



Naperville  Country Club

A modern club with a tradition that dates back to 1921.

GOLF COMES TO NAPERVILLE

In 1913, outside Boston, an unknown competitor defeated two heavily favored opponents. The competitor was Francis Ouimet, and the game was golf. In the early 1900's golf was in its infancy in America. Very few people knew about golf, and those who did recognized that chasing a little white ball seemed to be a foolish way to spend one's time. The British and Scottish players were still the best. So when the accomplished British players from across the pond arrived in Boston for the 1913 U.S. Open at The Country Club, few people questioned what the outcome may be. The president of the USGA at that time, Robert Watson, was one who believed otherwise. He put up the entrance fee for an unknown 20 year old, former caddy at The Country Club, to overthrow the goliaths. Francis and his 10 year old caddie, who had to skip school, succeeded to create a true David and the Goliath story. The newspapers across America ran headlines about the event, Ouimet became something of a folk hero, and the landscape of golf in America began to change very rapidly.

At this time, Naperville was laying the foundations that would lead to its popularity amongst the suburbs of

Chicago. The pastoral prairie lifestyle enjoyed by the Napers, Sleights, Givlers, Scotts, Matters, Egermanns, Schwartz, Millers, Dieters and other early families in the area during the mid-1800's, was beginning to give way to a faster pace of life. The city had made great improvements in the municipal services including water, sewer, sidewalks, paved roads, gas service, electrical service, and public schools. The Nichols library had been established after a donation from North-Western (North Central) College professor J.L. Nichols, Sr. These improvements made an attractive location for homes and businesses.

Businesses began to flourish in the Naperville area. The largest of those was the Kroehler Manufacturing Company, which was the largest manufacturer of upholstered furniture in the world. The Reuss State Bank was one of the oldest banks in Naperville, operating since 1866, and headed by Joseph A. Reuss, and



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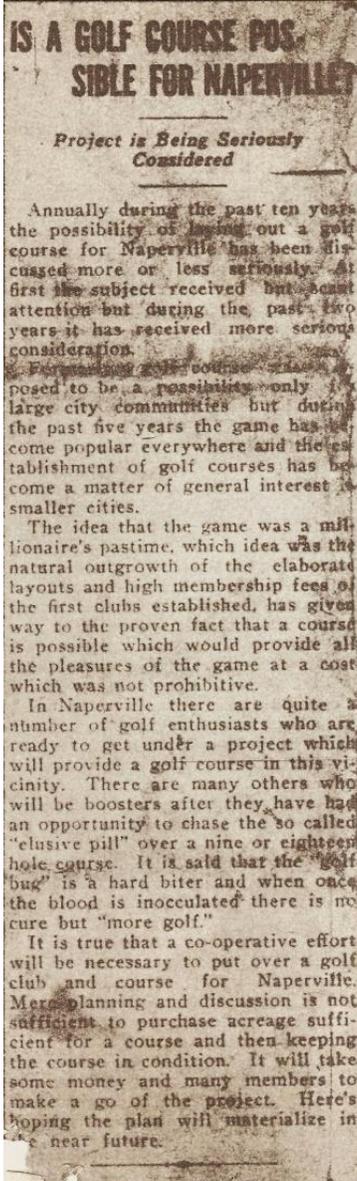
None but the best materials used. Every part of the construction and finish closely inspected. Seven mammoth factories built up by P. E. Kroehler from a small beginning are an assurance of satisfaction.

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Kroehler Manufacturing Co.
NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

Charles L. Schwartz. The other banking opportunity was the First National Bank of Naperville, headed by Francis Granger and Ezra E. Miller. Other familiar store fronts in the early 1900's would have included the William C. Hiltenbrand General Store; Oliver Beidelman Furniture Dealer; Scott, Egermann, and Royce Real Estate and Insurance Agency; William Knoch Cigar Maker; Broecker and Speigler General Merchants; and Yender and Brossman Furniture and Clothing. The local news at that time was handled by Rollo Givler, owner and publisher of the *Naperville Clarion*.

The number of golfers tripled during the 10 years following Ouimet's impossible victory. The game was transitioning to a recreation for the mainstream public rather than a social activity for America's elite. Golf had a fabulous boom in the 1920's, and began expanding from the golfing hubs of New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago. Historian would later refer to this period as the "golden age of golf." In his excellent book, *Chicago Golf: The First One Hundred Years*, author Tom



IS A GOLF COURSE POSSIBLE FOR NAPERVILLE?

Project is Being Seriously Considered

Annually during the past ten years the possibility of laying out a golf course for Naperville has been discussed more or less seriously. At first the subject received but scant attention but during the past two years it has received more serious consideration.

For many years it has been proposed to be a possibility only in large city communities but during the past five years the game has become popular everywhere and the establishment of golf courses has become a matter of general interest in smaller cities.

The idea that the game was a millionaire's pastime, which idea was the natural outgrowth of the elaborate layouts and high membership fees of the first clubs established, has given way to the proven fact that a course is possible which would provide all the pleasures of the game at a cost which was not prohibitive.

In Naperville there are quite a number of golf enthusiasts who are ready to get under a project which will provide a golf course in this vicinity. There are many others who will be boosters after they have had an opportunity to chase the so called "elusive pill" over a nine or eighteen hole course. It is said that the "golf bug" is a hard biter and when once the blood is inoculated there is no cure but "more golf."

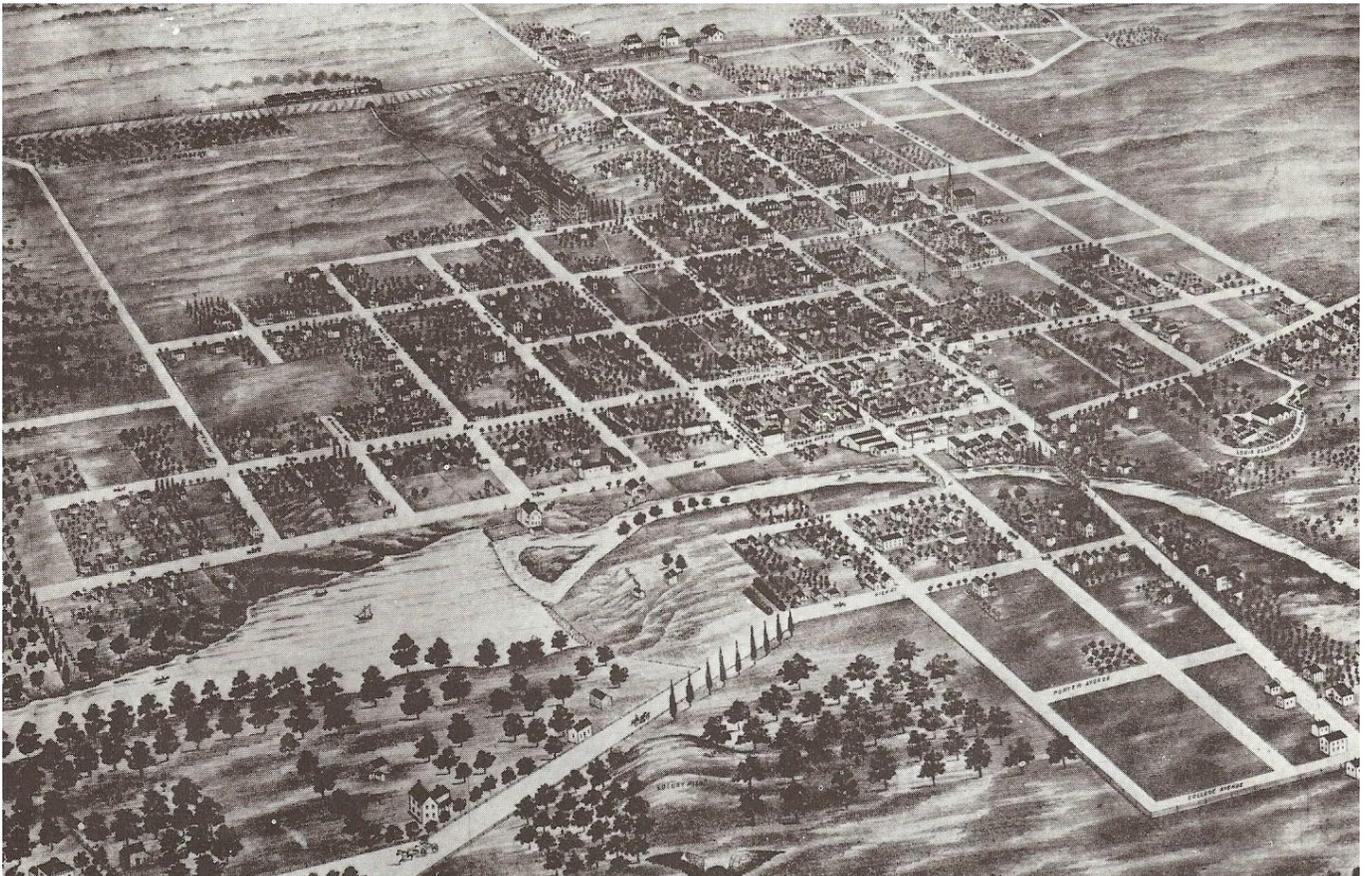
It is true that a co-operative effort will be necessary to put over a golf club and course for Naperville. Mere planning and discussion is not sufficient to purchase acreage sufficient for a course and then keeping the course in condition. It will take some money and many members to make a go of the project. Here's hoping the plan will materialize in the near future.

FRANCIS GRANGER

Govedarica notes that “120 golf courses were laid out in Chicagoland in the 1920’s, an average of one new course every month over the 10 year period.” Govedarica also points out that, the “Roaring 20’s” found Chicagoland residents eagerly joining the rest of the country in celebrating their newly found prosperity. An age of consumerism dawned with shorter work hours being introduced, recreation time increased. Nightclubs flourished, Hollywood introduced talking pictures, and dances like the Charleston swept the country.”

Naperville was not untouched by the 1920’s spree of fast living and rumors about gang activity in the nearby farm country persisted into the 50’s. Stories were told of illegal hooch being stored in barns around Naperville and Lisle and that Naperville’s quarry was a dumping ground for illegal liquor when the Feds got too close for comfort. Even rumors of murdered gang member’s bodies being weighted with concrete and deposited in the quarry’s depths persisted until 1952 when the quarry was pumped into the adjacent river and revealed only its bare bottom.

In December of 1920, rumors began to circulate in Naperville that a small group of local golfers had met to discuss the matter of establishing a golf course in Naperville. The group placed an ad in the *Naperville Clarion* inviting all interested golfers to attend a meeting at the City Hall to see what the support level would be. The turnout was very encouraging. After a lively discussion, several committees were formed to research pertinent areas including acquiring grounds, financing, memberships and timing. There was little debate on the timing. In January of 1921 Naperville Country Club was created after a request to the state from: Charles L Schwartz; Herbert J. Matter, Sr.; James L. Nichols, Jr.; Ezra E. Miller; and Henry E. Rennels. The next step for the ambitious group was acquiring land.



Naperville, circa 1869

“AN ILLINOIS PRAIRIE IS SUBLIME”

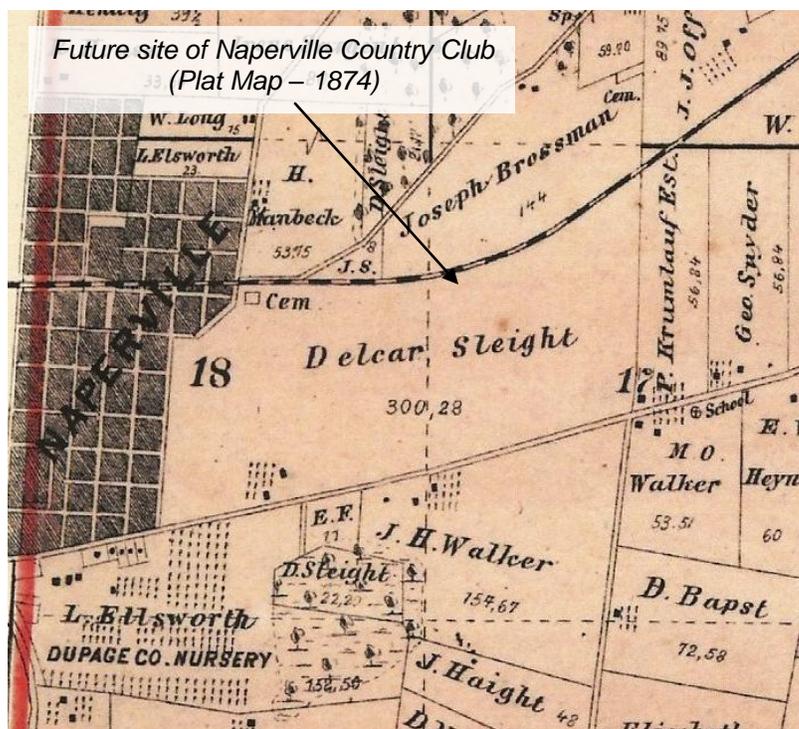
In 1834, the Naper settlement was visited by a traveler and businessman from Hyde Park, New York — a Captain Morris Sleight. Mr. Sleight was an inveterate traveler, a merchant, real estate trader and a farmer but in the richest sense; an entrepreneur of the first order. Mr. Sleight and his entrepreneurial spirit started west looking for prospects for business. When he came to Illinois he was, quite simply, overwhelmed by the beauty of the prairies and woodlands adjacent to the Naper settlement. His letters to his wife, still in Hyde Park, NY, convey his adoration: “the first view of a Michigan Prairie is delightful after passing the oak openings and thick forest, but the view of an Illinois prairie is sublime. I may almost say awfully grand.”

After he became familiar with the area, its proximity to roadways, and its natural resources he believed the area had the potential he was looking for. Sleight acquired over 700 acres of farmland, as well as several lots in the Naper settlement, and continued to increase his holdings in the area after he settled in Naperville. He purchased 4,000 acres in nearby Winfield Township in May of 1843, and added 16,000 acres onto the east side of his Naperville tract in June of 1844.

In 1838 Mr. Sleight's wife, Harriet and their children joined him at their home in the Naper settlement. At the time of her arrival, her husband was functional as a farmer, sheep raiser, land trader and was serving as the first treasurer of the newly formed county government of DuPage. When the Naper settlement became incorporated in 1857 Mr. Sleight became a village trustee and in 1861 and 1862 served as the president of the city.

It is almost redundant to say that in Morris Sleight's twenty-eight years of residency in the Naperville and DuPage County governmental realms he had become a financially and politically powerful individual. Morris Sleight died in 1863, at the age of 68, leaving his holdings to his children. In 1864 Delcar Sleight, Morris's son, purchased the real estate holdings that had been inherited by the other heirs of Morris.

It is difficult to assess the total land holdings of Delcar but the names of the streets that were eventually cut through the subdivided city plots reflect his affection for his married siblings. They were Julia (Sleight) Loomis, Evelyn (Sleight) Brainard, Ida (Sleight) Wright and Delcar's son, Julian.



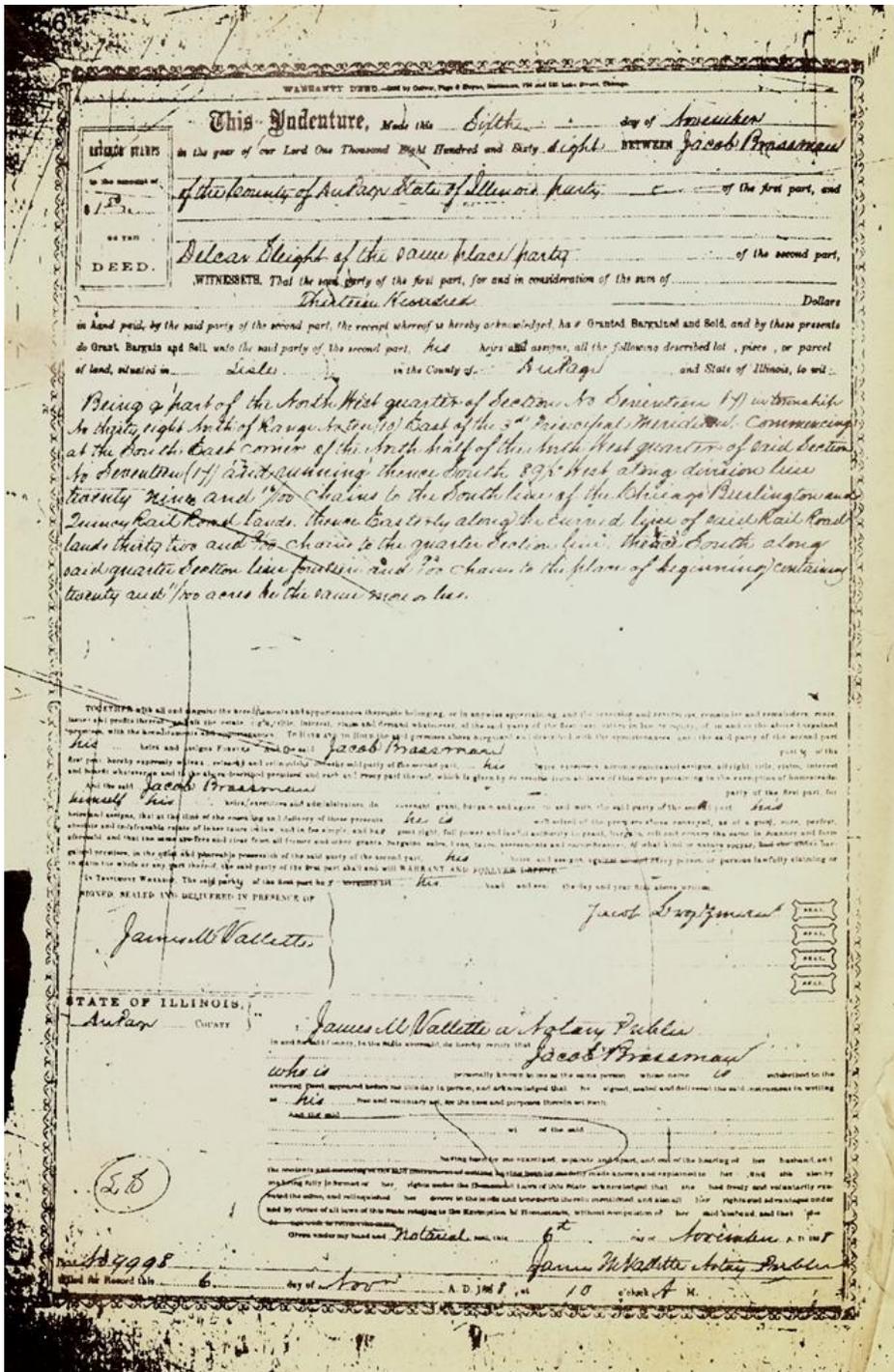
Morris & Harriet Sleight

Prior to the Civil War, Jacob Brossman, a local farmer, purchased land which was to become the site of Naperville Country Club. He paid the government \$1.25 an acre under the Homestead Act. The rolling hills with native Hawthorn and Black Cherry trees were not tillable, but Brossman intended to graze livestock. When the Burlington and Quincy Railroad came to Naperville, it bisected Brossman's land. After the railroad was in place the land proved to be too much strain for Brossman. Brossman sold the piece of land south of the tracks to Delcar Sleight in 1868. A deal was struck between the two men and the acreage was sold for \$1300.

The Sleight families were wealthy and influential, but above all, were very generous in their giving to the Naperville community. Morris

Sleight gave eight acres for the construction of North-Western College, which would become North Central College, whose golf teams now call Naperville Country Club their home course. In 1864 Delcar Sleight gave land for the construction of St. John's Episcopal Church which has now become the centerpiece of the Naper Settlement. Hole 12, the "Steeple" hole, plays toward the steeple of St. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church which sits on land formerly owned by Morris Sleight.

Delcar Sleight's daughter, Delcara Sleight would inherit her father's land after his death in 1902 while only 9 months of age. The 130 acre plot, that city residents referred to as at the "top of the hill," originally owned by Jacob Brossman, would become the interest of the early organizers of the club in 1921. On February 14, 1921 the club purchased the land from Delcara, who would be the club's first female member and later be referred to as "The First Lady" of Naperville Country Club, for \$19,500. Delcara was an accomplished golfer as well, winning the Aurora Women's Class A Tournament in 1932.



1868 Deed

Naperville Clarion,
March 10, 1921.

NAPERVILLE COUNTRY CLUB ORGANIZES COMMITTEES

3/10/21

The site for the country club has been purchased and the Committee on Grounds is actively engaged in clearing stones, brush, old fences, etc., off the grounds so as to get the links in good playing condition as early as possible.

Following is the personnel of the various committees:

Membership—W. B. Martin, H. E. Rennels, C. L. Schwartz, J. A. Schmitt, E. C. Beckman, J. W. Hathaway, B. A. Piper, A. A. Germann, D. E. Saylor, J. A. Reuss, A. V. Jackson, W. D. Callender, J. H. MacManahan, A. C. Unger, Wm. Ehrhardt, A. A. Dieter, H. J. Durran, W. T. Becker, H. C. Rassweiler, Irving G. Hearty, C. W. Friedrich, Lieut. B. A. Jarman, C. B. Bowman, E. J. T. Moyer, R. N. Givler.

Finance—W. M. Givler, V. A. Dieter, F. E. Miller, R. N. Ballou, Alvin Scott.

Grounds—F. W. vonOven, Henry Book, W. H. Ritzert, Geo. Dunlap, J. L. Nichols.

Activities—R. H. Sanborn, F. Kluckhohn, Dr. T. White, Wm. Friedrich, S. V. Walker, J. W. Eggermann, H. P. Thompson, Julian Heim, E. J. Getz, Elmer Kuhn, T. F. Boecker, Jr., G. Hilttenbrand, F. Hilttenbrand, H. C. Williams, J. M. Dieter, Dr. W. L. Migley, J. Brossman, A. R. Beidelman, C. C. Coleman, Dr. E. S. Moser, Frank Klingheil, C. A. Ashley, C. W. Reed, Russell Keeney, Dr. J. E. App.

Womens—Mesdames Geo. Dunlap, J. A. Reuss, W. L. Migley, J. Kroehler, J. L. Nichols, H. J. Matter, C. L. Schwartz, E. E. Miller, H. E. Rennels, W. E. Becker, Alvin Scott, R. N. Givler, I. I. Stauffer, D. E. Saylor, S. V. Walker, W. D. Callender, J. W. Eggermann, T. White, A. C. Unger, J. H. MacManan.

THE EARLY YEARS

After securing the land, work was made toward organizing the club's business and preparing the land for a golf course. By early March of 1921 committees had been organized for Membership, Finance, Grounds, Activities, and Women; and the Grounds committee was actively engaged in clearing stone, brush and old fences in preparation for play. In April "Sandy" Anderson arrived at the club in full Scottish regalia of kilts and bag pipes to begin as the club's first golf professional. On May 30th, a mere 5 months after the meeting to discuss the town's interest in a golf course, Naperville Country Club had its formal opening. Prizes for the initial competition consisted of a golf club, golf balls, and a box of candy.

122 charter members paid \$100 dollars a piece in 1921, along with \$25 for annual dues, to get the club going. These charter memberships included 10 purchased by C.B. Kroehler, of the Kroehler Manufacturing Co., and could be considered the first corporate memberships at the club. After the charter memberships were sold, the price was raised to \$200, and by the end of the 1920's memberships were selling for \$300.

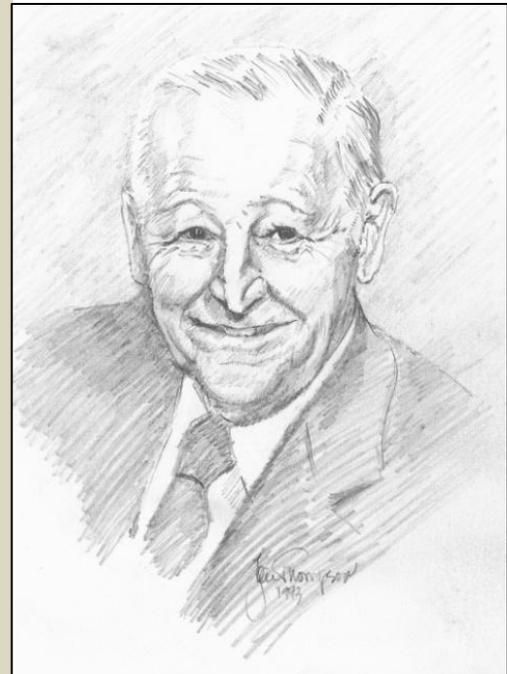
The Club provided the center for the social life of the members. 4th of July parties and the Halloween Masquerade Ball were the most popular. Club members were always involved in local events and opened the doors on several occasions for the community to come and enjoy Naperville's country club. The growth of the club was rapid, and in early 1922 noted golf course architect Tom Bendelow visited Naperville for the purpose of laying out a full 18 holes for the club. The plan appeared in the window of Dieter & Getz Plumbing and Electrical Shop for the community to see. During the one day Bendelow was on the property, he created a plan for 18 holes with grass greens, new location for the

Theodore F. Boecker Jr. was a founding member of the club and continued participation for another 57 years.

Theodore (Ted) was in the family business called Boecker Coal and Grain Co. that was started by his grandfather in 1868. Boecker Coal and Grain served the local farmers and citizens of the Naperville area for over 100 years.

Ted served in France during World War I in the 79th Division of the U.S. Field Artillery.

Through the formation of Naperville Country Club, Ted donated the use of his horses and equipment to aid in the construction of the fairways. Ted would hold several offices in his 57 years, including Club President in 1940.



clubhouse, railroad station, tennis courts, trap shooting, parking lot and a practice area. The Board of Directors met with unanimous approval for the plan, and by October of 1922 four grass greens were constructed.

Following the plans laid out by Bendelow, the ongoing story during the 1920's included the construction of 18 holes, drilling a well to water the greens and construction of a new clubhouse, all while maintaining the facilities in place and hosting club events. It was done through the active participation of the members in all activities of the club. August "Augie" Germann was the man in charge of conditioning the course. Augie would give much of his time to keeping the course in top shape. Theodore Boecker, Jr. loaned a team of horses during construction of the course. The women of the club donated time and furniture to accommodate the clubhouse, as well as cooked meals during competitions. Club members also donated the prizes given out after competitions.

The progressive improvements at the club naturally demanded more funds, and these funds were gain by the sale of more memberships. In the late 20's membership numbers were nearing 170 and the club was doing well until the Depression hit in the early 30's. Nobody was immune to the crash of the stock market in 1929, and the 30's would prove a difficult time for the club. In 1932 only 35 members remained who paid dues of \$35 a year, and the days of Naperville Country Club were numbered. Delcara Sleight still held the mortgage on the property which was way in default, for a long period of time, and filed a foreclosure proceeding and a sale date was set. Winfred G. Knoch, a member and judge in DuPage County, advised the members at a special meeting that issuing new bonds at \$100 a piece until the default is covered was the only option for saving the club. In a fortuitous 3 days the amount needed was raised, the mortgage paid off, and the club was saved. In 1953 the club granted the Honorable Winfred G. Knoch with an honorary Life Membership for his council.

“He got things done,” was how a 23 year associate of August “Augie” Germann described him, and I doubt any four words could be more of an understatement in describing Augie. Augie was born in Naperville in 1882 and so was 38 years old in 1920 when he met with the others in City Hall to form Naperville Country Club. His dedication to the club is the stuff of legends. He was the first green committee chairman and oversaw the construction of the course. In his 45 years at the club he served on every committee, and board. He served as President, Treasurer, Secretary and during the Depression-club manager and superintendent. Ben Piper, a founding member remembered Augie, “In the 30's he took over management full time, doing nearly everything. He mowed, fertilized, watered, and kept the clubhouse going. Without Augie, I'm sure the club would have folded.” Augie was the one who organized the special meeting in the 30's with Judge Knoch to save the club, and even paid club bills out of his own pocket during that time. One unplanned expenditure Augie faced was when he lost his wallet to the mower he was using, no one knows how much money was cut to shreds in the incident.

Augie was a very well respected business man in Naperville from the time he got his first job after eighth grade graduation. He worked as a clerk in a jewelry store, then as a ticket agent for the Burlington railroad. This afforded him the opportunity to travel west to national parks, historical sites and cities, and later led to his next job as conductor of railroad tours. He would become an insurance salesman and start a candy business before becoming “Mr. Savings and Loan,” as the president of the bank would call him. Augie is credited with building up Naperville Savings and Loan to one of the strongest banks at the time.

Augie was a gentleman not only in business but all aspects of his life. A lady once reminisced on her younger years, “I went out with Augie a few times. After you'd had a date with Augie and then went out with someone else, you knew the difference. He always treated a girl so well.” His entire life, he would doff his hat and bow to the women friends he would meet, reflecting a sort of gallantry that is rare. Augie Germann died in 1965, but not before leaving his mark on Naperville and the club.



GROUNDS FOR GOLF

The original course consisted of 9 holes with sand greens, no bunkers, and fairway turf comprised of the previous pasture being cut to accommodate play. The original 9 hole course played to 3173 yards and was a par 37, with 3 par 5's, and 2 par 3's.

The 9 hole course was only a temporary affair until a regulation course could be constructed. Plans for a full 18 holes were in the working stages throughout the first year the course was open. As a result, in March of the courses sophomore year, a plan surfaced by Tom Bendelow of a full 18 hole course. Bendelow spent one day at the club, and charged \$30 for his design. Though no plan for the original 9 holes has been located, it is suspected those nine followed the same path as the first nine holes in the Bendelow plan. The par numbers for the first nine are identical to the original 9 hole scorecard and yardages vary from 50 yards shorter to 45 yards longer.

The club unanimously approved of Bendelow's plan and nearly immediately work began to construct the permanent features on the new plan, though it took several years for the work to be completed. Grass seed sources were unreliable at that time, so it took several years of trial and error to achieve a desirable stand. By October of 1922, 4 greens had been grassed and a well had been drilled to produce over 100 gallons per minute, enough to supply all 18 greens when completed. By the end of 1924, 9 holes were grassed and three others had temporary greens. In 1926 the final plans were made to grass the 3 temporary greens and complete the final 6 holes. In 1927 the much anticipated 18 holes could be played.

Following 1927 the course remained largely unchanged for 40 years. The course had minimal fairway bunkering, sloping greens, very few trees and an irrigation supply only at the greens. The trees that were on the property were small hawthorns left over from the original pasture. The tennis courts, skeet shooting range and train depot from the Bendelow plan were never carried out. A likely reason for



Tom Bendelow has suffered much criticism regarding his architectural accomplishments and usually at the expense of his more valuable contributions to the game of golf. Bendelow was born in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1868 and was playing golf by the time he was five. As Tom would grow, so would his golfing skills. He became good enough to join Harry Vardon in an exhibition match in Connecticut after immigrating to the U.S. in 1892. He would pick up printing as a trade, but it would prove not enough to divert his golfing interests. While a typesetter for the New York *Herald* in 1895, he replied to an advertisement requesting “a young golfer willing to teach the game to a family.” He was hired by the Pratt family, of Standard Oil wealth, and after giving lessons was asked to prepare a course on the Pratt estate on Long Island. Laying out a short course for the Pratt family was the beginning to his lifelong career in golf.

He would soon be hired as greenkeeper and manager of Van Cortlandt Park in New York, and begin shaping the game of golf. At Van Cortlandt Park he remodeled the course and added nine holes to create the first 18 hole public facility in the U.S., as well as creating the first public golfers association, the idea of reserved starting times, course marshals, public golf instruction, and caddie training.

In 1901, A.G. Spalding Sporting Goods would bring Bendelow to Chicago to provide architectural services to their customers. Then in 1920 would join American Park Builders Company. It was during this span of years that Bendelow would spread the game of golf. He traveled the U.S. and Canada designing golf courses, encouraging player associations, and promoting the growth of golf through public courses.

Bendelow is credited with the construction of over 600 courses throughout his career. As he progressed through his career, his work would become more refined, including multiple drawings, drainage plans, and irrigation plans. It was during this time that he did his best work and, coincidentally, the first 18 hole plan for Naperville Country Club in 1922.

Bendelow, and his devout faith, developed a strict personal doctrine. He never drank, never swore, and never told off-color jokes. He prevented himself from working or playing golf on Sunday, and would berate his two sons after learning they had snuck off to play after church. The growth of the game and its subsequent popularity in the early part of the 20th century can be thankful for Bendelow, and the other six days of the week that he allowed himself to work.

The “First Family” The earliest meetings among residents of Naperville regarding the formation of a country club included a real estate agent named Herb Matter. Herb was a Naperville native from a line of Matters that lived in the area from the mid 1800’s. Herb married Laura Nichols, the daughter of James Nichols, whose name resides in perpetuity on Naperville’s downtown library. Herb was a golfer and aristocrat among the Naperville community, and as such, made him suited to become a founding father of Naperville Country Club. Herb’s name is on the letter to the state requesting recognition of Naperville Country Club, and as a real estate agent, was no doubt instrumental in securing land for the course. Herb served as the club’s first President in 1921, and the club’s second Champion in 1922. Herb would be club champion 3 more times – 1924, 1936 and 1937; and club president again in 1952. Herb maintained his real estate business until eventually passing it on to a promising individual who had been his regular caddie at the club. In the caddie’s delight, his only response was, “Thanks dad.”

About the time Herb was receiving the Champion’s Cup in 1922, he and Laura welcomed their only child, Herbert Matter, Jr. or “Herbie.” Herb Jr. grew up in Naperville’s most talked about home – the Victorian mansion at 320 East Chicago Avenue, which was built by James Nichols in the 1890’s. Herb Jr. spent his younger days as a caddie at the club and his free time pursuing athletic endeavors that would lead one Naperville citizen to call Herb Jr. “the most talented athlete Naperville has ever produced.” While attending the University of Illinois, Herb Jr. excelled at golf and track and field. In the 1940 U.S. National Decathlon, Herb Jr. took 1st place, and in 1945 to 5th place. In the 1947 Chicago Daily News relays, Herb Jr. tied Bob Richards for 2nd place in the pole vault. Herb Jr. still holds the world record in pole vault with a bamboo pole (15 feet, 8 ½ inches). Herb Jr. continued his athletic prowess at the club by winning the Club Championship 5 times – 1947, 1948, 1953, 1970 and 1971. Along with his work in the real estate business, he wrote for the *Naperville Sun* from 1978-1996; first as a temporary sports editor, then as Arch in the “Hal & Arch” cross-letter feature, then as a columnist. Herb shared his reminiscences about early life in Naperville and compiled all of his articles from the *Naperville Sun* into a book. Herb gave the club a copy and all sales from the book benefited the Nichols Library. Herb Jr. collected golf memorabilia and gave several pieces from his collection to the club for display in the hall case. Along with the golf memorabilia, he gave his memories from his early days at the club with his father and as a caddie, many of which are included in this writing.

At the club’s 75th Anniversary celebration, the club recognized the Herb Matter family and granted them the distinction of the “First Family” of Naperville Country Club.

neglecting those items was the great depression that settled in a couple of years later. We do know there was some work done at the green on hole 3 in the late 1940’s.

The first major change to the golf course began to take shape in 1966 when the club decided to undertake the installation of an automated irrigation system for the tees and greens; and add irrigation in the fairways. These plans became more serious in May 1967 when the club requested the expertise of golf course architect David Gill. Gill drew up a plan for the added irrigation requests as well as changes to the course that were deemed necessary for the irrigation system. Hole 5, which played along the tracks, was changed to a dogleg, and a new green was added for hole 5. A new hole 6 would occupy what was previously hole 5. Hole 7 was changed from a par 3 to a par 4 and sat in the same location as hole 6. These changes were carried out in 1968.

After the changes in 1968, the course continued to have little improvements made. In 1989 a master plan was presented to the course, but no changes were ever implemented. Tees were reshaped, bunkers were rebuilt, 3 tee was



L to R: Herb Matter, Sr.; Ben Piper; Herb Matter, Jr.

SCORE CARD

Hole	Length		Par
	Yards		
1	433		5
2	425		5
3	385		4
4	125		3
5	555		5
6	380		4
7	365		4
8	170		3
9	335		4
Total	3173		37

LOCAL RULES

Remember, these rules were made for your benefit. Please help things along by observing them.

Never drive until players ahead are well out of the way (200 yards).

Never make an approach shot while players are on the green.

Always replace turf.

Do not throw or stick flagpole in green—use care.

Do not under any circumstances play stray shots from new greens—set ball off green not closer to green underplay.

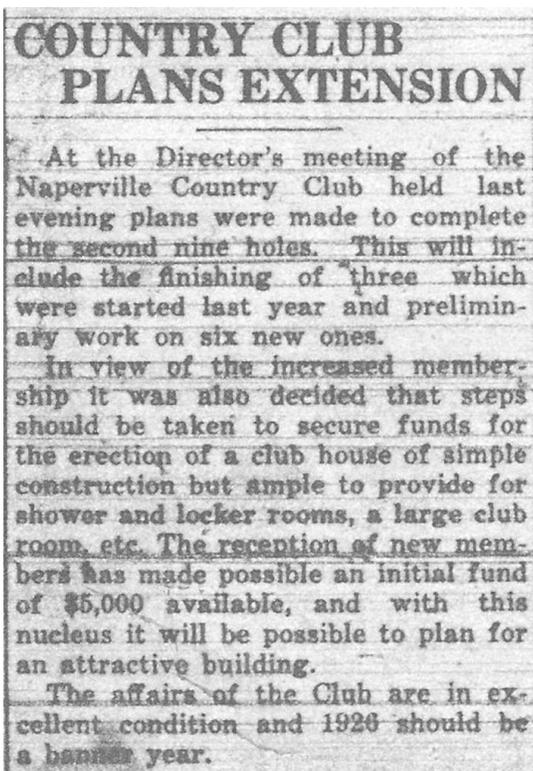
Do not lay golf bags on greens.

Score Card, circa 1924

raised but most was of little consequence compared to what the club approved in 2005.

In 1996, a spring storm dropped 16 inches of rain in a 24 hour span, leaving portions of Naperville, just west of the club, flooded. In response, the city questioned the need for collecting storm water and the club's golf course was the answer. The city's plan was to build a berm on the west end of the club's property to hold the water. This would have resulted in a flooded course almost yearly. Thankfully, the plans were abandoned and other accommodations were made for the water.

Through that process the club worked with Arthur Hills, Steve Forrest and Associates design firm. In 2003 the club retained their services again in response to a plan for an improved driving range, tee surfaces and bunkers. A master plan was presented to the club in 2004, then, underwent several changes before the final plan was approved in October 2005. The plan included the rerouting of 13 holes, reconstruction of all greens, tees and bunkers, new irrigation system, halfway house, maintenance facility, parking lots, and pond reconstruction. Work began on July 17, 2006. The front 9 opened for play on June 30, 2007, with the back nine following on September 1. The grand opening celebration was May 3rd, 2008.



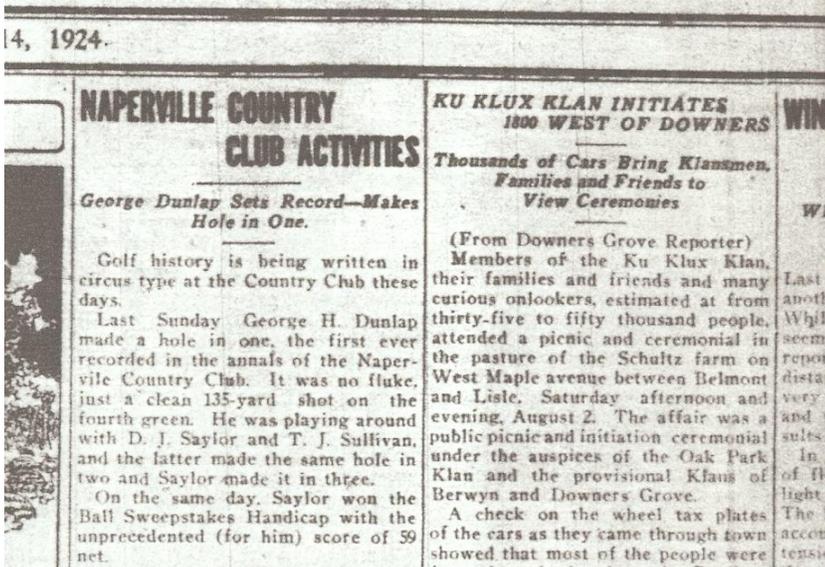
Naperville Clarion, September 4, 1924



Naperville Clarion, April 8, 1926

Did You Know....

- The flat piece of ground next to the fence on the right side of 11 fairway is the original 8th tee (17th tee on the Bendelow plan from 1921).
- Evolution of the club record: 1928 – Clayton Unger, 69; September 19, 1929 – Ray Lederman(Club Pro), 67; August 4, 1932 – Orvill Schell(Club Pro), 67; July 3, 1935 – Don Armstrong and Warren Dawson, 67; 1940 – Don Armstrong, 66
- A few celebrated golfers have played our course: Lee Trevino shot 72, Jim Colbert a 71, Chick Evens fired a 72 while profiling the course for the newspaper and Padraig Harrington played in 2009.
- The first hole-in-one was recorded on August 10th, 1924 by George H. Dunlap. It was reported on the front page of the *Naperville Clarion* on August 14 next to the coverage of a Ku Klux Klan rally in Lisle that initiated 1800 new members.
- Golfers on the course around 1pm on August 26th, 1946 no doubt heard one of the worst train wrecks in U.S. history. A train headed for California sped around the Naperville curve, which is adjacent to the club's property, only to see a train stopped at the 5th Avenue station. The collision killed 46 passengers and injured over 100 others.
- The first club tournament was held on May 30, 1921. It was a flag tournament where participants would play until their handicap was reached and place a flag. Mrs. C.C. Coleman was the winner by finishing on the 12th hole. She won an Eversharp pencil and a pair of silk garters. The club still has an annual Flag Day tournament. Mrs. E.E. Miller brought the diversion to the club from her homeland of Canada and called it "Epitaph Golf." The participants of the early flag tournaments would write an epitaph on the flag where their ball finished to reflect the sentiments which the player happened to entertain for its behavior preceding its demise.

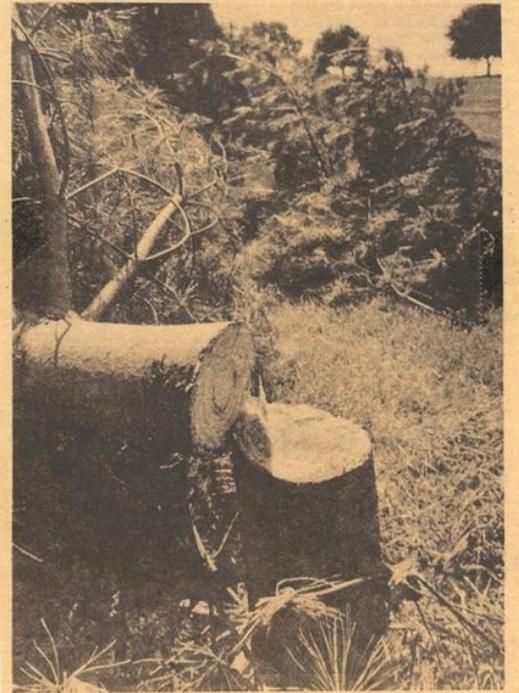


Vandals cut down trees on country club course

Vandals went on a spree at the Naperville Country club, Thursday night, cutting down approximately 32 trees with what appear to have been a chain saw. The felled trees, all located on the club's golf course, are valued at approximately \$11,000, according to John Branta, secretary of the club. Most of the damaged trees are evergreens, he stated, but other kinds had been cut down, as well. The trees were growing on the course for several years and were sturdy, he said.

At least seven trees were cut down in the area near the railroad track, Branta reported. Others cut down were in various areas of the golf course.

No one has reported hearing or seeing anything suspicious that night, according to the club spokesman. He said that there are several hundred yards separating the residential area from the boundary of the country club. DuPage County Sheriff's police are investigating the incident.



This is one of the 32 trees that were felled by vandals, late Thursday night, at the Naperville Country Club. Damages are estimated at \$11,000.

ATTENTION

\$1000 Reward

is being offered by the Naperville Country Club for information leading to apprehension, prosecution and conviction of person or persons responsible for vandalism on evening of Thursday, May 5, 1977, on grounds of the Naperville Country Club.

Contact
DuPage County Sheriff's Office
Detective Joe Volenec
682-7780



Left: Members Joe Lanter, Luke Murtaugh and Charles Donaldson watch Chick Evens tee off. (May 1958)

Below: Naperville Country Club clubhouse prior to 1949





**Naperville Country Club
Round-up, 1951**

Pictures taken from a video filmed
during the Round-up in 1951



NAPERVILLE COUNTRY CLUB

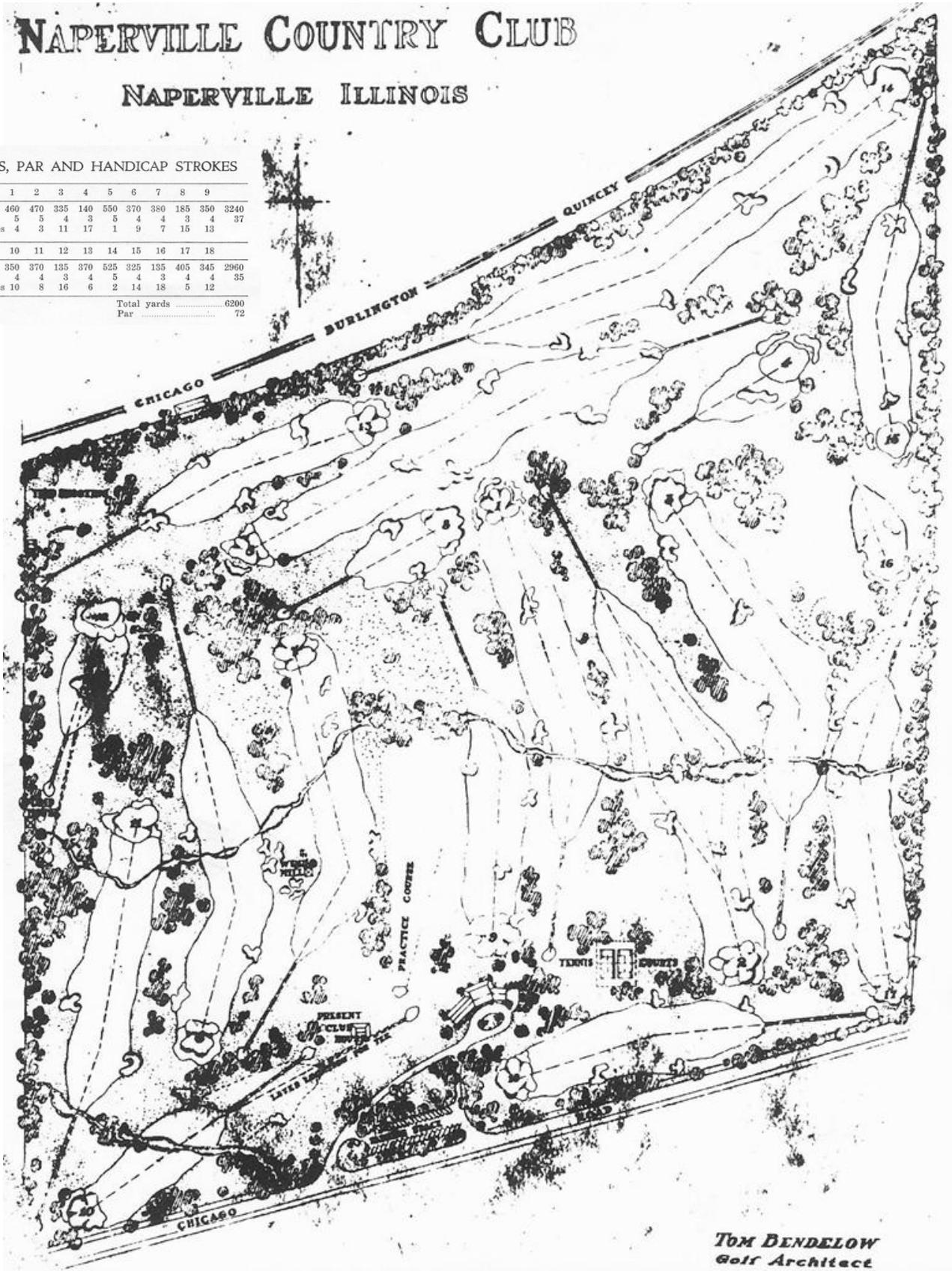
NAPERVILLE ILLINOIS

YARDS, PAR AND HANDICAP STROKES

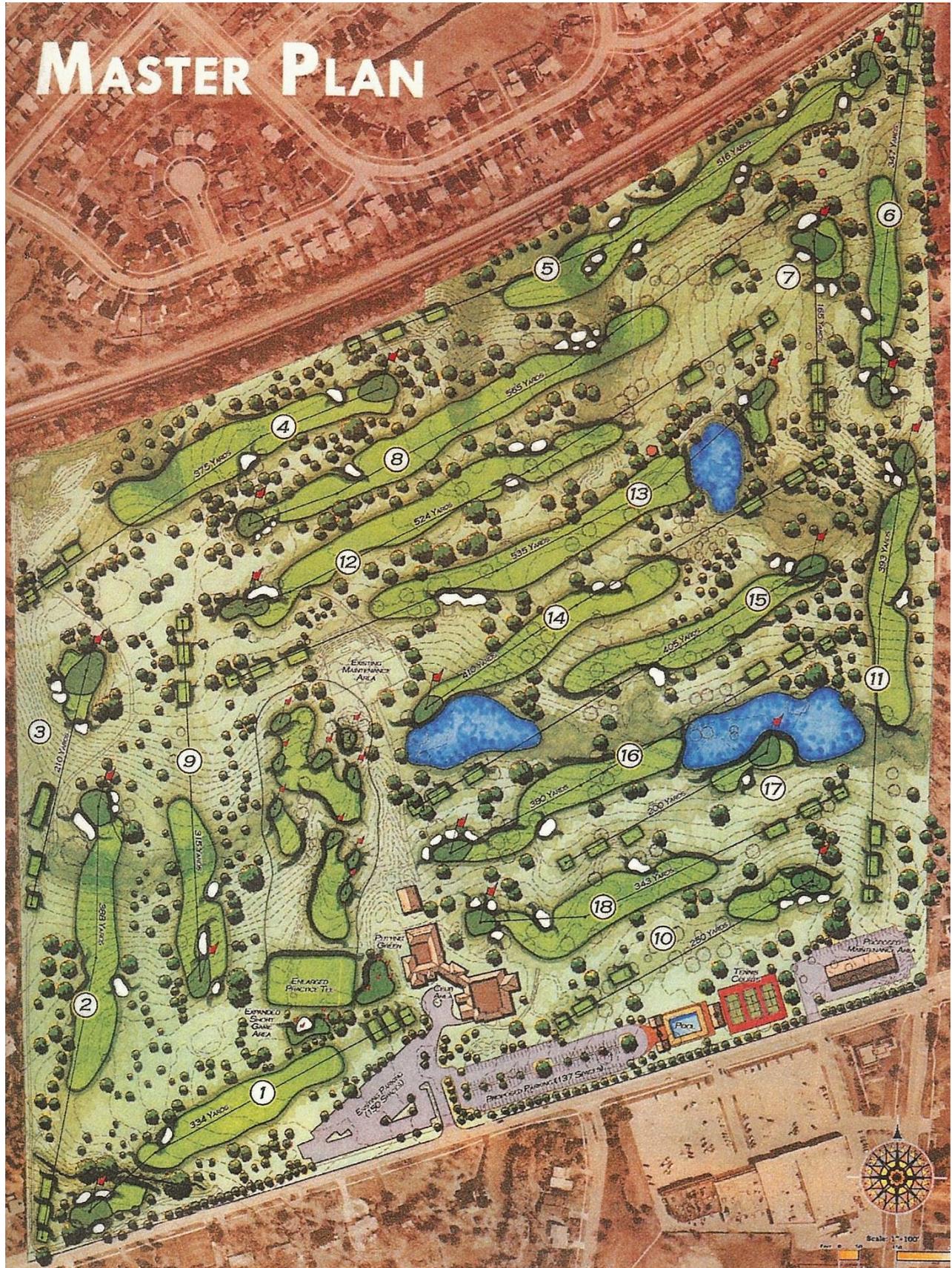
Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Out-yds.	460	470	335	140	550	370	380	185	350	3240
Par	5	5	4	3	5	4	4	3	4	37
Hdk. Strokes	4	3	11	17	1	9	7	15	13	

Hole	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
In-yds.	350	370	135	370	525	325	135	405	345	2960
Par	4	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	4	35
Hdk. Strokes	10	8	16	6	2	14	18	5	12	

Total yards 6200
Par 72



MASTER PLAN



Arthur Hills, Steve Forrest and Associates, Master Plan 2005

Did You Know....

- In 1928 the Burlington Railroad purchased five acres of the northern part of the course so the present third rail of track could be installed.
- In September of 1936, while trying to film the inaugural run of the Burlington Zephyr high speed train, a film crew lost control of their plane and crashed on the fifth fairway. All four passengers in the plane died.
- The only hanging that occurred in Naperville appears to have taken place just west of the club's property near a quarry that once existed "at the bottom of the hill." Patrick Doyle was hanged for murder in 1854. In the early days of Naperville, the land the club sits on was referred to as the "top of the hill" by local residents.
- Jim Foulis, an early pioneer of golf in America, played at the club in 1927. He was considered the first pro to be hired west of New York, at Chicago Golf Club, and was the Champion of the second U.S. Open in 1896 at Shinnecock Hills.
- In the late 30's, while the club was trying to recover from the depression, Augie Germann made tireless efforts to recruit new members. He even offered a membership with a house he was trying to sell!
- In the early days of the club, the fairways were cut with a gang mower pulled by a team of horses. Augie would buy hoof sore horses from downtown Chicago at a discount, would work them on the soft ground at the club for a year. After the year was over, and the horse's hooves healed, he sold them back for more than he bought them for!
- The Club Championship Cup was awarded to the Club Champion and was given the first time in 1921 to Dick Manning. If a member won the Cup three successive years, it remained in their possession. 1927 marked the 3rd straight year for Dick Wehling to claim the Cup, and so, the Cup became his possession. The 2nd club Championship Cup is on display in the cabinet located outside the members grill.
- The honey locust tree behind the first green is known as the "Kennedy Tree." It was planted the morning of the day John F. Kennedy was assassinated.
- Dr. Winfred Martin, Club president in 1933, was well traveled. On a trip to Egypt he obtained a mummy that returned to the U.S. with him. In the 1940's he donated the mummy to Naperville Central High School, which was under construction. The mummy was stored in the basement and proceeded to be forgotten until the 1970's when a teacher was looking for something else and came upon the mummy. It was initially thought to be a student project until further study confirmed it was an authentic 2000-year-old mummy of an Egyptian boy.
- Herb Matter, Jr. recalls his caddie days: "We had a caddy shack that was 16 ft. square and had vertical, slatted sides you could see through. There was a 12 inch built-in plank bench around the inside walls for seating. The ceiling joists were spaced perfectly for a jump, grab and a swing to the opposite seating plank. I remember that Buck Rikli had the record for jumping from the south wall bench to the center cross-joist and swinging out the doorway for the longest distance. Buck's record stood for nearly two full summers 'til Jimmy Nichols broke it – along with his collarbone."
- The Friday morning of May 6th, 1977 caught the grounds crew by surprise. The club was the victim of vandals who worked under the protection of darkness to cut down 32 trees around the golf course. The club offered \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of the person involved, however the perpetrators were never apprehended.
- Contrary to some stories, the stone wall between the 8th and 12th hole has no significance. It began as a cache for stones in the 1970's and grew into a stone wall.

Jo Sanborn In 1949 the most remarkable golf record in our club's history began. In that year Jo Sanborn won the Women's Club Championship and continued to win it for fourteen straight years before losing it in 1963 to Pat Lambert. She then won it another six years in a row. Two more wins in 1971 and 1974 added up to 22 Championships in 26 years! Winning the title in four separate decades was an achievement Mrs. Sanborn tried to minimize when I spoke with her from her home in Beaufort, South Carolina. This warm and gracious lady whose father-in-law was a founding member recalls with an even greater sense of pride when the ladies of the club joined the Chicago District Golf Association. Only after coaxing, she revealed that she was once the runner-up in the CDGA Women's Championship. But she says the friends she made in golf were the most rewarding of all and from the sound of her voice, brimming with passion about our game, I could tell her life in golf was filled with much more than winning championships. – Vern McGonagle, 1996.



THE CLUBHOUSE

No part of the course has undergone as much change as the clubhouse. Some changes were an effort to satisfy a growing membership, others were necessary to heal the wounds caused by criminal activity. Through it all the clubhouse has served as the center for the social activities at the club, whether it is a temporary building on blocks for the club's founders, or the luxury accommodations the club has grown into now.

The original clubhouse was a small temporary structure, but had a "big porch" attributed to the tireless efforts of the women members. It was written in the *Naperville Clarion*, "the big porch is complete with swings, easy chairs, hanging baskets, victrolas, and everything the heart could desire. No matter how hot it is in Naperville, there is a cool breeze and a cool spot on the porch." Early organization of the club consisted of a Porch Committee that organized Porch Parties with regular attendance exceeding 100 members. Bendelow's plan from 1922 shows the temporary building sitting between the current first tee and fairway, and plans for a permanent building in its current location.



Clubhouse prior to the 1948 fire.

The temporary structure remained in use until 1926 when the club began planning a permanent structure, about the same time they planned to finish the final six holes on the course. The club voted between two plans, both plans included utilizing the temporary structure in a new location and adding to it. The plans required that the temporary structure be moved approximately 300 feet to the east where a 20x33 addition would be added to it, as well as an 18x18 basement for utilities. The popular porch would remain, but now become enclosed, and a large fireplace would be included in the proposed lounge. Construction began in March of 1927 with a projected opening date of May 30, 1927.

Little else is known about the improvements or modifications that were made to the clubhouse that was finished other than it was remodeled and enlarged no less than four times through 1947. Then, on February 27, 1948 shortly after midnight, a fire leveled the clubhouse to a pile of rubble. Only a few metal lockers that were located in the basement were salvageable. All records of the club's business up to that point were lost. The members held a meeting at City Hall to decide how to proceed. Nearly immediately, the club was making plans for a new clubhouse. On May 15, 1949, the club held the grand opening of the new clubhouse with men's and ladies locker rooms, a dining room, and kitchen. This building still exists as part of the current clubhouse, but is now



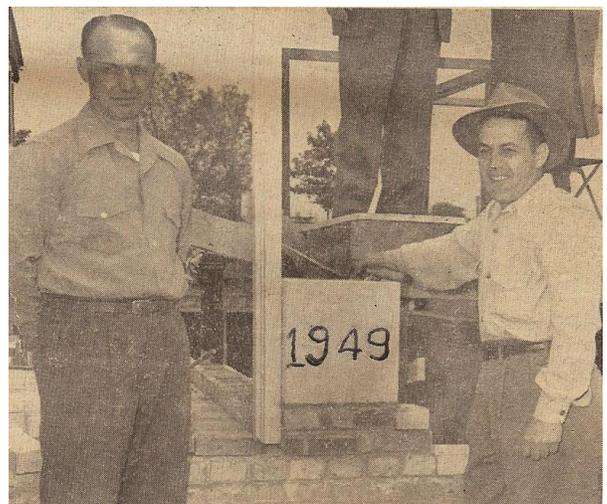
Remains from the clubhouse fire in February, 1948.

masked by the additions that have taken place since. The cause of the fire was determined to be arson when 3 teens claimed they were testing a new fire extinguisher and the fire got out of hand. The three teens, 19, 17 and 17, were released on bond, and then arrested again in relation to the thefts of 30 cars around Naperville. The three were sentenced to 1 to 4 years in prison for setting the fire. The only known historic relic to predate the fire is the sign that hangs over the cabinet outside the members grill.

Several renovations have been made since then. By 1961, an expansion had been made to include the current Grill on the Green and a portion of the current ballroom. In 1973 a clubhouse renovation plan was drawn that included a second story with dining facilities in an English Tudor style but no renovations were made at that time. In 1979 the club developed a project titled "Plan for Tomorrow." This plan included expanding several areas as well as adding

basement space under the new additions. This project was completed in 1982.

Only ten years later, a new building project was in the works titled "Project 21." This project added Club 21, the Pump Room, Locker rooms, Pro Shop, and added basement space for cart storage. Those renovations brought the clubhouse to its current configuration.



Clyde Savage, right, sets the cornerstone on the new clubhouse in 1949. Dwayne Beidelman, left, was the contractor.

THE LOGO

Similar to the other elements of heritage at the club, the Club Logo has not gone unchanged. We can not be certain what the clubs logo was from the beginning. However, an early copy of the Club By-Laws states, "The club colors shall be red and white. The Club flag shall be a white field with the letters 'N.C.C.' in red thereon."

A shield displaying the N.C.C. letters with a picture of a club and ball, as well as bag pipes seems to be the original logo of the Club. The bag pipes may reference the Club's first pro, "Sandy" Anderson. The *Naperville Clarion* reported on April 14, 1921, "'Sandy' Anderson, golf professional, arrived here his(sic) week with kilts, bag pipes, etc., and from now on Sandy's pipes shall peal forth music on the Naperville golf course in the way of lessons for the new members."

This shield remained the logo of the club into the early 1980's until a new logo began to be talked about. Several logos were designed for a vote among the members:



About this time the members began to prefer to make the pump a permanent icon of the club. In 1986 the pump became part of the logo, and has remained so since.



Egarmann's In 1921 John Egarmann became a charter member of Naperville Country Club. For more than 70 years following John's charter membership, an Egarmann was listed on the clubs membership. John's two sons would follow in his footsteps and both become members at NCC.

Anthony (Tony) Egarmann became a member in the late 1920's and remained a member until his passing in 1995. Tony is one of only a few gentlemen to serve twice as the club's president, first in 1937 and again in 1943. Between his presidency's, Tony was Club Champion in 1940.

Tony's brother, Julian was a longtime member, and shared his brothers golfing prowess. Julian claimed the Club Champion in 1943, the same year his brother was serving his second term as president. Outside of the club, Julian was a nationally recognized trap shooter.

Left: Tony Egarmann, 1982 Right: Julian, circa 1940



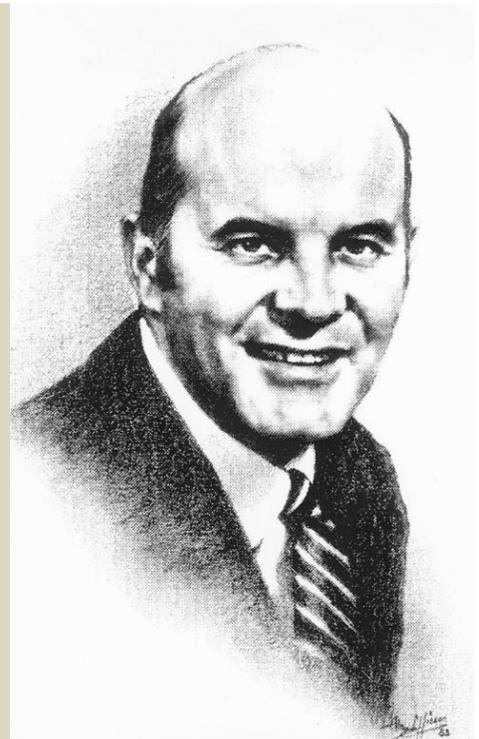
Vern McGonagle Vern wrote once, "There are those in our midst today who deserve notice but we seem unable to honor these people while they live. I wonder why." Be that as it may, the club follows that trend and does its best to honor Vern after his passing. Vern can be noticed on the wall of past presidents or by the high school tournament that bares his name every year or the nine times his name appears on the Club Champions plaque. Now we honor Vern once again with this, a compilation of history, much of which was gathered and researched by Vern.

Vern was born in Los Angeles. Then moved to Minnesota where his spent younger days before attending the University of Minnesota. While in college Vern participated on the track team as well as the Men's Glee Club. Vern's exhaustive research on the club is a reflection of the History degree he received.

Vern began his membership in 1973, and his participation in the club never ceased. During his 30 years of membership, he served as the House Committee chairman, Social Committee chairman, Green Committee chairman and served on the Board of Directors for 6 years. He also served as the club's president in 1980. Many of the beautiful trees on the property are now under a regular management schedule due to the tireless efforts of Vern and his love of trees.

Vern's efforts on the golf course were equally impressive. He won his first club championship in 1979, then added eight more championships in the span of nine years from 1990-1998. The club established The Vern McGonagle Memorial Tournament annually for the Naperville high schools in Vern's honor after his death in 2002.

All of the club's records were lost in 1948 during the fire. Vern spent countless hours interviewing members, researching at the library, and clipping newspaper articles in an effort to piece together information about the club's early days. These papers are a continuation of what he gathered, combined with new insights.



History of our Pump In the winter of 1868-1869 Jacob Brossman sold 130 acres of land just east of Naperville to Delcar Sleight. Sleight had coveted the land to graze his extensive livestock. The land was perfect – rolling hills, never tilled, with only volunteer Hawthorns to impede his grazing herds. However, Brossman, who had homesteaded the land before the Civil War, had never drilled a well to water his livestock and Sleight knew this was a must. In late spring 1869 he rode his prize Roan out to his newly acquired property. Riding along with him was the areas' finest diviner. Within an hour Sleight had his site and the next day he began drilling. He ordered a windmill from Chicago and by June cattle and goats drank from the cool waters pumped by gentle breezes. Delcar Sleight grazed and watered his herds on the property until his death in 1902. Later, his daughter Delcara rented the land to local farmers.

The windmill remained until 1947 when, deteriorated by age, it was deemed unsafe and was dismantled. All of it, except the Pump. The Board of Directors saved it for the weary and thirsty golfer and until 1973 it was the only source of drinking water on the course. The pump was located to the right of the old 16th fairway which is now the target fronting the Ash tree in the driving range. Soon, the installation of fountains occurred at several locations around the course. Then came the beer and soda stations and so the decline of the use of the Pump.

The Pump is the first object man put on this property to utilize the lands natural qualities. The club has since added several other objects, all in an effort to enjoy the lands natural qualities. The well has since been filled, but the pump has been saved. Though it no longer provides water where it stands at the halfway house, and remains a symbol of our bucolic past.