalent in the United States in the 1970s and early 1980s. The second was the irrigation system that continued to malfunction and required huge unbudgeted expenditures to repair. The third large problem of the late 70s and 80s was the restaurant and grill. In a two-year period, Indian Hill had four managers, four chefs and one caterer, none of whom worked out.

The 1984 season began with a new golf professional, a new greenkeeper (Eddie Bedus, who had been the greenkeeper since 1969, retired), a new restaurant manager, and a new office manager. It would seem to be a great start to a new year, but unforeseen problems were in store for Indian Hill. In June, Ed Shirley became the president. In July, a letter was received from the town of Newington informing the club that the rent had not been paid for three months and unless immediate steps were taken to rectify the problem, the town would begin eviction proceedings. The State Board of Health also sent notification that it would close down the restaurant if the club did not repair the kitchen ceiling, install a freezer and repair the floor in the kitchen.

The accounts payable had grown to \$85,000, and the club's financial records were in dire need of reorganization. Beverly Accarpio, who

was hired to be the new bookkeeper, and a number of energetic and gracious ladies who volunteered to help, spent many days and nights restructuring the financial records.

While the office and financial systems were being updated, a membership meeting was called to discuss the situation. The result was a 15 percent assessment. The members responded promptly, and in the case of some members, a greater amount than their 15 percent share was submitted, which provided a \$4,500 windfall. The response by the membership confirmed that Indian Hill was greatly valued by its members. Rental arrears were paid to the town, and the deficiencies noted by the Board of Health were corrected and approved. The Town Council allowed the club to keep its lease, which was again amended to add significant financial requirements.

It was during this time period that Beverly Accarpio alerted the Board to a problem uncovered with the operation of the kitchen. The restaurant manager was buying supplies for the kitchen and was diverting most of them to his catering business. Beverly presented the facts at a special Board meeting, after which the manager was fired and subsequently arrested for embezzling \$120,000 from the club. Approximately \$90,000 was later recouped from an insurance claim.

It was determined that leasing the restaurant operation would be best for all concerned. Jerry Catolane and Kathy Conlin Follo, partners of Sequin Enterprises, negotiated an agreement for this concession, and in 1985 Indian Hill was out of the food business.

Through these "Dark Days," Beverly Accarpio, now general manager, and three Board members — Ed Shirley, President; Carmela "Corky" Balducci, Membership Chairman; and Dave Kopec, Green Chairman — performed yeoman's work. Tony Cassandra was also indispensable in giving the Board a sense of financial order and discipline with budgets and forecasting. Beverly and Ed held countless weekly 7 a.m. meetings to closely



Beverly Accarpio, General Manager

monitor the ever-changing financial situation. The Board of Directors held working meetings twice a month, with midnight adjournments the norm. This regimen of intense management continued for more than a year, when matters were finally brought under control and another disaster was averted.

Many others also worked tirelessly in the background to assist in wading through the myriad problems confronting the club. In the 80s, the Women's Auxiliary pitched in with fervor to paint and wallpaper the clubhouse. The ladies also held tag sales and other money-raising events to buy benches, a food cart and other amenities for the golf course.

In 1984, Herb Watson came to Indian Hill from Wethersfield Country Club where he had been the assistant course superintendent. Herb brought with him the invaluable knowledge he learned while preparing the Wethersfield course for professional tournaments such as the Insurance City Open and the Greater Hartford Open. The improved course conditions proved to be an enticement for attracting new members, and by the end of 1985, the membership had climbed to 247.

All historic buildings require ongoing maintenance, and the clubhouse was no exception. Many things needed attention. The

list included modifications to the heating system, renovations inside the clubhouse and some improvements to the golf course, including the purchase of an irrigation system controller. The estimated cost for all of this was \$160,000. Some members thought the clubhouse should be torn down and a new one built. This plan was proposed to the town, but it received a negative response. Therefore, in 1987, a plan to make a better facility of the clubhouse was implemented. As the work progressed, it was found that the wiring was more costly than anticipated, the fire sprinkler system was not to code and the covering material for the walls and ceilings had to be of a fire-retardant material. These items revised the estimated cost to the \$340,000 level. The renovations were undertaken to make a better facility of the clubhouse.



*Courtesy Butch Tougas
Our members are enjoying a warm Friday evening on the new clubhouse deck which was built in the summer of 1999. Live entertainment adds the finishing touch.*

However, while this work was in progress, a state fire marshal issued additional code violations for approximately 24 items, which were estimated to cost \$350,000. These new state fire codes had been recently written and became law on April 1, 1988. Another edict and more money!

In jeopardy of losing the liquor license by not being in conformance with the fire code, a method was sought to accomplish the necessary corrective action as soon as possible. The bank would lend money for the project, but only if the membership would accept an assessment and if the lease with the town could be extended by 10 to 15 years. Talks were held with the town for this purpose and in August 1989, the lease was extended to February 28, 2011. For this concession, the club agreed to

extended playing time for town residents. The members were assessed and the correctional work proceeded under the watchful eye of Beverly Accarpio. By July 1990, all fire code violations had been corrected.

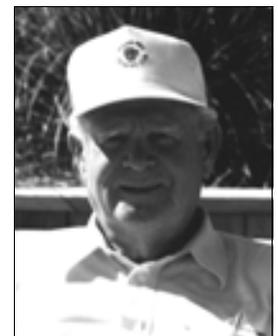
Also, near the end of 1989, another financial crisis arose owing to problems with the roof and, of course, **MORE IRRIGATION SYSTEM PROBLEMS!**

In 1993, a line of credit was approved for \$300,000 to pave the parking lot, vinyl side the clubhouse and golf shop, build accessibility ramps and restroom, construct a new maintenance building, and install a new freezer. By the end of 1996, this work was completed, membership stood at 305, and

finances were under control with no citations, edicts or demands requiring financial attention.

After all the foregoing trials and tribulations, a letter was received in 1998 from the Internal Revenue Service that heartened a financially-battered membership: Indian Hill Country Club had been approved as a tax-exempt corporation. Finally, some substantive financial relief!

Indian Hill has always enjoyed many exceptional golfers as members. Of the 330 handicaps currently maintained for men, 88 of them are single-digit. Many of these golfers, as well as others with higher



*Ray Donlin
President 1990 & 1991*



*Tony Davanzo
President 1992-1998*

handicaps, have participated in statewide and regional events, where they represent themselves and Indian Hill well.

The ladies of our club are also ardent golfers, and many enjoy participating in state events as well. To make golf

comfortable for everyone, the ladies organize themselves into nine- and 18-holers. When the nine-holers feel they are ready, they move up to the 18-holers. Both groups take their golf very seriously, so much so that several older ladies with respiratory problems continued to play with their oxygen bottles in tow!

Throughout each year, club tournaments are eagerly participated in. The “majors” are the Men’s and Ladies’ Club Championships, the Pro’s Trophy and the President’s Cup. The three-day member-member tournaments, held over the major holidays, are well attended, and the three-day member-guest tournament is always a sellout. Lively debate among the participants about their team’s ability to win always adds to the fun.

Over the years, the membership has enjoyed a great deal of social interaction. A-B-C-D tournaments were usually held one evening a week with dinner following. Mixed Scotch four-some tournaments were held on Friday nights and were also followed by dinner. After some weekend tournaments, the men organized softball games on the practice range. Many successful family picnics were held during the summer months. At one time, a “night-light”



*Butch Tougas, General Manager
Sequin Enterprises,
Restaurant Concessionaire*

tournament was held using a golf ball that glowed in the dark and a similar device attached to the flagstick. This endeavor was followed with a spaghetti dinner. (The spaghetti may very well have won this event.)

The members of Indian Hill held many dinner dances, awards nights and New Year’s Eve celebrations. Ethnic Nights were enthusiastically attended. There Irish Nights, Swedish Nights, Polish Nights, Italian Nights and even a League of Nations Night. Some Indian Hill members organized a bowling league for a winter activity and to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow golfers.

In May 1999, Indian Hill received two beautiful plaques in recognition of its Centennial Year; one from the United States



*Angelo Mancini, Head Starter (left), and Tom Raczkowski,
Assistant Golf Professional, keep things running smoothly around
the pro shop.*

Golf Association and the other from the Connecticut State Golf Association. The USGA plaque was presented at Indian Hill to Michael Gallon, president, and Jim Bedus, golf professional, by Paul Mersereau, a representative of the USGA. The CSGA plaque was presented to Michael at the celebration held at the Hartford Golf Club in honor of the CSGA’s own centennial. Indian Hill was one of the 12 charter members of the CSGA. A brief history of all 12 clubs was included in its anniversary booklet entitled *Connecticut State Golf Association, The First 100 Years*.



*1999 Indian Hill Country Club Board of Directors
seated, left to right: James Pzynski, Frank Romeo, Michael Gallon, Christopher Capsolas
standing, left to right: Joseph Budnick, Raymond Camarco, William Controvillas, Robert Heimgartner*



*Courtesy, CSGA/Derek Fowles
Willard V. Starkie, President, CSGA, presents a Centennial Plaque
to Indian Hill President Michael Gallon*



*Indian Hill's 100th year is recognized with a beautiful plaque presented by USGA representative Paul Mersereau to Michael Gallon and Jim Bedus
Courtesy Butch Tougas*

Since 1899, Indian Hill Country Club has experienced all gradations of despair and euphoria. It has revelled in the good times, but more important, it has endured the low times. That speaks volumes about the character of the membership and its ability and determination to overcome obstacles. Indian Hill has been the source of numerous lifelong memories for many people. It has been the focal point for creating lasting friendships. It has been the honing ground for its talented players who represented the club so well at outside events. It has been the catalyst for some to make golf their life's livelihood. For most members, it has been a magnet that draws them back to the course as soon as they can get there, for just a few more pleasurable holes. Indian Hill is most certainly a club to be proud of.

THE CLUB AND ITS MEMBERSHIP

ADDENDUM

Judy Stempien Good recently donated to Indian Hill a 1928 booklet about Sequin Golf Club. Unfortunately, it arrived too late to integrate its information into this history. It contained a few priceless pictures and some facts pertaining to the original land which are printed below:

“Back in the days of the Indian tribal chief, Sequin, the acres of rolling hills and shadowed dales that now form the course of Sequin Golf Club were wild and untrammled stretches of virgin forest. Chief Sequin used the banks of the pond east of the course for his camping ground, but in 1671 decided to move to another section of the state and sold the land on which the course is located to the town of Wethersfield, Connecticut. [During this period, Wethersfield encompassed the area

known today as Wethersfield *and* Newington. In 1871, it was split into two communities with the mountain being the dividing feature.]

“In the two centuries and a half that have intervened, much has happened to this former camping and hunting ground of the Sequins. It passed from devisor to devisee generation after generation through a succession of transfers until it was purchased by a group of enthusiastic golf players in New Britain, Connecticut. ... The name Sequin Golf Club, in memory of the old tribal chief, was selected.”

Some pictures in this booklet are shown below. The picture to the left shows not only the new clubhouse, but a small structure which could have been the first golf shop.



1928 Entrance to Sequin Golf Club



1928 Clubhouse Interior



Course Bridges of 1928

CLUBHOUSE



The Connecticut Magazine
*1899 clubhouse as viewed from the
northeast corner.*

*The arches underneath the porch were
in the front of the clubhouse that
overlooked the golf course.*



1899-1901 clubhouse as viewed from the south side.

According to *Harper's Golf Guide*, the original clubhouse was built in 1899 at a cost of \$1,300. Rod Chamberlain related that it was a frame structure of about 50 feet square that was heated with a fireplace. In July 1899, *The Hartford Courant* reported that "Contractor John Allen is building an addition to the clubhouse at the golf links, 10

by 12 feet, to be occupied by [Green]Keeper Henderson, who will remain at the grounds nights in the future." Look closely at the 1899-1901 photograph above.¹ A small structure can be seen extending from the rear. More than likely, that is the small addition built for Henderson.

In 1913, the veranda was extended on the

¹ There was a news article in *The Hartford Times* on January 5, 1969, in which this particular picture appeared. It was erroneously captioned as being a 1917 photo. The date of 1899 – 1901 would be more accurate. This is mentioned solely to preclude any confusion caused by the misdated picture.

CLUBHOUSE

northeast side at a cost of \$241. The exact date for the last enlargement to the original clubhouse is not definitely known. However, a good guess would place it about 1914, because the expense reports for that year showed that \$1,046.16 was spent for a new locker room facility. That may not sound like much money, but in 1914 it was a major expenditure. Both the longer veranda (*right side*) and the new extension (*left side, behind the tree*) are visible

in the picture below. Note the tee box standing between the two young golfers.

Shortly after the purchase of the club by the Sequin Golf Club, Inc., in 1917, plans were made to build a new clubhouse. This is the structure we are still enjoying today.

A later news article described the clubhouse house as a "...wonderful new clubhouse located on a high elevation with a commanding view..."



Front of the clubhouse as it looked in 1914

Courtesy Frank Romeo



This photograph of the nearly finished clubhouse appeared in The Hartford Times of September 1919. Its caption stated that it was 102 feet long by 43 feet wide and had a 15-foot wide veranda around three sides. The second floor would not be completed until later. It was presumed by some that the new clubhouse was built on the same location as the 1899 building. In actuality, the 1899 clubhouse was located just north of the 1919 building. Note that in the photograph above, a silhouette of the 1899 building is visible to the viewer's left.

The exact date cannot be found in the Building Department's office, because the town of Newington did not require building permits until 1929. But, of course, the tax man was ever-present. The Assessor's Abstract (more commonly called the Grand Listing of All Taxable Property) records a significant increase in the valuation of a structure for Sequin Golf Club. Until 1919, the tax assessments were listed at \$1,500 to \$2,000. In 1919, the assessment jumped to \$20,000, and in 1920, it moved up to \$30,000. This is fairly conclusive evidence that the majority of the new clubhouse work was accomplished in 1919, with the remainder being done in early 1920. Further confirmation of the date of construction for the new clubhouse can be found in an April 1920 news article in *The Hartford Times* that states: "...A handsome new clubhouse was completed

last year..."¹

Since the assessed value in 1920 was 65 percent of the actual value, it can be determined that the initial value of the new clubhouse was approximately \$46,000.

During the lighthearted years of the mid-1920s, Sequin Golf Club undertook extensive improvements to the clubhouse and golf course. The clubhouse was painted and wallpapered throughout, new furniture was installed and the dining room was enlarged.

The two stone pillars that form the gateway on entering club property from Golf Street were constructed in 1925 at the same time the course was being changed to the Ross design.

While on the subject of early structures, the 1920s maintenance building was located near the bend in today's sixth fairway, to the left of the left fairway sand bunker.



An undated postcard provided by one of our members depicts the clubhouse before the veranda was enclosed with screens for the summer and glass windows for the winter. Entries in the club minutes show that this enclosure was installed in 1937 by the Industrial Construction Co. "[The]..glassing in [of the] porch, insulating the roof and boarding in underneath [the] porch, also installing two unit heaters on [the] porch and two radiators in [the] dining room for \$1,048."

¹ A statement in *A Survey of the Historical and Architectural Resources of the Town of Newington, Connecticut*, dates the clubhouse to about 1915, with architect listed as Isaac Allen. This date is inaccurate, because in 1915, the members were talking about disbanding rather than building a new clubhouse.

CLUBHOUSE



Courtesy Ed Seremet
Ed Seremet provided a photograph of his wedding party putting on the practice green in front of the clubhouse. Gert and Ed were married in 1942.

Courtesy Stan Bedus
It is not known when the first golf shop was built. The photograph to the left shows the golf shop as it was in the late 1940s. Over the years, it has been of various sizes. In 1955, at a cost of approximately \$18,000, a new golf shop was built just south of the old one. The contractor was the Brooklawn Construction Co. This 1955 structure is still in use today.



Courtesy Elmer Nicholson
The entrance to the clubhouse has had many variations over the years. The photograph above shows a beautiful flower garden inside a rock wall.



*Courtesy Stan Bedus
1948 Maintenance Building*

Actually, it was little more than a lean-to that burned in the 1930s. It is not known where its replacement was located. In 1948, not long after World War II, a new concrete-block building was erected to the right of today's 18th fairway, where it still stands. This building fell into disrepair and in 1994 a new maintenance building was constructed alongside the 1948 building at a cost of \$238,000.

In 1964, the Malmfeldt Associates architectural firm was hired to design and manage extensive renovations to the clubhouse. The photograph on the next page shows Joseph Materese, Chairman of the Building Committee, and Club Manager Tony Stempion seated on the porch planning the renovations. The estimated price for the renovations was \$125,000, but the final price is not known.

The old front porch that ran the length of the clubhouse was torn down. The outside wall separating the porch and the ballroom was removed, creating a much larger ballroom and



1999 Maintenance Building

dining facility, as well as a private dining room across from it, which today is called the Metacomet Room.

As *The Hartford Times* reported, the new construction produced a "...dining room boasting huge picture windows overlooking the rolling fairways..."

Additional work included expanding the locker room facilities, a lounge and a new ladies' room. Also, to enhance the front entrance, a blue stone terrace was installed and a 90-foot loggia to connect the golf shop with the clubhouse was built.

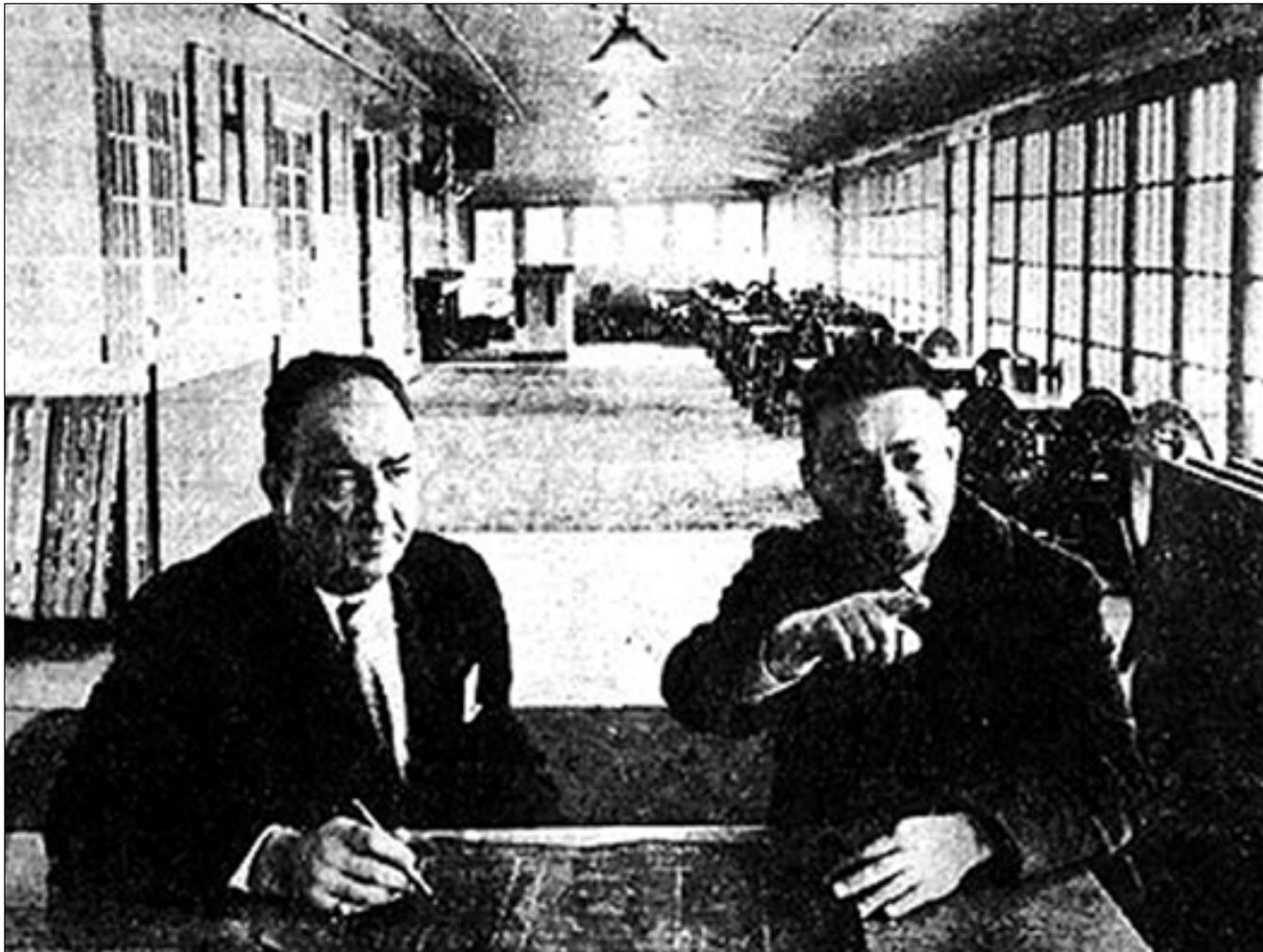
A room beneath the front entrance was excavated to house the golf cars. One news account reported that blasting was necessary to accomplish this work. However, in 1991, it was necessary to build a golf car storage "barn," because the fire marshal determined that



1999 Cart Barn

potentially dangerous fumes were created in the process of recharging batteries. The new structure was a 40' x 80' metal "Kirby" building constructed at a cost of approximately \$100,000.

Since 1964, other changes have occurred to the clubhouse, the majority of which were done from 1984 through 1996. In 1999, a large outside deck was built adjoining the grillroom with two sets of access doors from the grillroom. It was furnished with patio tables and chairs and offers a pleasant setting for members to have a refreshing drink while discussing the day's round of golf. (A photograph of the deck is shown on page 35.)



Courtesy The Hartford Courant

*Joe Materese (left) and Tony Stempion discuss 1964 clubhouse changes.
Note the glass enclosure around the porch.*

CLUBHOUSE BEFORE 1964



Courtesy Frank Romeo

CLUBHOUSE AFTER 1964



Indian Hill Photograph



First fairway and 18th green

GOLF COURSE

Over the years, the golf course has had four basic configurations. The original nine holes (1899 through 1912) were laid out in September 1899. The distances in yards were first hole, 350; second, 250; third, 310; fourth, 160; fifth, 450; sixth, 245; seventh, 200; eighth, 350; ninth, 500, for a total of 2,815 yards. There is no documentation showing the layout, but a good guess is that the holes ran in a fashion that paralleled the east and west pasture land fences as noted on the 1912 map of Louis Oldershaw. The present-day fourth, fifth, sixth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, a shortened thirteenth, and the eighteenth (if played from the vicinity of today's thirteenth tee) are holes laid out in conformance to this corridor. (See the map on page 12.) The records at the USGA seem to indicate that the course remained as originally laid out until the 1912 purchase of the property from the Welles families. From 1899 to 1912, less than \$2,000 was spent to construct and

improve these original nine holes. In his March 13, 1912, letter to William Booth, E. A. Moore states: "In regard to the cost of laying out the links, I am told by those who had the matter in charge that the original nine holes that we played on first cost between \$600 and \$700, including all charges, building of bunkers, rolling and getting in shape. The whole cost of the present course [1912] was

less than \$2,000, including the original \$600 or \$700."

A diagram showing the *probable* layout of the initial nine holes can be found on page 50. The assumed layout was based on the known configuration of the 1912 - 1921 layout as well as the pasture lot restrictions shown on the survey map of 1912.

The second course configuration was designed in 1912 and was in use through 1920. Obviously anticipating the 1912 purchase of the property from the Welles families, the club

This will show a saving in the next twenty-five years to the Golf Club and its members of some \$30,000.00 over the price to purchase the Maple Hill Golf Club links, and I think any of those members of your board who have seen the Kensington location and its possibilities will agree there is no comparison between the two for a permanent location for a country and golf club.

In regard to the method of making up my figures, I find the original golf house cost \$1200.00 and additions thereto since that time have amounted to not over \$400.00 or \$500.00, so that I figure that the present golf house ought to be sold either by purchasing the present lot or otherwise at a loss of \$500.00.

In regard to the cost of laying out the links, I am told by those who had the matter in charge that the original nine holes that we played on first cost between \$600.00 and \$700.00, including all charges, building of bunkers, rolling and getting in shape. The whole cost, ^{of the present course} was less than \$2000.00, including the original \$600.00 or \$700.00. I have not had time to look into the matter carefully but I did telephone to some friends in Middletown and found that the Arrawana Golf Club links of nine holes cost between \$2500.00 and \$3000.00 to lay out. The new location would have the advantage that the nine holes could be so placed that they would eventually become a part of the eighteen hole course, which possibly may not be the case with the Maple Hill Golf Club links.

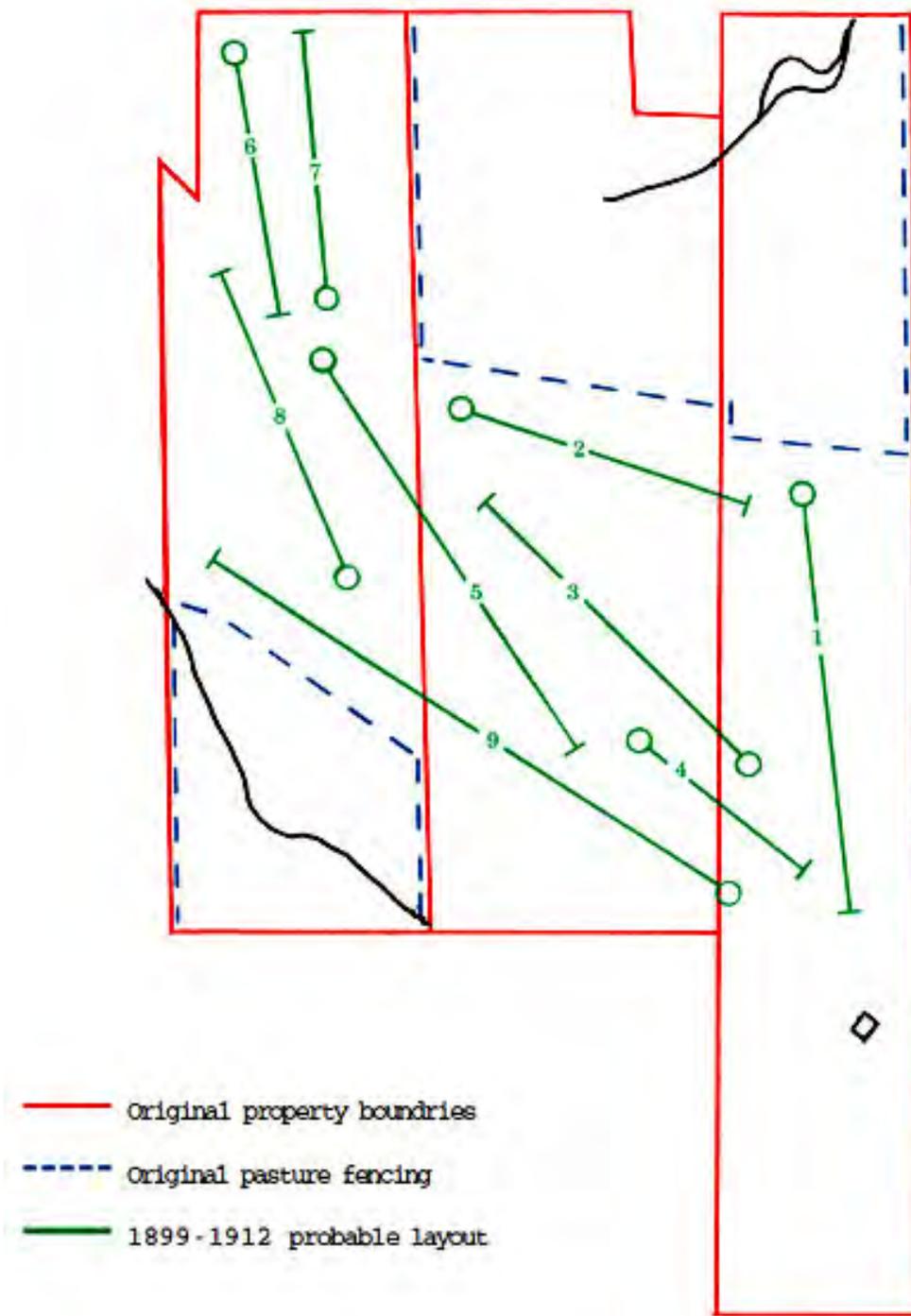
Yours very truly,



This is the second part of E. A. Moore's 1912 letter to William Booth making a last-minute plea to purchase the Hart Quarter property instead of the Maple Hill property.

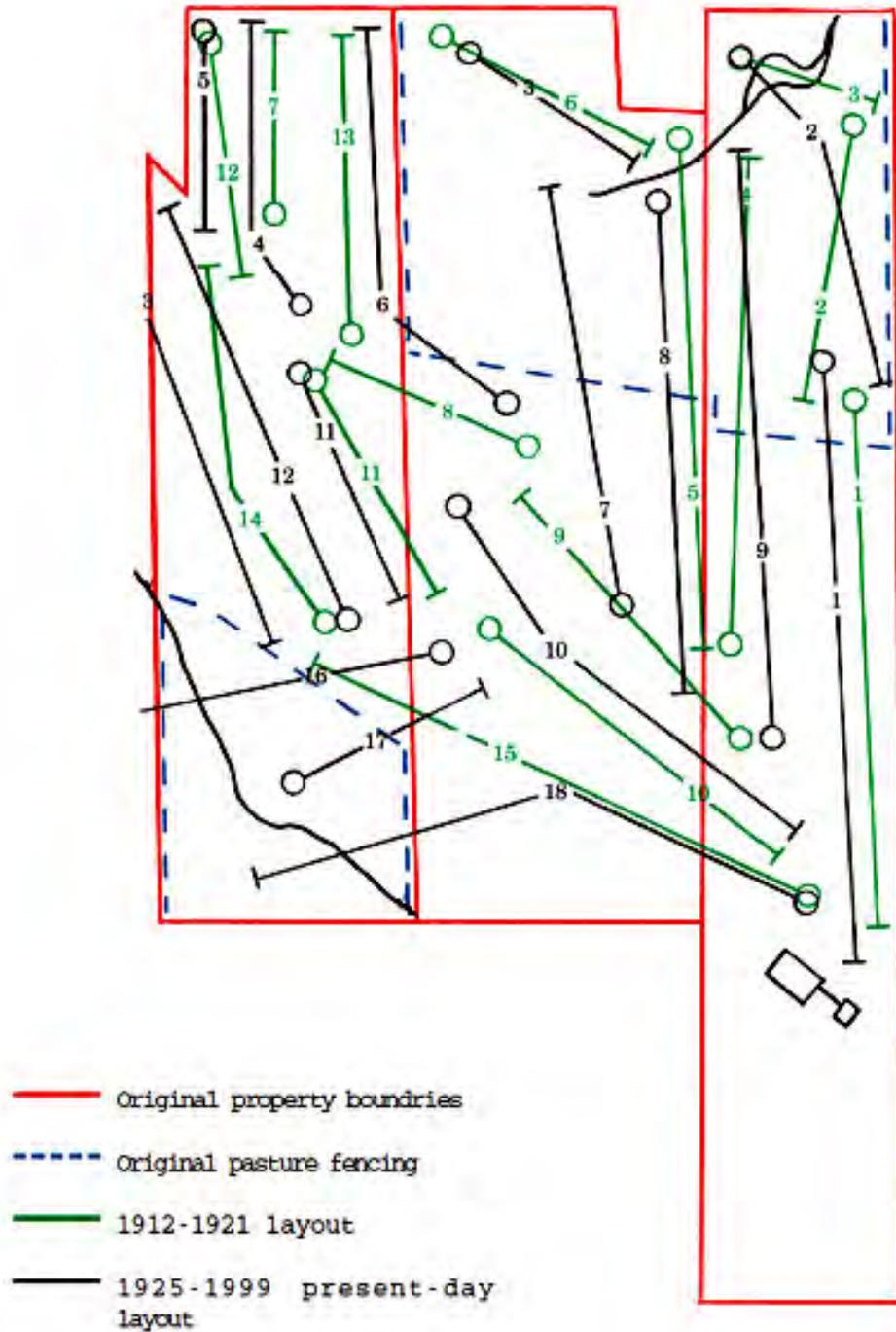
(Continued on page 52)

PROBABLE LAYOUT OF COURSE 1899-1912 (9 HOLES)



This probable layout of 1899 was based on property boundaries, property use restrictions and knowledge of the 1912 layout, and assumes that some holes were left intact for 1912.

1912-1921 COURSE LAYOUT (15 HOLES)



This layout was described in an article by *The Hartford Times* on April 29, 1920, when a comparison was made with the 18-hole layout then being built. Note that the future 14th and 15th holes are *outside* the boundaries of the original property.

THE NEW BRITAIN GOLF CLUB						
EXPENDITURES ON NEW COURSE- 1912-1913-1914-1915-1916						
	<u>1912</u>	<u>1913</u>	<u>1914</u>	<u>1915</u>	<u>1916</u>	<u>Total</u>
Labor,	\$1169.47	1454.13	683.90	328.08	806.76	4142.34
Teams & Helper,	314.00	393.38	147.50	191.55	80.65	1127.08
Dynamite & Exploders, . . .	139.07	336.10		42.55		517.82
Grass Seed,	259.70	210.15	104.08			573.93
Fertilizer,	58.80	33.00	225.00			316.80
Trolley Fare (help),	48.10	33.65	5.20			86.95
Freight on Seed, etc., . . .	7.35	1.87	7.29			16.51
Tools,	7.53	8.40		3.38		19.31
R.D.Pryde, Services & Exp... 23.25						23.25
Sand,	12.10				2.35	14.45
Miscellaneous Supplies, . . .						9.78
Drain Pipe,		55.40		11.20		64.60
Turf,					125.00	125.00
	<u>\$2039.37</u>	<u>2533.86</u>	<u>1172.97</u>	<u>576.86</u>	<u>1014.76</u>	<u>7037.82</u>

New golf course expenditures, 1912 through 1916

spent money for course consultations with Robert D. Pryde, golf professional, clubmaker and course designer from New Haven. After the purchase, the course was expanded by six new holes for a total of 15 holes. To make an 18-hole round, it was necessary to replay holes one, two and four. The new course yardage was 5,643 yards.

The records indicate that \$2,039 was spent on this "new" course in 1912; \$2,533 in 1913; \$1,172 in 1914; \$576 in 1915 and \$1,014 in 1916. (In 1912, \$57.80 was spent on goats! Maybe they worked better than the mowers.) Also, a fair amount of money was spent on dynamite. In 1912, it was \$139; in

1913, \$336 and in 1915, \$43. (No indication was given of what they were blowing up.) This 15-hole configuration is shown in green on the layout diagram on page 51.

The third course configuration (1921 through 1925) was started in 1920. In May 1920, E. Welles Eddy sold 15.7 acres of his adjacent farmland to the club. This property basically formed a rectangle 102 yards wide by 825 yards long, bounded at the western end by Green Street and running easterly into the property of Adweeja Budney on Willard Avenue. (Note the yellow area outlined on the diagram on page 54.) The property forms today's 14th and 15th fairways.

This additional land allowed for expansion into a full 18-hole course that measured 6,389 yards with a par of 71. The work was fairly extensive because it was started in 1920 and was not completed until September 17, 1921, when the formal opening was held with a celebration tournament. With the work done to the course, "keener interest, more enjoyable golf and a larger membership were in prospect" for the Sequin Golf Club. This course layout is shown in green on the layout diagram on page 54.

A news article found in *The Hartford Times*, dated April 29, 1920, describes this new course layout in hole-by-hole detail, and also makes a comparison between this design and the previous 1912 layout. It is from these descriptions that the second and third course layouts can be verified.

The new 1921 scorecard would have read:

<u>Hole</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>Par</u>	<u>Hole</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>Par</u>
1	500	5	10	455	4
2	248	4	11	208	3
3	150	3	12	165	3
4	560	5	13	406	4
5	330	4	14	400	4
6	275	4	15	500	5
7	196	3	16	275	4
8	230	3	17	400	4
9	<u>450</u>	<u>4</u>	18	<u>580</u>	<u>5</u>
Out	2939	35	In	3389	36
Total			6328	71	

The Hartford Times kept its readers up to date by printing a later news article about the construction at the golf course. It read: "With the expenditure of approximately \$20,000 [another news article stated this cost to be \$30,000] in the purchase of land for three new holes, the revamping and rebuilding of several of the greens and changing the location of several others, the Sequin Golf Club at Maple Hill plans to have one of the

finest golf courses in this part of New England when work now under way is completed.

"Sixteen acres of land north of the old course have been purchased from E. Welles Eddy of Newington. Robert D. Pryde of the Race Brook Country Club of New Haven, a golf course architect of established reputation, has drawn the plans. The governors of the club and a committee consisting of John A. Caulkins and Wilson Fenn, specially appointed to supervise the work, approved the plans and work of rebuilding is now going on.

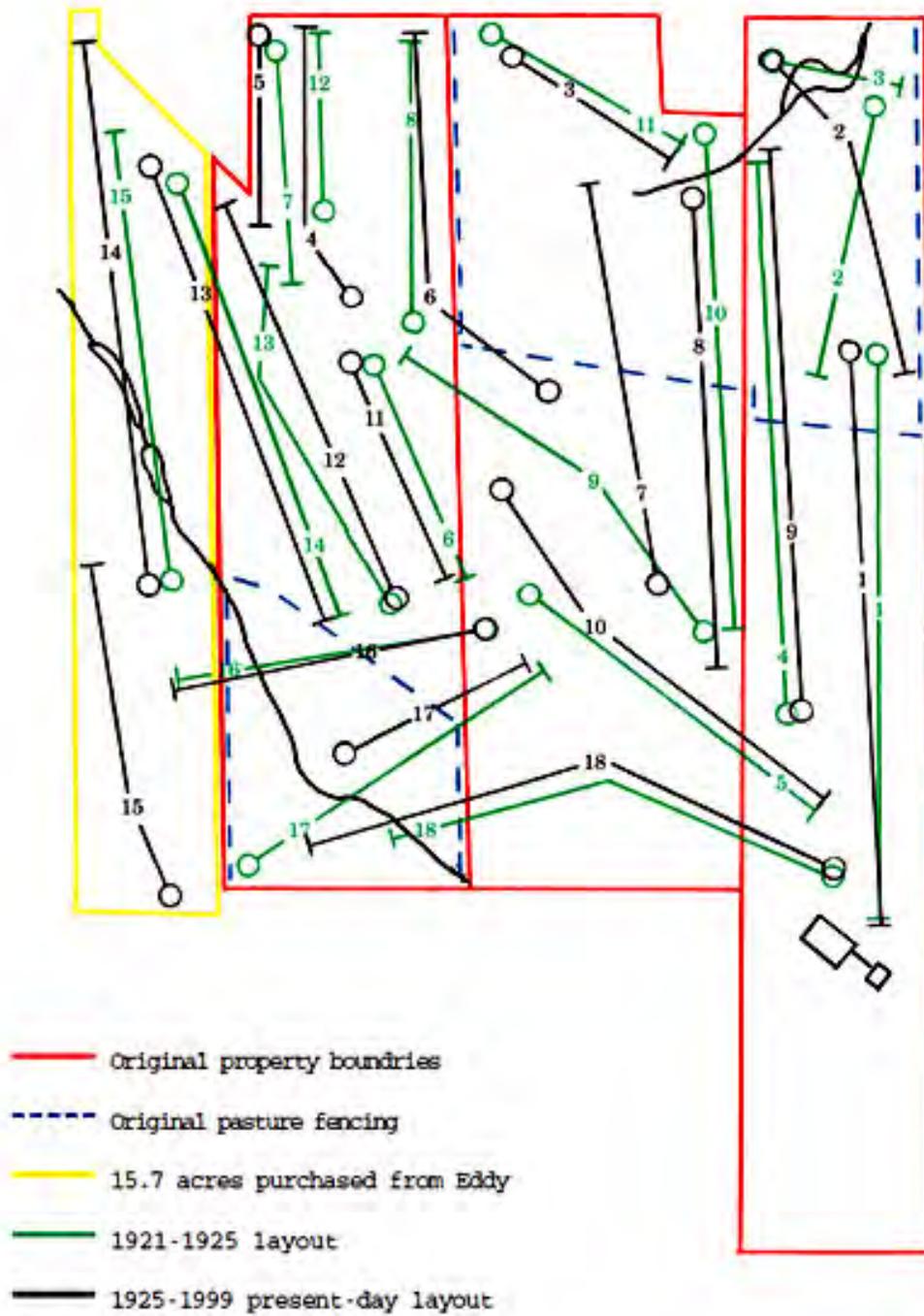
"The course heretofore used by the club had but fifteen holes, and in order to play a regulation eighteen-hole game, it was necessary to play twice over three of the holes. It was principally for that reason that the new property was acquired. Now with a combination of the old arrangement and several new ideas made possible by the additional sixteen acres, a course longer and more up-to-date is to be provided."

This design by Robert Pryde did not utilize the land of today's 15th hole as such, but rather, a green was built in the vicinity of today's 15th green that was used for the 17th hole to provide for a 400-yard par-4. This area (today's 15th fairway) was once referred to as being "boggy," which may explain why it was not used at that time.

In interviews with Henry Budney, Mike Budney and Andy Agogliati, all remembered this particular course design. An aerial photograph owned by Henry Budney, taken circa 1922, shows this design. A copy of this same aerial photograph currently hangs in today's grillroom. It was a gift to Indian Hill by Dr. Walter Lechowicz.

In 1925 and into 1926, the golf course was completely redesigned and rebuilt for its fourth configuration. No explanation can be found why, after less than four years, the club embarked on another major course design. This fourth design was the work of Robert Jack Ross and is the course layout

1921-1925 COURSE LAYOUT (18 HOLES)



This 1921 layout was described in an article by The Hartford Times, dated April 3, 1926.

used today. Preliminary work was done in 1924, but most of the construction took place in 1925, and it was completed in 1926. For this project, the club hired a golf course engineer by the name of Orrin Smith.¹ *The Hartford Times* reported on September 10, 1924: "The Sequin Golf Club of Newington has announced that it has engaged the services of Orrin Smith, golf course engineer, for several years connected as a golf course builder with Donald Ross, America's premier links architect. ... Smith had charge of the construction work at Shuttle Meadow when that course was built, under Willie Park, and later joined Donald Ross. Smith built the Longmeadow links near Springfield, pronounced to be one of the finest tests of golf in the country. The course was completed in record time and is only a year old. Smith's last job was at the Buffalo Country Club, from where he comes to Sequin. He is expected to report within a few days."

President Ross began 1925 with a membership meeting at which he explained the work to be done and proclaimed that good golf would be on tap at Sequin during the season despite the reconstruction work going on.

Mike Budney remembers much of the construction of this fourth layout. For this construction project, the work was done with workhorses and dump wagons. Local farmers were hired to come in with their teams of horses to do the heavy work, and occasionally a steam shovel was also used.

The land was originally pastureland with some fruit trees, but for the most part it was very open. To create a more interesting landscape, many trees were planted. Many of these trees are still growing on the course today.²

Mike related one unfortunate incident when workers were doing some blasting to form the ditch that runs from the third tee over to the

fourth tee. A fuse went off prematurely, killing one of the workmen.

Work continued through 1925 with continuing news coverage by *The Hartford Times*. Some of these articles are quoted below:

May 5, 1925: "The thrill that comes to few men during a lifetime – that of seeing his tee shot hit a green and roll gently into the hole for the perfect ace – came to John MacMorris of the Sequin Golf Club Saturday afternoon. The stunt took place on the tricky seventh [today's fifth hole] where the green is temporarily and completely surrounded by all sorts of pits and mounds that are designed to protect the new green under construction. To hit the green is some trick in itself as it is of pocket handkerchief size, but to register an ace there would seem like a billion to one shot. The seventh now measures about 140 yards and all that one sees from the tee now is broken ground and mounds that look like small craters, so altogether it is the hardest one-shotter imaginable." (See photo on pg. 56.)

May 19, 1925: "The Sequin course is coming along wonderfully well with its new construction work under the able supervision of Orrin Smith, and it won't be long before all the bareness of the broken ground there will be covered with slick, tender green covering. The Sequin landscape presents a remarkable change since last fall, with its dozens of newly cut traps and natural looking mounds that dot and pit the terrain everywhere. It is indeed a big job that is going on at the Maple Hill links. Already experts that have an eye for seeing what the Sequin links will really be when completed, say that it will be rated among top-notch courses in New England. The course is in play and is being kept up to snuff while new work is going on and golfers may enjoy the game there with very little inconvenience."

¹ See the chapter, "Postscript," for additional information regarding Orrin Smith.

² It was Bob Smith (1933-1952 golf professional) who was responsible for the planting of the many pine trees we find around the course today. He obtained these trees from a West Hartford nursery.

August 29, 1925: "...to the extreme delight of the Sequin golfers, three of the new greens were thrown open for the finish of the championship. The fourth, fifth and seventeenth. These carpets have a fine catch of covering and are knitting thick and velvety. They are the perfect type of greens being scientifically trapped with plenty of swing and modern style. Several of the others will be put into commission from time to time. The recent dry spell held back progress of the Sequin greens, but they are coming along again rapidly."

September 22, 1925: "Sequin has thrown open several of its new greens for the balance of the season, which stiffens up play on that course. Orrin Smith is doing a great job there and fulfilling all the promises he made earlier in the season. When the full layout is open and rearranged, it will be a brand new Sequin that golfers will have to cope with. The modern greens and array of traps, cunningly and appropriately placed about the course, makes it a real golf course now and one of which the club may feel justly proud."

On April 3, 1926, a rather lengthy, but comprehensive article appeared in *The Hartford Times* concerning the course reconstruction. Lengthy or not, it would be impossible to paraphrase this article and still retain its flavor. It follows, verbatim:

"The entire reconstruction program has been carried out and there will be no more new work, barring possibly a few minor details.

"Though the rebuilding of the course involved a big outlay of money, no assessment will be laid against the membership, a

very favorable plan of financing the work having been arranged; also there will be no increase in dues.

"A tremendous amount of work has been involved. Every one of the eighteen greens has been rebuilt, although the original plan contemplated only a few new greens, being planted with true, creeping bent stolons, the finest turf obtainable. Some of these new greens have been in use since last September.

"Two entirely new holes have been developed and are at playing status. One takes the place of the old ninth; the other is the new fifteenth, which does not take the place of any former hole and is built out of the woods and bog.

"The character of the new construction has been such as to produce high class golf on every hole. A view of the new fifth hole [the old seventh] is printed herewith and gives a good idea of the revamped course with the heavy, but entirely fair trapping. (See photo below.)

"Players will find more traps than formerly; in fact, a total of 102 traps and bunkers have been built and fifty mounds distributed about the course. Sixteen thousand lineal feet, or about three miles of tile underdrain, has been placed where it will do the most good in keeping the fairways dry, and about 500 trees, mostly cedars, but with a sprinkling of

elms, maples and birches, have been set out to form backgrounds for some of the new greens and tees and to divide parallel fairways.

"Numerous rustic bridges have been placed at brook crossings; they add greatly to the beauty of the course and furnish a sturdy pathway



The Hartford Times
The 5th hole under construction in 1925

as the golfer crosses the brook to the next tee.

"The view of the course from the clubhouse looking south has been greatly changed, groups of trees having been set out along the fairways and around the ninth green and tenth tee.

"The ninth green is now near the clubhouse as is the new tenth tee, an ideal arrangement. It is planned to place two practice holes west of the clubhouse, one for use of the professional in giving lessons, the other for club members.

"Signs will be placed directing the golfer from hole to hole until members are familiar with the new sequence of holes.

"It is expected that the new course will be open for play April 13. Weather, of course, will be the deciding factor.

"Sequin has been changed from an ordinary course to one of championship quality and its membership will be justified in feeling proud of it.

"It has not been made a tricky course nor one that is difficult for the average player and prohibitive for the poor player. Still, it will be interesting enough to be a real test for the crack player and will compare favorably with any in this section.

"The construction work has been supervised by R. J. Ross as President and S. G. Pierce as Chairman of the Grounds Committee. They have given unsparingly of their time and energy and their efforts have resulted in a real golf course, one where members will take pleasure in inviting their friends to play and affiliate.

"Orrin Smith, a former member of the staff of Donald J. Ross, noted golf architect, was engaged to carry out the revamping of the course and the splendid result is a tribute to his talents as a golf engineer. Mr. Smith was engineer on the construction of the Shuttle Meadow course. On this Sequin project, he had valuable assistance from W. W. Reynolds, who has been greenskeeper (sic) at Sequin for several seasons.

"When the second hole is played, a big

improvement will be found from a golfing standpoint. This is now the old second hole and third combined with the green in about the same spot as the old third green but entirely rebuilt. The pond has been deepened, so that, in the future, it will contain clear water.

"A brief description of the holes follows:

"Number One Hole – New green built slightly to the left of the old one, with a swale running along the left of the fairway, new traps built in the fairway, and traps on either side of the green. The tee on this hole is unusually large and of the double terrace type and is an outstanding feature of this hole.

"Number Two Hole – Is the old second and third combined and is a feature hole, an excellent elbow type with woods on the right; three hundred yards from the tee is a large pond to carry to the new green which has been elevated. A grass swale runs the length of the fairway on the left.

"Number Three Hole – Is the old eleventh, and is a fine iron shot hole of one hundred and sixty yards; the green sits on the hill closely trapped all around, leaving a narrow opening at the approach, eight new traps have been built here.

"Number Four – Is the old twelfth; the new green has been built to the left of the old one, twenty yards longer; the green is long and narrow, with traps cutting in on both sides of the green which is on top of the hill.

"Number Five Hole – Is the old seventh, with the tee on top of the hill and the new green built on the flat below, surrounded with ten traps, some dotting the fairway in front of the green; a fine mashie-type hole.

"Number Six – Is the old eighth. On this hole several new traps have been built in the fairway, and the corner of the woods on the left has been cut away, as well as the large oak; the new green has been raised on the left corner, and a swale built on the right of the green.

"Number Seven – Is a complete new hole; a footpath leads from the sixth green through the woods to this tee, which sits in the

woods, the fairway is lined on either side with woods to a new green built up with several traps in front and on the sides, and a group of trees planted around the green.

“Number Eight – Is the old tenth, with a new green built in front of the brook; now a par four. The green is built up, affording a view of the green on the second shot; two bull’s eye traps have been built in the fairway and mounds added on the sides of the green, a rustic bridge is placed over the brook to the ninth tee.

“Number Nine – Is the old fourth; a new green has been built, very undulating, with traps cutting in on the front sides, and a swale around the back. New trees surround the back of this green.

“Number Ten – Is the old fifth; fine, new traps built all along the right side of the fairway; this hole now measures four hundred yards and a new green was built with traps set on the sides of this green making a narrow entrance for the second shot; trees have been set out dividing the fairways.

“Number Eleven – Is the old sixth. A new green has been built and traps and mounds set out on the left edge of the green.

“Number Twelve – Is the old thirteenth; new green built with new traps on the left and mounds on the right side of the green. A new tee was built below the old one, making a more direct line to the green.

“Number Thirteen – Is the old fourteenth; a new fairway was built here and the green was extended east of the old one, and new traps added near the green.

“Number Fourteen – Is the old fifteenth; a new tee has been built on the hill in back of the old one, making the hole longer and a new green was built with traps and bunkers guarding the green; a new sand trap has been placed under the big oak tree on the left, in the rear of the green. [Sadly, it was necessary to remove this tree in 1998.]

“Number Fifteen – Is a newly completed hole, made through the woods and bogland; a new bottle-shaped green has been

built, with nine traps set in the approach to the green; the fairway is built and completed. This is an unusually fine drive and pitch hole.

“Number Sixteen – Is the same hole as the old sixteenth. Two bull’s eye traps have been built in the face of the hill; the green has been enlarged and banked up at the back with new traps around the green.

“Number Seventeen – Is a new hole of 195 yards; mounds are used here to guard the green and the brook is now in the back of the green with a new bridge crossing to the eighteenth tee.

“Number Eighteen – Has a new green, saddle type, well undulated with new traps and mounds built on the left of the green; this green has been elevated on the left considerably, and new traps have been built in the hill on the left side of the fairway to catch the hooked drive.”

The New Sequin Card

Hole	Yards	Par	Hole	Yards	Par
1	503	5	10	400	4
2	375	4	11	232	3
3	167	3	12	372	4
4	260	4	13	439	4
5	165	3	14	494	5
6	428	4	15	350	4
7	300	4	16	270	4
8	430	4	17	195	3
9	<u>550</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>465</u>	<u>5</u>
Out	3178	36	In	3217	36
Total				6395	72

(This concludes the April 3, 1926 article from *The Hartford Times*.)

The formal opening of the remodeled course took place on May 15, 1926. It was a gala affair.

Toward the end of the 1930s, the course was lengthened a little and over the years other changes have occurred, but the basic Ross design survives.

GOLF COURSE NOTES

An aerial photograph of Indian Hill taken in 1996 with an overlay of the property boundaries as they were in 1899 when the original grounds were leased, as well as the additional 15.7 acres that Mr. Eddy sold to the club, can be seen on page 59. The red lines show the original three lots, the yellow lines show the 15.7 acres purchased from Mr. Eddy and the blue lines indicate where the fences were located for the pastures.

Until 1970, a ditch ran diagonally across the 14th fairway. This area was in dire need of drainage. Eddie Bedus, the course superintendent at the time, promoted the idea of making two ponds in the fairway to provide for drainage and for esthetic reasons. This change was approved and the work was done over 1970 and 1971 by the Frank Ross Construction Co. of Newington. (Again, this Ross is no relation to any other Ross mentioned in this history.)

In years past, two particularly significant trees always caught the golfer's attention, even though they appeared to be innocuous. One was on the eighth hole in the vicinity of the landing area of the tee shot at the edge of the right rough. It was an Ironwood tree, a member of the beech family but "lovingly" known at Indian Hill as the "Iron Tree," and for good reason. It seemingly had a special magnet in it that had a talent for luring balls underneath its gnarly, ground-hugging branches. Once in the grasp of the tree's limbs, it invariably cost the golfer one or more strokes. This tree is being referred to in this text in the past tense even though remnants of it are still in place, holding on by a very tenuous thread of life, possibly with the thought in mind that it might still catch a few more balls.

The second tree of note was a very large oak in the right rough of the 12th fairway, about

130 yards short of the green. It was situated just beyond the landing area of the drive and had an extremely large limb that extended out into the right third of the fairway. It was only about 15 to 20 feet off the ground. If a tee shot ended up on the right side of the fairway, there was that limb to contend with. The golfer had better know how to hit a low one. That tree was always on the player's mind when setting up the tee shot. The large limb over the fairway was lost due to weather, and the tree itself had to be removed several years ago due to aging.

During the 1990s, many course improvements were made. A new back tee built in 1992 lengthened the seventh hole, and a new back tee was built in 1993 that lengthened the eighth hole. During 1997, improvements were made to the fourteenth hole with the building of rock-walled dams. Also in 1997, the first tee was improved. Extensive work rebuilding the sand bunkers on the sixteenth fairway was done in 1998, and a very large sand bunker was built to the left of the 17th green in 1999. The course currently measures 6,451 yards from the back tees and plays to a par of 72.

The Board considered an irrigation system for the course in 1948. At that time, they heard an extensive presentation by the Irrigation Equipment Co. of Eugene, Oregon, that proposed a system having 2,500 feet of main piping laid mainly on top of the ground and 2,400 feet of laterals with couplings every 60 feet. The total cost was estimated to be \$10,000 plus installation costs. The Minutes of the Board noted that: "It was voted not to proceed with any installation at this time."

The first fairway watering system was installed in 1970. The installation was done by the Larchmont Engineering Co. of Lexington,



*Courtesy Aero Graphics Corp.
1996 aerial photograph of Indian Hill with an overlay of the original
property boundaries, Eddy's lot, and the pasture fencing.*



The 14th fairway in 1999

MA. Their bid came in at \$135,450, but according to the Board Minutes of August 1970, the final cost was \$115,752. The system made a much nicer course and made it play much longer as well. In this year of 1999, the club is in the process of planning for a new watering system. The old one is just too tired to repair — too many broken underground pipes and too many equipment failures.

In recent years, many trees, shrubs and sand bunkers have been added, and other renovations have taken place as well. The end result is that the course is very pretty and presents a definite challenge to golfers. The 1915 dissenters should see the course now!

A large sand bunker existed across the first fairway during the 1950s. It was about 100

yards out, just past the 10th tee and was about 60 - 70 feet wide. The women hated it.

Until the area behind the golf shop came into use about 1960, Indian Hill had no practice range. Any practicing at Indian Hill was done from a practice tee to the right of the first tee between the golf car path and the parking area next to the first tee. Another practice tee was located near today's tenth tee. Both were mostly used for lessons and were almost always used with caddies to shag the balls, because the landing area was in an active playing fairway. When players teed off, practice or lessons were temporarily halted. The current practice range had drainage installed in the landing area in 1998. In 1999, the teeing area of the range is being improved upon and irrigation will be added shortly.

The tongue of the fairway that extends up the left side of the pond on the fourteenth fairway is known by some of our senior members as “Faxon’s Corner.” Sometime during the 1930s, a Mr. Faxon from Aetna Insurance was consistently forced to use this path to the green because he was a very short hitter – hence, “Faxon’s Corner.”

Until the late 1960s, a “hot dog shack” was located among the trees adjacent to the eleventh tee. This small building originally functioned as a storm shelter. In 1956, the structure was used to sell soft drinks and packaged snacks. It was modified in 1959 to accommodate a propane grill along with other facilities to serve hot dogs and hamburgers. Being in a strategic location, it served the members well through most of the 60s. However, vandals broke in one night and set it ablaze, which caused the members to be reluctant about rebuilding the shack. The concrete foundation is still there.

On the fourth hole, about 100 yards from the green on the left side of the fairway, a small level area can be seen that used to serve as a green in the early 1920s. It was the seventh hole for the 1912–1921 design, and the 12th hole for the 1921–1925 design. It was played as a par 3 of 165 yards.

On the fifth hole, about 30 yards behind the back men’s tee and near the tree line, a piece of concrete with a round hole in it can be found in the ground. This pad used to support a rain shelter sometime in the 1920s. It had benches both inside and out and was very attractive.

When standing on today’s front men’s tee of the eighth hole, about 30 yards out and

slightly to the left, one can see an area of raised fairway. This used to be the green for the ninth hole in the early 20s before the Ross design was implemented.

About 90 yards short of today’s 10th green and in the left rough sits a Honey Locust tree with depressions in the ground around it. The tree is located in a fairly flat area that was the fifth green for the 1921–1925 design, and the depressions around the tree were sand bunkers. It was a 330-yard par-4 hole played from the area of today’s 10th tee.

The Robert Pryde design of 1921–1925 was laid out so that the seventeenth hole played as a par-4 of 400 yards. A description of the hole places its green almost at the location of today’s fifteenth green. A very large boulder once rested just to the rear of this green. That very same boulder now resides in the garden next to today’s thirteenth tee.



*Courtesy Stan Bedus
The sixth fairway looking back toward the tee
and Willard Avenue, ca. 1948*

In mid-1963, the 15th green was replaced and not used again until the 1964 season.

During the tenure of golf professional Bob Smith, Jim Curtin, the club president, and Johnny Paul, the greenkeeper, took it upon themselves to arbitrarily remove about 50 sand bunkers from the course. They deemed these particular bunkers to be a mowing nuisance. It was said that when Smith heard about it, being an old Scotsman enamored with bunkers, he went “crazy.”

Sometime in the 1920s, the practice of keeping a “water boy” at the second hole was started for the purpose of retrieving golf balls hit into the pond. Caddies were assigned to this coveted duty by the golf shop. The “water boy” would sit near the pond to watch for errant balls hit into the water so he could wade in barefooted to retrieve the wayward ball for its owner. If he found the ball, he received \$.10. Mike Budney was frequently assigned this duty.

Henry Budney and others had the job of weeding the greens in the mid-20s. This was accomplished by laying parallel strings across the green at two-foot intervals to define an area across the green. Then a crew of six or eight youngsters would kneel on burlap sacks to weed their sector with a pocketknife. They were paid \$.20 an hour.

In the mid-1920s, Stephen Budney, Mike and Henry’s father, mowed the tees with a hand mower. Frank Grabowski, Cliff’s father, also mowed tees and greens. At this time, grass clippings were not picked up from the greens as they were mowed. (That would be a real “rub-of-the-green.”) Benjamin “Bunny” Canfield mowed the fairways with his horse and single mower. All three of these men

lived next to the course. The house adjacent to the second green was owned by Bunny Canfield. That area was known as “Canfield Corner,” or “Canfield’s Crossing.”

In 1962, repeated complaints by our 2nd-hole neighbor about balls in his yard prompted the installation of a six-foot chain-link fence along the property line.

In 1971, a subsequent owner of Canfield’s house was apparently disgruntled over something to do with Indian Hill golfers, for it was noted in the minutes of the Board of Directors that the fence separating the two properties had been electrified by the bordering neighbor. A letter was sent!

In the 1930s, Newington had a constable by the name of Jack Walsh. (Walsh Avenue was named for him.) He was so protective of the golf course against intruders that he would dress as a woman, carry a golf bag and look for trespassers. They would definitely be arrested. (After resorting to these dubious tactics, it is easy to understand why he would be pretty surly upon catching someone.)

The hurricane of 1938 fostered several tornadoes, one of which found its way along a path of the thirteenth tee, the twelfth green and the fourth green and fairway, destroying many oak trees and wreaking havoc in general.

At one time, today’s seventeenth green was renowned throughout Connecticut as being one of the best in the state.

Several of our elder members remember that during the 1920s and before, two buckets were placed at each teeing area, one with water and the other with sand. The proper mixture of each would produce a suitable ball tee.

In 1961, consideration was given to making the 15th hole a dog-leg to the left to an area behind the 18th tee, but this was never accomplished.

Larry Dupont, Jr., remembers that it was not uncommon for the golf professional to ask the idle caddies to pick dandelions from the fairways, rake the sand bunkers, and

sweep the driveway in front of the golf shop and the first tee path.

It was said that the Sequin caddies were good, well-trained caddies who took an interest in a player's game "...so much so that they [would] wager all of a nickel, or an apple on the chances of their man winning a hole."

For several years in the 1930s, the sixteenth tee was located about thirty yards to the rear of today's tee, which intruded on the fifteenth fairway. For protection of those teeing off from the sixteenth tee, a wire cage was constructed around the tee.



Kevin Bengtson, Golf Course Superintendent, and John Case, Assistant Superintendent, keep the course in excellent condition.



Second Hole

Courtesy Ed Marchion



Seventh Hole

Courtesy Ed Marchion



Third Hole

Courtesy Ed Marchion

COURSE ARCHITECTS



*Courtesy Geoffrey Cornish
John D. Dunn*

Harper's *Golf Guide*, dated 1900, states that the architect for the Maple Hill course was John D. Dunn, who laid out the original nine holes, which were said to have been "in fair condition."

John Duncan Dunn was born in North Berwick, Scotland, in 1874. His grandfather was Old Willie Dunn, the distinguished professional golfer and course designer, and his father was Tom Dunn, the designer of 137 courses in Europe. After training with his father, John designed a few courses in Europe. John came to America in 1894 where he worked briefly for two sporting goods firms. He next found a position as golf professional at Ardsley-on-Hudson Country Club in New York and soon became involved in the rapidly growing industry of golf course design. During his career, he designed more than 30 courses in New England, New York, Florida and California. About 1920, John settled in California where he became the golf professional of the Los Angeles Country Club,

authored books on golf and ran a series of golf schools. He died in California in 1951.

Under John Dunn's supervision, the original "grounds [Maple Hill] were rolled and prepared" by James Henderson in May 1899. An April, 1899 news article stated: "...this was to be the fourth course he [Henderson] has made." Henderson was also employed as the greenkeeper.

The changes made to the course in 1912 and 1921 were the work of Robert D. Pryde of New Haven. Mr. Pryde was very much a part of our history. His opinions and aid were sought about the course layout prior to the purchase of the Welles properties in 1912. He was consulted in 1915 to render his opinions during the founders' debates on the question of remaining at Maple Hill, and he was the architect of the 1921 course layout after the 15.7 acres of land had been acquired from Welles Eddy.

Robert D. Pryde was born June 7, 1870, in Tayport, Scotland. His early life was spent



*Courtesy Pat Lucey, Race Brook CC
Robert D. Pryde*

in Scotland where he served as a carpenter's apprentice in his teenage years. When he came to New Haven about 1891, it was to build creations of wood and buildings, not golf courses. While discussing the plans for a cherry wardrobe with a well-to-do client, Justus S. Hotchkiss, the latter noted Pryde's Scottish origin and asked if he knew anything about golf. Mr. Pryde answered yes, whereupon Mr. Hotchkiss prevailed upon him to turn his attention to the laying out of a golf course in New Haven. Robert Pryde obliged and instantly found himself launched upon a new career.

The first course he designed and built was a nine-hole course known as the New Haven Club. In 1899, the course was expanded to 18 holes and was renamed the Yale Golf Club. This course soon deteriorated, because the landowner of the course had reserved the right to sell portions of his land.

In 1912, Robert Pryde and a few other gentlemen organized the Race Brook Country Club in Orange, Connecticut. Pryde laid out the course and became its golf professional. He later added an additional 18 holes.

During his career in golf, he designed many courses, was a clubmaker, and devised new wooden tees. He was secretary-treasurer of the Connecticut State Golf Association, and in 1941 he was awarded a gold key by the Sports Writer's Association of Connecticut. In addition to numerous other awards, offices and titles, Robert Pryde has been called the "father of golf in Connecticut." He died March 29, 1951.

In 1924, plans were made to redesign the course yet again. This design was done by a club member and qualified course architect by the name of Robert Jack Ross.¹ In 1923, Ross served as vice president under Alfred C. Fuller.

In 1924, Ross became president of the club and continued in this position through 1925. Since Mr. Ross was an officer of the club and an avid golfer with a bent for designing golf courses, it is easy to see how Robert Jack Ross came to be our course architect.

Ross's hometown was Belmont,



*Courtesy Hartford City
Department of Engineering
Robert Jack Ross*

Massachusetts. He studied mining engineering, including metallurgy, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1902 through 1905 and came to Hartford in 1907 to work in the city's Department of Engineering. In 1927, he was promoted to assistant city engineer, and in 1937 he was appointed city engineer. He retired from the

¹ This Mr. Ross is was not related to the famous Donald Ross family of leading course designers, nor to the Frank Ross who is mentioned in the "Achievements of Note by Members" section.

Hartford Engineering Department in 1947. In his spare time, Ross designed several Central Connecticut courses in the 1920s and 1930s. In *The Architects of Golf*, Ross is credited with the design of nine holes at Golf Club of Avon and the full 18-hole courses at Canton Public Golf Course, Indian Hill Country Club, Stanley Golf Course and Edgewood Golf Course, which was later redesigned into the TPC at River Highlands. Mr. Ross is also credited with remodeling the Keney Park Golf Course in Hartford.

On February 18, 1931, Mr. Ross presented a paper entitled "The Design and Construction of Golf Courses" at the annual meeting in New Haven of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers. This paper was later reprinted into a 20-page booklet. In it, Mr. Ross states, "The designing of golf courses is not an exact science, and is sort of a cross between landscape architecture, engineering and sculpture." He further states, "The layout should have an appeal and an atmosphere about it which cannot be described, but which gets under the loyal club member's skin to the extent that he cannot help but love his course and to truly believe it to be the best in the section, at

least as far as he is concerned."

Mr. Geoffrey S. Cornish, co-author of *The Architects of Golf*, said that he had met Mr. Ross in Connecticut during his work at the Avon club, and that he remembers him as a conscientious, kindly and understanding person. He described him being about 5'-10" in stature and stocky. Mr. Cornish said in his book that, "Decades later, most of his works were wrongly attributed to Donald Ross, an understandable, if unfortunate consequence for any architect bearing the same name as a legend. The fact that some of his designs were considered those of the other Ross, spoke well for the architectural abilities of Robert Ross."

Mr. Ross was born May 2, 1882. He lived at 575 New Britain Avenue in Hartford until 1951 when he moved to 689 Fern Street in West Hartford. He married Gertrude Kramer on June 25, 1921. They had no children. Mr. Ross was a past president of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers and was a member of the City Club in Hartford. He died March 19, 1971, in Clearwater, Florida, where he spent most of his retirement winters.



Courtesy Ed Shirley

GOLF PROFESSIONALS

1899 - ????

James Henderson An article in the April 6, 1899, edition of *The Hartford Courant* stated: "The Board of Governors of the Maple Hill Golf Course has selected a green keeper (sic) in the person of James Henderson. He is an expert golf player and two years ago was employed by the Hartford Golf Club. Last year he was employed in New Haven." In those days, the greenkeeper was also the golf professional. A July 19, 1899, news article announced an upcoming tournament and stated that: "Entries for the golf tournament ... must be in the hands of the ground's keeper by Thursday morning."

1908

No professional per *The Golfer's Guide*, 1908.

1909 - 1919

Bob Rutherford Golf Professional, Greenkeeper and Club Steward – Original expense records show that Rutherford was paid \$452 in 1909, and \$702 in 1916. (Rutherford was fairly well described in the opening Maple Hill chapter. (See page 7.)

1920 - 1924

Alex A. Bird (*Assistant: John Christie*) Alex came to the club "as a professional coach after he had built a new course in Madison." Apparently he was also the greenkeeper, as a news account of the day gave him credit for greatly improving the course and for completing four new greens. Alex was remembered as a pleasant person, not outgoing, but a fair golfer. During the winters, Alex gave golf lessons at the old Sage-Allen department store in downtown Hartford. Prior to the 1925 season, Alex went to England where he worked on changing his swing to a more upright plane. He lived on Robbins Avenue, over the store opposite Golf Street.

Andrew D. "Andy" Agogliati, a Newington resident, said that in 1923, Bird asked him whether he would be responsible for signing up each day's rush of prospective caddies and keep them in order. Andy agreed, and this led to Bird appointing him as the first caddiemaster of the Sequin Golf Club. Bird paid Andy \$10 a week for the job.



The Hartford Times
Alex Bird

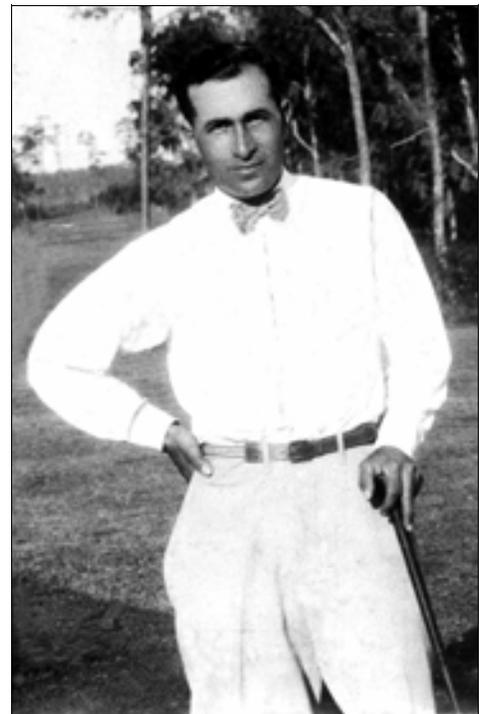
When Bird left the club in April of 1925, his assistant, John Christie, resigned and went to Tumble Brook as an assistant to Willie Whalen. It is not known where Bird moved to after leaving, but in 1929 he was the professional at a golf club in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

1925 - 1926

Thomas Cavanagh Cavanagh stayed only two years. Andy Agogliati knew Cavanagh also, and said that he was a nice person and somewhat on the stocky side. Cavanagh was a native of Jersey, England, where he was associated with Ted Ray, a leading British professional. Prior to his tenure at Sequin, he had been the golf professional at Longmeadow Country Club and at the Holyoke Country Club, both in Massachusetts.

1927 - 1929

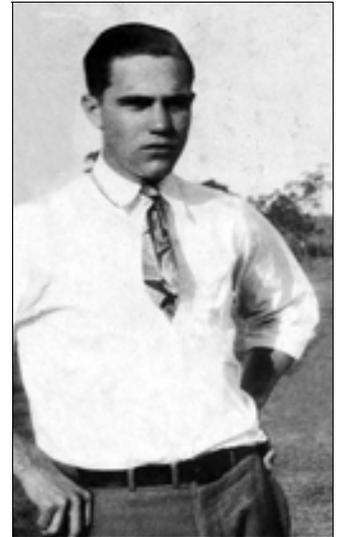
Louis Chiappetta (*Assistants: George Siebert and Bud Trumbull*)
 By all accounts, Louis was a tour-caliber player. While he was the golf professional at Sequin in the summers, he spent his winters as a teaching pro at the Clearwater (Florida) Country Club and played the Florida tour. He did quite well. For seven years or more, he participated in events such as the Florida Open, the Miami Beach Open and the West Coast Open. The West Coast Open was described as “a big shot event,” in which Chiappetta finished third in 1929. He also played in the 1929 US Open at Winged Foot, paired with Walter Hagen, and finished 16th. (Bobby Jones won it that year.) Louis also competed in the 1935, 1936 and 1939 PGA Championships as well as numerous state and regional events.



*Courtesy Jack Burrill
 Louis Chiappetta*

Chiappetta was small in stature, and the Hartford newspapers used such adjectives as “midget professional” and “dapper” to describe him. In spite of his small stature, Louis could “crank” it out there. It is verifiable that he drove the second green on more than one occasion. (News accounts stated the tee-to-green yardage of the second hole at that time was 300 yards.) He set a Sequin course record of 64 that stood for many years. Louis’ contemporaries were Tommy Armour, Horton Smith, Johnny Farrell, Bill Burke and Walter Hagen. He made it a habit to invite reigning US Open champions and other well-

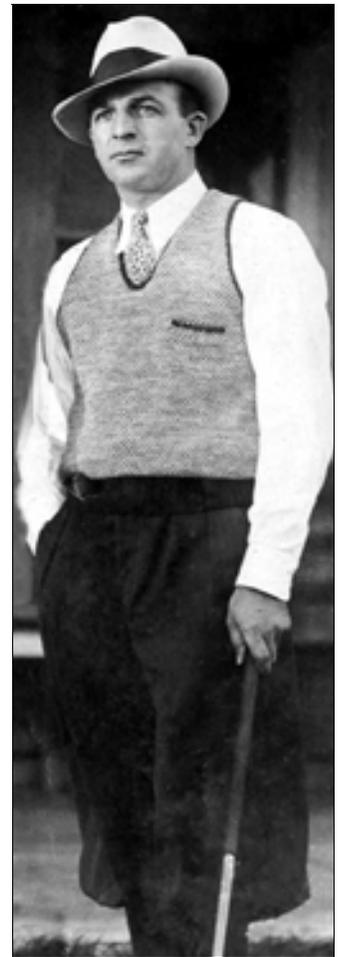
known golfers to the Sequin course to play in exhibition matches. Some of these professionals were Johnny Farrell, Billy Burke and Tommy Armour. Two well-known amateurs, Lawson Little and Jim Thorpe, also played Sequin in exhibition matches. In 1930, Louis operated a driving range called the Chiappetta Golf School, in Hartford at 2431 Albany Avenue. In 1931, he served as the professional at Rockledge CC. His brother, Joe, was his assistant that year. Louis left Rockledge in March 1932 and accepted the job of professional at a golf course in Jackson, MI. (Upon leaving Sequin in 1930, George Siebert became the golf professional at the Golf Club of Avon and in the later 1930s, was the golf professional of Wampanoag Country Club.)



*Courtesy Jack Burrill
George Siebert*

1930 - 1932

Charles M. Nicoll (*Assistants: Alex Ferguson and Anthony Grabowski*) Charlie was said to have been a Scottish gentleman and a very good golfer. He came to Sequin from the West Hartford Country Club (known today as Buena Vista Golf Course). When he assumed his duties at Sequin at \$1,800 per year, he was described as being an extremely busy young man, spending practically all day on the practice tee. His golf shop had been enlarged and was reported to have been "one of the best equipped in the state." In the 1931 Connecticut PGA championship, Charlie finished one stroke behind the winner, Gene Kunes from Tumble Brook. It was also stated that he was considered as one of the outstanding putters among the professional ranks. Nicoll was president of the Connecticut PGA in 1932. After leaving Sequin, he became the head professional at Sunset Ridge in East Hartford for a few years. From 1937 through 1939, Charlie was the head professional at Rockledge Country Club. His brother Art and Bobby Schappa both served as his assistant in different years. A few years later, he left Connecticut to become an assistant professional at a golf course in Palm Beach, Florida. (Alex Ferguson was also a fine golfer. The "well-liked chief aide" to Nicoll won a tournament in 1931 at Wampanoag with a score of 73.)



*Courtesy Jack Burrill
Charles M. Nicoll*

1933 - 1952

Bob Smith

(Some assistants were Alex Ferguson, Henry Gerardi in 1936, 37, 38 & 39 and George Ceferatti.)

Bob Smith also came to Indian Hill from the Buena Vista Golf Course where he had been the greenkeeper and “popular instructor” from 1928 to 1932. He spoke with a strong Scottish accent and was a big man of athletic stature. He had a very direct approach to situations and was described as having a “bulldog” personality. He came to Indian Hill as the green superintendent in 1932, at \$50 per week, when A. C. Fuller organized Indian Hill. When Charlie Nicoll left the club, Bob was made the golf professional as well as the greenkeeper. Just before World War II, Bob’s greens assistant was Johnny Paul. Johnny went to war, but after he returned, he was made the greenkeeper and Bob became the golf professional only. Bob also served in Europe during WW II as a captain in the U.S. Army. His wife Sarah managed the golf shop during his tour of duty that terminated in mid-1945. On his return from Europe, he continued in this capacity as golf professional until 1952. After leaving Connecticut, Bob was the golf professional at the Wooster Country Club in Wooster, Ohio.

Cas Lewon, who caddied during Smith’s time, said that Smith would not allow any caddies to walk in front of the clubhouse. If he saw you, he would not hesitate to chase you down to straighten you out right then and there. Henry Gerardi, one of Bob’s assistants, said in a telephone interview that Smith would play golf every afternoon, go home for dinner at 5 p.m. and return to make the rounds. He inspected all greens and set up the sprinklers. Henry accompanied him frequently on these rounds. (Henry died February 6, 1999, in Silver Spring, MD.)

Carol Nicholson, daughter of Elmer Nicholson, past president of Indian Hill, was interested in golf lessons. Elmer sent her to see Bob Smith, who gave her a number of lessons with no ensuing charges. When questioned about it, Smith replied that it was his habit to pick out one motivated youngster each year to give lessons to at no charge.



*Courtesy The Hartford Courant
Bob Smith*

1953 - 1975**Joe Curtin**

(Some assistants: George Ceferatti, Bruce Hutchinson, Ernest Hussey, Richard Trembley, and Jim Ashwell, 1971-1975)

Joe Curtin started his tenure in 1953 at \$2,000 per year after having won the Connecticut Open in 1952 at the Hartford Golf Club. The exact date was August 4, his birthday. Before coming to Indian Hill, Joe was the professional at the Edgewood Golf Course in Cromwell, which is now the TPC at River Highlands. In his early days, Joe spent his winters selling golf equipment in the sporting goods department at G. Fox & Company department store in Hartford. Joe was known for his fantastic iron play and for his forthright approach to people in general. He retired from Indian Hill at the season's end in 1975 and was given the title of Golf Professional Emeritus.



*Courtesy Ed Seremet
Joe Curtin*

1976 - 1980**Jim Ashwell**

(Assistants: Scott Sturgeon, 2 years; Matt Baker, 1 year; Mike Bedus, 2 years)

Jim was a very likable person with a ready smile. He particularly enjoyed working with the young golfers, and he felt that during his tenure, Indian Hill had an exceptional group of talented youngsters who were both fun and rewarding to work with. Jim also enjoyed working with civic and charitable outings such as the Caddie Scholarship Tournament, the Newington Children's Hospital Tournament and the UNICO Tournament.



Jim Ashwell

1981 - 1982

Dave Proll *(Assistant: Dave Ossorio)*

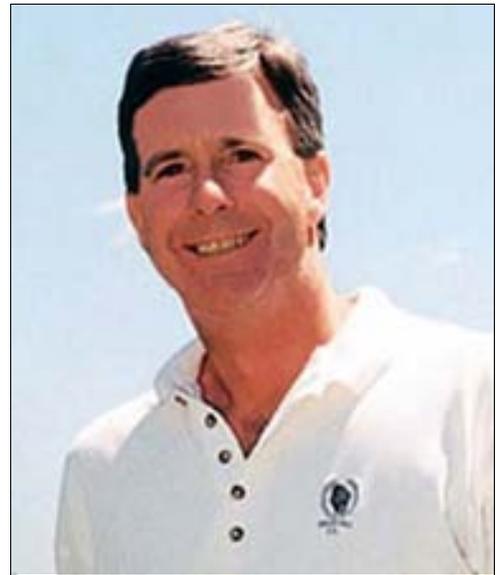
1983

Dave Ossorio

1984 - Present

James Bedus

Jim is a native of Newington and comes from a family of exceptional golfers. In 1968, he was the recipient of an Indian Hill Caddie Scholarship Foundation grant. Jim graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1973 with a degree in philosophy. Prior to serving at Indian Hill as golf professional, he was an assistant at Wampanoag Country Club under the quintessential golf professional, Bob Kay.



Jim Bedus

Jim is professional in his attitude and appearance, and he extends these traits to his staff in the golf shop. Jim very much respects the game of golf, its rules and its traditions. Since coming to Indian Hill, he has developed a successful lesson program that includes an aggressive Junior Golf Program. His most recent project has been to start a Junior Golf Camp, at which he teaches the game of golf to interested youths in the age group of 10 – 16 years old for a five-day period. The initial 1998 camp was a huge success with 28 enthusiastic youngsters enrolled.

Jim's very capable and affable assistant is PGA golf professional, Jeffrey Beyer. Jeff graduated from Rutgers University in 1992 with a degree in history. Before coming to Indian Hill in 1993, he worked at the Emerson Country Club in Emerson, NJ.



*Courtesy Edward DuBord
Jeff Beyer*

CLUB PRESIDENTS

1899	Phillip Corbin	1927	Michael Manternach	1972	Lewis C. Mascolo, Sr
1900	L. Hoyt Pease	1928	Dr. W. M. Stockwell	1973	Tadry Domagala
1901	L. Hoyt Pease	1929	Frank G. Macomber	1974	Tadry Domagala
1902	L. Hoyt Pease	1930	E. Welles Eddy	1975	Tadry Domagala
1903	L. Hoyt Pease	1931	E. Welles Eddy	1976	Robert Gai
1904	H. L. Pease	1932	E. Welles Eddy	1977	Robert Pilon
1905	Charles F. Smith		(Sequin Country Club)	1978	Richard A. Kablik
1906	George P. Hart		John O. Lummis	1979	Richard A. Kablik
1907	George P. Hart		(Indian Hill	1980	Richard A. Kablik
1908	Frank E. Corbin		Country Club)	1981	Joseph P. Doyle
1909	Frank E. Corbin	1933	John O. Lummis	1982	Joseph P. Doyle
1910	Julius H. Pease	1934	Dana H. Cannon	1983	Joseph P. Doyle
1911	William H. Booth	1935	Dana H. Cannon	1984	Joseph Budnick
1912	William H. Booth	1936	John Urmson, Sr.		Edgar Shirley
1913	William H. Booth	1937 - 1958		1985	Edgar Shirley
1914	C. H. Baldwin		James H. Curtin	1986	Edgar Shirley
1915	Arthur G. Kimball	1959	Elmer L. Nicholson	1987	Edgar Shirley
1916	Charles W. Nichols	1960	Elmer L. Nicholson	1988	Edgar Shirley
1917	Charles W. Nichols	1961	Elmer L. Nicholson	1989	Edgar Shirley
	(New Britain Golf Club)	1962	Elmer L. Nicholson		Thomas Bedus
	Merritt A. Alfred	1963	Elmer L. Nicholson	1990	Raymond E. Donlin
	(Sequin Golf Club)		Edmund J. Keleher	1991	Raymond E. Donlin
1918	Merritt A. Alfred	1964	Edmund J. Keleher		Anthony Davanzo
1919	Charles G. McAron	1965	Russell F. Glennon	1992	Anthony Davanzo
1920	Charles G. McAron	1966	John Seremet	1993	Anthony Davanzo
1921	Alfred C. Fuller	1967	John Seremet	1994	Anthony Davanzo
1922	Alfred C. Fuller	1968	John Seremet	1995	Anthony Davanzo
1923	Alfred C. Fuller	1969	Joseph P. Doyle	1996	Anthony Davanzo
1924	Robert J. Ross		John Seremet	1997	Anthony Davanzo
1925	Robert J. Ross	1970	John Seremet	1998	Anthony Davanzo
1926	Michael Manternach	1971	Thomas Purtell	1999	Michael C. Gallon

MEN'S CLUB CHAMPIONS

1932	C. H. Sherwood	1966	Hank Budney
1933	J. H. Killington	1967	S. J. Bedus
1934	M. P. Budney	1968	S. J. Bedus
1935	C. H. Sherwood	1969	S. J. Bedus
1936	J. P. Bedus	1970	R. H. Carlson
1937	R. V. Young	1971	D. J. Zimonis
1938	C. B. Stadtmiller	1972	S. J. Bedus
1939	H. S. Budney	1973	C. J. Kasper, Jr.
1940	C. B. Stadtmiller	1974	J. P. Gatzak
1941	W. P. Smith	1975	D. J. Zimonis
1942	B. F. Lewon	1976	C. J. Kasper, Jr.
1943	No Championship (WW II)	1977	R. J. Kwasnik
1944	C. B. Stadtmiller	1978	C. J. Kasper, Jr.
1945	P. C. Masoero	1979	C. J. Kasper, Jr.
1946	M. P. Budney	1980	C. J. Kasper, Jr.
1947	M. P. Budney	1981	C. J. Kasper, Jr.
1948	T. N. Lenczyk	1982	R. B. Gai, Jr.
1949	T. N. Lenczyk	1983	C. J. Kasper, Jr.
1950	T. N. Lenczyk	1984	C. J. Kasper, Jr.
1951	T. N. Lenczyk	1985	M. E. Bedus
1952	T. N. Lenczyk	1986	R. B. Gai, Jr.
1953	T. N. Lenczyk	1987	K. M. Gai
1954	T. N. Lenczyk	1988	K. M. Gai
1955	R. L. Siderowf	1989	B. D. Hedstrom
1956	J. D. Kristof	1990	G. A. Hedstrom
1957	S. J. Bedus	1991	J. R. Veneziano
1958	S. J. Bedus	1992	J. R. Veneziano
1959	E. Burgess	1993	M. E. Bedus
1960	R. Murphy	1994	R. E. Camarco
1961	S. J. Bedus	1995	R. E. Camarco
1962	S. J. Bedus	1996	R. E. Camarco
1963	S. J. Bedus	1997	S. P. Sullivan
1964	L. J. Rio	1998	P. J. Veneziano
1965	Hank Budney	1999	P. J. Veneziano

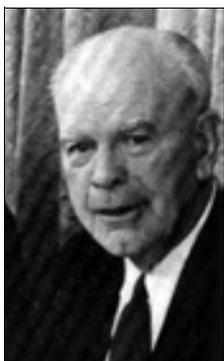
Records are not available for the years prior to 1932.

LADIES CLUB CHAMPIONS

1935	Marie C. Deridder	1967	Helen Wolfer
1936	Marie D. Rowland	1968	Helen Wolfer
1937	Marie D. Rowland	1969	Irene Scavillo
1938	Marie D. Rowland	1970	Irene Scavillo
1939	Marie D. Rowland	1971	Irene Scavillo
1940	Marie D. Rowland	1972	Helen Wolfer
1941	Mary G. Jones	1973	Irene Scavillo
1942	Grace Lenczyk	1974	Irene Scavillo
1943	Unknown	1975	Irene Scavillo
1944	Unknown	1976	Helen Wolfer
1945	Unknown	1977	Billie Duval
1946	Marie D. Rowland	1978	Unknown
1947	Marie D. Rowland	1979	Unknown
1948	Marie D. Rowland	1980	Billie Duval
1949	Pearl Snow	1981	Billie Duval
1950	Marie D. Rowland	1982	Billie Duval
1951	Maude Fay	1983	Jean Burt
1952	Josephine Gow	1984	Kathy Guzauckas
1953	Lorraine Lenczyk	1985	Gladys Gallicchio
1954	Lorraine Lenczyk	1986	Tracy Leiner
1955	Lorraine Lenczyk	1987	Ann Bridgman
1956	Helen Wolfer	1988	Ann Bridgman
1957	Jean Zaiko	1989	Ann Bridgman
1958	Josephine Gow	1990	Nancy Swan
1959	Josephine Gow	1991	Joan Wild
1960	Jean Zaiko	1992	Barbara Sutkowski
1961	Judy Langston	1993	Barbara Sutkowski
1962	Josephine Gow	1994	Patricia Holewa
1963	Jean Zaiko	1995	Nancy Frenzilli
1964	Helen Wolfer	1996	Barbara Sutkowski
1965	Helen Wolfer	1997	Debra Palermino
1966	Helen Wolfer	1998	Debra Palermino
		1999	Tara Schultz

Records are not available for the years prior to 1935, 1943 through 1945, 1978 and 1979.

EXCEPTIONAL TALENT



*Courtesy CSGA
Frank Ross*

- Won 1926 CT State Amateur at Shennecossett GC
- Won 1930 CT State Amateur at Wampanoag CC
- Won 1933 New England Amateur at Manchester CC (New Hampshire)
- Won 1953 US Senior Golf Association Championship Apawamis Club, Rye, NY (while a member of Wampanoag CC)
- Inducted into the CT Golf Hall of Fame in 1958



Ted Lenczyk

- U.S. Amateur semifinalist in 1954 - defeated by Robert Sweeney (Arnold Palmer won title)
- Won 1954 CT State Open at Shuttle Meadow
- Invited to play in the 1955 Masters Tournament
- Won 1961 CT State Amateur at Race Brook CC
- Inducted into the CT Golf Hall of Fame in 1968



Grace Lenczyk Cronin

- Won 1946 CT Women's Golf Association Championship at Hartford GC
- Won 1947 Canadian Women's Amateur at Toronto CC
- Won 1948 National Intercollegiate Championship at Ohio State University Scarlet Course, Columbus, OH¹
- Won 1948 US Women's Amateur at Del Monte Golf and Country Club, Monterey, CA²
- Won 1948 Canadian Women's Amateur at Riverside CC, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia
- Won 1957 CT Women's Golf Association Championship at Shuttle Meadow CC³

(continued on page 82)

¹ Grace was the runner-up in this tournament in 1947, 1949 and 1950.

² Grace won this National Championship at what is known today as the Pebble Beach Golf Links. Del Monte Golf and Country Club was the old name of the famous Pebble Beach course. As events and ownership changed over the years, so too, did its name.

³ Grace won this title by defeating her sister, Lorraine, who was married to Maurice Paquette, a helicopter pilot, at six a.m. that same day, just four hours before their match began.

Grace Lenczyk Cronin

(continued)

- Won 1961 CT Women's Golf Association Championship at Wampanoag CC
- Won 1962 CT Women's Golf Association Championship at Brooklawn CC
- Member of US Curtis Cup team in 1948 and 1950
- Inducted into the CT Golf Hall of Fame in 1969



*Vivian Bobinski
The Hartford Times*

- Won 1958 CT Women's Golf Association Championship at Wethersfield CC



*Courtesy Jack Burrill
Dick Siderowf*

- Won 1954 CT Junior Championship at Watertown GC
- Won 1955 CT State Amateur at Wampanoag CC
- Won 1958 CT Open at Brooklawn CC
- Won 1959 CT Open at Shorehaven GC
- Won 1960 CT State Amateur at Shorehaven GC
- Won 1961 New England Amateur at Manchester CC (New Hampshire)
- Won 1965 CT State Amateur at New Haven CC

(After Indian Hill, Dick went on to further wins: the Canadian Amateur in 1971; the CT Open in 1973; the British Amateur in 1973 and 1976; the CT Amateur in 1984 and 1985; was on five Walker Cup teams; was captain of the US Walker Cup team in 1979; and was inducted into the CT Golf Hall in 1974.)



Walter Wilks

- Won 1963 CT Senior Amateur Championship at Wee Burn CC/Woodway (36 holes over two courses)
- Won 1973 CT Senior Amateur Championship at Woodbridge/Silver Spring (36 holes over two courses)



Brian Murphy

- Won 1976 CT Junior Championship at Watertown GC
- Won 1977 CT Junior Championship at Watertown GC
- Won 1977 New England Junior Championship at Hartford Golf Club



Kevin Gai

- Won 1983 CT Junior Championship at Watertown GC
- Won 1996 CT State Amateur at the Country Club of Farmington



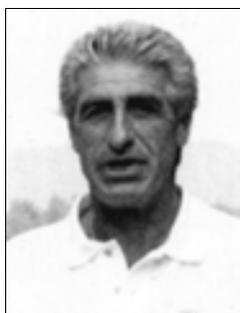
Jon Veneziano

- Won 1992 New England Amateur at Warwick (Rhode Island) CC



Tara Schultz

- Won 1992 NE Junior Miss Championship at Ponkapoag GC, Canton, MA
- Won 1993 NE Junior Miss Championship at Ponkapoag GC, Canton, MA
- Won 1994 NE Junior Miss Championship at Ponkapoag GC, Canton, MA
- Won 1994 CT State Maxfli PGA Championship at Race Brook CC
- Won 1995 CT High School Girls Championship at Hunter Memorial GC
- Won 1999 Connecticut Women's Tournament of Champions at Blue Fox Run, Avon, CT



Paul Veneziano

- Won 1995 CT Senior Open, Amateur Division, at The Farms CC in Wallingford, CT



Brian Hedstrom

- Won 1997 Connecticut State Amateur at Country Club of Darien

NOTES:

Ted Lenczyk won the Connecticut Amateur in 1961, which was the same year his sister Grace won the Connecticut Women's Amateur. This is the only brother-sister team to have won their respective state amateur titles in the same year.

Ted Lenczyk played in the 1955 Masters as a result of his having been a semifinalist in the 1954 US Amateur. For an amateur playing in such a prestigious event for the first time among the professionals, he did a fine job of posting scores of 77-80-77-81 – 315. The final day's 81 was not the result of erratic play, but rather, of a disastrous 8 on the par-3 16th.

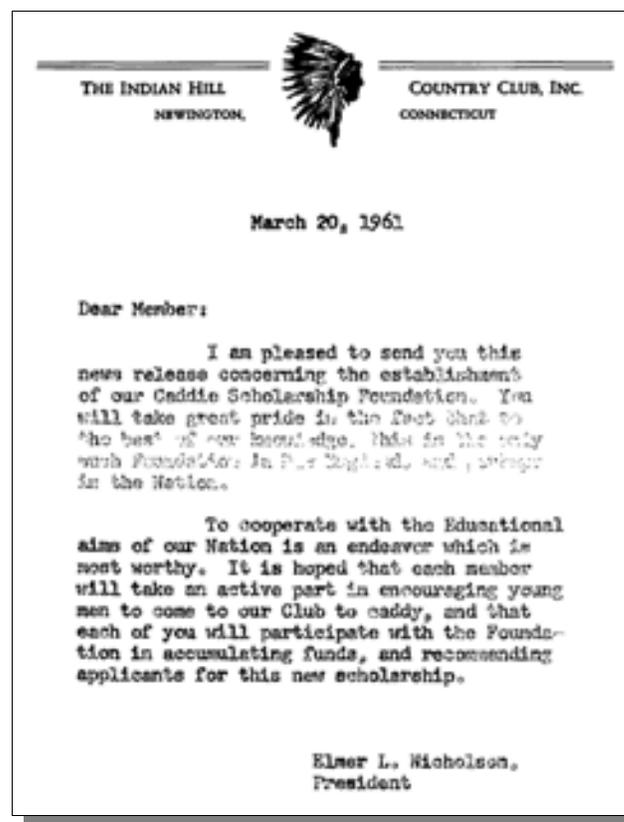
CITIZENSHIP

Over the years, the members of Indian Hill Country Club have taken their citizenship seriously. The Indian Hill Caddie Scholarship Foundation, Inc., was suggested by A. C. Fuller, and the concept was accepted by the members with enthusiasm. On December 27, 1960, the Articles of Incorporation were signed. A committee consisting of Waldemar J. Lach, Mrs. Barbara L. Pratt and John S. Seremet was appointed to work out the mechanics of the program. The foundation trustees were Henry Fuldner, Waldemar J. Lach, Edna M. LaFlamme, Anatol F. Bonelli, Dr. Gerald V. Levreault, Dr. Charles T. Schechtman and Elmer L. Nicholson. The initial funds were raised through the contributions of approximately 125 Founders. Additional funds were raised from donations, social events and golf tournaments. Each year, a Scholarship Day golf tournament with a banquet was held. It was also at this banquet that the Indian Hill Man-of-the-Year Award was made, recognizing the member who had made outstanding and extraordinary contributions to the club in the past year.

During its existence, the fund provided financial assistance for higher education to approximately 54 students at \$400 per year. The Fund functioned until 1994, at which time it was turned over to the Newington Student



Joe Curtin, Tom Purtell and John Seremet with some of the Caddie Scholarship participants.



Assistance Fund. The purpose of NSAF is to solicit donations that are loaned to Newington residents to continue their education. *The Newington Tapestry* relates: "One of the highlights in the Fund's history occurred in 1994 when the Indian Hill Country Club Scholarship Foundation converted all their scholarship assets to NSAF. The Indian Hill Scholarship Fund was originally established to provide financial assistance to the sons and daughters of Indian Hill members, as well as its caddies. As golf cars replaced caddies, it became more difficult to determine scholarship eligibility requirements. The Foundation decided to search for another Newington group to administer the Foundation's assets while assuring the continuation of the scholarship. After thoroughly researching various organizations, the Foundation chose the Newington Student Assistance Fund as its successor and turned over \$27,000 in assets. The money is invested wisely, and the number

and amount of each scholarship is determined by earned interest, thereby assuring the perpetuity of the scholarship.”

Another scholastic endeavor, the Taschner Scholarship, is administered and supported by members of Indian Hill. This scholarship is offered by the Doherty family of Harvard, Massachusetts, in memory of Mrs. Doherty’s father and mother, Joseph and Jean Taschner. The Taschner family was an ardent supporter of junior golf in Newington. The scholarship is for \$1,000 per school year for any full-time student who is a son or daughter of an IHCC member, or who is an IHCC employee or an IHCC caddy. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of good citizenship and golf.

In 1971, a charitable golf function to benefit the Newington Children’s Hospital was sponsored by the Indian Hill Country Club. It started with the idea that the club could “give a day to the children.” The tournament, which was fully supported by the club and the community, became an annual event. In 1984, Ed Shirley accepted the responsibility for

running the tournament and in 1993, the name was changed to The Shirley Family Children’s Invitational, which is still active today. Since 1971, this event has generated more than \$165,000 in donations to the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, the successor to the Newington Children’s Hospital.

Social interaction at Indian Hill Country Club has benefited many people. Some caddies became champions, and others developed many friends and a life-long love of the game and the course. In the past, thousands of children and adults have enjoyed skiing and sledding on the hills during snowy winters. (One November bride, whose reception was held at Indian Hill, took a quick toboggan run in her wedding gown before the festivities began.) Throughout the years, the club has provided a place where people can entertain their friends in a pleasant surrounding. Hundreds of senior citizens and town residents alike can enjoy the course at designated times during the week and, of course, the Newington High School Golf Team uses the club as their home course.



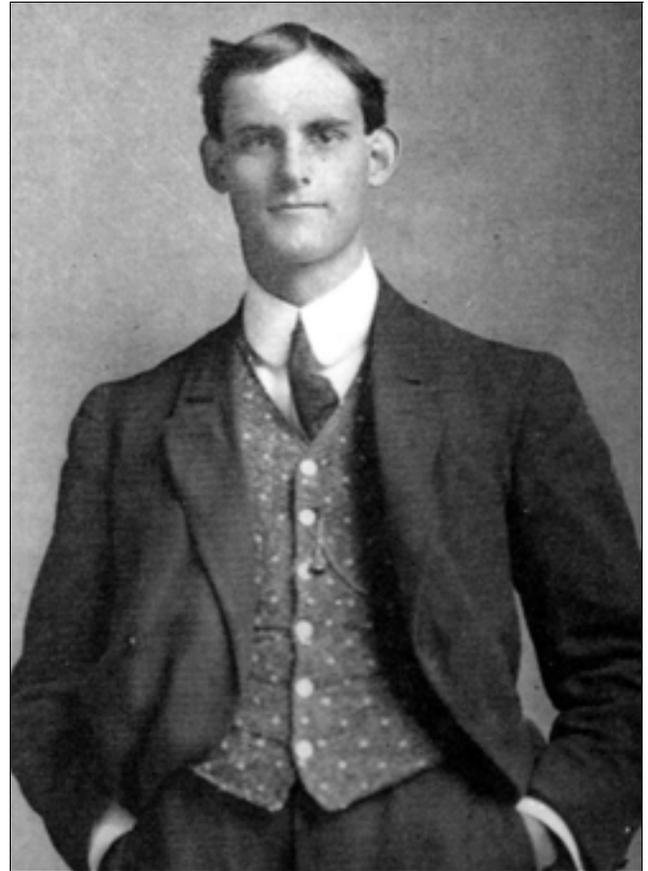
Courtesy Ed Shirley

Left to right: A. John Menichetti, President, Newington Children’s Hospital, Ed Shirley and Louis Mascolo. These men devoted their time and effort to ensure a successful tournament for the hospital.



POSTSCRIPT

Alfred Carl Fuller was born January 13, 1885 in Nova Scotia, the eleventh of 12 children. He was born of simple, frugal, God-fearing, poor farmers. His father, Leander Joseph Fuller, married Phebe Jane Collins. When Fuller was growing up, if he hustled, he might make 30 cents in a 12-hour day working on a farm. In January of 1903, at the age of 18, he left Nova Scotia for Somerville, MA, to live with his sister and her family and to find better employment. Fuller described himself as being a country bumpkin, overgrown and awkward, unsophisticated and virtually unschooled. He did have humility and determination and was impervious to discouragement. Integrity meant a great deal to him. He tried various jobs — trolley car operator, delivery man, and gardener. All of these jobs ended with Fuller being fired. His only success was selling brushes for a small company in Boston. When his customers requested special brushes, Fuller reported their suggestions to his employers. However, since no one would listen to him, he decided to make these brushes on his own in his sister's cellar. To avoid a conflict of interest (and anger) with his present employers, he left Massachusetts for Hartford. He had visited Hartford once before and had liked



A Foot In the Door

Young A. C. Fuller

“At age twenty, I was a country bumpkin, overgrown and awkward, unsophisticated, and virtually unschooled.”



A Foot In The Door

*A. C. fuller's birthplace in Welsford,
a humble Nova Scotia farm.*

the people. Besides, the family Bible had been printed there. He again began making and selling brushes, which resulted in the success we are all familiar with today.

Mr. Fuller's association with our golf course began about 1918. In 1920, after completion of a new \$685,00 brush manufacturing plant on a 25-acre plot in Hartford, he celebrated with a banquet “held at a country club.” More than likely, this event was held at Sequin, since he was a member at that time and the new clubhouse had recently been finished.

During the late 1920s, the Fuller Brush Company experienced severe production problems. They were attributed to the

company's hectic expansion, too much relaxation, spending too much time on the golf course and driving new automobiles. These problems were overcome, and by August 1932, in spite of national economic despair caused by the Great Depression, brush sales took off dramatically.

Ben Lewon, a former member and caddie, remembers A. C. Fuller as a cool, quiet person who was very generous with the caddies. He was rich, but down to earth. He expected, and always received, priority on the first tee and he usually scored 85 to 90. He did not use the club for socializing very much; he usually played golf and left.

Roger Eddy, our 14th-hole neighbor, saw combat in Europe during World War II while serving in the U.S. Infantry. He said that at night he mentally "played" Indian Hill quite often while in combat situations to take his mind off of the impending dangers. If time permitted, he would "play" the entire 18 holes. He feels that Indian Hill has had a profound effect in his life.

During the 1960s we had a member by the name of Joe Jackson. Joe worked for American Hardware and was a very kindly gentleman. Joe owned a small dog that was very devoted to him and to finding golf balls. That was the dog's reason for being. They could both be seen frequently at the course; Joe on the edge of the fairway and the dog in the woods looking for his favorite object to bring back to Joe. It isn't known how many balls Joe and his dog collected.

Approaching the rear of the clubhouse on the stairs from the parking lot to the grillroom, a small gravestone can be seen to the right on

the hill. The inscription reads: "BROWNIE – MAN'S DEVOTED FRIEND." Brownie was owned by Jim Curtin, a former member and past president of Indian Hill. Jim joined the club in the early 1930s, became president in 1937 and continued in that capacity through 1958 when he retired. Jim was very attached to Brownie and frequently brought him into the grillroom with him. (It is not known whether Brownie drank beer or not.)



Left to right: Bob Smith and the Lenczyks, Lorraine, Grace, Ted and Genevieve.

Lorraine Lenczyk was an outstanding golfer who won a number of events conducted by the Connecticut Women's Golf Association, but she never achieved the national fame of her sister Grace. Less well-known was Genevieve Lenczyk. She was also a very fine golfer, but played most of her golf at Rockledge Country Club in West Hartford.

At one time, it was standard practice for the Indian Hill club office to keep information on all member's records about nationality and other such personal facts.



Rusty Glennon

The flagpole between the golf shop and the clubhouse was donated in 1967 by Esther Glennon in memory of her husband, Russell "Rusty" Glennon, a past president. Rusty was a very congenial, ever-smiling and dedicated member of Indian Hill.

The granite yardage markers found around the course were donated and installed in the mid-1970s by Emil Spendolini, a longtime club member and the proprietor of a monument company.

Orrin E. Smith, the golf course engineer for Robert Ross' 1925 course design, was a native of the Kensington area near the Shuttle Meadow Lake. He was the son of a farmer and had learned a great deal about clearing land and moving the earth around. Smith was put in charge of the construction of the Shuttle Meadow course in 1917. He was well recognized for his excellent work at Shuttle Meadow, and it was from this project that a new career building golf courses was launched. During his career, he built more than 200 courses.

In the mid-1920s, a bright, well-mannered youngster in his mid-teens used to walk the three miles from his home on Hartford Avenue in New Britain to the golf course in Newington to caddie for \$.75 to \$1.00. In 1954, this same youngster, Abe Ribicoff, became the governor of Connecticut and later, a U.S. Senator from Connecticut.

An anecdote about Louis Chiappetta, our golf professional of the late 1920s, was related in the May 25, 1933, issue of *The Hartford Courant*. "It seems that there was a member of Clearwater [the club in Florida where Louis used to spend his winters] who scored in the 80s, or thereabouts, and who, on last Christmas Eve, scored a hole-in-one. So puffed up was this gentleman that he began hurling challenges at Chiappetta, offering to play him for a dollar a hole if Louie would give him a stroke a hole. Chiappetta was disinterested, but the puffed up member was insistent. Finally Louie became irked and blurted, 'I'll tell you what I'll do — I'll give you a stroke a hole, play you for a dollar a hole, nine holes, and use nothing but a putter and a mashie-niblic, [the equivalent of a today's seven-iron].'

'You don't have to give me a stroke a hole under those conditions,' the amateur shouted back, 'I'll play you even.'

And so they played even, and Mr. Chiappetta went around in two over par with



The Hartford Times
*Walter Hagen (left) and Louis Chiappetta at the
1929 U.S. Open at Winged Foot*

a putter and a mashie-niblic, taking seven dollars from the insistent challenger.”

In the early 1900s, equipment for golf was difficult to obtain. Most of it came from Scotland, resulting in woods costing \$2.00 to \$2.25 each and irons costing \$1.50 each. The cost of balls was \$5.00 per dozen.

The flamboyant Babe Zaharias, a friend and frequent partner of Grace Lenczyk, was responsible for drawing galleries to watch ladies' golf in the 1940s because she always put on a show. It was Babe and six other women who started the LPGA in 1950 out of frustration with the plight of ladies' golf.



*Courtesy Betty Boyko
Babe Zaharias and Grace Lenczyk playing in a 1948
exhibition match in Pine Orchard, CT.*

A news article in *The Hartford Times*, dated September 4, 1930, announced that "...the newest contrivance to make golf easier for the duffer ... is called a 'sand wedge' – a species of niblic." (Gene Sarazen is often credited as the inventor of the sand wedge, but the USGA tells us that there is documented proof that Horton Smith used a sand wedge before Sarazen. However, the design that has the heavy, wide-flanged sole's trailing edge lower than its leading edge, is Sarazen's.)

Men's golfing attire started to change from knickers to slacks in the early 1930s because slacks were more comfortable.

In 1959, the Indian Hill Board of Directors voted that "the practice of a member selling golf balls to other members of the club be stopped or he will be dropped from the membership..."

Karl Klauer and his wife, Ria, served as house stewards from the mid-1930s until 1959. Tony Stempien was then hired for this position and served until 1969.

Golf cars were first considered for Indian Hill in 1962. The intent was to restrict their use to those with physical disabilities and the elderly. After much debate and research, it was decided in April 1963 to purchase 12 Cushman cars at \$985 each. The golf cars created problems. Storage and electrical wiring for recharging batteries was necessary. Above all, rules and regulations were needed for the protection of the occupants and the golf course. However, it was quickly realized that the cars were profitable, and by the end of 1963, additional cars were under consideration.

In 1962, the assistant golf professional, Ernest Hussey, was permitted to live at the club and was allowed one free meal per day as part of his remuneration.

The property adjacent to the 14th hole is used for farming and pasturing cattle by its owner, Roger Eddy. Once in a great while, one of his small herd will find its way onto the golf course. The most recent one to do so reportedly would answer to the name of Mario.

Yes, there were Sequin Indians! Dr. Nicholas F. Bellantoni, Connecticut State Archaeologist, was kind enough to submit the following information: "Stone tool artifacts have been recovered from the [Indian Hill] golf course property by collectors, suggesting that Native Americans camped there over 7,000 years ago.

"While the State of Connecticut Archaeological Department's site files do not indicate the exact location of these finds, the natural springs along the northern portion of the property abutting the Eddy farm would be the most desirable place of habitation.

"This site represents a temporary living, or gathering camp, utilized by groups of 30-40 people exploiting the natural resources available on a seasonal basis, such as wild plants and migrating animals.

"The Sequins were a middle-Connecticut River tribe. They were encountered by the Dutchman, Adriaen Block, in 1614. They occupied what is today Hartford and Wethersfield. Years ago, Newington was a part of Wethersfield.

"The name, Sequin, appears on a Dutch map by Jansson-Visscher, circa 1635, with the tribe being located on the map in the central Connecticut area."

At one time, Maple Hill Avenue was named Ten Rod Road, Robbins Avenue was named

Back Lane from Main Street to Willard Avenue, Main Street was named Newington Street, and over the years, Willard Avenue has had various names in the vicinity of Indian Hill, such as Canfield Road, Center Street, Lane Road, and Back Lane Highway.

It is said that Dr. Johnson named the following Newington streets after his children: Vivian, Frederick, Theodore and Stuart. There is also a Johnson Street.



Courtesy Bob Colburn

Wildlife enjoys the golf course also. At present, there are two dens of "resident foxes." They enjoy sunning themselves on the course and have been known to grab a golf ball or two.

Dr. Johnson's Maple Hill development was a community of upper and upper-middle class people. They were a close-knit and active group, both politically and socially. They took pride in their area and promoted beautification projects, such as the paving of Golf Street, bringing in utilities, and the building of an area school. Socially, there were the Neighborhood Club, the Bridge Club, the Maple Hill Improvement Society and the Literary Society. They held parties, organized a tennis club, and had lawn socials, as well as social evenings at neighbor's homes. One neighborhood resident installed a wireless telegraph in his home and announced that he hoped to have it set up by the opening of the 1912 World Series to be able to post the results of the games on the trolley's Golf Station bulletin board.

During World War I, many golf courses volunteered to raise crops of potatoes and other food products for use by the United States and its allies. Golf courses had acres of tillable soil not used for golfing purposes that were set aside to help with the war effort. The plan received hearty support from Howard F. Whitney, secretary of the United States Golf Association.

The property behind the clubhouse that is used for parking today was paved in 1993 by the Balf Company with the help of Joe Doyle and with some assistance from the town of Newington in exchange for some lots.

In 1962, the Board of Directors of Indian Hill began the courtesy of extending full playing privileges to the members of Wethersfield Country Club for the week their course was in use for the Insurance City Open and later the Greater Hartford Open.

During the latter 1950s and the 1960s, Indian Hill was known as "The Home of Champions."

Major state tournaments held at Indian Hill

- 1930 Connecticut PGA Championship
- 1931 Connecticut PGA Championship
- 1932 Connecticut Amateur, with Shuttle Meadow (two-course venue)
- 1937 Connecticut PGA Championship
- 1939 Connecticut PGA Championship
- 1947 Connecticut State Open
- 1953 Connecticut PGA Championship
- 1959 Connecticut State Amateur
- 1966 Connecticut Women's Amateur
- 1980 Connecticut Senior Amateur
- 1992 Connecticut State Women's Amateur

The original stock subscribers of the New Britain Golf Club, dated April 17, 1912, were:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| A. H. Abbe | L. S. Howe |
| A. N. Abbe | H. B. Humason |
| E. W. Abbe | H. D. Humphrey |
| J. R. Andrews | H. S. Humphrey |
| J. C. Andrews | A. A. Hunt |
| *W. E. Atwood | Albert B. Johnson |
| C. H. Baldwin | A. G. Kimball |
| B. B. Bassett | **John H. Kirkham |
| C. F. Bennett | A. M. Kohn |
| **William H. Booth | George E. Kohn |
| A. W. Bowman | George M. Landers |
| E. C. Bowman | A. L. Mackay |
| W. F. Brooks | L. B. Mallory |
| M. H. Camp | *Allen C. McKinnie |
| H. P. Carter | Edward Meyer |
| C. P. Chamberlain | W. F. Middlemass |
| V. B. Chamberlain, Jr. | Thomas G. Mills |
| M. A. Coe | E. A. Moore |
| W. T. Coholan | C. W. Nichols |
| J. E. Cooper | **David Niven |
| Chester H. Corbin | J. S. North |
| George L. Corbin | **C. B. Parsons |
| Philip Corbin | R. M. Parsons |
| E. H. Davidson | *M. K. Pasco, Jr. |
| J. R. Dean | *Julius H. Pease |
| E. L. Dummer | H. H. Pease |
| C. A. Earl | L. H. Pease |
| E. B. Eddy | E. H. Pember |
| **E. Welles Eddy | **Charles Pinches |
| S. R. Eddy | F. G. Platt |
| J. R. Fletcher | H. L. Platt |
| C. F. Frisbie | F. J. Porter |
| D. W. Gammell | R. W. Poteet |
| E. T. Glass | *E. B. Pratt |
| Charles Glover | George Rapelye |
| A. A. Hadden | R. H. Roberts |
| **George P. Hart | W. S. Rowland |
| Walter H. Hart | S. H. Rust |
| William H. Hart | **Frederick A Searle |
| H. W. Hatch | C. F. Smith |
| W. L. Hatch | R. G. Spencer |
| B. A. Hawley | Alix W. Stanley |
| R. N. Hemingway | C. B. Stanley |

Edward N. Stanley
 P. B. Stanley
 O. E. Swift
 G. S. Talcott
 H. J. Tracey
 F. G. Vibberts
 H. S. Walter

W. A. Wells
 A. C. Wetmore
 C. E. Wetmore
 C. J. White
 Marcus White
 F. L. Wilcox

*1912 Director

**1912 Director & also one of the original 1912
 incorporators

Henry Budney and Michael Budney both joined Indian Hill in 1935 and are our members of longest standing, notwithstanding two interruptions of continuous membership. Current members of the longest continuous membership are: Helen Garro, 57 years - Mollie Cody, 56 years - Ralph Johnson, 52 years - John Dziekin, 46 years - Bob Winter, 46 years - Buck Acey, 44 years - Peggy Tarnowski, 44 years - Helen Wilks, 44 years - Bob Delphia, 43 years - Ed Seremet, 42 years.



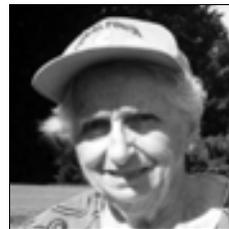
Michael Budney



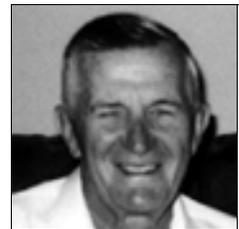
Henry Budney



Helen Garro



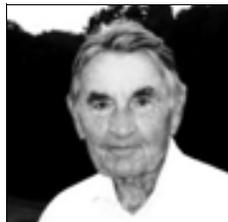
Mollie Cody



Stan Bedus



Ralph Johnson



John Dziekin



Bob Winter



Buck Acey



Peggy Tarnowski



Helen Wilks



Bob Delphia



Ed Seremet

APPENDIX

GOLF TERMS

Caddie The term was derived from the French word, *Cadet*, which meant a young gentleman serving with the army as an apprentice and generally functioning as an errand-boy or messenger. In the 18th century, odd-job men and messengers called themselves *caddies*, which came to be used in reference to anyone who was available for hire for odd jobs. When gentleman golfers later chose to hire someone to carry their clubs, they engaged the free-lance *caddies*. The story that Mary Queen of Scots introduced the caddie to Scotland is unfounded.

In the early days, caddies were not allowed in the clubhouse, therefore they spent all of their time on the links improving their golf games. It should have been no surprise that they eventually became the best golfers, and from their ranks came the first golf professionals.

Captain The responsibility of a captain was to represent his golf club at all outside events. He was usually appointed by the retiring captain and was not necessarily a golfer of distinction. It was the club chairman who managed the business of the club and it was the secretary who carried out the daily affairs. Many European clubs still use this organizational structure today. In 1900, H. L. Curtis was the Captain of Maple Hill Golf Club. His picture is on page 5.

Bisque A bisque was used to equalize a match between unequal players. However, it was very different from today's practice of giving strokes, or holes. Giving an opponent one or more bisques meant that a stroke was granted for each bisque, and

this stroke could be used at any hole at the recipient's pleasure. Each bisque could be declared before, during or *after* the completion of a hole. It behooved the golfer to grant a bisque judiciously, for he never knew when lightning would strike.

Bogey In the early days of golf, the "bogey" of a course referred to the number of strokes the *average* player might be expected to take to play a particular hole. Apparently, this number was an arbitrary number determined by the local professional or some "expert." "Course Rating" in older publications referred to Course Bogey, which was an arbitrary score assigned to a course to represent its probable score by the average player of the times.

Par Par, in the early days of golf, was the term applied to the number of properly played strokes an *expert* golfer would be expected to use in completing a particular hole.

Stymie The stymie rule was applicable from the early 1800s until 1951. It was used in match play only and was a situation whereby a player did *not* have to mark his ball even though it was in his opponent's line of play on the putting green. However, if the ball nearer the hole was within six inches of the hole, it *shall be* lifted. Otherwise, the opponent would have to play past, around, or over the blocking ball. At many clubs during this period, scorecards were marked to show an accurate six-inch measurement, or the card itself measured six inches across for determining when the ball was to be marked.

Tee Box In the early days of golf, the game was played along seaside landscapes. The ball was played to a distant hole, and after holing out, the golfer reached into the bottom of the hole for a small amount of moistened sand. He moved several strides away from the hole, made a tee from the sand, and began play on the next hole. (Very often, this dirty task was assigned to the caddie.) When the hole became elbow deep, or caved in, from the removal of sand, another hole would have to be started. After four centuries of this procedure, a box was introduced in which the needed teeing sand could be conveniently stored. Along with it would be a pail of water. These boxes were located in areas where the ground was stable and the sheep and rabbits had grazed, leaving short grass. Sometimes, clay was used instead of sand. It was much more stable, but messier to work with. At some clubs, a brush and towel were

provided for cleaning golf balls. Later, when organized clubs were formed, the officers of the club would locate the tee boxes for tournaments in places where they thought the most difficulty would be encountered, thus the tee box came to be recognized as the symbol of champions. Through the years, the boxes were made of many materials and were of myriad designs and colors. When the wooden tee came into wide use in the 1920s, these boxes became extinct; they are still seen on some courses, however, in England, Scotland and Ireland. The area we use today for teeing off is known as the teeing *ground*. We don't see too many tee *boxes* any longer. A picture of a tee box used at our course can be seen on page 42. It is standing between the two young men on the tee.

CHRONOLOGY OF GOLF BALLS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type of Ball</u>	<u>Length of Drives</u>
1620 – 1845	Feather ball	120 – 160 yards
1845 – 1903	Gutta-percha ball	175 – 200 yards
1903 – 1950	Haskell 3-piece ball	200 – 240 yards
1950 – 1997	Hi-tech 2-, 3- & 4-pc ball	240 – 285 yards
1976 – 1997	New USGA max. distance ball	296 yards

Source: *Golf Magazine*, September, 1998, "A Lengthy History," as chronicled in *500 Years of Golf Balls: History & Collector's Guide*, by John Hotchkiss.

Since research is continually turning up new facts and evidence, the above dates are general in nature; however, we do know that early golf was played with wooden balls of beech or elm. Later, a leather ball stuffed with cow's hair was used. Subsequently, leather balls were also stuffed with wool or feathers. The latter became the ball of choice and was referred to as a feathery. This ball was simply a measure of boiled feathers (usually goose) tightly packed into a hand-sewn leather cover. The ball was then hammered hard and given three coats of paint. Obviously, these balls were neither round nor durable. However, featheries could be driven a respectable distance. *GOLF Magazine's Encyclopedia of Golf* states: "Records of the Glasgow club show that in 1786 a player named John Gibson hit a series of drives with the featherie. The

distances ranged from 182 to 222 yards."

A gutta-percha ball was made from a milky liquid derived from Malaysian trees, which hardens when boiled and cooled. The USGA adds: "Initially, gutties were smooth, but golfers found that when the cover was nicked or scraped, the ball's aerodynamic properties were changed. The discovery led to a myriad of cover patterns that are still evolving today."

In 1896, the Haskell ball came into being. It had a core of solid rubber, overlaid with a tension-wound rubber thread. Its cover had a pitted surface that functioned to stabilize the ball in flight. It was patented by Coburn Haskell around 1900. The USGA states: "The lively, dependable Haskell ushered in the modern age of golf and led to standardizing the size and weight of the ball."

ORIGIN OF WOODEN TEES

The moistened sand mound was used as a method to tee a ball for centuries. In the 1890s, tees appeared in a variety of designs and were made of various materials; they were conical-shaped, triangular-shaped, oval-shaped, disc-shaped, pin-shaped, and on and on. There was also a tee used that had rubber pins to hold the ball that was affixed to a metal base put into the ground. Even paper tees were sometimes used in England.

In 1899, Dr. George F. Grant, a Boston dentist, designed a wooden tee with a flexible tabular head that he patented. However, he did not attempt to promote the tee, and, consequently, it did not garner any popularity. The USGA stated that this same doctor was the first black graduate of Harvard's School of Dentistry, and he became a leading authority on the cleft palate.

It so happened that another dentist by the name of Dr. William Lowell, of Maplewood, NJ, also tried to tackle the tee problem. His first design was a piece of twisted wire that was straight on the bottom with a twisted circle on top to hold the ball. He considered this to be hazardous from

several aspects. His next design was a wooden peg with a concave cup at the top. It was this 1920 configuration that his sons encouraged him to have patented. He did so, but the patent was not approved until 1924. To attract attention, the tees were painted red and were called The Reddy Tee. To promote their usage, the tees were given to touring pros Walter Hagen and Joe Kirkwood, as well as other golfers, to use and to purposely leave behind to be retrieved by the public. One of the first exhibition matches played with the new tees happened to be at the Shennecossett Club in Groton, Connecticut.

With his sons' management, Dr. Lowell's tee business grew. Profits hit \$38,000 in 1924, and \$100,000 in 1925. However, by 1926, more than 200 companies had infringed on his patent. Dr. Lowell spent over \$150,000 in legal fees to defend his patent, but it was ruled that his patent had been written too loosely to give him the exclusivity he thought he had. By 1940, more than 150 other golf tee patents had been issued. In 1943, Dr. Lowell sold his tee company for a fraction of what it had been worth a few years before.

THE ORIGINAL RULES OF GOLF

While during the latter half of the eighteenth century the rules, standards, and fashions of golf were set by the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, this leadership was gradually taken over by the members of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. Here are basic rules, translated from the archaic English, as originally played at St. Andrews:

1. You must tee your ball within a club length of the hole.
2. Your tee must be upon the ground.
3. You are not to change the ball which you strike off the tee.
4. You are not to remove stones, bones, or any break-club for the sake of playing your ball, except upon the fair green and that only within a club length of your ball.
5. If your ball come among water or any watery filth, you are at liberty to take out your ball and throw it behind the hazard six yards at least; you may play it with any club, and allow your adversary a stroke for so getting out your ball.
6. If your balls be found anywhere touching one another, you are to lift the first ball until you play the last.
7. At holing you are to play your ball honestly for the hole, and not to play upon your adversary's ball, not lying in your way to the hole.
8. If you should lose your ball by its being taken up or any other way, you are to go back to the spot where you struck last and drop another ball and allow your adversary a stroke for the misfortune.
9. No man at holing his ball is to be allowed to mark his way to the hole with his club or anything else.
10. A ball is stopped by any person, horse, dog, or anything else, the ball so stopped must be played where it lies.
11. If you draw your club in order to strike and proceed so far with your stroke as to be bringing down your club, if then your club should break in any way, it is to be accounted a stroke.
12. He whose ball lies farthest from the hole is obliged to play first.
13. Neither trench, ditch, nor dike made for the preservation of the links, nor the Scholars' Holes, nor the Soldiers' Lines, shall be accounted a hazard, but the ball is to be taken out, teed, and played with any iron club.

The above is a direct quote, in total, from *Golf Magazine's Encyclopedia of Golf*.

Many of these early regulations are still in the *Rules of Golf*.

WHY EIGHTEEN HOLES

Golf became an 18-hole game at St. Andrews, Scotland, a little less than 200 years ago, according to Robert Browning, Editor of the British magazine *Golfing*.

During the latter half of the eighteenth century, the rules, standards, and fashions of golf were set by the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, who played their golf over the Links of Leith. However, this leadership was gradually taken over by the members of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, who played their golf over the links of St. Andrews. Until the middle of the eighteenth century, golf had been played over courses of no established length. Leith, for example, had only 5 holes. Blackheath, another ancient club, had 7, which was the most fashionable number; but other courses had as many as 25. Possibly 7 would have remained the traditional number for a round had it not been for the example of St. Andrews.

At the time, St. Andrews had 12 holes. The first 11 traveled straight out to the end of a small peninsula. After playing these, the golfers returned to the clubhouse by playing the first 10 greens backward, plus a solitary green by the clubhouse. Thus, a "round" of golf at St. Andrews consisted of 22 holes. In 1764, however, the Royal and Ancient

resolved that the first 4 holes should be converted into 2. Since this change automatically converted the same 4 holes into 2 on the way back, the "round" was reduced from 22 holes to 18. And since St. Andrews was the arbiter of all that was correct about golf, 18 holes soon came to be accepted as standard throughout Scotland and England and, eventually, the world. This is the accepted reason why a round consists of 18 holes.

(The above is a direct quote, in total, from an article that first appeared in *Encyclopedia of Golf*, edited by Robert Scharff and the editors of *Golf Magazine*.)

One humorous, but slightly twisted, version of why we have 18 holes is that there are approximately 18 shots in a fifth of Scotch whiskey. It is said that as the golfers made their way around the course, they would take a swig after each completed hole. When the whiskey was finished, so, too, was their round of golf.

“...It is reasonable to assume that in the last five years Americans have collectively lost more than 1 billion balls. And yet, golfers keep coming back for more. Surely no other sporting endeavor can match that kind of dogged perseverance in the face of such manifest futility.”

From *Golf - The Greatest Game*
© 1994, United States Golf Association
Peter Andrews, Author

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