

Nassau Country Club The Place To Be

1896 • 1996



Heritage is synonymous with Nassau Country Club, home of the "two dollar Nassau wager", also of the original Calamity Jane, renowned putter of Bobby Jones, and the Nassau bowl oldest tennis award in the U.S.

This Nassau Journey began 100 years ago in the heart of the old Gold Coast of Glen Cove, Long Island. The founders were rich in the history of this country at the turn into the 1900's. Among its first golf professionals were Alex Smith and Jimmie Maiden, from Carnoustie, Scotland.

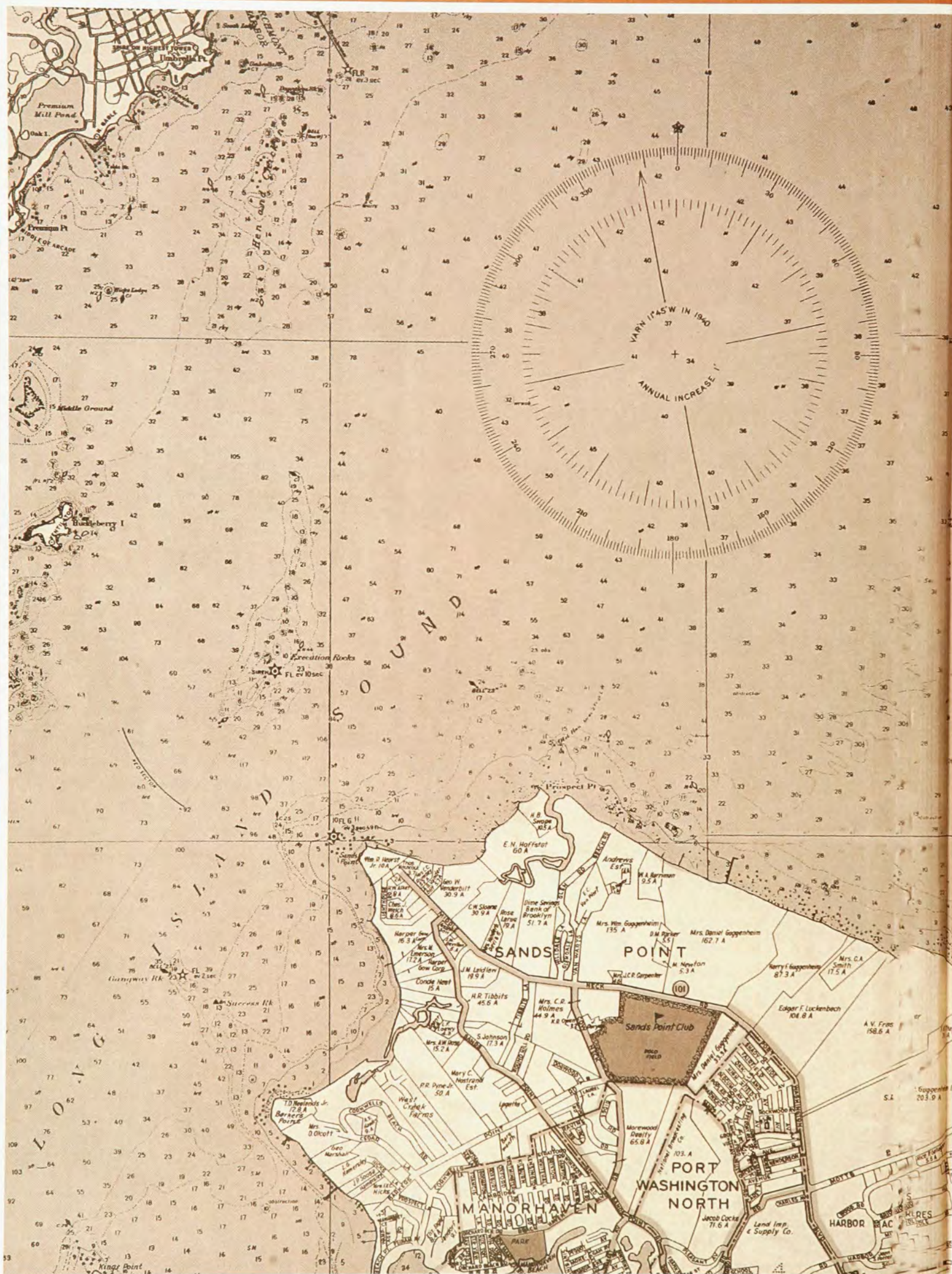
Nassau CC was The Place To Be for Jones, Travers, and Hagen, Vardon and Ray—for Nassau Bowl aspirants tennis greats Clothier, Tilden, Riggs, Trabert and Newcombe—J. P. Morgan and Percy Chubb—past Presidents of the U.S., luminaries, and royalty from abroad.

Nassau is that rich in past tournaments in golf, lawn tennis, and squash that we earnestly researched and detailed many matches stroke by stroke, although unique for a club history, we invite the true follower to relive the excitement of days past to the present.

Along the way, we introduced our members, their fun ways, the challenges exacerbated by two world wars, the paths followed to solve problems and insure a future bicentennial.

R.G.A.





GOLD COAST ESTATE LOCATIONS, NASSAU C.C. FOUNDERS





Nassau C.C. The Place To Be 1896•1996



By Desmond Tolhurst



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AUTHOR'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Back in 1972, on a chilly November day, a Club servant was tending a bonfire at Nassau. A member happened to pass by and asked, "What are you burning?" "Old office papers, junk," was the reply. Fortunately, the member spotted that the "junk" included some early Club membership books and other memorabilia, which he promptly rescued. The member's name was Jim Tingley. For him, it was the start of a labor of love that has continued to the present day. Without the priceless treasures Jim saved from the fire, and his subsequent dedicated and invaluable research, this book would not have been possible. The Board appointed Tingley to be Nassau's Club Historian on December 19, 1989.

Dr. Bill Quirin, the historian for the Met Golfer, graciously gave Jim and me all the references to Nassau that he had gathered in many years of research at Golf House and elsewhere. This gift was of incalculable benefit to our efforts.

I would also like to acknowledge the invaluable leadership and guidance provided by Ray Auwarter, project coordinator and editor, and the valuable contributions of Bob Van der Waag and members, in particular August Ganzenmuller for his tennis reminiscences.

My thanks also to Jim Maiden's son James Cameron Maiden Jr. (or "Cam" as he is known around Nassau) for his memories of his father, and to him and Bud Wade for their recollections of the Club's distinguished early members. Among Nassau's former and present staff, Charles Brett, Harold Kolb, Ralph Pannetta, Francis X. Keefe, Jr., and Kathy Henricks have been particularly helpful.

Desmond Tolhurst

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GOLF AND TENNIS AT NASSAU

The Nassau Country Club has contributed much to the lore and history of golf which dates back to our original incorporation in 1896. The present course has seen several redesigns, but much of the original configuration remains. The year 1898 becomes significant for our Club and the county. Our course was originally incorporated as the Queens County Country Club, since there was no Nassau County. In 1899 our new County was officially formed and our Club was renamed the Nassau Country Club. Thereafter, American golf saw great expansion and a number of new courses were formed at the turn of the century. Nassau has had a very early and rich history. In the beginning days our Club boasted a membership of fine players, which it has continually attracted through the years. Major and minor trophies of golf won by its members and professionals represent hundreds of golfing victories. Mentioned here are the achievements and incidents that have been recorded in countless newspaper articles, magazines and books over the years.

Harry Vardon is credited with having helped develop golf in America with his tour in 1900. In fact, Vardon played a match on our course with Ted Ray against Walter Hagen and Club Pro, Jimmy Maiden. It is interesting to note in Browning's "History of Golf," as to how the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society got together a strong team in 1903, came to the U.S. and won eight of ten matches played. Their one defeat was sustained at the hands of an "All American" side at Nassau Country Club.

James F. Tingley



Nassau Country Club

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*The Centennial
1896 - 1996*

July 1, 1995

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Dear Committee Chairpersons

All plans for our 100th anniversary are progressing nicely. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your participation in this wonderful endeavor.

Listed hereafter are highlights for our Centenary year:

1. Commencement of Centenary/gala cocktail party and reception and completion/distribution of the History of Nassau Country Club - September 24, 1995
2. Nassau Invitational - September 21 - September 24, 1995
3. Christmas Cotillion and unveiling of oil painting by George Lawrence, of 18th green with James Maiden presenting Bobby Jones with "Calamity Jane" - December, 1995
4. Opening Centenary Tournament - April 20, 1996
5. Percy Chubb Invitational and Pro-Am Tournaments - June 19 - June 28, 1996
6. Formal Centenary Dinner Dance and presentations - June 29, 1996
7. Independence Day/Centenary Golf & Tennis Combined - July 4 - July 7, 1996
8. Return trip to Scotland and Carnoustie - July 12 - July 22, 1996
Including dinner at *Scone Palace* with Carnoustie Officers.
9. Metropolitan Golf Amateur Championship - August 1 - August 4, 1996
10. Centenary Conclusion/Christmas Cotillion - December, 1996

During the year we shall be introducing an early 1900's theme at scheduled activities and throughout our historic clubhouse.

I am looking forward to this wonderful occasion, and, again, thank you for your help.

Sincerely,


ROBERT F. VAN DER WAAG



CHAPTER ONE—The Beginning



*Waiting to tee off at Nassau
around the turn of the century.
Notice the sand box containing the
sand to
build the tees.
Although the course has changed,
many of the locales remain the
same. This building fronts the
small cemetery on the property.
Today, it serves as the Bobby Jones
Calamity Jane house or the
halfway house.*



Nassau. To most golfers, the name conjures up what has become the standard bet in friendly match play games for professional and weekend golfers alike. They know that a “One Dollar Nassau,” for example, means a one-dollar bet on the first nine holes, one dollar on the second nine and another dollar on the 18-hole match. However, few ever stop to consider where the term originated. If they do, they too often think it derives from the Nassau in the Bahamas. That’s wrong, of course. The Nassau bet originated at the Nassau Country Club, Glen Cove, Long Island, New York in 1900.

In fact, the Nassau bet is only one of many jewels in the crown of the Nassau Country Club, a pioneer club in the world of golf with a long and proud history.

Over the years, four of its members have won national championships. Ruth Underhill won the 1899 U. S. Women's Amateur. Findlay Douglas won the 1898 U. S. Amateur. Jerry Travers won four U. S. Amateurs, his last in 1913, when he also won the U. S. Open. Travers learned his golf as a youngster from Nassau professional Alex Smith, himself a U. S. Open champion in 1906 and 1910. More recently, Robert Kiersky won the 1965 U.S. Senior Championship.

Nassau also has hosted two national championships. The U. S. Amateur was held at the Club in 1903, when Walter Travis won the title. In 1914, Nassau was the site of the U. S. Women's Amateur, won by Mrs. Katherine Harley Jackson.

Nassau is not the oldest club in the United States. That honor belongs to the St. Andrew's Golf Club, founded in Yonkers, NY, in 1888. It is not even the oldest golf club on Long Island. That distinction goes to Shinnecock Hills, founded in 1891. Nevertheless, early Nassau members, or rather the stalwarts who founded Nassau's predecessor club, the Queens County Golf Club, were very much a part of early golf in America.

Queens County Golf Club

The story begins some time in the early 1890s—unfortunately, we have no exact date—when Arthur H. Sleigh, a well-known resident of The Place (one of the first streets built in Glen Cove) took a business trip overseas. Sleigh was a travelling representative for the Duryea Starch Company, at the time a thriving international firm with its factory in Glen Cove. His business took him to London, England, where he was to confer with the British agents of his company.

While in London, Sleigh met an unnamed gentleman who invited him to make a side trip to Scotland and it was here that he saw his first game of golf. Immediately, he became a confirmed devotee of the Royal and Ancient game and returned to his home equipped with the latest in veritable Caledonian clubs and balls.

The first friend to whom he showed his new acquisitions was William L. (Billy) Hicks, another resident of The Place. Billy liked the look of this new sport, and, because there were no golf clubs available at that time in this country, set about duplicating Sleigh's driver himself. Valentine's apple orchard gave up an appropriately shaped limb and, after much painstaking labor, Hicks managed to manufacture something that was a fair substitute for a golf club. The two men practiced the new game in the lots around The Place. Soon they initiated another friend, John B. Coles Tappan, into the mysteries of golf. Shortly after this, the three men organized the first golf club on what is known as the "Gold Coast" of Long Island's north shore.

The Club started with six holes located in the North Country Colony, between Crescent and Red Spring Beaches. The course opened on October 24, 1895. At that time, caddies received 10 cents for six holes, with no tipping allowed. However, one should point out that the average bag in those days was nowhere near as heavy as today's; most did not contain more than five clubs.

Over the winter of 1895-6, the Club built a further three holes on the other side of Crescent Beach Road, these holes occupying a part of what is now Valenwood Park. The full nine-hole course opened with a celebration on Memorial Day, 1896, also the date the Club was officially organized as the Queens County Golf Club. (Note: At the time, Queens included this area, now in Nassau County.) The original clubhouse, a large wooden frame building, was on Red Spring Lane; its site was later the David Knott Estate.

Queens County Golf Club was one of the first 50 members of the United States Golf Association (USGA). It also was a charter member of the Metropolitan Golf Association (Met or MGA).

Besides Hicks and J. B. Coles Tappan, most Club members were extremely wealthy residents of Brooklyn and Manhattan who shortly before had founded the Red Spring and North Country Colonies.

Among the active members of Queens County Golf Club were the Ladew family of the Elsinore estate (the Ladew company in Glen Cove was later to merge with Nassau Light and Power to form Long Island Light and Power) and the Perkins family of Pembroke. From the Dosoris Estate came the Pratt family, Percy Chubb (founder of the insurance company that bears his name), Paul Dana (son of Charles Anderson Dana, the famous editor in chief of the *New York Sun*) and the Cunningham brothers, Fred and Frank.

The Red Spring Colony provided several active members: Henry F. Noyes (the

CHAPTER ONE—The Beginning



The first tee on opening day of the 1903 National Amateur Championship. Note the original clubhouse at left and the cemetery to the rear of the tee.

QUEENS COUNTY COUNTRY CLUB
SCORE CARD

Date, _____ 189__

Opponent, _____

NO.	NAMES	SELF	OPPN'T.	SELF	OPPN'T.
1	Lookout 150				
2	Valley 310				
3	Upland 221				
4	Sycamore 191				
5	Long Acre 284				
6	Roadside 152				
7	Terrace 287				
8	Walkover 192				
9	Home 175				
Total	1962 yards				

Total for 18 Holes.

Self _____ Opponent _____

Signature _____

THE ATTENTION OF PLAYERS
IS CALLED TO THE FOLLOWING
RULES.

- 1.—No player, caddie or onlooker should move or talk during a stroke.
- 2.—No player should play from the tee until the party in front have played their second strokes and are out of range, nor play to the putting green till the party in front have holed out and moved away.
- 3.—If a ball is lost in hole play the hole is lost. If a ball is lost in medal play the player shall return as nearly as possible to the spot from whence it was struck losing stroke and distance, and players looking for a lost ball must allow any other match coming up to pass them.
- 4.—A ball lying on private grounds to the right of the course to No. 1 "Lookout", or in the woods back of the "Valley" hole (No. 2), or ground without the bounds of the No. 11 Country Club, shall be treated as a lost ball. The Queens Beach road shall be deemed to be within the bounds.
- 5.—A ball may be lifted out of a difficulty of a description and teed behind the same under a penalty of two strokes.
- 6.—A hazard shall be any bunker of water or a fire—water, sand, loose earth, mole mounds, paths, roads or railways, whins, bushes, rushes, rabbit scrapes, fences, ditches, or anything which is not the ordinary green of the course, except sand blown onto the grass by wind, or sprinkled on grass for the preservation of the links, or snow, or ice, or bare patches on the course.
- 7.—The rules of the United States Golf Association govern in all cases; ignorance of said rules excusing no one. Special attention is called to Rules 11, 12, 13 and 14.

No. 1.	Lookout	150 yards
No. 2.	Valley	310 yards
No. 3.	Upland	221 yards
No. 4.	Sycamore	191 yards
No. 5.	Long Acre	284 yards
No. 6.	Roadside	152 yards
No. 7.	Terrace	287 yards
No. 8.	Walkover	192 yards
No. 9.	Home	175 yards
Total		1,962 yards

Noyes family were principals in Hemphill, Noyes, a security brokerage house); Thomas W. Strong; Spencer A. Jennings, and the Maxwells (of Portland Cement Company fame), including the distinguished Commodore J. Rogers Maxwell.

Among the Queens County members from the North Country Colony were: Harvey Murdoch, Leonard J. Busby, W. Crittenden Adams, Horatio M. Adams, Charles O. Gates (then owner of the property now the Creek Club) and George Tangeman.

From Roslyn came Alexander M. White, who later lived in Glen Cove on St. Andrews Lane (White was the White in White, Weld & Co., investment bankers and members of the New York Stock exchange, a firm that later merged with Merrill Lynch), Harold Godwin, the grandson of William Cullen Bryant (the poet and editor of the *New York Evening Post*), and Henry L. Tailer, a famous all round athlete as well as a fine golfer. (Tailor was the father of William Tailer who lost his life as an aviator in World War I, and the grandfather of Tommy Suffern Tailer, Jr., a great golfer and international sportsman, who won the Met Amateur in 1932 and 1934.)

Two score cards for the old Queens County course have come down to us. A copy of the earlier card is reproduced above, with a replica, above left.

A later card indicates that the members soon wanted a tougher challenge. The total length of the nine-hole course went from 1,962 yards to 2,850 yards, and, although the Club

retained three of the original holes (Roadside, Lookout and Valley), the redesign changed the order of the holes as well as adding length to the other holes. It also gave Queens County the longest nine-hole course in the country at that time.

Today's reader will probably scratch his head at that last remark, feeling that, if anything, the total yardage of the second Queens County course, at 2,850 yards for nine holes (or 5,700 yards for 18), seems rather short. He must remember that this was the era of the old, solid gutta percha ball, which was much less responsive than the balls we use now. Before the 1894 British Open, officials measured the drives of the longest hitter of the day, professional Douglas Rolland, and the leading amateur, John Ball. Rolland's longest drive was 235 yards, but his average was just 205 yards. Ball's drives averaged 198 yards. For most club amateurs, Charles B. Macdonald said in a contemporary article, a long drive was anything from 180 to 200 yards. Armed with these facts, one readily can appreciate that twice round a course of the length of Queens County was demanding enough for anyone.

Two of the local rules at Queens County bring a wry smile to the face of the modern reader. Although several estates on the boundaries of the course were out of bounds, a ball coming to rest on Crescent Beach Road was defined as *in bounds*! If you did elect to lift a ball out of a difficult lie, your only relief was to tee behind the difficulty under penalty of *two strokes*!

The Queens County Club held its first championship in 1896. Percy Chubb won. The runner-up was J. B. Coles Tappan. In the second championship, held in November of the following year, Coles Tappan was the champion. Billy Hicks won in 1898. The reader might wonder how Chubb managed to beat one of the Club's pioneer golfers? It wasn't just raw talent. Apparently, he always spent part of the year in England and had previously learned the game over there. In October of 1897, the Club also held its first open tournament (see Chapter 11).

Harvey Murdoch was the first President of the Queens County Golf Club. The officers elected in 1897-98, besides Murdoch, were Charles M. Pratt, Vice President, W. Crittenden Adams, Secretary, Howard W. Maxwell, Treasurer, and J. B. Coles Tappan, Captain.

With the second mention of the name "Pratt" in this history, it becomes important to examine other facts about that family that may not, but most probably do, relate to the early history of the Club.

The Pratts And Tom Bendelow

Charles Pratt, the patriarch of the Pratt family, and one of the co-founders, with John D. Rockefeller, of the Standard Oil Company, earlier had purchased Dosoris, an 800-acre estate in Glen Cove. Pratt built a manor house for himself, and homes for his children—six sons and two daughters—as they married. A great philanthropist, he founded the Pratt Institute of Brooklyn in 1887.

Meanwhile, Tom Bendelow, a Scotsman who came to the United States in 1885 as a youngster of 13, had gotten his first job in the New World as a typesetter for the old *New York Herald* newspaper. Bendelow had learned golf as a youngster in Scotland and visited St. Andrews several times before coming to America. Although not of championship caliber, he was good enough to play with Harry Vardon in an exhibition match in Hartford, Conn., just before Vardon won the 1900 U. S. Open in Chicago.

In 1895, Bendelow saw an advertisement in the classified section of the paper. It sought a young golfer willing to teach the game to a family. The family turned out to be the Pratts. After Bendelow had given them a few lessons, they asked him to lay out a short course on their estate in Glen Cove. This he did. After designing this his first golf course, Bendelow went on to a very successful career in golf course architecture, one in which he designed over 400 courses.

Since the Pratt estate was in exactly the same area as the Queens County course, and both courses were built in 1895, it does seem extremely likely that the short Pratt course designed by Bendelow and the original six-hole course that later became the Queens County course were one and the same. A fact further bolstering this supposition is that, beside Charles M. Pratt, other Queens County members included Frederick P. Pratt, George D. Pratt, Herbert L. Pratt and John T. Pratt. All these Pratts became members in 1896, the year the Queens County Club was formally organized. However, there is no direct evidence at hand identifying one course with the other.

The Move To Duck Pond Road

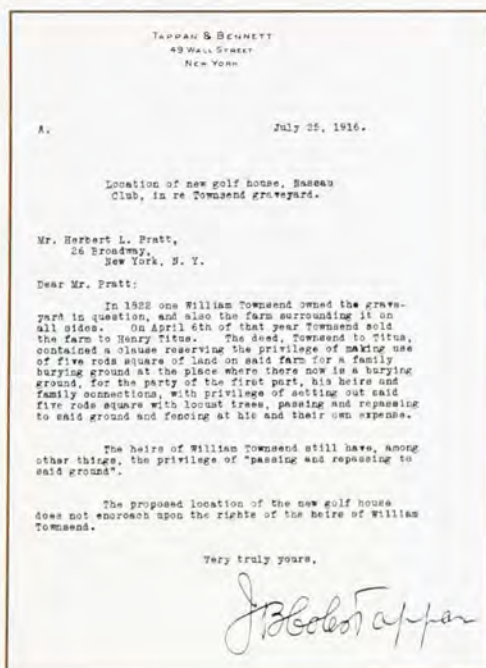
The members of Queens County soon found its location and facilities inadequate. In these last years of the 19th century, the "horseless carriage" had not yet come into its own. Carl



Charles Pratt, co-founder of the Standard Oil Company, built a golf course on his estate in Glen Cove. This was probably the beginning of Nassau Country Club.

CHAPTER ONE—The Beginning

View from the porch of the old club house in 1904. In the distance at right, you can see the Glen Cove railroad station, built at the expense of some wealthy "Gold Coast" colonists. Pond in center now guards the front of the eighth green.



The letter (above) from J. B. Coles Tappan (right) to Herbert L. Pratt spells out the status of Nassau's graveyard.

Benz of Germany had invented the first automobile powered by an internal combustion engine in 1885, but the automobile would remain experimental until about 1910. Meanwhile, rail was king. Most of the summer colonists commuted to Manhattan on the Long Island Railroad (LIRR) from either the Nassau Station (the present Glen Cove Station) or the Glen Street Station in the center of Glen Cove. From both stations, it was about a one-hour ride into the City.

The majority of the colonists undoubtedly used the Nassau Station, because they had been instrumental in building it. Apparently, these wealthy people who then were putting the gold into the "Gold Coast" found the proletarian atmosphere of the Glen Street Station, a freight yard, not to their liking. So, in 1895 they persuaded the LIRR to let them pay for their own station, and, with contributions by Queens County members, the Nassau Station was built in July and August of that year. The L-shaped brick building, which still exists in its original form, cost \$5,000.

The site of the Queens County Club was very inconvenient, some two miles from both Glen Cove stations. When the Club hosted matches involving out of towners—Montclair, N. J. for example—it had to arrange transport to the Club from Glen Street by a horse drawn stage owned and operated by one Olaf Moller.

Even more important, the Club had outgrown the nine-hole course and modest clubhouse. There was no room for expansion, what with the course wending its way through the existing estates. Moreover, the land itself was difficult, with innumerable hills and gullies.

Soon, Club members decided that moving the Club closer to the railroad, and preferably close to the new Nassau Station, would be an excellent idea, provided, of course, that enough land for a full 18-hole course was available there.

In 1898, the Club got exactly what it wanted. It was able to buy 107 acres in the Duck Pond district of Glen Cove (also called Highland Park or the Highland Avenue property). Better still, as *Harper's Official Golf Guide* of 1900 put it, the Nassau Club's "grounds are about 250 yards from the Nassau Station on the Long Island Railroad."

Interestingly, the Club's new property came with a cemetery as part of the deal. A letter from J. B. Coles Tappan to Herbert L. Pratt dated July 25, 1916, shown at left, records the reason. Evidently, in 1822 a William Townsend owned this graveyard and the farm around it. When he sold the farm that year to Henry Titus, he reserved the use of five rods square (one rod equals 5 1/2 yards) for a family burial ground. The Townsend family still maintain the graveyard, now located to the left of the present 18th green, one of the few original holes still existing at Nassau.

Today, little survives of the old Queens County course. Although one senior Nassau member has seen remains of it, in particular some old bunkers, these are on private estates and are therefore, for most people, inaccessible. However, there

is one striking relic that you can see from the road. This is an old tee located about 1,000 yards up from the beach on Red Spring Lane, which formed the western boundary of the course. It is quite uncanny how the tee's flat top, rectangular shape and sloping sides snap out of the surrounding ground. Yet, the tee presents a sadly surreal appearance, with some half-dozen second-growth trees bursting through its surface.

CHAPTER TWO—The Birth Of Nassau

If the Club's location had remained a part of Queens, the golfing world might now be playing a "One dollar Queens" rather than a "One-dollar Nassau." Of course, it didn't. On January 1, 1899, Glen Cove became part of Nassau County. Anticipating this event, the Club fathers decided to rename the Club "Nassau Country Club," and incorporated the Club under that name on December 24, 1898.

With Nassau officially in business, what the Club minutes describe as a "Special Meeting of the Incorporation of the Nassau Country Club" could take place on February 6, 1899, at Kolb's Restaurant, 164 Pearl Street, New York City.

The meeting considered by-laws for Nassau. These established the government of the Club and its necessary Committees. Some of their more interesting provisions included: Setting the date of the annual meeting, originally held on the first Saturday in April each year; laying down that "the members of the Club shall not exceed 300," and stating that "The Entrance Fee shall be \$25 and the Annual Dues shall be \$40, payable semi-annually in advance on the tenth day of April and October."

The meeting further decided that the officers of the old Queens County Golf Club should be the first officers of the Nassau Country Club until Nassau's first annual meeting. These officers were the same as those listed in Chapter One, except that Leonard J. Busby had replaced Howard W. Maxwell as Treasurer.



CHAPTER TWO—The Birth Of Nassau

Hole	Yards	Bogie	Travis
1. First	315	4	4
2. Long	500	6	5
3. Meadow	317	4	5
4. Mounds	318	5	5
5. Old Lane	367	5	5
6. Graveyard	382	5	5
7. Circus	161	3	4
8. Woods	365	5	5
9. Roadside	375	5	5
10. Slide	400	5	5
11. Sand Pit	188	4	4
12. Corner	395	5	5
13. Railroad	300	4	4
14. Cedar	390	5	5
15. Hill	473	6	7
16. Hollow	360	5	4
17. Pond	150	3	3
18. Home	280	4	3
Totals	6,036	83	83

Above, a replica of Walter Travis' score at Nassau in August 1899.

Below, the old 4th (Mounds) Hole. Bottom, the old par three 17th (Pond Hole).

The meeting also established the official seal of the Club. Item XIII of the new By-laws said: "The Seal of the Club shall be an acorn encircled by the following inscription: 'Nassau Country Club 1899 Q. C. G. C. 1896.'"

Winding up the affairs of the Queens County Golf Club took place a few days later, also at Kolb's Restaurant. On February 9, 1899, the meeting resolved that "in consideration of the sum of one dollar" Nassau Country Club was to acquire all the "property and claims" of Queens County as well as assume the old Club's liabilities, and that "the Queens County Golf Club be and hereby is dissolved."

A footnote to the birth of Nassau Country Club is that being the Club's Secretary at that time involved physically writing up the meetings in the Club's official Minute Book. For example, the final meeting of the Queens County Golf Club as well as the preamble to the Nassau Country Club By-Laws are clearly all written in W. Crittenden Adams's own neat hand. Adams did have some help: The By-Laws themselves were in another hand, a beautiful copperplate, evidently the work of a clerk. Philo Remington had made and sold commercial typewriters, complete with upper and lower case, as early as 1878. Yet, the practice of the Club Secretary writing up the meetings persisted until 1902, when the first typed records appear. It was not until 1906 that the minutes of every Club meeting were typed.

The New Course

The first order of business was building a new golf course. Interestingly, the Club fathers did not call in an outside design expert. Rather, a special Club Committee, headed by President Harvey Murdoch, did the whole job. As a contemporary magazine put it, "This was an unusual procedure, but the result justified the experiment." Murdoch and his committee did their homework, visiting many other courses and studying their best features.

Originally, the Club planned to open the new course on Memorial Day, 1899, but long continued dry weather made regular play impossible and it was not until July 4 of that year that the course opened for that one day only. The course was not really in commission until August 5, 1899.

One of the more notable visitors to play the new Nassau course "on one of the hottest afternoons" that August was Walter J. Travis, who was to win the U. S. Amateur championship for the first time in the following year. His score appears above left. Note that the card for the course used the term "bogey" (more commonly spelled "bogey"), then meaning a

standard of play for a good amateur. This was a little easier than par, the slightly older standard for professionals and championship level amateurs. Both bogey and par allow two putts on every hole.

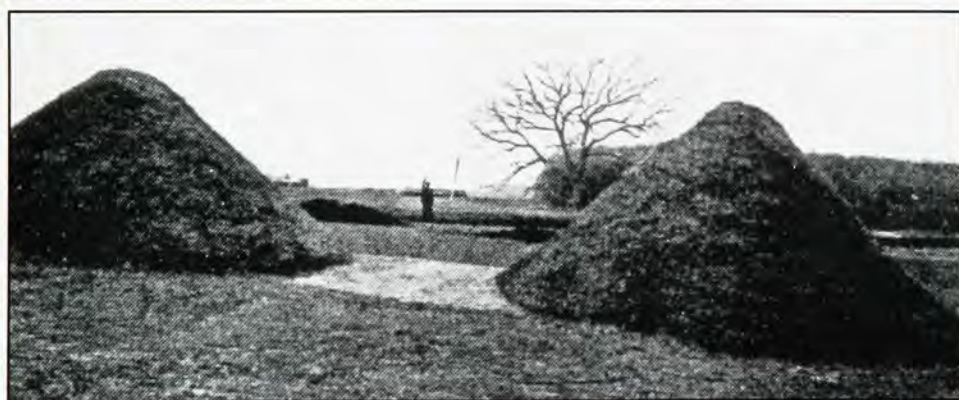
A map of the original course appears at right. For more on the course, its later redesigns and the evolution to today's course, see the later chapter on the golf course.

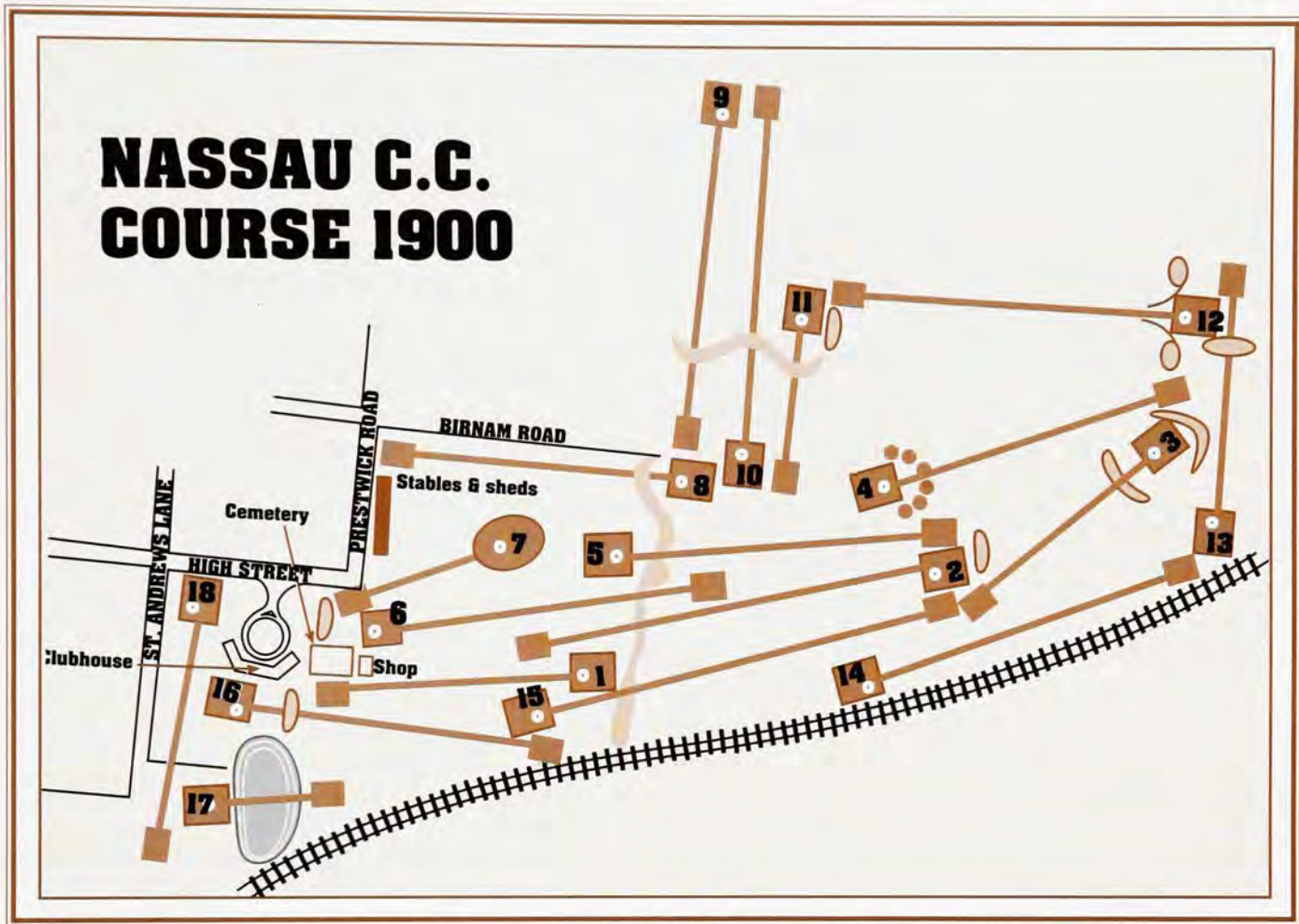
Nassau's Clubhouses

The map of the original course also shows the location of the Club's first clubhouse, located just a little north of the large pond at the southwest end of the Club's property near the present practice green.

The pond itself is quite old. A map from 1878 of the City of Glen Cove and its surroundings shows that the pond had exactly the same shape then as it has at present. In those days, the Duck Pond had a more poetic, even balletic name: Swan Lake.

At Glen Cove Station, you could formerly see the location of some old steps, since destroyed, but you can still see a path through an avenue of fine old oak trees, to





the right of the present ninth hole, along which a horse drawn carriage would bring members and visitors up to the clubhouse.

For many years, Nassau members thought that Stanford White designed their first clubhouse, chiefly because of its resemblance to his work at Shinnecock. Recent research, however, has proved this supposition wrong. In the book *The Architecture of the American Summer*, there is an architect's rendering of the design of the first clubhouse dated July 15, 1899. The architect was Woodruff Leeming, probably related to Thomas L. Leeming, a member of the Club from 1896.

Comparing the rendering with photos of the clubhouse forces one to conclude that the Club only partially built the original two-winged design. This deduction undoubtedly is correct, backed up, as it is, by contemporary magazine articles about Nassau.

A 1900 issue of *Golf* says, "The club-house is well appointed and when finally completed in accordance with the original plans, should afford every possible accommodation."

An 1899 issue of the same magazine was even more specific: "The Club has very ambitious ideals in regard to a suitable home for itself, but has been content for the present to build only what is required for its present needs and leave the extended wings, both east and west, until the golf course has been fully developed."

At the time the map of the original course was prepared, in 1900, the Club planned to eventually complete both wings. This is why this map shows a bird's eye view outline that includes them and coincides with the shape of the architect's rendering.

For many years, the story around the Club was that this old clubhouse burned down in 1909, making the building of the present Georgian structure necessary. Research has proved the story a myth.

Even though the magazine *Golf* was loud in its praises of the first clubhouse, calling it "handsome and commodious" as well as "picturesque, substantial and eminently comfortable—a model country clubhouse," the Nassau membership soon found it inadequate. The building was not big enough and it no longer served the purposes of the highly exclusive and ever growing membership.

Probably no one could have foreseen the explosion of interest in golf at that time—

Above, map of the Nassau course as it appeared in the magazine Golf in 1900. Note the shape of the clubhouse to the right of the 18th green. The circle in front was a circular drive around the putting green.

CHAPTER TWO—The Birth Of Nassau

there were only 100 golf clubs in the U. S. A. in 1896, but 1,000 by 1900. Nassau also enjoyed faster growth than the Club's founders anticipated.

By 1900, there were 210 members, and it appears that many prospective members were waiting to join, because the Club's 1901 Annual Meeting considered increasing the membership limit from 300 to 350. Although the meeting rejected this proposal, clearly the Club was speedily outgrowing its first clubhouse.

As early as April 10, 1902, the Club's Governors were considering "the question of enlarging the clubhouse." At that time, apparently, they were thinking of adding the wings of the original design. However, by the Annual Meeting of 1908, held on December 19, this solution was no longer attractive. The minutes of that meeting read in part:

"The President advised the meeting of the recent action of the Nassau Development Company (Note: This was a company that owned the real estate of the Club in the early days, and then rented it back to the Club.) in forming a

committee to meet a similar committee from the Nassau Country Club, to talk over the question of building a new Club House. The said joint committee is considering building plans, and the best method of financing the new project."

On September. 22, 1909, Club President Herbert L. Pratt sent a letter to members, informing them of a special meeting "in the Club House at Glen Cove, on October 5th, to consider the advisability of the Club making a lease with the Nassau Development Co. at the rate of \$10,000 per year, provided they build a new clubhouse for us." The meeting ratified this proposal.

Thereafter, apparently, the building of the new clubhouse went on apace, because the next known fact is that the new clubhouse was completed late in 1910. As best as can be determined, the firm of Delano and Aldrich were the architects who designed Nassau's new home.

In 1906, the Club had shifted the date of the Annual Meeting from April to mid-December. With this change, the Club had combined the meeting with a formal dinner afterward at such outstanding locations as the Waldorf and Plaza Hotels and Princeton Club. On December 17, 1910, 110 members and guests attended the dinner at the Plaza. The cover of the dinner menu celebrated the newly completed clubhouse with a fine illustration of it. This is shown at upper left.

As an aside, these were the days when men loved to sing at formal dinners such as these. Like any other self-respecting golf club of that era, Nassau had its own song, shown at left.

The old clubhouse continued in use during the 1911 season as quarters for the Club's servants. However, by October 26 of that year, President Herbert L. Pratt's report, given at a Directors' meeting, stated. "The old clubhouse is so rapidly falling apart that the Club and (Nassau) Development Company will very soon have to take up the question of building a new servant's quarters."

On March 19, 1912, the Board of Governors approved "the expenditure of \$400 for moving the West Wing of the old Club House preparatory to fitting it up as a dormitory for the help." Apparently, the Club demolished the remainder of the building. When John H. "Jack" Youmans, Nassau's head greenkeeper, who came to Nassau in 1902, celebrated his 25th anniversary with the Club, the *Glen Cove Echo* quoted him as having "seen the old clubhouse



Above, the cover of the menu from the 1910 dinner held on December 17th at The Plaza Hotel in New York City. Below are reproduced the lyrics for Nassau's song which appeared on the last page of the menu.

OUR CLUB

Air: Heidelberg

SOLO:

Better than riches of worldly wealth is a club that's always jolly—
Beaming with happiness, hope and wealth, and warmed by a cheering wine,
But as good as the hours we give to thought are the times we give to folly;
So come, let us clink, but first let us drink a toast to the club while we dine.

REFRAIN:

Here's to the club which we all love; here's to the flag she flies;
Here's to our home, the best on earth; here's to her smiling skies;
Here's to our president, brave and good, true as the stars above;
Here's to the committee that built the club. Here's to the club we love.

CHORUS:

Oh! Nassau Club, dear Nassau Club, thy sons will e'er adore,
Thy golden haze of bygone days will last forevermore.
Old Nassau Club, dear Nassau Club, from every year to year,
The thought of you, so good, so true, will fill our hearts with cheer.
The thought of you, so good, so true, will fill our hearts with cheer.

torn down."

The Club was delighted with its new quarters, to the point of wanting to keep it as much as possible for the enjoyment of members only. On March 17, 1911, the Board of Directors discussed the use of the Club by outside organizations for "dinners and entertainments." It was the sense of the Board that "this be discouraged."

However, as of early 1912, there remained one small problem, a deficit in the furnishing fund for the new clubhouse. On February 13, the Directors suggested a change in the Nassau By-Laws to the effect that any Club member of five years standing could become a Life Member on paying \$1,000. The Governors agreed on February 20, and a special meeting of March 2 effected the change.

The March 19 Governors meeting mentions that "Messrs. Harvey Murdoch, W. D. Guthrie, W. L. Harkness, Howard W. Maxwell, H. I. Pratt, Charles M. Pratt, Fredk. B. Pratt, Herbert L. Pratt, George D. Pratt and John T. Pratt" had applied to become Life Members. The results: No time wasted and no more deficit. One has to admire their style.

Golf Championships

The Club's founders were well aware of the value of golf championships and tournaments to Nassau, both in increasing the Club's prestige and making membership in the Club more desirable. Very early in the Club's history they showed tremendous interest in obtaining championships for the Club.

Although their earliest success came in 1900, when they obtained the Met Amateur for the Club, the Club's policy is well documented a little later. In January of 1901, when the Board of Governors appointed Harvey Murdoch and Percy Chubb to be the Nassau delegates to the MGA and USGA, they were quick to add that the delegates "were to act in accordance to their best judgment in regard to securing tournaments."

Nassau had to fight to get national championships. An insight into the politicking and lobbying for championships that went on in golf's early days comes in a 1902 issue of the magazine *Golf*.

"The newspaper prophets were somewhat discredited by the results of the eighth annual meeting of the USGA, held at Delmonico's, NYC, on February 27. For months preceding the meeting, dire predictions were made that the West would come to New York determined to rule or ruin. Glenview must be given the Amateur event, or the Chicago clubs would at once secede from the National Association and form a sectional and hostile organization.

"As time went on, however, the unsubstantial nature of these rumors became more and more apparent, and no one believed for a moment that the West would be disloyal, no matter what the outcome. Accordingly the report was industriously circulated that the Western delegates had become convinced of the hopelessness of their cause, and that Glenview would be entered merely for appearance sake. As a matter of fact, Glenview won with ridiculous ease on the first ballot.

"Glenview's success was really a compliment to the astuteness of the managers of the Western interests. No time was wasted in trying to influence delegates from the Metropolitan district in favor of Glenview; Philadelphia and Boston were more promising and they were thoroughly canvassed for recruits. The result was never in doubt after the balloting began, and for the second year in succession, the Nassau Country Club of Glen Cove, Long Island, lost the coveted honor. Under the circumstances the Nassau Club can have the event for the asking next season."

Before the vote, USGA President Robertson made a speech saying that the Executive Committee was of the opinion that the championship should go West. This made the task of R. D. Bokum, of Chicago, who spoke in favor of Glenview, rather easy. It also undermined anything that Harvey Murdoch, Nassau's President, or the then present and former U. S. Amateur champions, Walter Travis and Findlay Douglas (a Nassau member) could thereafter put forward to advance Nassau's cause. Douglas did his best. He caused "a stir" when he said that "there was no enthusiasm in the West." He added "that the championships when held in this area (the East) were always slimly patronized by the Westerners, while the Easterners always went to the West in goodly numbers." The vote was Glenview 27, Nassau 14.

Happily, the magazine's prediction proved accurate: Nassau did host the U. S. Amateur in the following year.



Findlay Douglas presented the case for Nassau's hosting the National Amateur.

CHAPTER TWO—The Birth Of Nassau

Besides hosting national championships and championships of the MGA and Women's MGA, and later those of the Long Island Golf Association, Nassau also resumed its own tournament. This is mentioned in a motion carried at a Board of Governors' meeting on April 10, 1902 that "the Open Tournament be held at the Club in the Fall." The tournament took place that September. The winner was Walter Travis. The Club's open tournament continued, with interruptions until 1987. It again resumed in September, 1995, initiating the Club's 100th Anniversary celebrations.

The Nassau Bet And Goat Tournament

Nassau also contributed two items to golf lore early on: The Nassau System and the Goat Tournament.

For many years at the Club, no one knew who had come up with the idea of the Nassau System. In a 1957 interview with Linc Werden of the *New York Times*, Findlay Douglas had said it originated in inter-club matches and credited "Nassau members" rather than an individual. Douglas, then quite old at 82, evidently had become a little forgetful. An article in a 1911 issue of *The American Golfer* magazine gives the whole, slightly different story.

"The Nassau System of scoring which is now universally played, was originated by Mr. John B. Coles Tappan, of the Nassau Country Club, in 1900; Tappan was then the captain of the club, (then a club officer in charge of the tournament program) and in a series of team matches within the club (i. e., intra-club matches) in which there were some eight or twelve teams competing, he found that where one member of a team won his match by twelve or fourteen up it was overwhelming and took all interest out of the competition so he accordingly evolved the Nassau System. (Note: The first Nassau match took place on October 13, 1900.)

"Its original purpose was to control matches between teams the members of which were not evenly matched, but of course was soon adopted for all kinds of matches and within the past year or so, there have been evidences of its invading England."

As background, the reader must realize that almost all Nassau's members at that time were either born with the proverbial silver spoon in their mouths or were wealthy giants of the business world. These men had their dignity. At the time, local newspapers and others such as the old *Brooklyn Eagle* reported in detail the results of Nassau's club tournaments and matches against other clubs. Findlay Douglas' comment on the Nassau System is right on the money, "It always sounded friendlier to say that you won three points from your opponent rather than to report you beat him, 7 and 6!" It also looked better in the newspaper, at least to the beaten opponent.

It seems likely that, if J. B. Coles Tappan hadn't invented the Nassau bet, another distinguished Club member speedily would have devised something similar!

Regarding the Goat Tournament, the same article from *The American Golfer* quoted above continues.

"The Goat Competition, which has spread so generally throughout the country, was originated by Mr. Frank N. Doubleday (the publisher), also of Nassau, in 1908. He was then on the golf committee and suggested the idea to his colleagues, and while it was under consideration, he had made up by Tiffany & Co. a number of the silver pocket pieces which took so well by the members that soon all were enrolled in the competition."

One must admit that there hasn't been a Goat Competition at Nassau in years. However, it may be as well to describe how the tournament works, if only to explain how it gave rise to the common expression: "He got my goat."

First, however, it's worth pointing out that further research seems to indicate that there was an error in the above article, that the Goat Competition started in 1909, not 1908. In the August, 1909, issue of *The American Golfer* appears the following:

"The Nassau (L. I.) Country Club has sent out the following notice to the members:

"The attention of the members is called to a season's golf competition for which a prize has been provided. The competition will be called the Goat Match. Tiffany and Co. have made up pocket pieces on which is inscribed on one side the figure of a 'Goat Rampant' and on the opposite the member's name. Members entering the competition will purchase one of the pocket pieces and will then be eligible to challenge any other entrant at terms mutually agreeable, the loser to surrender his 'goat' to the winner. It is then up to the player who has lost his goat to make some form of match by which he can recover it, i. e., if B has won A's goat, yet has lost his own to C, he can match A's goat to recover his own from C. A player who has lost

Below is a representation of a coin with a "goat rampant" on its face. It was probably derived from the art of heraldry from which this drawing was taken. The goat rampant was commonly taken for family coats of arms in the Middle Ages.



his goat and is not in possession of that of another must make the best terms possible with any holder of a goat, so as to recover as soon as possible one of the pocket pieces.

"A score sheet will be posted in the cafe on which players will mark up their wins and losses, so that the location of each goat may be known.

"The competition will close on St. Goatherd's Day, when all ties will be played off, prizes awarded, and the 'goats' returned to their original owners to be again played for the following year."

First, it would be strange for the magazine to print the full notice unless the competition were novel. Second, the language of the notice itself—"the competition *will be called* the Goat Match"—makes it clear it was new. Third, the only mention of the Goat competition in the Nassau archives is in the minutes of a Governors' meeting of November 30, 1909. It reads: "Moved and carried that a vote of thanks be extended to Messrs. Doubleday and Robinson for arranging the 'goat' competition."

Club committees who would like to hold such a tournament—it is a great club "mixer"—may appreciate the following additional material.

The only players one may challenge are those who possess a goat. Players usually don't have to accept a challenge more often than once a week. Matches are off handicap. When a player has lost his goat, he can still challenge another player to try to get that player's goat. If he should lose and not have a goat to give to the winner, he must buy a "kid" from the club's professional and give up the kid. The winner is the player holding the most goats at the end of the season.

Other Sports And Activities

Soon after its founding, Nassau moved to include sports other than golf in its calendar. To promote them, in 1902 it appointed Percy Chubb "as a Special Committee for the further development of Athletic Sports at Nassau Country Club."

However, even before Chubb's appointment, the Club had decided to start a shooting program. At a Director's Meeting of December 15, 1899, a motion carried that "The Club provide proper equipment for clay pidgeon shooting, that no shooting be allowed on Sundays, and that no live bird shooting be allowed at any time."

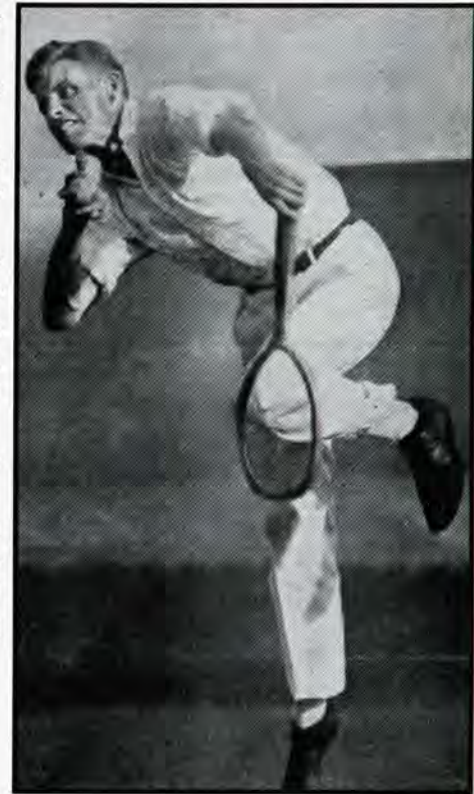
On April 30, 1904, a special meeting of the Club voted on several changes in the By-laws. One of these signals the start of tennis at Nassau. It read in part: "The Tennis Committee shall arrange and manage tennis competitions and shall fix the handicaps of the contestants therein." Sometime before March, 1905, squash also came to Nassau. On the ninth day of that month, the Tennis and Squash Committee was authorized to join the U. S. Lawn Tennis Association. Also, the Club's Annual Meeting, held April 1, 1905, noted "the erection of a new squash building" during the previous fiscal year.

As it had in golf, the Club decided to start its own tennis invitational, with emphasis on getting as many of the top players as possible. However, it took a remarkable man to get it going, Walter L. Pate. Pate became a member of the Club's Tennis Committee on April 15, 1913. In July, the Board of Governors "suggested the Committee look into plans for the tournament and Davis Trophy." On September 5, the Club held the first tournament for the Nassau Bowl.

Not every suggestion for a new club event was a winner, of course. On October 22, 1902, the Board of Governors resolved: "That it is the sense of this meeting that a successful horse show can be held under the auspices of the Nassau Country Club and that a Committee be appointed to consider the matter and report back to the Board."

By the 28th of that month, the Committee was back and hot to trot, so to speak. However, a motion that "This Committee advise the Nassau Country Club to give a horse show in the fall" lost, unanimously. Further, the Board resolved that it was "inadvisable" for Nassau "to hold a horse show at the present time."

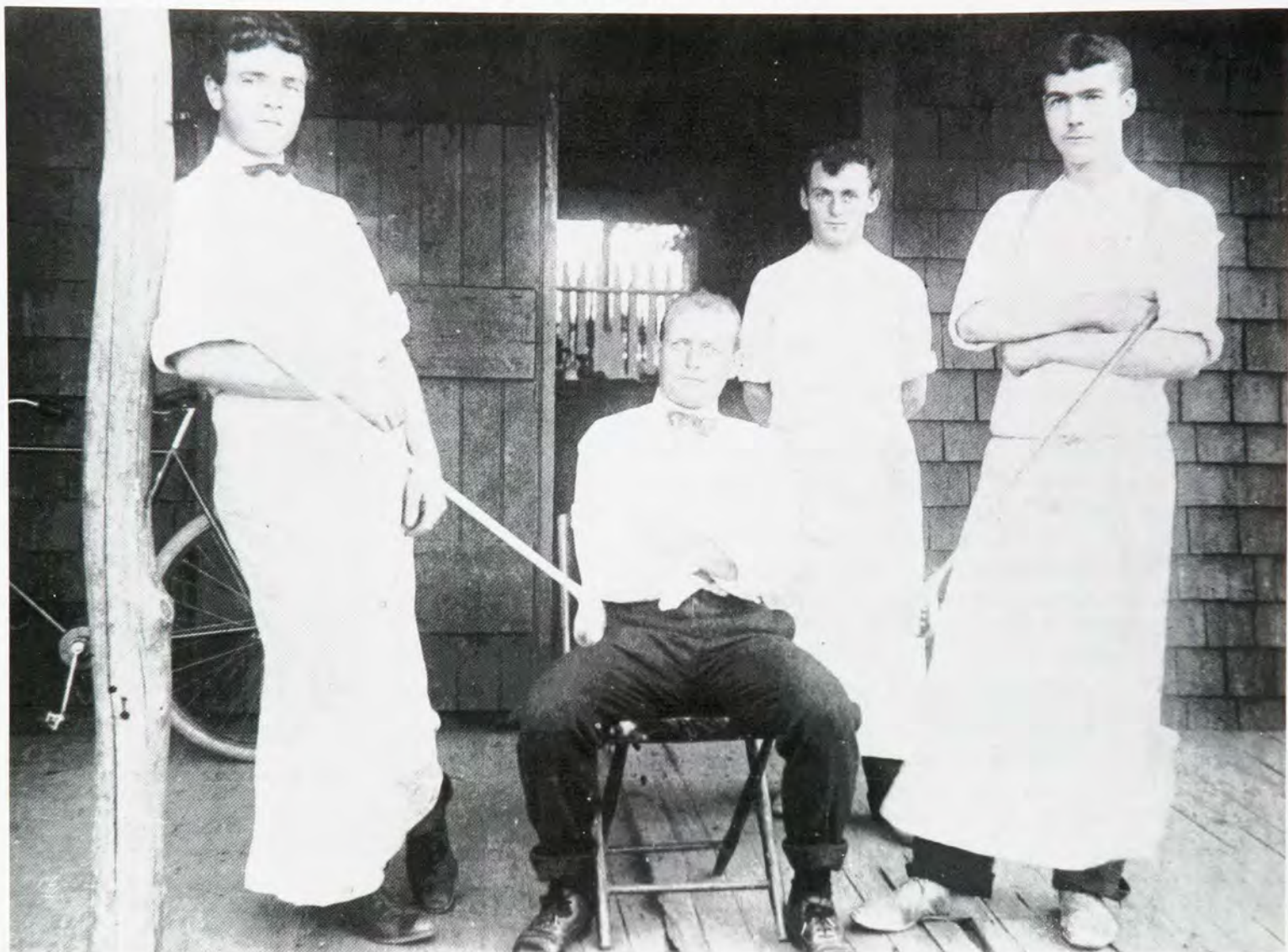
On the other hand, as we'll see later, the Club's members did enjoy such cultural events as Morning Musicales and theatricals, and for a few years an Annual Flower Show also was popular. These and other happenings will be explored later. However, before we take a closer look at the distinguished men and women then at Nassau and their life on the Gold Coast in the early decades of this century, it's appropriate to give pride of place to the great golfers among the Club's membership in those years as well its legendary professional.



Above is a photo from the Brooklyn Eagle, September 1913, showing Lindley Murray, winner of the first Nassau Country Club Invitation tennis tournament. Below is Howard F. Whitney on the skeet range in 1921. He was then president of the USGA.



CHAPTER THREE—Early Golf Greats at Nassau



Alex Smith sits outside the pro shop in the early 1900's. Standing, left to right, are his assistants Fred Low, Dick Clarkson and Jim Maiden.

In the early years of golf in America, Nassau was one of the golfing meccas of the East coast. By 1902, it had attracted one of the top professional players of the day, Alex Smith, who, like most early pros, hailed from Scotland. Gene Sarazen also figures in the Nassau history, visiting it as a young caddie.

The Club's members then were no slouches in the playing department, either. From Findlay Douglas and Ruth Underhill, the Club's first National Amateur champions, through Jerry Travers and Philip Carter, to Gardiner White, they set high standards.



Findlay S. Douglas

Nassau can rightly claim Findlay S. Douglas as one of her own, since he was a member, joining the Club in 1901. However, when he won the 1898 U. S. Amateur, he was playing out of Fairfield County Golf Club in Connecticut.

Born in St. Andrews, Scotland, Douglas first came to this country at the age of 22, when he visited a brother who had settled here on business. The opportunities that offered themselves for engineering talent persuaded young Douglas to remain and practice his profession in the United States.

That year, 1897, the tall, powerfully built young Scot immediately made his mark in the National Amateur at the Chicago Golf Club. For Douglas, this was his first tournament in the U. S. and, as the man who had captained the St. Andrews University team the year before, he was highly fancied. However, he lost in the semifinals to H. J. Whigham, the defending champion. Whigham was also Scottish born and had captained the Oxford University golf team before coming to America in 1895. Whigham won the championship. Douglas also played in that year's U. S. Open, which was held, as then was the custom, at the same place and week as the Amateur. He finished 19th.

In 1898, the U. S. Amateur was held at the Morris County Golf Club, Morristown, N. J. Winning his early matches decisively, Douglas went on to become the champion. In the semifinals, he defeated Walter J. Travis by 8 and 6, and in the final beat Walter B. Smith by 5 and 3. A long, accurate hitter and fine iron player, Douglas later showed a weakness on the green. That week, however, his putting presented no problems.

In 1899, Douglas again was in grand form in the Amateur, defeating his first three opponents with contemptuous ease. He again took care of Walter J. Travis in the semifinals, this time by 3 and 2. In the final, he met H. M. Harriman. Harriman was 7 up after the morning round, but in the afternoon, Douglas played brilliantly and it appeared as if he would prevail. However, he "over-drove" the short 16th, and this error cost him the match by 3 and 2.

After the championship, Douglas sustained a serious accident. The Editor of the magazine *Golf* reported that Douglas "was the sole victim amongst a quintet of golfers who were all unceremoniously thrown out of a carriage at Greenwich."

Both of Douglas' hands and arms went under the wheels and the right hand was "torn almost to shreds." At first, amputation seemed necessary, but by "the insertion of three stitches and careful splicing together it is certain now that nature will restore the wounds." Douglas had to miss the Open, held that year in September.

The Scots are a tough race. In the 1900 U. S. Amateur, Douglas again was a finalist. His first three opponents went down 5 and 4, 10 and 9, and 9 and 8. In the semifinals, he met Harriman, and eliminated him by 4 and 3. However, in the final, Travis had his revenge, winning by 2 up.

In 1901, Douglas went to the semifinals. Travis was again his nemesis, beating him 1 up in 38 holes, and becoming the champion for the second time.

However, the story behind these facts was that, of the 124 players in the championship, 20 were playing the new, lively Haskell rubber-cored ball, among them, the short-hitting Travis. Douglas stuck to the old, less resilient, gutta percha solid ball.

The magazine *Golf* reported: "It was mainly to the use of the rubber-cored (Haskell) ball that Travis owed his victory. Douglas was playing a superb long game, the champion (Travis) would have been out-driven if he had stuck to the gutta, and he was generally out-driven as it was. It was the fine action of the rubber-cored ball with irons that saved Travis. The stroke that won the match at the 38th hole was with a mid-iron. It is doubtful if he could have reached the green on his second with a gutta."

In the light of this match, it was hardly surprising that this national championship proved to be the last in which players used the old gutta ball.

Although Douglas continued to compete in the Amateur for a number of years, he only qualified twice more, in 1903 and 1908; on both occasions he went out in the first round. He also played in the British Amateur, but without success. In 1903, Douglas had his highest finish in the U. S. Open; 8th place, scoring 322, 15 strokes behind the champion, Willie Anderson. He tied for 23rd in 1909.



A turn-of-the-century photo of Findlay Douglas finishing an approach shot. Photo from the magazine Golf. The article goes on to point out that "Douglas has the perfect style, even in the photograph you can see the nimble foot action, the perfect timing by which quite unconsciously the center of gravity moves from the right leg in the upward swing to the left in the downward attack."

CHAPTER THREE—Early Golf Greats at Nassau



Ted Ray demonstrates how to loft a stymie. Another option was to putt around your opponent's ball.

In the Met Amateur, Douglas was twice the champion. In 1901, he defeated C. H. Seely by 11 and 9 in the final at the Apawamis Club, and in 1903, he bested John A. Moller, Jr. by 10 and 9 at Deal Golf and Country Club. In 1907, he lost in the final by 8 and 7 to Jerry Travers, at Nassau.

Douglas was Nassau champion in 1904, 1905 and 1908 and was successful in many other Met area events. Of them all, he once said that his "most cherished golf prize" was the St. Andrew's Golf Club's silver trophy of 1897. Douglas remembered it so well because he had been forced to jump a stymie at critical stages in his semifinal and final matches. He negotiated both successfully. To the day he died, in 1959, he always maintained, "It was a mistake to take the stymie out of golf. It added more interest to a match."

Note: A stymie occurred when your opponent's ball lay on the green between your ball and the hole, the balls being more than six inches apart. The stymie was part of match play from the game's beginning until 1951, when the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, and the USGA abolished it. To play a stymie, you had to either "jump" your ball over your opponent's ball with a lofted club or putt your ball around the other, using a slope on the green.

Douglas' game stood the test of time. At the age of 57, he won the 1932 U. S. Seniors Golf Association championship at the Apawamis Club, Rye, NY, with a score of 148.

Douglas was more than just a fine player. In 1908, he was one of 70 original founders of Charles B. Macdonald's National Golf Links (Shinnecock Hills, Long Island, New York). He also served the game as president of the USGA from 1929-30, of the MGA from 1922-1924, and the U. S. Seniors Golf Association in 1937.

Ruth Underhill

Born in Englewood, New Jersey, in 1874, Ruth Underhill was a grand-daughter of Charles A. Dana, editor of the *New York Sun*. She was a graduate of Bryn Mawr College, and, as a young woman, contributed short stories to leading magazines as well as being one of America's pioneer women golfers. While she won the U. S. Women's Amateur in 1899, this was not the first time she had competed in the championship.

Underhill made her debut in 1897, when the Essex County Club, Manchester, Massachusetts, hosted the event. She then was playing out of the old Queens County Club. At the time, golf historian H. B. Martin described her as a "young player coming to the front." She failed to qualify on a day laconically described in the magazine *Outing* as "stormy." This was probably an understatement since the medalist, Beatrix Hoyt, took 108 strokes. That year, Hoyt won the championship for the second time in a row.

In 1898, at the Ardsley Club, Ardsley-on-Hudson, New York, Hoyt won for the third time. She again was medalist, with 92. The next best score was 100. Underhill shot 105. Nine of the 16 qualifiers had higher scores, the highest, 109. If these scores sound high, one must remember that this was still the era of the gutta ball, when men were qualifying for the Amateur with scores ranging from 87 to 94.

After winning her first round match 1 up in 19 holes over Madeline Boardman of Essex County, Underhill lost to Frances Griscom of Merion 6 and 4. This was no disgrace, as Griscom was a formidable competitor. Moreover, the press highly praised Underhill's courage in her match with Boardman. Four down after 13 holes, Underhill fought back to square the match at the 18th and win on the first extra hole.

In 1899, the Philadelphia Country Club, Bala, Pennsylvania, hosted the championship. Again, Hoyt was medalist with 97 and Underhill, now playing out of Nassau, qualified with another 105.

Outing Magazine describes Underhill's progress to the final. "Undoubtedly, Miss Underhill was the surprise of the competition, not so much because she was a dark horse as because the public eye was riveted on Mrs. Caleb Fox (the other finalist, who put Hoyt out in the first round and then defeated two other highly fancied contestants) . . . Had this eclipse not obscured Miss Underhill, the public would much earlier have recognized her possibilities, not only from her past form, but from her present play." By "present play," the magazine was referring to Underhill's victory earlier that year in May in a three-day tournament at Lakewood (N. J.), when she was first in a large field.

The magazine continued, "To those who saw her play on Wednesday in the first match, when she easily disposed of Miss Janet H. Swords by 3 and 2, or on Thursday when she



Ruth Underhill, U.S. Women's Amateur Champion in 1899. Note the upright swing, very unconventional in her day.

won from Miss Pauline Mackay by the same score, she exhibited all her usual characteristics. She played with great judgement and coolness. The deliberation of her address has not diminished, while it would be impossible for the length of her backswing to have increased. There was the unique croquet-like attitude in her putts. Yet it was not until she had made the (lowest) score of the tournament, a 47 on the out holes (50 had been the low score in qualifying, by Hoyt), against Miss Elsie Cassatt that she attracted attention."

This was really Underhill's first formidable opponent. Cassatt was the champion of the Women's Philadelphia Golf League (in 1898 and 1899), a group that included some of the finest women golfers of the day, and on the Wednesday she had defeated Griscom by 3 and 2. Underhill defeated Cassatt handily, by 5 and 4, then disposed of Mrs. Fox in the final by 2 and 1.

In October of 1899, the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association was born. This is the country's second oldest sectional women's golf association; the WGA of Philadelphia dates from 1897. Underhill became the WMGA's first secretary. The association held its first championship at Morris County in June of the following year, when Underhill lost in the final by 9 and 7 to the talented 17-year old Genevieve Hecker. The following year at Nassau, Hecker again beat Underhill in the final, this time by 2 and 1.

Underhill continued to play in the Amateur for a number of years, but without further victories. She qualified in 1900 at Shinnecock, but lost in the first round. Griscom was the champion.

Later that year, the magazine *Harper's Bazar* ran an article entitled "Miss Griscom's Game of Golf." The author, one Arthur Pottow, mentioned that Griscom should take heed of the example of Underhill, who "had lost at Shinnecock, due to a weakness in her long game, the result of as a bad a style as is possible to conceive."

Study of photos of Underhill in this magazine and others shows that she had a baseball grip, then very common, and used, among others, by Alex Smith and Jerry Travers. So, that hardly could be what Pottow was carping at. Underhill did finish the swing with the hands very high, well above her head, a very upright swing plane. This is probably what Pottow meant by "bad style," since a flat swing was then in vogue.

For example, an *Outing Magazine* article of 1898 praised Beatrix Hoyt for her "low, round swing and the most beautiful follow-through to be imagined." (Incidentally, in this "beautiful" follow-through, Hoyt "would often move on a step with the force of her finish," as Gary Player does now.)

Today, with the successes of Nicklaus and John Daly before us, we undoubtedly would praise rather than find fault with Underhill's upright swing! Others had no difficulty in accepting Underhill's golfing credentials. She later wrote a chapter on women's golf in *The Book of Sport*, 1901.

The last time that Underhill qualified for the Amateur came in 1902, when she shot a 90, only one off the pace of two co-medalists. She then had the misfortune to meet the defending champion, Genevieve Hecker, in the second round and lost by 4 and 3. Hecker went on to win the championship for the second time.

Further light on Underhill's highly individual putting style is thrown when, earlier in 1902, she had played in the Poniatowski Cup. This was an 18-hole medal play event hosted by the Burlingame Country Club in San Mateo, California. At the time, it was one of the principal trophies for women golfers in that state. The magazine *Golf* reported that Underhill won with a 96. The holder, Mrs. Gilman Brown, described as the "strongest exponent of the game in Northern California," was second with 102.

The magazine commented on the "greens" of "oiled sand," to which Underhill was "not accustomed." It went on: "Nevertheless her putting was accurate and consistent. The *San Francisco Examiner* naively describes her aluminum putter as follows; 'In the putting, Miss Underhill uses a stick of a kind never before seen on this coast. It is as an iron, shaped like a croquet mallet (Note: In modern golf parlance, a mallet putter—as opposed to a blade), and, standing behind the ball, Miss Underhill propels it from her with the flat side.'"

Naively described or not, at first it does sound as though Underhill was one of the early pioneers of what we would call croquet-style putting (standing astride the line). However, photos of her putting reveal that she stood "behind" the ball by adopting a very open stance. From the angle of the putter face, it appears she then swung the putter back just outside her right foot, and then through and away from herself.

Underhill could not have putted croquet-style because of the era's ankle-length skirts. In those days, women playing croquet used a "golf-type" stance, standing to the side of the ball.



A rare photo of Beatrix Hoyt shown in front of the clubhouse at Shinnecock Hills G.C. in 1896.



Compare this finish with the photo of Ruth Underhill on the preceding page. The low hands and flat swing shown here were then in fashion.

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In 1904, Underhill married Harold Tredway White, a partner in White, Weld and Co, New York investment bankers and stockbrokers. She then gave up writing as well as tournament golf. Her husband's hobbies were hunting, fishing and collecting rare books, but unfortunately did not include golf. She died in 1944.

Alex Smith

Alex Smith was born on January 28, 1874. He was the eldest of five brothers—the others were Willie, Macdonald, George and Jimmy—who emigrated from Carnoustie, Scotland, to the U. S. around the turn of the century. In the spring of 1898, the Forgans of Chicago, looking for a pro/clubmaker who also had experience as a greenkeeper, invited Alex to come to America. He accepted and took the position of greenkeeper at Washington Park.

In the 1898 U. S. Open, held at the Myopia Hunt Club, Hamilton, Massachusetts, he finished in second place behind the pro at Washington Park, Fred Herd, and again was second in 1901. That was the year that he received an offer from Nassau. Since he would better himself considerably, he lost no time in accepting it. While at Nassau, he won the Open for the first time in 1906 at the Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest, Illinois. He was then 34 years of age. He scored 295, leaving his brother Willie seven strokes in his wake. This was the first time anyone had broken 300 in the championship. He also finished fourth in 1903, second in 1905 and third in 1908.

Another performance by Smith while at Nassau, is, as the magazine *Golf* of August, 1903, put it, "worthy of brief notice." On July 8 of that year, while playing the best ball of three

amateurs, he went round Nassau in 66. The magazine noted that he had a 2 at the Circus hole and a 3 at the 12th, 395 yards. Sixty-six was a remarkably low score for those days. In the U. S. Open, for example, no one broke 70 until six years later.

In 1909, Alex left Nassau for Wykagyl. In the following year, he again won the Open, held at the Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Cricket Club. Blessed with a marvelous sense of humor and temperament for the game, he had need of these qualities on this occasion. On the 72nd green, he missed an easy three-footer for the outright win. He somehow managed a broad grin, and the next day, easily won the playoff with a 71 against his brother Macdonald's 77 and Johnny McDermott's 75.

Alex's overall record is impressive. Besides his two victories in the U. S. Open, he also had three seconds, three thirds, a fourth and a fifth. The fifth place came in 1921, 23 years after his first appearance, when he was 49 years old. Alex's other major wins came in the 1903 and 1906 Western Opens, and in the Met Opens of 1905, 1909, 1910 and 1913. His four successes in the latter event are still a record. He finished second in the Western Open in 1904 and in the Met Open in 1906. He also won three Eastern PGA Championships.

If today's readers think that extra long clubs are something new, they should know that Alex won the 1905 Met Open with a set of so-called "fishing pole" woods, the driver 48 inches long! However, he didn't stay with them long. By the next year, he was still using very long clubs, but the extra long clubs were no longer in his bag (see box at left). Evidently, even a man of his skill couldn't hit the ball flush consistently with such unwieldy weapons.

In the same year, Walter Travis also tried extra-length clubs, his driver measuring 50 inches in length! Even then, the idea was not new. Also in 1905, Van Tassel Sutphen wrote: "Clubs of abnormal length have been tried time and again in the past and the pendulum is continually oscillating between the two extremes . . . In the long clubs, the increased leverage does bring off a longer ball—that is a simple mechanical proposition. But if greater accuracy in

hitting be also involved, how shall it profit a man who is wild with the ordinary clubs?"

It was a fad that lasted just about a year.

The pendulum still oscillates. In 1992, Senior Tour pro Rocky Thompson said of his 50-inch driver, "When I hit it, it goes downtown. The only problem is I don't know which town!"

In 1906, Smith won the U. S. Open playing with a Goodyear pneumatic golf ball—the center filled with compressed air. His brother Willie, who finished second, also used the ball. The pneumatics performed well, but had a distressing tendency to explode in hot weather! Like the extra-long clubs, they soon vanished from the golfing scene.

Later, in 1921, O. B. Keeler, Bobby Jones's Boswell, analyzed Alex's playing method

Alex Smith's Clubs In 1906

In October, 1906, Alex Smith started a series of instruction articles for the magazine *Golf*, called "Lessons in Golf." (These were the foundation of a book of the same name published in the following year.) The magazine published the weight and length of Alex's set of clubs at the time:

Club	Weight	Length
Driver	14 oz.	46 1/4 inches
Brassey	15 oz.	45 1/2 inches
Spoon	14 1/4 oz.	45 inches
Cleek	14 3/4 oz.	42 1/2 inches
Drive Iron	15 oz.	41 inches
Midiron	16 oz.	40 1/4 inches
Mashie	15 1/2 oz.	39 3/4 inches
Mashie Niblick	17 1/4 oz.	39 inches
Putter	16 1/2 oz.	38 inches

These are very long clubs. Today, the regular length of a driver equipped with a steel shaft is 43 inches, a 1-iron, 39 1/2 inches, although, thanks to the lightness of graphite shafts, it is now feasible for even average golfers to swing drivers with shafts 44 or even 45 inches long. *Golf* did not list the lofts of Alex's clubs.

in a series of articles entitled "Studying the Style of the Champions" that he wrote for the *American Golfer*. Here are some highlights.

"Alex Smith, a stocky, sturdy, Scotchman (He was 5 foot 10 inches tall and weighed 170 pounds), is a gowfer of the old school, who lays hold upon a club very much as a baseball player grasping a bat, who uses the flat, full Carnoustie swipe, the club hardly coming up to the level of the shoulder on the back swing, and being driven through the stroke by the application of immense power from a brawny right forearm and wrist.

"Alex uses the old fashioned palm grip (no overlap or interlock) employed by players in slugging the stubborn gutta-percha ball with a full St. Andrews swing. On his full shots, his thumbs are around the shaft—a regular two-fisted slugging grip. Coming down to the mashie, he puts his right thumb down the shaft, and this variation is used for all shorter shots."

One should note that Alex, in the series of instruction articles in *Golf* referred to earlier, said he used the baseball grip because it gave him "more driving power." He admitted that the Vardon grip gave more control, but said *for him* his grip gave him more power, with no loss of control. For approaching, he used the same grip except he overlapped the right little finger over the left index finger. This, he said, gave him "more command over the club."

O. B. Keeler continued, "His full swing is exceedingly flat, and results in an educated hook Alex cultivated to help the length of the shot. In his prime he was famed for his wood play, getting distance with remarkable accuracy, and for his play around the green. His main difficulty was with half-irons, and when such a length presented itself, he was more than likely to take his mashie and hit the ball hard. To avoid half-mashie shots, he hit a full niblick. He disliked spared shots of any kind and did not hit them well. No person hit a mashie pitch with less elevation or more backspin.

"On the green, Alex was a good putter. . . he hit the ball firmly and with no hesitation. (Note: He was known for his admonition to "Miss 'em quick!) He never wasted time picking up tiny obstacles on the line of his putt or scraping away worm-casts or such obstructions to traffic. He was once asked, 'Why do you leave them there? They might throw your putt off the line.' 'Yes,' replied Alex, 'and they might throw it on the line, too!'"

Alex was justly famed as a teacher. His best known pupils were Glenna Collett Vare, Marion Hollins and Jerome "Jerry" Travers. Vare won six U. S. Women's Amateurs and Hollins, one, while Travers won four U. S. Amateurs and an Open; a total of 12 national titles.

In 1919, when Vare was 16 years old, she entered the Eastern Open. There she met the well-known golf writer of that time, H. B. Martin, who suggested she take lessons from Alex, then at the Shenecossett Country Club, New London, Connecticut. After her first lesson, Alex told Martin, "The kid's good. If I can't make a champion out of her, I'm a disgrace to the Smith family!" He gave her lessons twice a week for three years. Alex strengthened her game to the point where, as she said, "At 18, and standing 5' 6" and weighing 128 pounds, I drove a ball off the tee for a measured distance of 307 yards, the longest drive ever made (up to that time) by a woman." She was to win 49 major championship matches in her career.

When Marion Hollins went to see Alex, she had competed in the Women's Amateur for a long time, but without success. In 1913, at the age of 21, she had gone to the final, to lose 2 down to Gladys Ravenscroft of England. She then qualified every year the championship was played through 1919. During that time, she only once reached the second round, in 1919, losing to the defending champion, Alexa Stirling. The next year, Hollins did not qualify. Then in 1921, after taking some lessons from Alex she went straight down to the Hollywood Golf Club, Deal, New Jersey, and won. In the final, she defeated Stirling, who had won the previous three championships, by 5 and 4.

Not all Alex's teaching sessions were blessed with such success. During one winter at Belleair Country Club, near Clearwater, Florida, he spent nearly a month teaching an overweight lady beginner. Every day she took an hour-long lesson, sometimes two lessons. When she made no progress, Alex said to her "I give up, lassie. It's no use. You'll never make a golfer." She replied, "I never wanted to be a golfer. I'm only taking lessons to reduce." For once, Alex was speechless and could not teach for the rest of the day!

They say no one is truly dead as long as a good friend remembers him fondly. At a



Alex Smith in the follow-through.

*Note the two-fisted, palm grip
and flat, low finish.*

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recent MGA dinner, one of Alex's friends, "Lighthorse" Harry Cooper, was chatting with Nassau's Jim Tingley and remarked, "Alex was always fun to play with or just to be with. Part of his charm was he usually would say the first thing—often hilarious—that came into his head.

"One time he was giving a young woman, recently married, her first lesson. To put her at ease, Alex asked: 'What did you think of when you took off your shoes on your wedding night?'" Cooper still teaches at Westchester Country Club; he won the first Los Angeles Open in 1926 and 31 other PGA Tour events.

Cam Maiden only met Alex once, when as a boy of 14, he visited Alex's daughter, Margarite Peg Smith, in Connecticut. Alex evidently made quite an impression. "When Alex walked in," says Cam, "something in the the room suddenly changed. Everybody looked at him. He had that physical magnetism that today you'd associate with Arnold Palmer. Even if you didn't see Alex enter, you knew somebody important had arrived. He had a huge, dominating personality, but not unpleasantly so. He was friendly, charming and very gregarious. I was totally in awe of him, but he must have liked me, because a year later he gave me his Rolex watch, which I still possess."

Alex was married to Jim Maiden's sister, Jessie. He died in 1930, and was buried in St. Paul's Episcopal Church graveyard on Highland Road in Glen Cove. His trophies, medals, and awards are at Carnoustie, Scotland. In 1940, Alex was among the first 12 players elected to the PGA Hall of Fame.

Jerry Travers

Jerome D. "Jerry" Travers started to play golf on the lawns of the estate his father (Vincent P. Travers) owned in Oyster Bay. The year was 1896. Young Travers then was nine years old. His first club was a mid-iron (2-iron), and with it he would hit shots from a windmill on the back lawn toward the house. The next year, he hit a ball through a window, and his father suggested he play his golf on the larger front lawn.

When he was 13, Travers started to play at the Oyster Bay course. In 1902, his father joined Nassau, and Travers became a junior member.

That summer, Alex Smith saw Travers and some other boys driving golf balls from a spot near the clubhouse down to the Glen Cove station. His experienced eye singled out Travers' swing, and he complimented the youngster on it. He then added, "If you want to go places in golf, come and see me tomorrow morning."

When they met the next day, Smith pointed out three faults: Travers was overswinging, his arms were too stiff and his right hand was in too weak a position on top of the club.

The next year, Travers played in his first U. S. Amateur, held at Nassau. He won his first match, but lost in the second round. It was a start. In the final of the Nassau club championship, he lost to Howard F. Whitney.

In 1904, Travers broke through to the front ranks. Then 17 and a student at Dr. Collison's school, he won the Interscholastic Championship played at Nassau in May and that summer defeated Walter J. Travis in the final of Nassau's open tournament.

Among the amateurs, Travis was then the man to beat. The year before, he had won the U. S. Amateur for the third time, and had just returned from England where his Schenectady putter (a center-shafted aluminum-headed mallet) had mowed down all opposition in the British Amateur. Travis also had won the Nassau event in 1902, and, since it was not played in 1903, was the defending champion.

Travers fought his way to the semifinals, but there he had to face Findlay Douglas, still one of the country's leading amateurs. To everyone's surprise, the lad prevailed by 2 and 1. (Douglas got a modest revenge later that year when he beat Travers for the Nassau club championship—an event Travers never won.) Up to that time, Travers had putted with a cleek. However, he admitted to Guy Robertson, another Nassau member, that he was not happy with it.

"If I could just borrow that putter Travis uses I think I could beat the 'Old Man' at his own game."

"I've got that exact putter in my locker," replied Robertson, "and you're welcome to it."

Golfers called Travis the "Old Man," because he had not taken up golf until 1896, when he was 34 and only won his first U. S. Amateur in 1900 at age 38.

After a few successful putts on the practice green, Travers put the Schenectady in his bag. When he took it out on the first green, Travis was so surprised, he looked quickly in his own bag to make certain the youngster wasn't putting one over him.



Jerry Travers in the finish. Note the black ribbon dangling from his watch pocket. It is attached to one of his golf medals. In those days, it was customary to wear your medals.

The incident did not upset the "Old Man," who was two up after three holes. Although Travers twice squared the match, Travis again was two up after 13 holes. Travers won the 14th and 17th holes and after a half at the home hole, the match again was square. Halves in par followed at the first two playoff holes, but on the third, Travers holed a 12-foot birdie putt for the win.

Afterwards, Travers asked his father for two dollars with which to pay his caddie. The elder Travers was so excited he gave his son a \$20 bill without realizing the error.

It takes a big man to be magnanimous after such a loss. Later, Travis said, "There is no bitterness in such a defeat. It is a match I shall always recall with pleasure."

This was the first of many hotly contested battles between the pair. In 1905, Travers beat Travis in the second round of the Met Amateur by 7 and 6. Then Travis beat Travers twice, at Westbrook by 8 and 7, and at the 21st green at Shinnecock. But Travers, undaunted, again defeated Travis in the final of the Nassau tournament, this time by 4 and 2. From 1906 to 1914, they met five more times in the U. S. Amateur, with Travers winning four of them. Even so, the "Old Man" had the last word. At age 53, he defeated Travers en route to his last victory in the Met Amateur in 1915.

In early June of 1906, Travers helped Alex Smith tune up for the U. S. Open held later that month at Onwentsia where Willie Anderson was the pro. Smith was concerned about trying to beat Anderson on his home course—Anderson had won the last three Opens in a row. The pair set out to play four rounds at Nassau. The first morning, the scores were: Travers, 70, Smith, 71. In the afternoon, Travers scored 71, Smith, 72. The next morning, Travers again had a 70, Smith, 71. In the afternoon, Travers had another 71, Smith, 72. When they had finished, Travers turned to Smith and said, "Now you've had your lesson, Alex, I expect you to go out to Chicago and clean up!" And of course, as previously related, he did.

For Travers, 1906 was the year he won his first important championship, the Met Amateur. He repeated in the following year, when the event was at Nassau. He was to win it three more times, all in a row, from 1911 to 1913.

By 1907, Travers had joined the Montclair Golf Club, New Jersey. More mature now at 21, he seemed ready to win a major. In the Amateur, held at the Euclid Golf Club in Cleveland, Ohio, he only had one close match on his way to the final, a 1-up victory over Warren Wood. The others he won easily. In the afternoon round of the final against Archie Graham, Travers came to the 13th green needing only a four-foot putt for victory. He froze over the putt, then stepped away, saying that he had no feel in his hands. Graham told him sharply, "Drop it anyway and end the agony. You couldn't miss that with your eyes shut." Travers then holed the putt.

Travers won the Amateur again the next year. At the Garden City Golf Club, he won all but one of his matches easily, and defeated Max Behr 8 and 7 in the final. He was only vulnerable in his semifinal match against Travis. Coming to the 18th hole one down, Travis had to win the hole to stay alive. At the 18th, a short hole over water to a green surrounded by bunkers, Travers put his tee shot on the putting surface, but Travis found the deepest greenside bunker, fully six feet deep. After two unsuccessful attempts to blast out, Travis conceded the match. Ironically, it was Travis himself who had designed these bunkers. As one member put it, "The Old Man dug his own grave on that one."

Travers went into a slump in 1909. He attempted to duplicate Travis's feat of winning the British Amateur, but lost in the first round. In the U. S. Amateur at the Chicago Golf Club, he failed to qualify. The rough was formidable that year, and Travers' tendency to snap hook his drives left him too many recoveries from long grass. He did not even enter the Amateur the next year.

By 1911, Travers was back on the stick, having learned that the life of a playboy and champion amateur golfer don't mix. Even though he lost in the third round of the U. S. Amateur to Englishman Harold Hilton, who went on to win the championship, Travers did win both the Met and New Jersey Amateurs.

In the 1912 U. S. Amateur at the Chicago Golf Club, Travers again reached the final; his opponent was Chick Evans. In the morning round, Travers was all over the course due to hooked drives, and was only one down due to ferocious scrambling, some inspired run-ups on the sun-baked ground and holing three long putts. On the fourth hole after lunch, Travers had a huge piece of luck. A big, hooked drive should have gone deep into the rough. Instead, it rebounded from a mound back into the fairway. This shattered Evans, who lost the hole.



Three-time U.S. Amateur Champion

*Walter Travis fell victim to
17-year-old Jerry Travers in the final
of the 1904 Nassau tournament.*

CHAPTER THREE—Early Golf Greats at Nassau

Lines by Grantland Rice

They said your glory days were spun;
That you had known your final run;
In short they whispered you were done.

No more, thought they, the deadly spin
That pushed the pill against the pin,
And then the putt that pumped it in.

No more the jigger shot that flew
A streak of white against the blue,
To flop down for a simple Two.

Once you could give the ball a cuff;
Once you could bang 'em from the rough;
Once you were there with all the Stuff.

And so they mourned your vanished fame;
And faded glory of your game,
And softly murmured, "What a shame."

But through it all they overlooked
The fact that while you sliced or hooked,
Your Goose was Scorched—
but never Cooked.

Aye, they forgot that at the call
Of later fame amid the thrall,
Your Eye was always On The Ball.

And summing up your latest start,
Where no one granted you a part—
They overlooked the Fighting Heart.

Travers made no more mistakes. Using his black driving iron on every par 4 and par 5, he was out in 34 and won by 7 and 6.

In 1913, the U. S. Amateur was again at Garden City. Travers barely qualified. At the 18th hole, he took a 7, and tied with 12 others vying for 11 places in match play. He survived and, despite being in poor form, won again, his driving iron seeing much use. Among his victims was Francis Ouimet, who succumbed by 3 and 2 in the third round. (This was just two weeks before Ouimet's history-making victory in the U. S. Open over Harry Vardon and Ted Ray.) In the final, he defeated John Anderson by 5 and 4.

In 1914, Travers was again in the final of the U. S. Amateur, held at Ekwanok Country Club, Manchester, Vermont. This time, Ouimet had his revenge, winning by 6 and 5.

Travers wasn't through. He had one more major in him.

It came in the following year when the U. S. Open was at Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, New Jersey. Travers' victory was a great surprise, since he had only twice before played all four rounds in the Open, his best finish being a tie for 25th place in 1907.

After three rounds of 76-72-73—221, Travers had a one-stroke lead, but started badly in the afternoon. On the first hole, he hooked his drive and took a bogey, three-putted the fourth, bogeyed the par 5 seventh in trying for a 4, and was out in a poor 39. On the 314-yard 10th, he sliced his first tee shot out of bounds, hooked his second into tiger country, but then recovered to two feet from

the hole and got his 4. On the 11th, despite a topped drive, he got his par 4 by holing a long putt, but on the 12th too strong an approach cost him a stroke. At this point, he heard that he needed five pars and a birdie to win. He parred 13 and 14, but was lucky to get his birdie at the 462-yard 15th with a chip and a putt: Here, after a fine drive, his approach with a mid-iron hit the top of a bunker, but bounded forward, finishing 10 yards short of the green. Using his driving iron off the last three tees, he parred in, shooting 76, for a total of 297 and won by a stroke.

Despite a flawed wood game, Travers succeeded by sheer force of character (see the verse above by famed golf writer Grantland Rice, penned after Travers's Open victory). He literally would—or seemingly could—do anything to win.

In the final of the 1913 New Jersey Amateur at Baltusrol, Travers was all square with Oswald Kirkby as they came to the par 3, 220-yard 13th hole. Travers topped his tee shot, his ball finishing in a near unplayable lie on the bank of a ditch. Kirkby put his ball on the green. Travers then took his niblick and hit the ball while leaping across the ditch! It flew the green into deep rough, and Travers did well to put his third shot 12 feet from the hole. When he holed the putt, Kirkby three-putted, and Travers, after this "routine" half, went on to win by 3 and 1.

One of his defeated adversaries and later his very good friend, Chick Evans, writing in *Golfing Magazine* in 1951 soon after Travers' death, said of him:

"Jerry couldn't have weighed more than 130 pounds anytime during his career. His wrists were no bigger than those of a young girl. He was very thin, but he had a giant look. When Jerry was rolling, he flattened the opposition.

"As a competitor, Jerry was the coldest, hardest golfer I ever knew. Ben Hogan reminds me of Jerry. The same set jaw. The same calculating eyes. Not recognizing anybody.

"Jerry made up for being small with a genius for reading greens and the course and an extraordinary capacity for concentration. With his irons, he could put any kind of spin on the ball; he was the best I've ever seen. On the greens, he was sheer poison."

What of Travers' Achilles heel, the hook with woods? Below are two photos showing



him (left) and Alex Smith at the top of the swing. The similarity is obvious. In duplicating Smith's swing, Travers, with his slight physique, may well have fallen into the trap pointed out by O. B. Keeler in the *American Golfer* article cited above:

"In recognizing Alex's swing (from a distance), there was no mistaking the piston-rod action of the mighty right forearm, driving the club through *without the too-sudden turn-over of the right hand that imparts a ruinous hook to almost all golfers who attempt his style.*" (Author's italics.)

Travers was elected to the PGA Hall of Fame in 1940.

Philip Carter

Philip Carter is one of the enigmas of American golf. No one could have had a better sectional record as a junior. In the senior ranks, and especially in the National Amateur, he failed. No one yet has found the reason.

Philip Van Gelder Carter, to give him his full name, was born in 1896. He was the son of Dr. Colin S. Carter and the nephew of Charles E. Hughes (Secretary of State 1921-25 and Chief Justice of the United States 1930-41). At the tender age of five, Philip took his first golf swings on the lawns of his father's estate in Bridgehampton, New York. Later, he and his father built a putting green at the family home. Besides being a founding member of the Bridgehampton Golf Club, Dr. Carter also was a member of Nassau, Scarsdale Golf Club, Hartsdale, New York, and Shinnecock Hills, Southampton, New York.

By 1910, Carter was already an accomplished golfer. He had shot two rounds of 66 at Bridgehampton and held the course record. That year, he finished second in the Shinnecock Invitational. The *American Golfer* called him, "the best 14-year-old golfer the country has produced."

Carter went to the Pawling School, some 65 miles north of New York City. The school had a nine-hole golf course. In 1912, Carter had his first important junior win. On May 29, he won the Eastern Interscholastic championship, then in the first Met Junior held on June 25 at Plainfield, New Jersey, Carter finished runner-up to Stuart D. Connolly of Rockland. Connolly shot 74, Carter, 76. As consolation, Carter did win the driving contest with blows of 195, 239 and 251 yards for a total of 685 yards. Carter again played in the National Golf Links



A young Philip Carter poses for the camera.

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Invitational. He qualified, but was defeated in match play by Hilton.

In June, 1913, Carter won the Met Junior, again held at Plainfield. Carter was in great form, scoring 75 to take the medal, then had his revenge on Connolly in the final, defeating him by 4 and 3. In the Nassau club championship, he lost in the semifinals by 5 and 4 to Bill Hicks, who went on to win the event for the fourth time. Carter had better luck at Shinnecock, winning that club's championship for the second time. One newspaper report said he then was "playing in the best of form, and simply ran away with the cup, performing at or close to par all the way."

Fresh from this victory, he went to the U. S. Amateur at Garden City Golf Club. Carter qualified with 164—Chick Evans, the medalist, shot 146—but then lost in the first round. It was the first of several such failures.

In 1914, Carter won the Eastern Interscholastic Championship for the second time. He also was the medalist, scoring 75. Carter then won the Met Junior, again at Plainfield, for the second time. He also was the medalist with 77.

At that time, one golf writer described Carter, John N. Stearns, Jr. and Howard Maxwell, Jr. as "three of the younger members of the Nassau club of whom great things are expected in the golfing world when they become a little older." Unfortunately, as we will see, these expectations weren't realized.

In September, 1914, Carter won the National Golf Links Invitational, defeating Max Marston of Baltusrol (later U.S. Amateur Champion in 1923) at the 20th hole in the final.

In 1915, Carter started his year by beating Gardiner White, Flushing, New York, 1 up in the final of the 11th Annual February tournament at Pinehurst, North Carolina. The newspaper account noted that Carter "enters Harvard this year." (Note: This event was not the North and South, also played at Pinehurst.) In May, he beat Max Marston 8 and 6 in the 36-hole final at the Oakland Golf Club, Bayside, New York. After this victory, the *Brooklyn Eagle* said, "Predictions were heard on every hand that the winner would soon be the champion of the United States."

In June, Carter took the Nassau Invitational, defeated Gardiner White again in the final, this time at the 19th hole. Later that month, at Garden City Golf Club, Carter won the Met Junior for the third time in a row. The newspaper comment on Carter was "He will be 20 in a few months, which will put him in the senior class. He belongs there."

At the end of June, Sleepy Hollow hosted a Father and Son (gross and net stroke play) tournament. Ninety pairs competed. *The Brooklyn Eagle* billed it as "the first tournament of its kind held in the East." Carter and his father tied with several others for the gross prize with 91. Nassau pair Howard W. Maxwell Sr. and Jr. tied for third best net. Other Nassau pairs were George E. and Joseph Fahys 2nd and Howard F. Whitney Sr. and Jr.

In July, Carter added another big victory to his 1915 list of triumphs by capturing the Sleepy Hollow tournament, defeating T. V. "Val" Birmingham, Wykagyl champion, by 6 and 5. In the morning, Carter had again defeated Gardiner White, by 4 and 2.

Before the 1915 U. S. Amateur at Detroit the *Brooklyn Eagle* was almost lyrical in his praise of Carter's achievements.

"One of the greatest records in Met golf this season is that of Philip Carter, Nassau, Met Junior champion. Since January, Carter has won five big tournaments, and in the Met Amateur (at Apawamis) set a new record in taking John G. Anderson to the 23rd hole." (Anderson lost in the final to Walter Travis.)

His only other defeat had been by Fred Herreshoff in the Garden City tournament on May 21 by 6 and 5.

The *Eagle* continued: "Should he win Ouimet's crown (Ouimet had won the National Amateur the previous year) at Detroit he would have a record of 'under 20' achievement never equaled in the U. S. A."

Such a buildup must have put a lot of pressure on young Carter. Gardiner White and Max Marston both qualified for match play at the National Amateur. Carter did not.

Still, Carter kept his nerve. Late in September, he won his fifth club invitational of the season, that of the Greenwich Country Club, Greenwich, Connecticut. In the final, he met Dudley Madge of Yale (the medalist at the U. S. Amateur), who previously had defeated Francis Ouimet and Marston. Carter crushed Madge by 6 and 5.

In the winter of 1915-1916, Carter won five tournaments at Pinehurst in a lengthy stay. At the time, Carter held the amateur record on all three courses at Pinehurst, including a 66 at Pinehurst No. 2. The most important events he won were the Midwinter and the

prestigious North and South, in which he beat Frank W. Dyer (the 1923 Met Amateur champion) by 5 and 3 in the final. Of the latter match, Gardiner White, writing in *Golf*, said it was "perhaps the best ever played at Pinehurst, in that the golf was perfect." Dyer scored 74 in both rounds. Carter had a pair of 70s.

Then the rot set in. In the 1916 Met Amateur at Nassau, Carter was medalist with 81-78—159, but then lost in the first round to Reginald M. Lewis, whom, as *Golf Illustrated* observed, Carter had beaten in "all their previous encounters." In its January issue of the next year, the same magazine reported that Carter reached the final of the Midwinter tournament at Pinehurst, but was beaten by the little fancied Dwight Armstrong of Yale by 3 and 1.

The last time of consequence when we hear of Carter is in the 1920 U. S. Amateur. He was then playing out of Shinnecock Hills, and qualified with 162. This was eight strokes worse than the 154 registered by the medalist, and rapidly rising young lion, Bobby Jones. Carter won his first round match against Max Marston by 3 and 1. However, a young amateur fresh from Scotland, Thomas D. (later known when a pro as "Tommy") Armour, then eliminated Carter by 4 and 3.

Everyone had expected Carter to win the National Amateur. This never happened. Indeed, although he won many club tournaments, he never was good enough to win the Met Amateur. Perhaps he was only comfortable at the local level. Perhaps his health gave way. We may never know.

One possibility is that his grip held him back. In studying his record in stroke and match play alike, it's apparent that Carter, despite displaying great courage, often mixed brilliant play with some rather loose stuff. This could well have come from his using the old-fashioned baseball grip, which could lead to the club moving around in the hands during the swing and inconsistent ball striking.

After Harry Vardon's immensely successful American tour of 1900, this old type of grip gradually gave way to the technically sounder and far more secure Vardon or overlapping grip, with both thumbs on, rather than around the shaft. Vardon started with the old palm grip himself, but abandoned it. He felt the overlapping grip was superior, because "both hands feel and act like one," rather than fighting against each other on the downswing.

After seeing the performances of some of the younger stars such as Jones and Armour, who both used the Vardon grip, Carter could well have seen the writing on the wall.

Stearns and Maxwell

As stated above, in 1914, John N. Stearns, Jr. and Howard J. Maxwell, Jr. were young Nassau players highly fancied for top honors in the game. In the end, neither reached the top rank.

We first hear of John N. Stearns, Jr., in 1912 when the Princeton man won both the Fox Hills and Dunwoodie invitationals. He also played in the Nassau Invitational, but shot a 90 in qualifying, and had to be content with winning the cup for the third flight of 16. Stearns was the son of John N. Stearns, an enthusiastic 30-handicapper who joined Nassau in 1907.

In the summer of 1913 Stearns travelled to Europe, and in the French Amateur at La Boulie, defeated Harold H. Hilton, then the British Amateur Champion, but was himself subsequently beaten. Still, it was a notable scalp for a young player. At Nassau, he won the President's Cup (for best 72-hole gross score) with 315. The next best score was four-time Nassau champion Bill Hicks, with 323.

In 1914, Stearns won his first Nassau club championship, defeating Howard Maxwell Jr. 3 and 2 in the semifinals and Clifford A. Dunning, the 1912 champion, in the final by 4 and 3. Stearns shot 77, 74; Dunning, 78, 77. Stearns also played in the Sleepy Hollow invitational, losing in the final to F. W. Dyer, Montclair, who later won two New Jersey Amateur titles. Stearns again won the President's Cup at Nassau, this time with a total of 305.

That year was the first that Stearns qualified for match play in the U. S. Amateur, held at Ekwanok Country Club, Manchester, Vermont. He won his first round match comfortably, but then lost in the next round.

In the 1914 Nassau Invitational, Stearns, then just out of Princeton, qualified third with 76 behind Gardiner White's 72. In the semifinals, Stearns met Marston, defeating him by 1



The above two photos depict Vardon's grip, which could have helped Philip Carter control his erratic play.



Howard Maxwell takes a well deserved rest after his victory in the first Long Island Amateur.

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up in a thrilling match. Stearns took an early lead of 3 up, and was 3 up with 5 to play. Marston won two holes by brilliant play, and, after a hotly worded Rules dispute, secured what would have been a contested half at the 17th. In the end, Stearns holed a 20-footer on the last hole for a half to win.

It was just as well he did, because, as the November issue of *Golf* reported, "It very nearly ended in a fight." Off the 17th tee, Marston had sliced wildly and his ball finished under a bench fixed in the ground, unplayable. Stearns said Marston couldn't move the bench. Marston swore he could, and tore it from the ground!

At the time Nassau did have a local rule allowing a player to drop a ball within a club-length of any fixed seat, but it was not printed on the scorecard as it should have been.

In the final, Travis was too much for Stearns, who lost by 4 and 3. Travis shot a steady 74, Stearns, an 80.

In 1915, Stearns again qualified for the Amateur, played at the Country Club of Detroit, Grosse Points Farm, Michigan. He again lost in the second round.

The last time Stearns qualified for the Amateur was in 1919 at Oakmont Country Club, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He won his first round match, but then lost to the eventual champion S. Davidson Herron, Oakmont, by 7 and 5. In the final, Herron beat Jones by 5 and 4.

In 1921, Stearns again came close in the Nassau Invitational. He was co-medalist with Armour at 74, but then lost to Armour in the final by 3 and 1. That year, he again won the Nassau club championship.

Stearns's last notable achievement was his win in the second amateur championship of the Long Island Golf Association (LIGA) in July of 1923. He was the medalist and in the final defeated E. H. Driggs, Jr., later a three-time champion. Stearns was again medalist in 1924. He served as secretary of the LIGA in 1922 and 1923.

Howard W. Maxwell, Jr., was the son of Howard W. Maxwell, one of the founding members of the Queens County Club. The elder Maxwell had a handicap of 5.

Young Maxwell first came to prominence at Nassau in 1914. That year he defeated Bill Hicks in the Nassau club championship, but then was beaten in the semifinals by Stearns. In the third Met Junior, Maxwell qualified with an 80 behind Carter's 77. He then lost to Carter in match play by 3 and 1 despite being one up at the 13th. Maxwell also competed in the Nassau Invitational, but his 82 in qualifying was only good enough to make the second 16 for match play. He played in many Nassau club events that year. Among other wins, he tied for first in the Belgian Relief Fund match at Garden City with a 75-7—68.

In 1915, Maxwell won the Nassau club championship, defeating Bill Hicks in the final by 4 and 3. He had qualified for the first 16 at the Sleepy Hollow Invitational, but defaulted to play in the final at Nassau. His handicap was now down to 3.

Maxwell played in the 1921 Nassau Invitational. *The Glen Cove Echo* records that Maxwell shot 81 to make the top 16, behind the 74s scored by the co-medalists, Stearns and Armour. He lost in the first round.

Maxwell did not have any success in the Met Amateur or qualify for match play in the U. S. Amateur. The high point of his golf career came when he won the first LIGA Amateur Championship, held in 1922 at the Lido Golf Club. Gardiner White, then Met Amateur champion, and Grant Peacock, runner-up to White, headed a very strong field.

In the qualifying round, Lido's wind, sand dunes and whin bushes kept not only White and Peacock, but many other prominent golfers, including Stearns, out of the top 16 for match play. As Innis Brown wrote in the *American Golfer*, it was a case where "past performances were as meaningless as pre-election promises."

In his matches, Maxwell won the hard way, first defeating a Nassau clubmate H. H. Will at the 19th, then posting one-up victories in the second and semifinal rounds. In the final, he defeated Don McKellar by 4 and 2.



The above caricature of Stearns is from a 1923 issue of *The Metropolitan Golfer*.

Gene Sarazen

In 1916, Eugene Saraceni was 14 years old. At that point, he hadn't changed his name to Gene Sarazen. That was to come a couple of years later when he started his professional career. For now he was just a caddie at Apawamis, a job he had performed for the previous three years. In his biography *Thirty Years of Championship Golf* (Prentice-Hall, 1950), Sarazen recalls that the high point of his caddie years came when one of Apawamis's best players, Harold Downing, asked Gene to carry for him in that year's Met Amateur, held June 7-

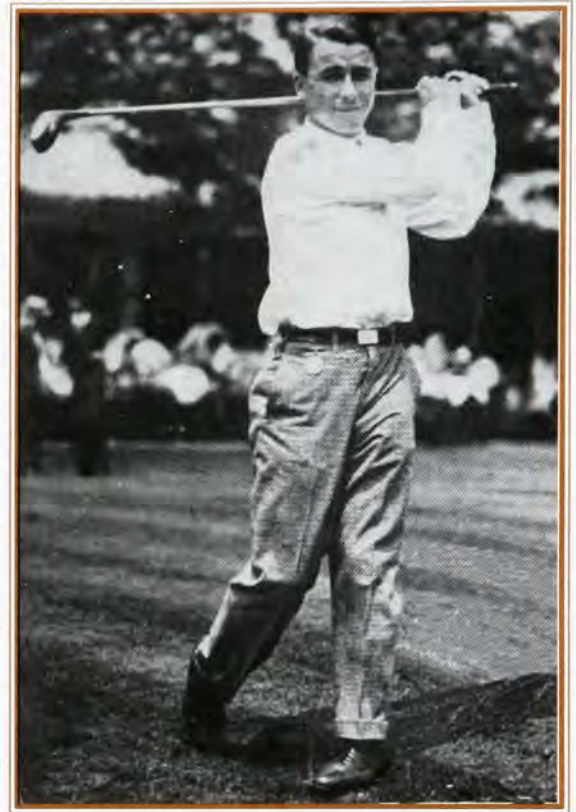
10 at the Nassau Country Club.

They drove in Downing's big yellow National automobile to Rye, where they caught the ferry across the Long Island Sound to Sea Cliff, and then motored to Nassau. Sarazen says that Downing went out in the second round, but in his first match he had defeated Fred Herreshoff, and that made the whole trip worthwhile. To top it off, Sarazen returned with a crisp \$20 bill in his pocket.

The acknowledged leader of the caddies on this expedition across the water was famed caddie Joe Horgan, then in his thirties. Horgan later was to caddie for Walter Hagen and many other top players. Nothing fazed Horgan, even when a rainy night prevented the caddies from sleeping outdoors, their usual practice when away from home in summer. Then, Joe would reconnoiter the local estates, in particular checking the chauffeurs' apartments over the garages. When he found one unoccupied, the caddies moved in. A strict disciplinarian, Joe inspected the premises in the morning to satisfy himself that the boys had tidied everything to his satisfaction, and then led them off to breakfast.

Sarazen's memory of the tournament apparently was a little hazy. The July, 1916 issue of *Golf Illustrated* reported that year's Met Amateur in some detail. The only player from Apawamis to qualify for match play was one H. L. Downey (not Downing). Whomever Downey defeated in the first round, it wasn't Herreshoff, who lost in the final to Oswald Kirkby by 3 and 1. Downey survived the second round, defeating Howard F. Whitney, Nassau, by 6 and 4. The third round was when Herreshoff entered the picture. He defeated Downey by 2 and 1.

In 1918, Sarazen turned professional and went on to become the first player to win all the major tournaments that make up the modern Grand Slam—the Masters, U. S. Open, British Open and PGA Championship. To date, only Ben Hogan, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus have duplicated this feat.



Gene Sarazen at age 20 in New Orleans, Louisiana, after winning his first major tournament in 1922. Note the medal dangling from his watch pocket.

Gardiner White

Gardiner W. White was born in Flushing, New York, on June 20, 1891. As a young man he enjoyed considerable success at the club and sectional level. He was club champion at the Flushing Country Club in 1908, 1911, 1913 and 1916 and the Oakland Golf Club championship in 1909 and 1913. Educated at the Cutler School, he was Eastern Interscholastic Champion in 1910. At Nassau, White won the club championship a record seven times; in 1919, 1920, 1922, 1923, 1931, 1933 and 1934.

In 1910, White, at 19 years of age, beat Jerry Travers, then in his heyday, at the annual Fox Hills Invitational. In the Met Amateur, he collected another notable "scalp," that of Findlay Douglas. That year, he played in the Nassau Invitational for the first time, entering from Flushing. He lost in the semifinals.

In the Nassau tournament of 1911, White lost in the final to Oswald Kirkby by 5 and 4. Also in 1911, he lost in the final of the Wykagyl tournament to E. M. Wild. In 1914, he was medalist at Nassau with a fine 72, par for the course, which he achieved despite two three-putt greens. The next best score was 76. He then lost in the first round by 6 and 5 "owing to an inability to hole even easy putts." In 1915, White again was medalist, scoring 71, a record for the newly lengthened course. In the semifinals, White beat Frank W. Dyer (later a two-time New Jersey amateur champion) by 1 up in 19 holes, but then lost by the same margin in the final to Philip Carter of Nassau. At the 19th, White missed a two-footer and that was that; it was the first time Carter had led in the match.

Two other local achievements of White's in 1920 are noteworthy. That year, he won the Piping Rock Invitational. He defeated Tommy Armour, then a 25-year old Scottish amateur in his first year of play in the U. S., 5 and 3 in the semifinals and then his clubmate John N. Stearns, Jr. in the final by 3 and 2, due to "uncanny approaching." In August, White annexed his second Nassau club championship in stunning fashion. In the morning round of the final against Stearns, White shot 34-34—68. Stearns took 75. (A few weeks before, White had lowered his own personal best score at Nassau—71—to 68, a mark also held by Nassau's pro, Jim Maiden.) In the afternoon, he set a new course record, scoring 33-34—67, to Stearn's 72. He won by 9 and 7.

White was to win the Nassau Invitational three times, in 1929, 1930 and 1934. However, undoubtedly his most important victory was in the Met Amateur of 1921. Ironically, it

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*Gardiner White leans into a drive
in the 1921 Met Amateur,
which he won.*

came one year after one of his most disappointing defeats. In 1920 at Apawamis, White had lost in the final of the Met Amateur to D. E. Sawyer, 1 down. In the final of the 1921 Met Amateur at Garden City Golf Club, he was to beat Grant A. Peacock of Cherry Valley by the same margin.

Innis Brown, a well-known golf writer of the time, gave a glowing account of White's victory in the *American Golfer*. His lead read: "Gardiner W. White, of the Nassau Country Club, is the new amateur champion of the Metropolitan Golf Association. And poets, preceptors and pedagogues, who with patience and persistence teach the old story of everlastingly keeping after the thing desired, may rejoice in the achievement. White's victory is a sparkling vindication of their teachings."

Brown pointed out that White had for some years been one of the "near-greats." Despite always being a "brilliant clever player, he was just a bit short of the blue riband band." Now, with his victory over a field "quite worthy of a national event"—it included Jerry Travers, Oswald Kirkby, a three-time winner of the New Jersey and Met Amateurs, the defending Met Amateur champion D. E. Sawyer, Warren K. Wood, former Western Amateur champion and John G. Anderson, former runner-up in the National Amateur—White had at last broken through to the top ranks.

En route to the semifinals, White crushed his opponents by overwhelming margins—6 and 4, 5 and 4, and 7 and 5. In contrast, both his semifinal and final matches proved to be "squeakers."

In the semifinals, White met J. Simpson Dean, a "terrific clouter from Princeton." Brown described White as another very long hitter who was "a notable exponent of brilliant recoveries," adding "he has to be, to hobnob with the elite, because he finds trouble frequently." (Note: Like Phil Carter, White used the old fashioned baseball grip, so it's little wonder that his play could be so erratic.) White was three down after three holes, and it took him until the 16th to square the match. After halving the 17th, a par 3 on the final hole gained White the victory.

The final was, if possible, even more of a ding-dong affair. In the morning, Peacock was three up after six holes, and despite White's winning the next hole, he was four up after nine. Coming in, White won four holes, lost two and halved the rest, to finish the round two down. After lunch, there was no change after four holes, as the players alternated wins. Then White won two holes to square the match at the turn. Peacock went ahead again at the 11th, but White won the 14th, then played the 16th "badly" to go back to one down. At the 17th, White holed a 35-footer for a par four. Peacock missed the like from 12 feet and the match again was square. At the last hole, White hit a brilliant tee shot four feet from the cup. A "flustered" Peacock missed the green, pitched poorly and after missing a putt for a three, conceded the match.

White came close to another major victory in 1921, losing in the final of the North and South to B. P. Merriman, a two-time Connecticut Amateur Champion.

All in all, Innis Brown's assessment of White was accurate. Up to that time, White had qualified many times for the National Amateur, but seldom had he gone any further.

In 1910, he went out in the first round. William C. Fownes, Jr. won the championship. In 1914, White had the misfortune to meet Fownes, who had been co-medalist, in the first round and lost by 3 and 2. Fownes was the son of William C. Fownes, one of the founders of Oakmont (Pa.) Country Club. In 1915, he won his first round match, but in the second round, lost to D. E. Sawyer, a former Western Amateur Champion, by 6 and 5.

In 1916, White enjoyed his best performance, winning his first round match easily and taking a notable scalp in his second round match, Oswald Kirkby, by 2 up. In the third round, his opponent was Jesse P. Guilford, who defeated White by 4 and 3. Guilford was known as the "Siege Gun" and the "Great Excavator" because of his long hitting and fantastic recoveries. He was to win the National Amateur in 1921.

When the Amateur resumed in 1919 after World War I, White was playing out of Nassau. That year and the next he went out in the first round. However, in 1920, his opponent was a fine golfer—Reginald M. Lewis, a former Connecticut Amateur Champion. White lost by 1 down.

Abroad, White won amateur championships at St. Cloud (Paris) and Engadine (St. Moritz) in 1926. In 1929 he went to the final of the 1929 Canadian Amateur at Jasper Park, losing to Eddie Held by 3 and 2.

White served on the executive committee of the MGA in 1922 and was president of the LIGA in 1928 and 1929. He captained the Leslie Cup team in 1921-1922. He continued to play good golf well into middle age. When he was 58, he finished only six strokes behind the winner of the Garden City invitational, an event he had won seven times. He died in Glen Cove on September 19, 1981, at the age of 90.

CHAPTER FOUR—Nassau, The Place To Be

From its founding, and on through World War I, Nassau continued to attract the rich and famous. One can see this from its membership, the people it invited to become honorary members, and the visitors to the

Club. Even Nassau's arrangements for commutation to the City and the locations of the Governors' and Directors' meetings give one a sense of the Club's luxurious ambiance and lifestyle.

Early Nassau Members

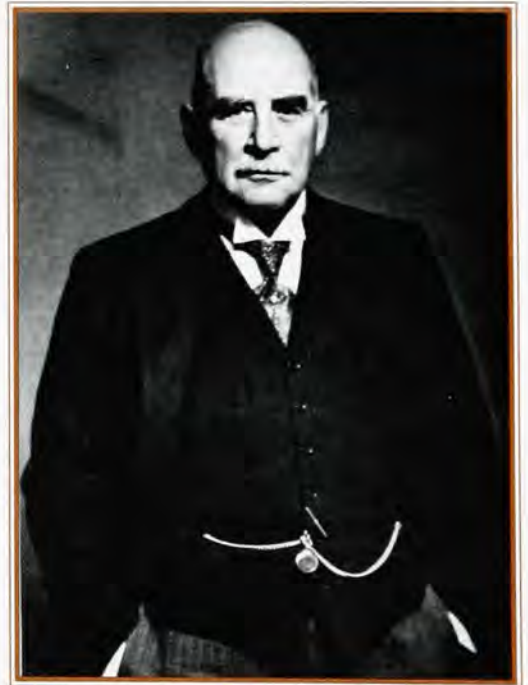
In Nassau's early years, many members of the nation's leading families joined the Club. Thanks to Bud Wade, following are brief sketches of these movers and shakers of the American scene (the year they joined Nassau appears in parentheses):

John Pierpont Morgan Jr., (1906), who had an estate on East Island with the highest assessed value of 1918 in Glen Cove, \$400,000—the Morgan firm helped finance World War I;

William H. Harkness (1913), of Standard Oil, whose estate was on West Island—the family founded the Harkness Pavilion, NYC, and the Harkness Library at Yale;

Alfred C. Bedford (1897), also of Standard Oil;

Royal Cravath (1899), of the famed law firm of Cravath, Swayne and Moore, whose estate is now the Brookville Country Club;



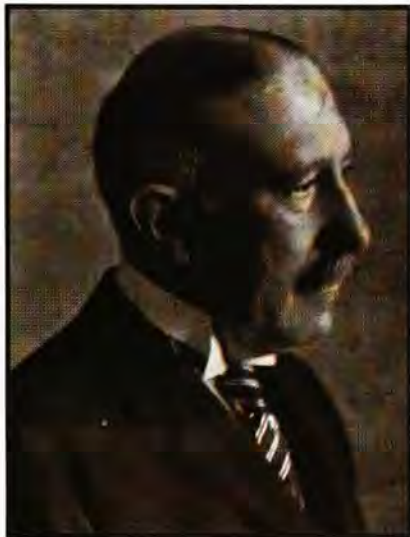
John Pierpont Morgan Jr.



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C. L. Tiffany



Theodore A. Havemeyer, son of the first president of the USGA. His father donated the first U. S. Amateur trophy, shown at right. The cup was in the possession of Bobby Jones when it was destroyed by a fire in 1925 at East Lake Country Club.



Henry C. Folger (1899), president of Standard Oil of New York (now Mobil) and the owner of one of the finest collections of Shakespeare's works in the world, some 25,000 volumes—these went to the Folger Shakespeare Library (east of the Library of Congress in Washington, DC);

James H. Ottley (1903), publisher of McCall's magazine, whose daughter, Miss M. Ottley, won the Nassau Women's championship in 1924, and again in 1927 as Mrs. Van Deventer Crisp;

Henry L. Batterman (1899), owner of a large Brooklyn store;

Donald G. Geddes (1904), one of the first heads of the New York Stock Exchange, whose estate became the Glen Cove Municipal golf course;

Henry Pomeroy Davison (1905), whose estate is now the Mill River Country Club—Davison was head of the Red Cross War Council 1917-19, also the Davisons and Morrows, partners in J. P. Morgan and Co., bankrolled Charles Lindbergh's famous flight from New York to Paris of 1927;

Charles L. Tiffany (1905), whose estate was in Cove Neck, a son of Charles Lewis Tiffany, the founder of Tiffany and Company, the New York jewelry company;

Charles W. Baker (1905), who had a controlling interest in CitiBank;

Howard F. Whitney (1899), who became the president of both the USGA and MGA, and was Nassau champion in 1901, 1903 and 1909;

Daniel E. Pomeroy (1910), chairman of the board of Banker's Trust;

Charles A. Coffin (1910), chairman of the board of General Electric Co.;

Edgerton Winthrop (1911) and Henry R. Winthrop (1912), whose family owned the Winthrop pharmaceutical business;

William R. Coe (1912), head of the Virginia Railway, owned the Planting Fields, Long Island estate, and was a close friend of Pola Negri, the famous silent film actress;

Theodore A. Havemeyer (1913), was named after his father, the first president of the USGA—his father was known as the "Sugar King," because the family founded the American Sugar Refining Company;

Joseph P. Grace (1913) and his brother William Russell Grace (1915), whose family owned Grace Lines, the steamship company;

George G. Bourne (1915), whose estate later became the LaSalle Military Academy in Oakdale, Long Island;

William J. Tully (1915), head of Corning Glass, whose daughter Alice gave her name to the concert hall in Lincoln Center, New York City;

Edward Reilly Stettinius (1917), a Morgan partner, who owned one of the first steam yachts, and whose son, Edward R. Stettinius, Jr. became chairman of U. S. Steel Corporation and Secretary of State during Franklin D. Roosevelt's third and fourth administrations;

Arthur Vining Davis (1917), co-founder and chairman of the board of the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa), and founder of Arvida Corporation (taken from the first two letters of his names), known for its Florida real estate holdings;

Coleman T. Du Pont (1918) of E. I. Du Pont de Nemours Co.;

Frederick J. Eagle (1918), of Reach Eagle, then a famous sporting goods house (later acquired by Spalding);

Myron C. Taylor (1919), who succeeded J. P. Morgan Jr. as chairman of the board of U. S. Steel Corporation in 1932;

Arthur H. Diebold (1920), of American Home Products, a conglomerate owning Sterling Drugs among other companies;

Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt (1912), wife of William Kissam Vanderbilt, who was a

railway magnate, a keen yachtsman and who helped establish the Vanderbilt Clinic;

David H. Knott (1921), of the hotel chain of the same name, on whose estate, as noted earlier, the original Queens County Golf Club was located;

J. Lewis Luckenbach (1921), who inherited the Luckenbach shipping company;

Edward F. Hutton (1921), the founder of the E. F. Hutton brokerage house;

James V. Forrestal (1923), Secretary of the Navy under Franklin D. Roosevelt 1944-47 and Secretary of Defense under Truman 1947-49;

William A. Rockefeller (1928), whose family founded Standard Oil, and

Princess Xenia Romanoff, niece of the last Tsar of Russia. (Note: When she became a member of Nassau is unknown, but the Board's Minutes of 4/16/1946 record her resignation.)

Princess Xenia, as the only royal member of the Club, deserves a few more words. She was the daughter of the Grand Duke George Romanoff, of Russia, and Princess Maria, of Greece and Denmark. (The Duke of Edinburgh's father, Andrew, and Princess Xenia's mother were brother and sister, the children of King George I of Greece.)

At the time of the Russian Revolution of 1917, the Princess was fortunate enough to be in London, England. She thus escaped the fate of the Tsar and other members of Russia's royal family, who were shot to death the following year at Ekaterinburg.

Later, when visiting a relation in Athens, she met and married an American playboy, Billy Leeds, whose father, known as the "Tinplate King," had extensive mining interests in Bolivia. She came to America in 1925. Her home was on Edgehill Road, across from the ninth green. She later married Herman Jud.

On September 17, 1965, she died at home, aged 62, and was interred in St. Paul's Episcopal Church graveyard on Highland Road. Her grave is behind that of Alex Smith.



Princess Xenia, younger daughter of the Grand Duke George Romanoff of Russia and Princess Maria of Greece and Denmark. She is the only royal member of Nassau Country Club. She is shown here in 1916 at the age of 13.

Tales Of The Rich and Famous

Recently, Cam Maiden reminisced about what it was like to grow up in a household where the head of the family, Jim Maiden, rubbed shoulders daily with Nassau's distinguished early members and visitors.

"In our house," says Cam, "some of the biggest names in America were dinner table conversation. As Nassau's professional, my father mixed with such people as F. W. Woolworth, J. P. Morgan, "Bet-A-Million" Gates, the Pratts, Percy Chubb and Henry Folger, among many others."

In the early years of this century, F. W. Woolworth, the founder of the stores that bear his name, lived in a mansion in the Glen Cove colony. Woolworth was a Nassau member, but also had five or six holes laid out around his estate. When he wanted a golf lesson, he had Jim Maiden come down and give him instruction there.

The mansion is impressive. "If you look up at it from Crescent Beach Road through the trees," Cam observes, "It looks like the Parthenon. In the interior, the walls are lined with imported marble.

"One day my father asked Woolworth, 'When do you expect to finish this home?'

"Woolworth replied, 'Not in my lifetime!'"

Then as now, golf courses would close on Mondays. Every Monday, Maiden would go into New York by train to reorder supplies from Spalding. At that time, during the 1920s, J. P. Morgan used to commute to his Manhattan office in his yacht, *Corsair*.

Morgan began taking lessons from Maiden, and one time he said to Maiden, "Jim, you're going into the city on Monday. How about riding in with me on my boat?" Maiden said, "No, I'll just be going in by train." Every time he took a lesson, Morgan repeated the invitation, but Maiden continued to refuse. Eventually, Maiden decided that he'd better accept the invitation at least one time—it was not a good idea to say No to a man like J. P. too often! So, one



J. P. Morgan's yacht Corsair, ran aground off the coast of Maine in this photo. This was the "commuter special" J.P. Morgan offered to Jim Maiden.

CHAPTER FOUR—Nassau, The Place To Be

Monday morning, he joined Morgan at the Glen Cove yacht landing for the trip to New York.

On arrival at the dock in lower Manhattan, Morgan said, "Meet me here at 4 o'clock, Jim, and we'll go back." Well, Maiden really didn't want to go back on the yacht. He didn't like boats and, besides, he had finished his business at Spalding by noon. So, he marched down to Wall Street to the House of Morgan, and was immediately shown into the great man's office. Maiden said, "If you don't mind, Mr. Morgan, I'll go home on the railroad. I'm all finished with my business and you won't be going home for two or three hours."

So, in the end, Maiden had things half his way. It should be added that, while Maiden liked Morgan, he was not impressed by such things as ocean-going steam yachts!

Another indication of Jim Maiden's independent character comes out of his association with the Pratts. In August during the 1920s, Herbert Lee (known as H. L.) Pratt used to invite Maiden for a couple of weeks up to Paul Smith's, a lodge in the Adirondacks where the Pratt family gathered in the summer months. Maiden didn't really want to go, because he was very busy with lessons at Nassau, most days teaching from eight in the morning to nine at night. However, an invitation by the Pratts in those days—similar to one from J. P. Morgan—was akin to an invitation by royalty.

The first time Maiden visited, he was shown to his quarters in the Pratt compound, back with the butlers, housemen and other servants. He took one look at these accommodations, then walked straight back to the front desk and took a room.

When H. L. asked him how he liked his quarters, Maiden replied, "I have taken my own room." Nothing more was said, but at the end of his stay, Maiden found his bill had been paid, and on all subsequent visits to Paul Smith's, H. L. engaged a hotel room for him!

As might be expected, being professional to Nassau's wealthy members gave Maiden some unusual financial opportunities.

For example, Percy Chubb, of insurance fame, threw substantial business Maiden's way for many years during the 1920s. In the fall, he'd come into Maiden's shop and say, "Jim, I want to send 100 dozen golf balls to my firm in London (England), and they will pass them out to their customers over there. Will you take care of this for me?" All Maiden had to do was to make one phone call to Spalding, and the golf company would pack up the balls and ship them. Maiden reaped the profit. As Cam says, "That was the easiest money my Dad ever made!"

Harry Crane, a vice president of General Motors, the man who developed the



Herbert Lee Pratt, a member of Nassau and son of Charles, hosted Jim Maiden at the Pratt compound in the Adirondacks. Pratt was Club champion in 1899.

AT THE NASSAU COUNTRY CLUB, GLEN COVE, LONG ISLAND

Marjorie: "I don't see why Jimmie didn't join here, it's so near his home."

Helen: "I think that was the trouble!"

Note: This illustration is from a 1920s magazine.



AT THE NASSAU COUNTRY CLUB, GLEN COVE, LONG ISLAND

Marjorie—I don't see why Jimmie didn't join here, it's so near his home. Helen—I think that was the trouble!

Pontiac automobile and created what is now the Pontiac Motor Division, was most generous, both to Maiden and the Club. "He played golf with my father all the time—these were playing lessons, for which, of course, he paid," says Cam. "During the Depression, he literally put the food on our table. He also kept Nassau alive during this difficult period. Without him, the Club would not have survived."

In the early days around the Club, Henry Folger was known as "Daddy" Folger. Folger, John B. C. Tappan and Walter Pate were the core of a famous Nassau foursome which played every Sunday afternoon. Depending on who was available, one or more of the following filled out the foursome: Charles McSparren, John Anderson, Frank Cowan (then the Presbyterian minister in Glen Cove), and the Rev. Hinton (of St. John's Episcopal). Cam reports that none of the caddies wanted to carry for them. Apparently, they took some five hours to go round!

Another colorful character around Nassau in those early days, although not a Nassau member, was John Warne "Bet-A-Million" Gates. A well-known figure on grain and stock exchanges, and later interesting himself in oil, Gates was known as a heavy bettor. Back in 1902 or 1903, when Alex Smith was still the pro at Nassau, and Maiden his assistant, Gates approached Maiden. Gates had lost a big-money match with a wealthy Nassau member down in Florida, and the return match, over nine holes at \$1,000 a hole, was to be played at Nassau. Gates said, "Jim, I want you to caddie for me, and coach me. There'll be a nice tip in it for you." Maiden agreed, but when the great day came, he went to the first tee to find that the Nassau man's caddie was—his boss Alex Smith!

On another occasion, Maiden asked Gates how he got his nickname. "Did you really bet a whole million?" he asked. Gates laughingly replied that the story—like those of fishermen—had grown with time. "Here's what really happened," he said. "I was in a poker game in Salt Lake City with Leland Stanford and James J. Hill (two early railroad magnates) among others. At 3.30 in the morning, I said, 'Boys, I'm going to bed. Right now, I'm up half a million dollars. I'm closing out—turn of a card—the whole half million.' I won."

Nassau even played a small part in the Teapot Dome Scandal, during the Harding administration. In 1922, Albert B. Fall, Secretary of the Interior, leased, without competitive bidding, the Teapot Dome oil field, set aside earlier as an oil reserve for the U. S. Navy, to Harry F. Sinclair, of Sinclair Oil. A Senate investigation in 1923 led to criminal prosecutions. Fall was convicted of accepting bribes and was sentenced to a year in prison and fined \$100,000. Sinclair was sentenced to prison for contempt of the Senate.

Nassau member H. Mason Day, a partner in Redmond and Co., a New York City stockbroking firm, and also an official in Sinclair Oil Export Corporation, a subsidiary of Sinclair Oil, also went to prison for six months. Day was convicted of jury tampering in the Fall trial. At the time, the rumor around Nassau was that Sinclair had given Day \$1 million to take the fall on the jury tampering charge.

Be that as it may, on the first day that Day got out, he went immediately to Maiden's golf shop. "Jim, he said, "I want a totally new golf outfit—clubs, bags, balls, everything." The man had his priorities right!

Nassau's Honorary Members

This was a period when the honorary members of the Club make impressive reading.

Findlay Douglas, one of the Club's most distinguished golfers, was elected to honorary membership in March of 1910.

In April, 1912, President William H. Taft accepted honorary membership. Taft was the first President who played golf seriously. He sometimes scored in the 80s and seldom as high as 100. Certainly, Nassau's Governors appreciated Taft's wholehearted love of the game, which he expressed so well just one year later at a golf dinner in New York City: "The game's virtues include, first of all, self-restraint and call for mental discipline and ethical training. It should be indulged in when the opportunity arises, as every man knows who has played the game that it rejuvenates and stretches the span of life."

Taft probably was not the first U. S. President to become an honorary member at Nassau. On May 18, 1915, the *Brooklyn Eagle* reported: "President Wilson is now a member of the Nassau Country Club. . .the President accepted his election in a gracious note to the



President William Howard Taft drives before a small gallery of caddies and friends. Taft loved the game and became an honorary Nassau member in 1912.

CHAPTER FOUR—Nassau, The Place To Be



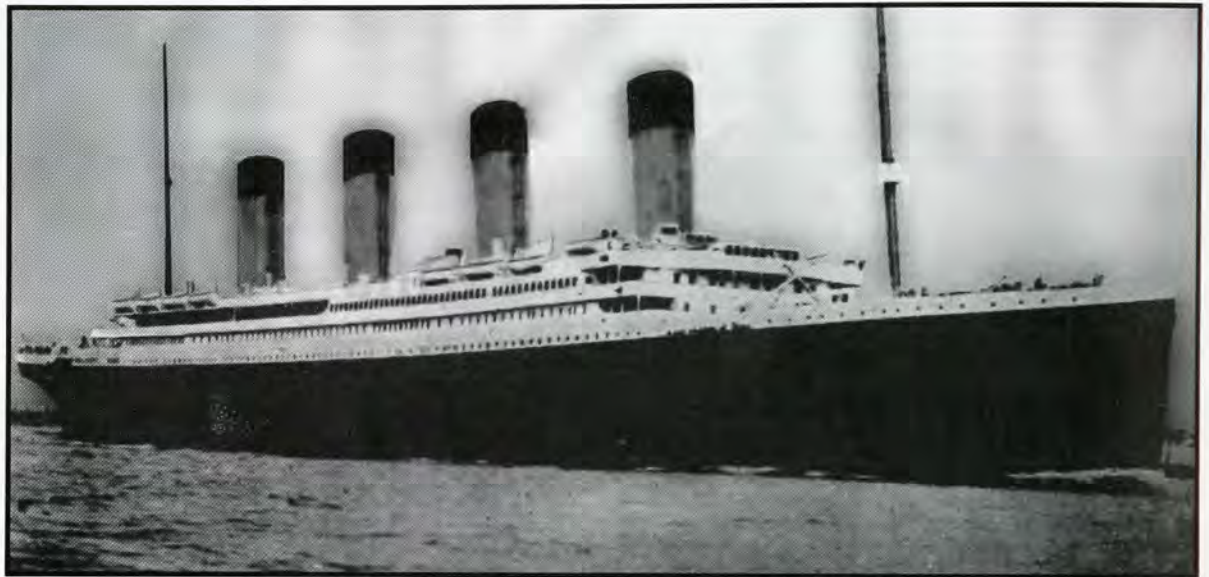
President Theodore Roosevelt preferred boxing or tennis to golf.

Governors. The Club hopes to have the President test the Nassau course during his next visit to New York." The article further noted that "Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft and Charles E. Hughes are also honorary members at Nassau."

It appears probable that the Club's Governors offered Roosevelt honorary membership while he was in office (1901-1909), as was apparently their custom, but there are no existing Club records to back up that statement. Golf historian H. B. Martin says that Roosevelt tried out golf on several occasions, but found it wanting in action. He preferred boxing or tennis to "pussyfooting around a golf course." Woodrow Wilson, however, was an avid golfer. He took up golf at Princeton and, while President, played five days a week between 8.30 and 11 a. m. Although keen enough to practice chipping on the White House lawn—even in snow, using red-painted balls, with his dog acting as a ball retriever—Wilson seldom broke 100 and suffered from a slice that reportedly brought tears to the eyes of his caddie. Hughes, a Nassau member, was Governor of New York State from 1907 to 1910 and again it seems probable that Nassau elected him to honorary membership when he was Governor, but there is no extant Club record to confirm this.

In December of 1920, the Club elected the Hon. Warren G. Harding as an honorary member; Harding had just won election as the President of the United States. Harding was a real golf addict, who shot in the 90s. In the midst of prohibition, he scandalized other thirsty members of Chevy Chase by taking a nip of whisky every four or five holes.

In 1912, Harry Vardon (below) postponed his U.S. tour until 1913. Had he come in 1912 on the Titanic (right), golf history would have been rewritten.



Some of Nassau's honorary memberships even went overseas. In August of 1920, Nassau elected Lord Northcliffe an honorary member. The Englishman, a publishing tycoon whose properties included the *Times*, *Mail* and *Mirror* (of London) as well as a string of sixty other publications, had played golf at Nassau in October, 1913.

Northcliffe was a good friend to American golf. In 1913, he had financed the U. S. tour of Harry Vardon and Ted Ray that culminated in their famous defeat by Francis Ouimet in the U. S. Open. Northcliffe had persuaded the English professionals to come to the U. S. by pointing out that their participation in the U. S. Open would enhance and promote the sport between the two countries. Early in that year, he also had met Walter Hagen at Rochester Country Club. Although Northcliffe was in the U. S. on a serious mission—to buy footwear for the British Army—they played several rounds together. Northcliffe encouraged Hagen to cross the Atlantic and play in the British Open. After World War I, Hagen took Northcliffe's advice and was to win four British Opens.

There was a horrifying "What If?" to the Vardon and Ray U. S. Tour of 1913. Originally, Northcliffe had proposed it to Vardon only, early in 1912, suggesting that Vardon travel on the new British liner, the White Star Line's "unsinkable" steamship *Titanic*, which was to make its maiden voyage in April. The extra publicity that would result from coming over on the largest, fastest ship then afloat would, Northcliffe felt, help promote the Tour. However, Vardon felt

unwell and, worried that this was a recurrence of the tuberculosis from which he had suffered in 1903, had asked Northcliffe if he could postpone the tour until 1913.

It was a fortunate decision, since the *Titanic* sank on its first crossing with the loss of over 1,500 lives. In a situation where the too few lifeboats went to "women and children first," Vardon undoubtedly would have gone down with the ship. He thus would never have won his sixth British Open in 1914, still a record. There also would have been no later Tour of the U. S. in 1920 during which he and Ray played at Nassau.

In 1913, Northcliffe was the guest of Colonel William Hester at Nassau. He played two rounds of golf that day, and was reported to have "made the acquaintance of President Watson of the United States Golf Association, Fred Herreshoff, Findlay Douglas and William L. Hicks (then Nassau champion)."

In the afternoon, he played a foursome with an old friend, Frank N. Doubleday, and they "made an engagement to finish their match at the Englishman's private course next spring." The newspaper added, "Like so many Britishers, Lord Northcliffe plays in excellent form. His tee shots are of good distance and reasonably straight. His best shot is a high approach. . . He was very enthusiastic about the beauties of the Nassau course and commended the condition of the fair green (the original term for fairway) and the putting greens."

Also at that August, 1920, meeting Nassau elected three other English amateurs to honorary membership "during their stay in this country." They were Cyril Tolley (British Amateur Champion in 1920 and 1929), Roger Wethered (British Amateur Champion, 1923) and Lord Charles Hope, who were here to compete in the U. S. Amateur, held that year at Engineers' Country Club in nearby Roslyn. None of them qualified for match play. However, such transatlantic trips by British and American amateurs playing in each others' championships started a movement that ultimately created the international matches for the Walker Cup in 1922.

Nassau's Visitors Book

The Club kept a Visitors Book for many years, which used to lie on a lectern-type table in the great hall. The first entries were in 1912 and continued until the 1950s. Here are some of the early names that stand out.

On September 1, 1912, Waldorf Astor came to the Club. He was a grandson of the John Jacob Astor who went down with the *Titanic*, and the eldest son of William Waldorf Astor, the American financier who emigrated to England and became a baron, later a viscount. Waldorf Astor succeeded his father as viscount in 1919.

On April 13, 1913, Herbert M. Harriman was the guest of Findlay S. Douglas. The pair were old golfing rivals for amateur honors. Douglas had won the U. S. Amateur in 1898, and Harriman won it in the following year, defeating Douglas in the final. Harriman won the first Met Amateur in 1900; Douglas won it in 1901 and 1903. Harriman was the brother of Nassau member Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, mentioned above.

If you've ever wondered how good Vardon really was in his prime, here's an impressive statistic. In 1900, Harriman and Douglas obviously were two of America's top amateurs. On April 3, during his American Tour of that year, Vardon beat *their better ball* at Atlantic City by 9 and 8!

In November, 1913, Miss Georgianna Bishop, the 1904 U. S. Women's champion, was the guest of Mrs. Howard F. Whitney, one of Nassau's best woman golfers of the early years. Miss Bishop, Brooklawn, Conn., signed the book again in September of 1914, as did Mrs. Fred Herreshoff, Garden City, Miss Elaine P. Rosenthal, Chicago, and Mrs. N. Porter, Aronomink, Philly. All were contestants in the Women's National, held a few days later at Nassau.

Other guests of interest from 1912 to 1918 were: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Auchinloss; F. P. Duryea; Arthur Havemeyer; Henry Cushing; the Baroness De Graffemied (NYC); Hamilton Fish, Jr.; A. J. Drexell Biddle, Jr.; Bernard Baruch; Robert L. Luce; Baroness Vera De Ropp (NYC); Nelson Doubleday (NYC); George Widener (Philadelphia), and Miss Augusta Travers (NYC).

There was a light side to Nassau's Visitors Book, too. On September 29, 1915, Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, Charlie Chaplin and Wallace Reid reputedly were guests of the Club, introduced by one James H. Been of California. Later, someone crossed out the names of the film stars, so the entry could be bogus. However, one does get the impression that, even though these famous screen actors may not have visited Nassau, they should have!



Miss Georgianna Bishop, the 1904 U.S. Women's Champion, visited Nassau in 1913.

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*Strange bedfellows?
One thing that
Presidents Wilson and
Taft had in common
was their love of golf.
They were both
honorary members of
Nassau Country Club.*

Some entries obviously were only in fun, including these 1915 entries: Andy the Actor, Hollywood, introduced by the Prince of Wales; Jean McDonald, Bonnie Scotland, introduced by Harry Lauder, and Hurricane Harry of Borneo, introduced by Iron Mike.

Two entries in May of 1918 regrettably are also suspect: Marilynn Miller, a famous Hollywood film star of the time, reputedly introduced a Mr. "Larry" D. Doyle of Montmartre, Paris. However, the Club records that survive from this time do not show her as a member of the Club. One must say the same of Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, the famous actress, who introduced a Mr. Milton D. Doyle, Pre Catalan, Caucasia.

First Cabin All The Way

Every aspect of life at Nassau reflected its Cadillac class. Nassau members did not commute to New York with the "hoi polloi." Instead, they rode to the Big Apple in style, in a special railway carriage.

The Club's Minutes faithfully record the location of all Club meetings. From these one can see that, although the Directors and Governors held most of their meetings in the Club House or in the City at a convenient restaurant, office or club, they also held some meetings while they rode in what the Club minutes variously describe as the "Nassau Club Car" or the "Club Car 'Nassau.'" The first such meeting was in October of 1907, and there were others in 1908, 1912, 1916 and 1917. The time of day of the 1916 meeting was recorded: 8.30 a. m.

By 1922, the carriage's name had been changed. The Secretary now calls it the "Glen Cove Club Car." Some of the meetings on the train were evidently very brief; according to its minutes, the one in 1922 lasted from 5.10 to 5.15. These were men of decision, it seems.

The Club's officers even held meetings on the water. In August, 1907, and again in June, 1909, they met on what the minutes call the "Yacht 'Celt'" or the "Steamer 'Celt.'"

In those days, it was the most effective way to beat the heat.

As might be expected, at the turn of the century Nassau gave its members opportunities for sport, entertainment, and relaxation that were second to none. The membership also demonstrated a sense of joie de vivre and sheer fun that was unique to the period.

Golf Program

A typical golf season then started on May 1 with qualifying for a 16-man handicap match play event. Other such events took place

in June, early July, early September, and early October. On Labor Day weekend, there were 36 holes Saturday and Monday for both gross (President's Cup) and net (Vice-President's Cup) prizes. The Club



George Low (left) and Alex Smith in a leisurely discussion with some members in the early days at Nassau.

Championship was in June, 16 low gross scores qualifying for match play. The date for the Club's Open Tournament usually was in early October, although this varied somewhat over the years. In some years, the Club also held a Women's Invitation Tournament.

On weekends when there was nothing special on the agenda, the Club held weekly handicap events; about 20 were medal



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play, eight were match play against bogey and three were four-ball medal. There also was the "Old Guard's Plate," donated by Charles A. Frank, which gave a little extra kudos to the Club's better players; at the end of each season the names of those members who had handed in "three properly attested gross scores of under 80 made during the year" were engraved on the plate. The season concluded in November with the Thanksgiving Handicap.

The local paper and the *Brooklyn Eagle* then reported every Nassau event, from the Nassau Invitational down to the 18-hole weekly handicaps. The latter items usually were dry

little paragraphs, with matching headlines such as "Dunning's card is best," "Jennings puts bogey down," and so on. However, the newspapermen did try. In October of 1913, H. B. Folger, Jr. won a weekly handicap. One would expect a routine headline, as above. It didn't materialize. The desk man evidently spotted that J. T. Pratt, H. L. Pratt, H. I. Pratt and F. B. Pratt all had competed, but without success. His headline read: "Pratts fail to win." In those days, that was news.

There also were several inter-club matches against such clubs as Garden City and Westbrook, and against college teams, such as Yale and Columbia. Usually, the matches employed the Nassau System, but sometimes just one point was given for a win, one-half of a point for a half and zero for a loss, the system still used in Walker and Ryder Cup matches.

Apparently, Wednesday was "Women's Day" even then. This at least was when mixed foursome competitions took place, usually two or three a year. One of these was a "tombstone" event, which led to such cute writing in the *Brooklyn Eagle* as: "Yesterday afternoon was one of grave portent and sorrow for the women and men golfers of Nassau when they assembled at the Club to plant their tombstones in a 12-hole golf match. . ." Today, of course, we would call this a flag event, but planting tombstones certainly was a colorful variation. Prizes for winning these events were very nice indeed. One time in 1915, the winners, Miss Lillian B. Hyde and

Harvey S. Ladew, received "a silver smoking set and a silver inkstand and clock combination."

In those days, the Thanksgiving Day medal was open to women. In 1914, Mrs. J. E. Davis, the only woman that year to take part, scored 97-21—76 and tied for first with Mr. C. E. Robinson, 88-12—76. The first and second prizes in this event usually were turkey and game fowl, respectively, with a goose going as a consolation prize to the player with the highest net score.

Winter didn't slow down Nassau golfers much in those days. Every Saturday, there was an 18-hole medal play event, for monthly cups, on a points system (winner: five points; second, three points, third, two points). The golf was more informal, of course, winter rules allowing golfers "to lift and place the ball on the fair green or putting green only and all snow is played as casual water."



Women were active members of the golf scene, but the styles and the times were much more relaxed.



Members of the Yale team in front of the clubhouse around 1910. Recognize anyone?

Slow play and crowded courses evidently were problems then as now. Year after year, the Club's golf notices to members included this plea: "The custom of keeping score in three and four ball matches, and of holing every putt, when it can have no bearing on the match, is becoming largely responsible for the congestion of the course. It is suggested that members discontinue this practice."

Two other golf events at Nassau deserve special mention: The Mott Street-Hester Street match and the New Year's Day match against Piping Rock.

Mott Street vs. Hester Street

For many years, the Club put on an annual tournament between "Mott Street" and "Hester Street," the names for teams representing adjoining rival alleys in the Nassau locker room. The format was singles match play using the Nassau System. All Club members were welcome to compete, using their regular handicaps or, if they hadn't played enough to have them, special handicaps.

The first of these matches took place on October 9, 1912, when Hester Street won by a single point. There were 76 contestants in the match, and 96 attended the dinner, the losers paying for the winners' meal. The matches occasioned much good natured chaffing between the teams as to who could play better golf.

For example, in May of 1913, Mott Street, thirsting for revenge, learned that the match had been postponed from that month until October 13. The captain of the Muttites (as the *Brooklyn Eagle* observed, "oddly corrupted from the Mott Street appellation") immediately put the following on the locker room bulletin board:

"Owing to Hester Street being out of condition, and requiring extensive repairs and overhauling, Mott Street has generously consented to postpone the Annual Mott-Hester St. Match until fall, or until a still later date if necessary for Hester St. to get in condition (if such a thing is possible) to give Mott St. an interesting match."

The Hesterites immediately retaliated with their own blistering, if wordy, broadside:

"To the vainglorious sons of 'Mutt' Street: Your feeble attempt at hedging is a joke that would make even a 'mutt' cry and has all the *Bertillon prints and characteristics of a breed of mutts of a color not unlike a lemon. And yet our sympathy goes out to you. Now, buck up, wipe out the yellow streak, play good ball and be good sports. Hester Street challenged you last year, ate your steak, spanked you and put you to sleep.

"It was a sore day and evening that October 9, 1912, for you, all will admit. Our victory hurt your pride and taught you humility, but it was not intended or desired by us to crush your courage or ambition. Now wake up, do not be tin sports. We, of Hester Street, have not received your challenge as yet. Challenge us and put it in writing on the bulletin board. We are ready for you at any time. As we were victors last year, we have since carried the whip and are using it on you, as it is our privilege and right to whip you to the open and give you an opportunity to gain what you lost.

"So out with your challenge, and then to battle with good cheer. If we should go down to defeat you can depend on it we will pin roses on you and come back at you with a 1914 challenge that will hit you square between the eyes without a vestige of finesse."

In the end, the match took place on Monday, October 13, Columbus Day. The entrance fee for each player was \$1, to cover the cost of music and the entertainers. Members of the losing team paid \$4 to cover the cost of two dinners.

The event was a huge success, with 112 members playing. Howard W. Maxwell captained the victorious Mott Street team, which included Findlay S. Douglas, William L. Hicks, the Club champion, and Howard F. Whitney, former Club champion. Clifford A. Dunning, 1912 Club champion, captained the Hester Street team. Henry L. Maxwell was the hero of the match, gaining the winning point for Mott Street by holing a 40-footer on the home green against John B. Coles Tappan. Whereupon, the Muttites chaired Maxwell in triumph to the clubhouse. Mott Street won by 66 to 57.

In 1914, Hester Street made a comeback, winning over Mott Street by 44 to 36 on November 7. There were 72 members playing. However, from this point on the Club archives

*The Bertillon System was the first scientific method of criminal identification, developed by French criminologist Alphonse Bertillon. Adopted in France in 1888, the system was based on skeletal and other body characteristics and measurements. Fingerprinting was added to the System in the early 1890s and has largely replaced it.

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The January 2, 1916 edition of The Brooklyn Eagle ran this cartoon depicting the New Year's Day match between Nassau and Piping Rock Country Clubs. The only winter rule concession was to allow the ball to be teed up each time. At dusk, two players were reported missing. They were apparently found flailing away in a thicket along the railroad tracks.



do not record any more verbal battles, and one must assume the match then settled down into a more tranquil state.

Nassau vs. Piping Rock

The annual New Year's Day match against Piping Rock was not a regular inter-club match; rather it was "cross country," played from one club to the other. The event started in 1916, inspired, said the *New York Herald*, by the University Club "taking it into their heads to ply back and forth between Nassau and Piping Rock." The *Brooklyn Eagle* reported that "the course began short of the fourth green at Piping Rock, stretched down the race track, then across the Burling-Cocks estate to Meeting House Corner. Here the players drove down a roadway between the old Quaker Meeting House on one side and the Friends' Academy on the other, with rows of trees, fences, gutters and a few other hazards included. After playing down Duck Pond Road a distance of 425 yards, the course led diagonally across the property of Anton G. Hodenpyl, then to Congressman William W. Cocks's estate, past the barns of Henry Coles, and across the railroad to the fifth fair green of the Nassau Club, to the



This photo from the February, 1917 issue of *Golf Illustrated* shows the co-winner of the 1917 match, Mr. C. A. Dunning apparently recovering from a shot on ice.

18th and 19th holes at the clubhouse."

The distance of the course was about 4,000 yards. The Clubs wisely posted caddies every 200 yards with red flags to signal players lost in snowdrifts or otherwise. The hazards included three corn fields, another field six inches deep "in a sort of frozen grass, where a shower of icicles was sent flying at every shot," and Coles's barns, where many players came to grief. Before the event, Jack Williams, the Piping Rock pro, went over the course and predicted that there would be no score under 80.

From the time Anton Hodenpyl of Nassau drove the first ball at 10.20 a. m. on that first

day of January, 1916, to when the weary golfers got their first sip of eggnog at Nassau's 19th hole, there were many adventures. One player tried seven times to drive a ball through the carriage house, then pitched over it, narrowly missing a pigeon on the ridge-pole. The trains of the Long Island Railroad also had some narrow escapes as players tore into the roadbed with their niblicks. Even the professionals had their problems: At one point, Nassau's Jim Maiden hit a fine brassie shot across a corn field, but it ricocheted off a tree and finished 40 yards behind him!

In the end, the scores were remarkably good. Although 58 players had signed up for the event, New Year's Eve festivities must have laid some low, as only 46 (23 a side) played. Nassau had a total of 903 strokes, Piping Rock, 953. The lowest score was 24, recorded by Caryl Sayre, Nassau. Howard W. Maxwell, Piping Rock, was next with 29. Paul D. Cravath, Piping Rock, and Charles Pratt, Nassau, shared the booby prize, both scoring 59. Among the professionals, Jim Maiden had the best score, a 27.

It is worth noting that several "Nassau" names are now at Piping Rock, including Maxwell, Cravath, George and Joseph Fahys, Howard F. Whitney, F. N. Doubleday and Frederick B. Pratt.

The next year, the course was reversed, starting at Nassau and finishing on the home green at Piping Rock. The field totalled 54, of whom 11 were women. The final score was 278 for Nassau, 329 for Piping Rock. As an added attraction, there were extra prizes for teams of two men and a man and a woman.

Among the amateurs, J. B. Taylor of Piping Rock and Clifford A. Dunning of Nassau both shot 23, one better than the record set by Sayre the previous year. Howard W. Maxwell Jr. and E. Coe Kerr, with scores of 25 each, won the prize for the best two-man team. The "mixed doubles" prize went to Howard F. Whitney and Miss Marion Hollins, who scored 26 and 30 respectively. As one newspaper scribe put it, "Miss Hollins put to blush the misguided efforts of many male golfers." Only eight others in the field bettered her score. (Note: Hollins was then 25 and had won the Women's Met Open in 1913.)

Among the professionals, again Jim Maiden was low scorer with 22 strokes. Robert White, North Shore, finished second with 23. That year, White became the first president of the PGA of America.

The newspaperman continued, "Three itinerant glaziers were enlisted to follow the players as they did their utmost to keep a straight and narrow path down Duck Pond Road past a score of houses. When a carefree ball did smash a window here or there the damage was trivial for the most part, but the crash was magnificent."

The event continued for many years in this happy fashion. However, when the area became too built up for a cross-country event to be practical, it was discontinued. Jim Tingley remembers that in the 1960s the cross-country match had "shrunk" to playing from the clubhouse to the fifth green and back to the ninth green. By that time only Nassau members competed in the event, which was then held as the Thanksgiving Turkey Day rather than on New Year's Day. The event died out in the early 1970s.

Tennis, Shooting And Baseball

Before World War I, the Club had grass, clay or board tennis courts for summer play. In winter, you could play squash or continue your tennis. As a Club notice before the winter season of 1913 pointed out, "the board tennis courts provide excellent opportunities for enjoyable open air exercise."

At the time, the Club's tennis program included Men's Handicap Singles, Doubles, Handicap Mixed Doubles, and Men's Singles and Doubles Championships. The Men's championship started in 1904. There also were Ladies' Singles and Doubles Handicap. It was not until the 1960s that the Club started a Ladies' Championship.

Shooting was a winter sport, with the Club putting the traps into commission on the first Saturday in December. Then, during each of the months of December, January and February, the gun club conducted competitions for cups won on a points system. The Club held its Shooting Championship toward the end of March when it presented a Club gold medal for 150 targets at scratch as well as a Committee Cup for 150 targets handicap. With the charges for shooting prior to World War I being a modest four cents a shot, one certainly got a good bang for his buck.

There evidently were inter-club shoots, too. The inscription appearing on one of the silver trophies in the Nassau clubhouse is shown above.

**Carteret Gun Club
Annual Interclub Team Shoot
May 4, 1907
Won by Nassau Country Club
Score 178
(Team) T. D. Hooper,
H. F. Whitney,
B. N. Busch, D. G. Geddes,
R. A. Rainey
Yale Gun Club 162
Rockaway Hunt Club 161
Carteret Gun Club 155
Westchester Country Club 149**

CHAPTER FIVE—Nassau At Play

Trap shooting competitions went on during the winter seasons as shown in this 1920's photo. From left to right: Mr. Beidel (instructor); Mrs Alkin; Mrs. Dickinson; Mrs. Carhart; Mrs Beadleston; Mrs White, and Mr. Johnson (scorer).



One of the events of the social season was the yacht races in Oyster Bay.

yacht club's grounds on Center Island, Nassau won 29 to 12. Among the players from the yacht club was Nelson Doubleday, who visited Nassau later that year.

Baseball was another sport enjoyed at Nassau. We find in the Minutes of the Governor's meeting of August 25, 1914, "A letter from Mr. Harold W. Carhart was read asking if there would any objection by the Board to playing baseball on the lawn in front of the Club House on Sunday afternoons." The Board instructed the Secretary to write to Mr. Carhart, stating that it "did not care to have any baseball games arranged for Sunday afternoons at the Club, and suggesting that the games be arranged for weekday afternoons."

We know of several games played that summer. There was a series of intra-club games between the "Ins" and the "Outs." According to one newspaper report, "A large number of society people rooted on the sidelines for their favorite team." Besides Mr. Carhart, who played catcher, other Nassau baseball players included Walter L. Pate (of tennis fame, but here a pitcher) and the "Maxwell battery of H. W. Maxwell Sr. and Jr." In a game against the Seawanahaka-Corinthian Yacht Club, played on the

The Social Season

The Glen Cove season started in early May. On May 11, 1913, for example, the *Brooklyn Eagle* stated, "Glen Cove has already begun its season, for many country houses are now open, and preparations made for considerable entertaining of both formal and informal fashion."

In May there usually were informal dances in midweek and in June, every Saturday evening. Members could polish their dancing if they wished. In April, 1908, the Governors authorized the House Committee "to offer the Club House to certain ladies desiring to form a

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dancing class." There were impromptu dances arranged for "the younger set of the colony." The local newspaper described one of these, in June of 1913, as "a very jolly affair." Mrs. Frederick B. Pratt and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Fletcher were the chaperones.

There also were big charity dances such as the one given in the same month for the benefit of the East Side House Settlement. Nearly 300 attended, some coming from as far afield as "the New Rochelle and other Westchester colonies." It raised \$1,400. These occasions must have been a lot of fun. "A feature of the evening was the prize dancing, Miss Katherine Pratt and Mr. Cortlandt D. Handy winning the one-step competition."

Major Club events provided more opportunities to trip the light fantastic. For example, when the Women's MGA held their championship at Nassau in 1913, a notice from the Club's Governors "cordially invites the members of the Club to meet the contestants at an informal tea dance on June the Third from four until six. There will be music."

The Nassau Bowl had its social side, too. On Saturday, September 6, 1913, the Club gave a dance in the clubhouse in "honor of the tennis stars." One newspaper described it as "one of the most brilliant social affairs of the early fall season, over 300 well known people of the colony and their house guests in attendance." The guests included Gustave Touchard and his wife. Touchard was to lose in the final of the singles the next day. They also came from the homes of the "Pratts, Maxwells, Gibbs, Battermans, Murdochs, Stearns, Fletchers, Handys, Brewsters, Brokaws, Franks, Runyons, Loring and other country home owners and club members."

The Brooklyn Eagle of June 8, 1914, recorded a particularly hard day in the lives of the socialites: "The members of the summer colony completed their day of activity on Saturday after the Piping Rock races and the yacht races off Glen Cove by attending an informal dance at the Nassau Country Club. Among the notables at the event were Mr. and Mrs. Parker D. Handy, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. Howard F. Whitney, and Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Maxwell."

July Fourth Festivities

July 4th was a big event at Nassau in those days and the Club celebrated it in traditional fashion. Typically, there was dancing in the afternoon, followed by fireworks, followed by more dancing. Members and their guests watched the fireworks, as did hundreds of townsfolk looking on from the roadway. The high point of the display was a set piece of the American flag, during which the orchestra would play the "Star Spangled Banner." Everyone would stand up, applaud and sing until the lights faded.

However, one such celebration early in the Club's history, in 1905, was a little different. *The Brooklyn Eagle* (and a later article in the *Glen Cove Echo*) described the festivities.

On that Tuesday, the Club's Fourth of July afternoon tea was proceeding as usual when a tallyho (a type of pleasure coach pulled by two pairs of horses in tandem) drew up at the Nassau Country Club entrance.

Out of the coach came fifteen late arrivals, all tastefully attired for the occasion in long dresses with leg-o'-mutton sleeves, great picture hats and carrying ruffled parasols. Their

The July 4th celebration of 1905 showed a whole new side of society sports. A tennis tournament of rather strange appearance took place as attested to by the photos above and below. The moustache seems to be a dead giveaway though.



Howard Whitney.

CHAPTER FIVE—Nassau At Play



*Fifteen late arrivals for Nassau's
Fourth of July afternoon
tea party in 1905.*

appearance at the tea drew "shouts of laughter from the prettily frocked women and the summer clad men who were the audience." The reason is not hard to find. All fifteen were prominent Manhattan and Brooklyn Society men (and Club members) masquerading as women!

As the newspaperman put it, "A greater surprise there never was. Not a dozen people were in the secret. Several of the men made genuinely pretty women, others were comic." As the men flounced in from the coach, each smoked a cigar, "adding much to the effect. Parker D. Handy's moustache made a great hit."

Handy's partners in the prank were Herbert Pratt, W.

Eugene Kimball, Howard Whitney, John R. Maxwell Jr., Henry L. Batterman, Burling Cocks, Howard Maxwell, John Pratt, Harold Pratt, Daniel Loring, Jr., Herbert Smithers, Harold B. Smithers, W. J. Cooper, and Arthur W. Rossiter.

"The men's 'get-ups' were very complete and fetching." For example, Harold B. Smithers appeared in a black alpaca bathing suit with long sleeves and a skirt that went well below the knees. John R. Maxwell Jr. wore a white sunbonnet and linen duster and resembled, according to the reporter, Leslie Carter, in 'Zaza.' Herbert Pratt came in a white gown with sneakers while John Pratt wore a white picture hat, picture gown and picture hose. Batterman vied with them in a vivid red waist with rosette and feathers in his hat.

The men later played a tennis tournament in their borrowed finery. Herbert Pratt and Herbert Smithers were the winners. In the prizes for costumes, Loring took the blue ribbon. Harold Smithers was judged to have the shapeliest ankles. Herbert Pratt's tallyho also won a prize.

Afterwards, the entire party went over to the J. B. C. Tappan home where they left a pair of twin dolls on the doorstep.

Morning Musicales

The first mention of Morning Musicales comes at a Governor's meeting of May 18, 1907, when the Secretary was "instructed to write to Mrs. H. L. Pratt in regard to having use of the Club for morning musicales in August." The last we know of occurred in 1915.

These musicales were quite ambitious presentations of serious music. In 1914 and 1915, for example, there were two musicales each year in June organized by Mrs. Howard F. Whitney, Mrs. Francis S. Smithers and Mrs. Arthur W. Rossiter. In 1914, the second musicale featured Mr. and Mrs. David Mannes, the *Brooklyn Eagle* describing "the former as a first violinist of the Symphony Orchestra, the latter as a pianist of rare ability." They performed compositions by Bach, Beethoven, Debussy, Grieg, Massenet and Wagner. In 1915, they also gave the first musicale, playing works by Schumann, Brahms, Mozart, Martini, Couperin, Wolf-Ferrari, Saint-Saens, Sibelius and Beethoven. The second musicale was a selection of operatic music by Gounod, Puccini, Rimsky Korsakov, Massenet and Brahms, as well as some old English and Irish songs. The performers were Mrs. Edith Chapman Goold, soprano, Mrs. Dorothy Baseler, harpist, George Rasely, tenor, and Mrs. William S. Nelson, accompanist.

However, the first musicale of 1914, given on June 3, was the most remarkable, and in all probability unique. The musicale featured the "Secret of Susanne," one of the best known

operas by the German-Italian composer, Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari. He composed the work in 1909.

The *Brooklyn Eagle* justifiably gave this musicale prominent treatment.

"The beautiful living room of the Nassau Country Club presented a very animated scene this morning with its scores of fashionably attired women, who gathered there for the first of a series of musical mornings.

"Some time ago, Thomas L. Leeming, a prominent member of the Club and a gifted musician, conceived the idea of having a presentation of the well known opera other than within the confines of an opera house, and the plan to have such a presentation at the Nassau Country Club suggested itself. *This was probably the first affair of its kind at a country club* (Author's italics).

"While many country clubs have had presented various plays, today's affair is especially noteworthy in that an entire opera was produced. Special properties and costuming for the three principals who sang the full opera, which is a lyric in English, were brought to the Club and the presentation is one that would have rivaled a production in an opera house.

"The singers were Miss Lois Ewell (Countess Susanne) and Thomas Chalmers (Count Gil), both of the Century Opera Company. The servant, Sante, was sung by Francesco Daddi, who had sung with the Chicago Opera Company. The opera had previously been given at the Metropolitan Opera House by Geraldine Farrar (soprano) and Antonio Scotti (baritone).

"The scene was laid in an apartment of the Count's villa and the costumes were in the period of 1850."

The newspaper concluded: "The (Club's) living room was "admirably suited for the affair" and "from the pleasure derived from the musicale, it will be long remembered."

Other Entertainments

In those days, theatrical companies put on "road shows" that played, among other places, at country clubs. In the Governors' meeting for August 20, 1912, we find "the Secretary instructed to send a letter of approval to Frank Lee Short for the play "The Romancers." Besides Nassau, Mr. Short's company played in many leading clubs in the East.

At 8.30 on the evening of June 12, 1914, the curtain went up as Short's company put on another play at Nassau, "Robin Hood and his Merrie Men," by Owen Davis. A Club notice described it as a "new lyrical comedy founded on the Robin Hood Ballads and Tennyson's 'The Foresters.'" It was to be an "open air play on the Club lawn." However, "should the weather be unfavorable, the performance will be given in the Club House." Tickets were \$2.

Happily, as one of the charter members of the Club remarked, there were "no rain checks needed." The *Brooklyn Eagle* described the scene.

"Specially adapted as it is to an outdoor production, 'Robin Hood's setting last night could not have been prettier. A large stage with 'wings' screened with foliage had been erected directly back of the board tennis courts in the rear of the clubhouse. No artificial background was needed. It was in itself a solid background of wooded land just off the golf course. Chairs had been placed on the tennis court flooring.

"The effect was particularly pleasing with the star-sprinkled canopy overhead, the woodsy setting, dotted with fantastic fireflies. The effect was greatly heightened by the use of colored lights.


"The colonists were out in force for the performance and many of them brought guests who are at the country homes preparatory to the polo match at Meadowbrook. There were a number of the young set in the audience, which numbered over 200. After the performance, there was a dance at the clubhouse."

Nassau was quite up to date with other entertainment. On September 16, 1913, a headline in the *Brooklyn Eagle* read, "Movies at Nassau." The story said, "There was a large attendance at the Nassau Country Club for a Saturday dance preceded by an interesting entertainment arranged by Lyman N. Hine. Mr. Hine showed moving pictures of his trip to Africa last spring, when he accompanied a party on a big game hunt. The scenes shown were near Nairobi and the other points where Roosevelt hunted big game with Cunningham, who was also the guide of the party of which Mr. Hine was a member. During the

OPEN-AIR PLAY

On the lawn of The Nassau Country Club.
GLEN COVE, LONG ISLAND

The Frank Lea Short Company
Management of RUSSELL JANNEY



MR. FRANK LEA SHORT

PRESENTING "Robin Hood and his Merrie Men"
BY OWEN DAVIS

A new lyrical comedy founded on the Robin Hood Ballads and Tennyson's "The Foresters"

Friday Evening, June 12th

IN EVENT OF RAIN PLAY WILL BE GIVEN IN THE CLUB HOUSE

CHAPTER FIVE—Nassau At Play

One of the few remaining photographs of the old Nassau Country Club clubhouse, viewed from the southwest corner.



exhibition of the pictures Mr. Hine gave explanations of the places and scenes shown."

This was the era of silent films—"talkies" did not come in until 1927.

Flower shows

Minutes of the Governors' meeting of May 13, 1912, record that "The application of the Nassau County Horticultural Society to hold their flower show on the Club grounds on June 19th was favorably received and permission was granted for the same." These shows continued for the next couple of years.

Typical of these was the show of June 17, 1913, reported in the *Brooklyn Eagle* under headlines of: "Nassau Club Scene of Flower Exhibit; North Shore Colonists Show Finest Products of Estates at Annual Event; Rose Exhibits A Feature; Mrs. Herbert L. Pratt Wins Nine Places."

At Nassau, as well as the rest of the US, an era was ending. Nassau, like the rest of the U.S., would have to face the prospect of a world war.

Here two women with their caddy check their scores on the 18th green. The sign to the right is the "flag" for the 18th hole.



"Full classes, exhibits of the finest character and beauty, and the interest of the prominent members of the summer colony, made the annual 'rose show' of the Nassau County Horticultural Society, held yesterday, a decided success. It took place at the Nassau Country Club, and was one of the very interesting events of the season.

"The finest roses were exhibited by Mrs. W. Eugene Kimball and her sister Mrs. Herbert L. Pratt, Miss Francis S. Smithers, Harvey S. Ladew and Mrs. Benjamin Stern." William V. Hester swept both sweet pea events. Percy Chubb won first prizes for snapdragons and strawberries as well as taking a first in table decoration, held in the Club's dining room, "with his arrangement of pink sweet peas, spirea, and maiden hair fern."

The Society also awarded prizes for perennials, annuals, peonies, snapdragons, delphiniums and displays of vegetables, such as peas, cauliflowers and heads of lettuce as well as fruits.

A Golf Story

On July 22, 1915, the *Brooklyn Eagle* reported a 12-hole mixed foursome event at Nassau. A feature of the afternoon was the play of one Miss Carpenter, the guest of Harold W. Carhart.

When the pair started at the 10th tee, "eyes widened and there were murmured expressions as Carhart's guest attempted some practice swings in the most awkward manner possible.

"Wonder she wouldn't get in a little practice before entering an event like this' was the consensus of those on the tee. Then, to the amazement of all, Miss Carpenter drove a perfect ball. As the day went on, interest in the performance of her and her partner increased, especially when news of the score they were producing emerged.

"Great for a beginner' was the comment when the pair posted its score of 50-9—41, which proved to be best of the afternoon. Mrs. Joseph E. Davis, who with her husband, finished fifth, when told of the good play by the visitor, said, 'Well, I'd like to meet her,' and the young woman was introduced.

"Then came the denouement, for with a boisterous swing of her arm and a combination war whoop and giggle, Miss Carpenter doffed her hat, and there before the astonished players stood Howard W. Maxwell, Jr., the new champion of the Club, who defeated William Hicks, the veteran, last Saturday. Not one of the players in the match knew more of Miss Carpenter than she was a visiting guest, so successfully had young Maxwell arranged his disguise. Only his partner, Harold Carhart, of course knew, and many times during the afternoon he had the time of his life trying to suppress a giggle which would have spoiled the fun.

"Young Maxwell wore a white shirt, a white waist, a silk sweater, and with his hat a 'harem' veil, which is a popular fad adopted by many of Nassau's women golfers and tennis players. With only his eyes showing, and his hair 'frizzed' in a coquettish fashion, the young man played unrecognized.

"In the end Miss Carpenter and her partner did not get the prizes, because Mrs. Adams C. Sumner and Charles M. Fair, who had produced the next best score—a 57-11—46—'laughingly protested' the match, claiming that theirs was 'the lowest net made by a man and woman player.' Young Maxwell and Carhart graciously acknowledged that Mrs. Sumner and Mr. Fair were right, and the latter were declared the winners.

"It is safe to say that Maxwell and Carhart wouldn't exchange the fun they had, and that they provided, for a dozen prizes."

"After the round, there were 18-hole putting contests on the practice green for both men and women. Miss Carpenter did not compete."

The reader will now appreciate why there has been no mention of the headline to this story. It would have spoiled the fun. It read:

"Nassau Champion Plays In Skirts."

CHAPTER SIX—Nassau In The Great War

On June 28, 1914, a Serbian nationalist assassinated Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary. This was the spark that ignited the largest conflict that the world had seen up to that time.

By early August, Japan and Montenegro joined forces with the Allies (Britain, France, Russia, Serbia and Belgium) and the Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers (Germany and Austria-Hungary). The war became general.



J. Pierpont Morgan joined the drive for the war effort. Here he is buying Liberty Bonds from a society woman who would later gain fame for her code of social behavior, Mrs. Emily Post.

Over Here

The first mention of the war in connection with Nassau is a short newspaper item dated August 10, 1914. It starts innocuously enough. "The Nassau Country Club has had a quiet week and will probably be

inactive for the next two or three weeks as so many of the Club members are away. Informal golf and tennis are of course held there." The article then strikes a more sober note. "Many of the Club members are leaders in financial circles and the war situation abroad has demanded their whole attention so that little interest has been taken this week except in the progress of events in Europe."



The effect of the war was soon felt, even in the area of golf competition. On January 30, 1914, the *Brooklyn Eagle* had covered the USGA's annual meeting at the Waldorf Astoria, reporting that Nassau would host the 1914 Women's Amateur.

Findlay Douglas presented Nassau's claims to the delegates. He said, "The selecting of clubs (to host national championships) ought not to be a fight of one club against the other, but rather depend on geographical considerations." (Note: This is the prime consideration today.) As Northern New England had already received the Amateur, and the Open had been assigned to the Chicago district, he believed that the Metropolitan Section also should have one of the national championships.

Nassau's only competitor was the Chicago Golf Club of Wheaton (Illinois), but as that club had hosted the Amateur in 1912, on the rising vote of the 53 delegates only two stood for Wheaton. The delegates then selected Nassau, unanimously.

At the meeting, Robert C. Watson, president of the USGA, had said that he had received a letter from Miss Gladys Ravenscroft, the American and former British champion, and Miss Muriel Dodd, the British and Canadian champion (and a semi-finalist in the American championship the previous year), assuring him of their intention to return for the 1914 championship.

With the outbreak of war in Europe, neither player was able to compete. In the week before the championship, held September 14-19, 1914, we find the following newspaper account: "A pleasing phase of the day's events was the arrival from abroad of the Robert W. Cox trophy, the championship prize." The year before Miss Ravenscroft had taken it to England when she won at Wilmington, but, "as the English girl cannot come over to defend her title, there was speculation as to whether, on account of the war excitement, the trophy would get back here in time. Hence, there was much rejoicing among the officials of the USGA when the trophy was received today."

Miss Ravenscroft, evidently quite a character, would be missed. In her first championship, the 1909 British amateur, her powerful hitting had caused a sensation. The only one not impressed was the young Englishwoman herself, then 20 years old. When informed she had been selected to play for England in an international match, she replied, "Don't do that! I'm not a golfer. I'm a hockey player!" Hockey must have taken a back seat at that point, because she went on to win the British championship in 1912 before coming to the U. S. in 1913 to win the American title.

Nassau And War Charities

Nassau took the lead in one aspect of the various war charities that sprang up in those early days of the war. In October, 1914, the MGA sent out a notice to its member clubs suggesting that each club hold a tournament for the benefit of the Belgian Relief Fund. On the 27th of October, the *Brooklyn Eagle* reported that Nassau would be the first to give a tournament for the cause. As the newspaper observed, "That is only right, since Mrs. Joseph E. Davis, a prominent member of the Glen Cove Club, is the originator of the plan.

"While talking with some friends at the Nassau Country Club several weeks ago, Mrs. Davis suggested the idea. The great suffering in Belgium appealed to the society woman, and, being a member of the outdoor set, her thoughts naturally turned towards a sport instead of suggesting the knitting of stockings and other similar plans. The idea caught like wildfire, and soon it was the talk of the Nassau Club. The officials of the Metropolitan Golf Association heard of the idea and they also thought it would be a great thing."

Nassau announced that it would hold a tournament on Election Day, charging an entrance fee of \$1 to go to the relief fund. Nassau also would present each competitor with a silk Belgian flag.

In the end, Nassau was not the first to hold such a tournament. On October 30, the newspapers reported that a number of Nassau golfers would get a chance to subscribe to the Belgian Relief Fund on the following day as well as on election day. "Tomorrow, there will be a team match at Garden City between Garden City Golf Club and Nassau, with 30 players on each side. The entrance fee of \$1 will be donated to the Belgian Relief Fund. The event will be at 18 holes, four-ball matches, and the scoring by the Garden City system, by which two points are awarded for the best ball and one point for the next best ball." The result of the match was Garden City, 77, Nassau, 56.

On November 4, Nassau's own competition for the Fund took place; it raised \$287. There were 110 starters in the 18-hole competition. There was a tie for first place between E. J.



Gladys Ravenscroft, left, winner of the U.S. Women's Amateur in 1913, shown here with Marion Hollins, at first said she would return to defend her championship, but the outbreak of war prevented it.

CHAPTER SIX—Nassau In The Great War

Phillips with 95-27—68 and Howard Maxwell Jr. with 75-7—68. Phillips chose to take the plate prize given by the Club; Maxwell, the bronze medal awarded by the MGA.

Another newspaper account lists the receipts from all the tournaments conducted that Election Day. "Frederick H. Thomas, secretary of the MGA, announced today that the total . . . amounted to \$6,616. No less than 66 of the 72 clubs in the association made reports and 60 held tournaments." The leading contributors were: Apawamis, \$602; Baltusrol, \$536; St. Andrew's, \$400; Englewood, \$332 and Nassau, \$311.

The Belgian Relief Fund was by no means Nassau's only charitable war effort. At a meeting of the Governors of March 12, 1915, the Secretary read a letter from Charles A. Coffin about "the plan on foot to raise money through the different clubs toward the relief of sufferers in Europe on account of the war." The Governors appointed Coffin chairman of a committee "to take up the matter on the part of the Club."

In late April, there was a further development. Three Nassau members, Frederick B. Pratt, Francis L. Hine and Howard W. Maxwell sent a letter to members saying that they "cordially endorse the purposes of the Refugees Relief Fund as herein explained and invite you to give it your support by such subscription, payable monthly, as you are disposed to make, but in no case to exceed \$3.00 per month. . . This appeal is being sent to members of clubs in the principal cities of the country."

The rest of the appeal read in part: "The growing horrors of the European war have enormously multiplied the cases of desperate need of the sick, homeless and destitute men, women and children among the war refugees. Reports of refugees driven from their burned and devastated homes, sleeping in barns or by the roadside, ill from privation and exposure and without medical or other aid, present a picture of the extremity of misery."

Today, when the charges for administration by some charities can, at the very least, raise eyebrows, it is refreshing to see how the Club fathers then handled the matter. The appeal concluded: "All subscriptions made to this fund will be devoted to actual relief, without deduction for administration expenses. These expenses have been subscribed by individual donors."

Among the select few on the General Committee of the Refugees Relief Fund, which had its headquarters at 30 Church St., New York, were Nassau members Anton G. Hodenpyl and Paul D. Cravath.

War Visitors To Nassau

The war brought several foreign visitors to the Club. For example, in March of 1915, the minutes of a Governors' meeting record the request "of Mr. Ryan that the privilege of the golf course be given to Colonel Feline of the Cercle de la Rue Royale, Paris, and Mr. M. H. Furlaud, a member of St. Cloud, La Boulie, Paris, who are representing the French Government in this Country during the war, for a period of two months."



Douglas Fairbanks raises support for Liberty Bonds in the Wall Street area of New York City.



"America's Sweetheart," Mary Pickford, makes an appeal for purchasing war bonds in City Hall Park, New York City, in 1918.

The Governors granted the request.

In October of that year, Henry West Suydam, the *Brooklyn Eagle's* war correspondent, visited the Club. Suydam told of his experiences in the war zone. The newspaper reported it as an "informal talk, with many intimate personal touches. His hearers felt that they were with him as he ran from the Allies' bomb across the beaches, as he ate at the cloister of the whirling dervishes, or as he looked for hidden headquarters in the hills." Suydam mostly described his experiences in Turkey and the Dardanelles. He predicted the Allies could

never forge the straits. The Turks, he added, were well fortified on Gallipoli and their high spirits could lead only to an indefinite stand against the Allies.

Suydam was right. After months of costly fighting, the Turks forced the Allies to withdraw from the area in January of 1916.

Much later in the war, in May of 1918, there were more visitors from France. That month the Governors authorized the House Committee to "make as moderate a charge as possible upon those members who entertained the French Blue Devils at the Club."

America Enters The War

Meanwhile, the sinking of the *Lusitania* had sorely tried the patience of the then neutral United States. In May of 1915 a German submarine, without warning, sank the British liner off the Irish Coast. Of the 1,195 persons who went down the ship, 128 were U. S. citizens.

At the end of 1916, Germany announced it would begin unrestricted submarine warfare. In protest, the United States broke off relations with Germany in February of 1917 and entered the war on April 6.

Nassau's Governors took action at a meeting on May 19. They passed a motion stating that "all members of the Club enlisting in the Government service be entitled, upon application, to exemption from Club dues during the period of such service." A special meeting of the Club, held in June of the following year, confirmed the Board's action. Members entering the service would have their dues remitted "as long as the war shall last and for six months thereafter."

One of the first members to leave was Harold W. Carhart, who in September, 1917, resigned as Secretary to go into the U. S. Aviation Corp. By December, 21 more had joined up. Three more went into the service by April, 1918. At the same time the President appointed a Committee of three "to pass on all future exemptions from dues and take charge of the posted Honor Roll of the Club."

Also in April of 1918, the Chairman of the Grounds Committee H. F. Whitney recommended that, since he was now in Government Service, the Board appoint an Acting Chairman, and suggested John B. Coles Tappan. Tappan accepted.

By July, five more members had left for the service. At that month's meeting, the Governors' Committee on Exemptions and the Honor Roll presented its report to the Board. The Committee recommended replacing the Roll of Honor Bulletin Board, which had been hanging in the Club House, with a bulletin board that would give the names of those members enlisted in the United States Army, Navy and Marine Corp. The Committee also recommended that only members of these services should be eligible for remittance of dues. The Board adopted the report and denied "the application of Johnston DeForest, who is in Red Cross work, under the above ruling."

War Gardens and Golf Competitions

Among other wartime changes came War Gardens. In May of 1917, the Club had received a circular letter from the Lawyers Club about War Garden planting for Clubs. However, Nassau had already planted such a garden. So, the Club Secretary responded that "we were handling the matter in our own way."

On the question of holding golf competitions during the year, the Governors decided that the Club should hold competitions every other week, give suitable prizes to the winner, and charge entrance fees. Proceeds of these events were to go to the "Red Cross or other war relief organizations, at the discretion of the Governors." The Club discontinued its golf and tennis invitationals for the duration.

In December, 1917, the Governors, after a "thorough discussion of the financial



NASSAU COUNTRY CLUB—GARDEN CITY GOLF CLUB

Belgian Relief Fund Team Match

To be played at Garden City Saturday, Oct. 31st

It has been decided to hold a team match, on the above date, for which an entrance fee of \$1.00 will be charged, the proceeds to be donated to the Belgian Relief Fund.

Matches will consist of 18 holes, and may be played either in the morning or afternoon.

Kindly return attached postal at once, signifying at which time you desire to play.

We are relying on your help to make a success of this event.

W. L. HICKS, Captain.

CHAPTER SIX—Nassau In The Great War

condition of the Club" passed resolutions to "curtail expense" in the Club House and the office of the Club. They instructed the Grounds Chairman "to drop at least four men from the payroll" and the Secretary to tell members of "reduction in service and menu in the Restaurant and Cafe during the winter in accord with general war conservation policies."

Further, the Governors authorized the Treasurer to borrow up to \$25,000 on behalf of the Club. They also instructed the Secretary to write to the President of the Nassau Development Company to request that, "in view of the financial situation and the exemption from dues of members in the service of the United States, the Club rent be reduced during the balance of the war to as low a figure as possible." In January, the Club accepted the Nassau Development Company's rental of \$1,000 a month for the year, payable in advance.

War Housekeeping

At a meeting in January, 1918, the Governors thoroughly discussed the fuel situation and resolved that the Club would co-operate to the fullest extent with the United States Fuel Administration by closing the Club House at once for the balance of the winter. Because of the closing, the Governors decided to discharge as of February 1 the "unnecessary kitchen force," but keep the rest of the Club servants on full pay. Those needed in the office and house received an allowance for food not exceeding \$30.00 a month. The rest got a vacation with full salary that the Club would withhold "except in case of necessity" until the Club opened, assuming, of course, that they returned to the Club's employ.

The Governors also felt that the Club's stock of wines and cigars seemed larger than it should be under the existing conditions and instructed the House Committee to reduce the stock by sale to members or by outside sales.

In March, the Governors decided to open the clubhouse in early April and instructed the Secretary to send a notice to members, stating that the Club would conduct the restaurant and service on a reduced scale in conformity with war conditions. Although the Club's stock of liquors and cigars had been "considerably reduced," it was still necessary in September for "the House Committee to sell to the members of the Club at least 60 per cent of the liquors now in stock."

The War Ends

In September, 1918, Bulgaria capitulated. In the following month, Turkey followed suit. On November 4, Austria-Hungary surrendered, and on the 11th, the Allies and Germany signed the armistice at Compiegne.

One Nassau member did not return from the war. On November 14, 1918, the Governors passed a motion expressing the grief of the Club at the death of Lieutenant James Jackson Porter, United States Army, a member of the Nassau Country Club, who "gave his life for this country and for civilization on a battlefield of France."

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, JULY 4, 1915—46 PAGES—10 CENTS

J. P. MORGAN SHOT BY MAN WHO SET THE CAPITOL BOMB; HIT BY TWO BULLETS BEFORE WIFE DISARMS ASSAILANT; HE IS FRANK HOLT, EX-TEACHER OF GERMAN AT CORNELL; PHYSICIANS SAY THE BULLETS TOUCHED NO VITAL SPOT

SET AN INTERNAL MACHINE
Waited Until He Heard Explosion, Then Rushed Off "To Kill Morgan."

CRIME CAREFULLY PLANNED
Sawyer, 30, Had Been Working in Room at 100 West 28th St. for 10 Years.

HIS LETTERS EXPOSE HOLT
Washington Officials Get Early Proof He Caused Capitol Explosion

SCREEDS NEARLY IDENTICAL
From Sent to the Newspapers Took to Protest Against Warrenton Excess.

DREADED HOLT BEFORE BLAST
Sawyer Had Told on Several Occasions to Organize an "Old-Fashioned Assassination."

H. P. MORGAN: THE SIGNATURE
Two Inquiries Are Being Made as to Whether He Was Really the Author of the Letter.

INTRUDER HAS DYNAMITE
Forces His Way Into Banker's House at East Island, L. I.

MRS. MORGAN RISKS LIFE
Lungs in Front of Husband, Why Fights Her Aside and Knocks Her Down.

WIFE SEIZES HIS REVOLVER
As Assassin Struggles to Reach the Body, She Seizes the Revolver and Fires.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR NEAR
Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, a Guest at Breakfast Party, When the Shooting Outbreaks.

Later Notes on Mr. Morgan's Condition
The condition of the victim is reported as serious, but not hopeless. The doctors are working hard to save him.

J. P. Morgan, the Wrecked Room in the Capitol, and Frank Holt, Who Shot Mr. Morgan, and Set the Bomb in Washington.

MORGAN ESTATE AN ARMED CAMP

HOLT TELLS WHY HE SHOT MORGAN



J. P. Morgan Shot. . .

When J. P. Morgan, Jr., a Nassau member, was shot on Saturday, July 3, 1915 at his country home on East Island, near Glen Cove, the news filled the front page of the *New York Times*. Morgan, nicknamed "Jack" to distinguish him from his father, was then one of the most powerful figures in the business world—through his initiative, his firm, J. P. Morgan & Co., was the sole purchasing agent for the Allies (the British and the French) in the United States.

The gunman was Frank Holt, a former instructor in German at Cornell University, who forced his way into the financier's home "shortly before 9 o'clock in the morning." Holt was armed with two revolvers and a stick of dynamite when he confronted Morgan and his wife, who had been at breakfast with their guests, who included the British Ambassador, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice and his wife.

At the sight of Holt, Mrs. Morgan threw herself in front of her husband, who then thrust her aside and knocked Holt down. Holt had time to fire two shots before Morgan subdued him. One of the bullets lodged near the spinal column. It was extracted. The other went through the right thigh. Fortunately for Morgan, "no vital organs were affected" and he lived until 1943, dying at age 75.

After Holt's arrest, police searched the car he had hired for the drive from Glen Cove. In it they found two more sticks of dynamite, and a large number of newspapers and newspaper clippings. He had carried the latter items, Holt said, to convince Morgan to use his influence to have an embargo placed on the export of munitions of war to Europe "to relieve the American people from complicity in the deaths of the thousands of our European brothers."

Holt, an American then 40 years old, said that both his parents were Americans, but that his remote ancestors were French and German. He had fired only to frighten Morgan and had not meant to injure him. He claimed that the financier was wounded because he had thrown himself violently in the way of the bullets instead of waiting to listen to what Holt had to say.

CHAPTER SEVEN—VISITORS IN THE '20s and '30s

In the 1920s and 1930s, Nassau entertained many famous golfing visitors. Most notable of these were Englishmen Harry Vardon and Ted Ray, on their second Tour of the U. S., and top amateurs Alexa Stirling, Glenna Collett and Bobby Jones. Jones obtained his famous putter, Calamity Jane, at Nassau from Jim Maiden, the fine Scottish professional who replaced Alex Smith as the Club's pro in 1908.

Other visitors who played at Nassau included Alex Smith's brother Macdonald, boxer Gene Tunney and baseball's Babe Ruth. Watts Gunn, Bobby Jones's protege, also came to the Club for a few years.

Vardon and Ray

In July of 1920, Harry Vardon and Ted Ray sailed to New York for a tour of the East, Mid-West and Canada

that lasted until the end of October. In those 105 days, they travelled some 40,000 miles, walked a total of 1,500 miles, played 2,900 holes and hit 11,000 shots each.

In August, the Englishmen played at the Inverness Club, Toledo, Ohio, in the U. S. Open, which Vardon had won in 1900. This time, he had to settle for a second place tie behind Ray, who won by a stroke.



Harry Vardon plays a shot while Ted Ray looks on, casually tamping his ever-present pipe during their exhibition tour in 1920.



CHAPTER SEVEN—VISITORS IN THE '20s and '30s

They played a 36-hole exhibition on Saturday, October 30, against Walter Hagen and Jim Maiden. This was the 92nd of 93 matches they played, of which they won 68, lost 20 and tied four. (On one day, they played against each other.)

At the time, most professionals were happy to get \$100 for an exhibition. Vardon and Ray made \$400 a day, according to the October, 1920 issue of *Golf Illustrated*. Usually, another \$100 a day was on the line for record scores.

Vardon and Ray were worth the extra money.



Besides his U. S. Open victory, Vardon had won the British Open a record six times, and a total of 62 tournaments in his career. He once won 14 events in a row, causing an often-beaten opponent to cry, "That man would break the heart of a stone horse."

In 1920, Vardon was 50 years old, but was still a wonderful player. He didn't invent the overlapping grip, but his superb play in his two previous American tours, in 1900 and 1913, had done much to popularize it. With his controlled, upright swing, Vardon was so accurate he reputedly hit approach shots with a brassie (2-wood) closer to the cup than most pros could with a niblick (9-iron).

Big Ted Ray, then 43, was the perfect complement to Vardon. While Vardon had very large hands—one contemporary source likened them to bunches of bananas—he was only of average build—5 foot 9 1/4 inches and 154 pounds. In contrast, Ray was six feet tall and weighed over 200. Where Vardon was long, Ray could hit the ball out of sight. An example is his play that year on Inverness's seventh hole in the U. S. Open. The 334-yard hole had a chasm forming the dogleg. Ray made the 275-yard carry in all four rounds, birdying the hole every day. Where Vardon was straight, Ray could be very crooked, but then, from the rough, Ray made awesome recoveries seem routine. Like many big men, Ray had great touch and was a superb putter. He had won the British Open in 1912.

Vardon was a man of few words. His humor matched. When playing with Bobby Jones, then 18 years old, in the qualifying rounds for the Open, the youngster cold topped a pitch. "Have you ever seen a worse shot?" an embarrassed Jones asked. "No!" replied Vardon. Ray had a nice sense of humor, too. Once, when an amateur asked Ray how he could get more length, he replied, "Hit it a bloody sight harder, mate!"

In their tour, Vardon and Ray played several times against two figures prominent in Nassau's history, Bobby Jones and Jerry Travers. (Note: All matches were at 36 holes, except the two 18-hole matches on September 19.)

Jones was victorious in all three of his encounters with the visitors. On September 18, he and Chick Evans won by 10 and 9 at Morris County. On the morning of September 19 at Englewood, he and Cyril Walker won by 3 and 2; in the afternoon, he and Oswald Kirkby were the victors by 3 and 2. Travers' record was 1 and 3. On July 23, he and Kirkby lost by 5 and 4 at Woodway, and he and William Braid lost at Upper Montclair, on October 2. On October 8, he and S. Davidson Herron won by 2 and 1 at Essex County, but on



Above, Ted Ray, left, and Harry Vardon, right, both at the top of the swing. Below is a shot of Walter Hagen in his heyday.

October 22, they lost 1 down at Schenectady.

Before the Nassau match, Hagen had played 10 matches against the Englishmen. With "Long Jim" Barnes, he won three, lost two. With other partners, Hagen lost four and tied one.

In 1920, Hagen already gave promise of a brilliant career. He had won his first U. S. Open in 1914 and another in 1919. Hagen was not a golfer to imitate. He had a very

wide stance, and contemporary writers described his swing as a sway off the ball followed by a lurch through it! Although he almost always hit several poor shots a round, he expected to do so, and never let them worry him. He knew that he could recover from practically anywhere, and was one of the great putters of all time.

There will be more about Hagen's partner at Nassau, host pro Jim Maiden, in a moment and later. For now, one should mention that he was a fine player, although not quite in the top rank. His best showing in the U. S. Open had come in 1906 when he had tied for third. In the Western Open, then a major, he finished second in 1905.

Hagen concluded his battles with the British invaders on a good note. At Nassau, he and Maiden defeated Vardon and Ray by 4 and 3 over 36 holes. The following is drawn from the account of the match in the *Glen Cove Echo*.

"While there were flashes of brilliance on the first 18 holes, that stage of the contest was nothing particular to enthuse about." The cold weather took its toll on the play of all four men while the high wind sent scores soaring. Vardon and Ray were three up after five holes. Ray holed a 60-foot putt on the second hole to draw first blood, and Vardon sank a 20-footer at the short fourth hole, scoring the only 2. They won the fifth with a 4. Then Hagen and Maiden fought back and Vardon had to win the home hole for him and Ray to take a 1-up lead into lunch. This Vardon did by "virtue of one of his dazzling brassie shots." He was the only one of the four on the fairway off the 18th tee—Hagen and Ray were both bunkered on the right and Maiden, with a wild pull, finished in front of his own pro shop.

In the afternoon, there was nothing about the first hole that foretold a victory for the Americans. Vardon and Ray both had 4s, while Hagen was "digging like a prospector in a bunker."

From the tee, Hagen hit a partially heeled and topped drive that "burrowed into the bank of the bunker in such a position that in making his recovery, Hagen swung himself off balance, slipped back, and finally fell flat on his back." Hagen the showman then took over. He got to his feet and "attacked the ball hard and often." He finally "earned a round of applause when he tore the ball clear at something like his eighth stroke." Of course, Hagen then picked up, leaving the hole to his partner, who promptly ruined Hagen's plans by three-putting!

Maiden made amends at the second hole, sinking a five-footer for a winning 4. Maiden got a nice round of applause, the one detail of the match remembered to this day by Cam, his then six-year old son, who was in the gallery of some 300 North Shore socialites and golf enthusiasts. Hagen won the third hole, holing his fourth stroke from the rough after flying the green with his second and flubbing his third. Hagen won the fifth hole with a "nice, curling putt" after he had missed his second with a brassie. Then, at the seventh, he dropped a 60-footer for a winning 4.

The American pair turned for home 2 up, but soon added to their lead. They won the 10th, where Hagen laid his ball near dead from a bunker, the 11th, where Hagen holed a 30-footer for a 3, and the twelfth with a 4. Vardon took the 14th with a 4, but 3s all round at the 15th gave the home pair the match by 4 and 3.

Hagen's putting was, as usual, quite remarkable. Through the seventh hole, he had used only seven putts. Of course, on the first hole, he had picked up. On the second, after a pulled second and a strong third, he chipped close and holed. The third is where he holed from the rough, so for two holes his putter rested. On the short fourth, Maiden made three, and Hagen also was given his 3. At the fifth, Hagen again one-putted and again at the seventh. After returning to normal on the eighth and ninth holes, Hagen again one-putted on the 10th hole, and again at the 11th.

The *Glen Cove Echo's* scribe summed up. "Considering that Maiden came in once in a while and Vardon and Ray were lamentably weak in finishing—green after green costing them three strokes each—it is no surprise that the Americans won so decisively.

"For four such stars the individual scoring was anything but impressive. In the morning, Vardon was low with a 79. The others had 80 to 83. In the afternoon, Vardon was out in 39, Ray in 42 and Maiden in 43. A 7 at the first would have given Hagen a 38. Walter, of course, had that many in the bunker, but with his long putts and what not his

Vardon and Hagen: Their Clubs

For the American Tour of 1920, the *New York Times* reported, Harry Vardon usually had only 11 clubs in his bag: Two drivers, a brassie, mongrel driving iron, cleek, mid-iron, three mashies, one a mongrel mashie and another a pitching mashie, a niblick and a putter. Walter Hagen only carried nine: Driver, brassie, driving iron, mid-iron, mashie iron, mashie, mashie niblick, niblick and putter.



The photo above shows Hagen's putting style. Below is Jim Maiden as he appeared in 1908.



CHAPTER SEVEN—VISITORS IN THE '20s and '30s

match play game was most effective.”

Indeed, Hagen, of course, was to win the PGA Championship five times, four of these in a row, and all at match play. He also won two U. S. Opens as well as four British Opens.

Alexa Stirling, left, and Glenna Collett played an exhibition at Nassau in 1922. Jim Maiden's brother, Stewart had taught both Alexa and Bobby Jones when they were growing up in Atlanta, Georgia.



Stirling and Collett

Some two years after Vardon and Ray visited Nassau, Club members witnessed another exhibition match of note, this time between two of the era's leading women amateurs. On Thursday, June 1, 1922, Alexa Stirling and Glenna Collett played at Nassau. Alexa Stirling, then 24 years old, had won the U. S. Women's Amateur in 1916 and 1919 and 1920, three years in succession, but not consecutive years owing to the outbreak of World War I. She had grown up as a childhood friend of Bobby Jones and Perry Adair in Atlanta, where they all had shared the same golf teacher, Stewart Maiden.

Like her mentor, Stirling had a great swing and set new playing standards for women. She could execute the pitch shot in a truly professional manner, was an excellent putter and had a ideal temperament for the game—she was never known to be flustered.

In 1917, Stirling had toured the eastern United States with Jones, Adair and Elaine Rosenthal (from Chicago) giving exhibition matches which raised \$150,000 for the Red Cross. Earlier in 1922, Stirling had won the Women's Metropolitan Amateur.

That day at Nassau in 1922, Collett stood at the beginning of a glorious career. Then only 19 days short of her 19th birthday, she was to win the U. S. Women's

Amateur in September, and go on to amass a record six American titles. As related earlier, she had taken lessons from Alex Smith, who had helped her become one of the longest hitters ever in women's golf.

In the match at Nassau, Stirling defeated Collett by 3 and 2. Although Collett was consistently longer off the tee, Stirling's superior short game was the key factor in her victory. At the turn, Stirling was 2 up, and had a medal score of 42 to Collett's 44. On the inward nine, the cards were 40 and 45, respectively.

A large gallery watched the match and the event raised what the *Glen Cove Echo* described as a “generous sum” for the benefit of the Radcliffe College Endowment Fund.

Stirling and Collett were to meet once more, this time in more serious competition. In the 1925 U. S. Women's Amateur, Stirling pipped Collett for medalist honors, 77 to 78. But, in the 36-hole final, Collett was victorious, by 9 and 8.

A little later, both women married. Stirling's husband was Dr. Fraser of Ottawa. Collett married Edwin H. Vare of Philadelphia.

Bobby Jones and Calamity Jane

Most golfers know that Bobby Jones's putter was called Calamity Jane. Few know the story of how he got the club and its history or that Jones used two “Calamity Janes” to win his 13 national titles.

By 1923, Jones had established himself as one of the leading players in the country. In the seven years before, he had played in eleven national championships. At 21, he had reached the final of the U. S. Amateur in 1919 and the semi-finals in 1920 and 1922. He had progressed in the U. S. Open from 8th place in 1920, to 5th in 1921, to second in 1922. He had done everything but win.

Jones's connection with Nassau, although an indirect one, dated from when he first started playing golf in 1907, at the age of five. That year, his parents had moved out of Atlanta, Ga., for the summer and taken up the game at the East Lake golf course of the Atlanta Athletic Club. Jim Maiden, then the East Lake professional, had given his parents lessons. He also made up Bob Jones's first golf club.

That summer, the Jones family stayed at Mrs. Frank Meador's house in East Lake and



Bobby Jones was age six when this photo was taken, the year was 1908. That was the year that Stewart Maiden came to East Lake to seek a new life in the U.S. and Jim Maiden left East Lake for Nassau.

another boarder, Fulton Colville, gave young Jones an old cleek. "It was much too long for me," Jones said. "So my father took it over to Jimmy Maiden at the pro shop and Jimmy sawed it off and put a grip on it for me." Since children were not allowed on the course, Jones and Frank Meador, a boy two years older than Jones, made a two-hole course for themselves in the road outside the Meador residence. "That was how I was introduced to golf," said Jones.

In the following summer, Alex Smith left Nassau for Wykagyl and Jim Maiden left East Lake for Nassau. Jim's younger brother Stewart, just off the boat from Carnoustie, Scotland, replaced Jim at East Lake. Jones later recalled the occasion when he and his parents talked with both Maidens on the day that Stewart arrived. Stewart, of course, became Jones's idol and teacher. However, his friendship with Jim also dated from this time, a friendship on which Jones frequently drew later.

Whenever Jones was in the New York area it was natural for him to visit Nassau and call on Jim for a game, or even advice, if needed. When growing up, Jones had imitated Stewart's "Carnoustie Swing." Jim, of course, also had the same upbringing in golf and owned the same type of swing—rounded, smooth and upright.

And so it happened that on the Monday before the 1923 U. S. Open, held July 13-14 at Inwood Country Club, Inwood, N. Y., Jones came to Nassau.

(Note: Here, the author wishes to acknowledge the contribution of the last surviving witness to this event, Charles Brett, later Nassau's superintendent, who caddied at the Club as a youngster as well as that of his brother Jim, now deceased, who also caddied at Nassau. Later, Jim Brett was the Club's caddie master, which made him an intimate of Jim Maiden. Still later, Jim was the starter at East Lake for many years and thus able to verify details directly with Jones.)

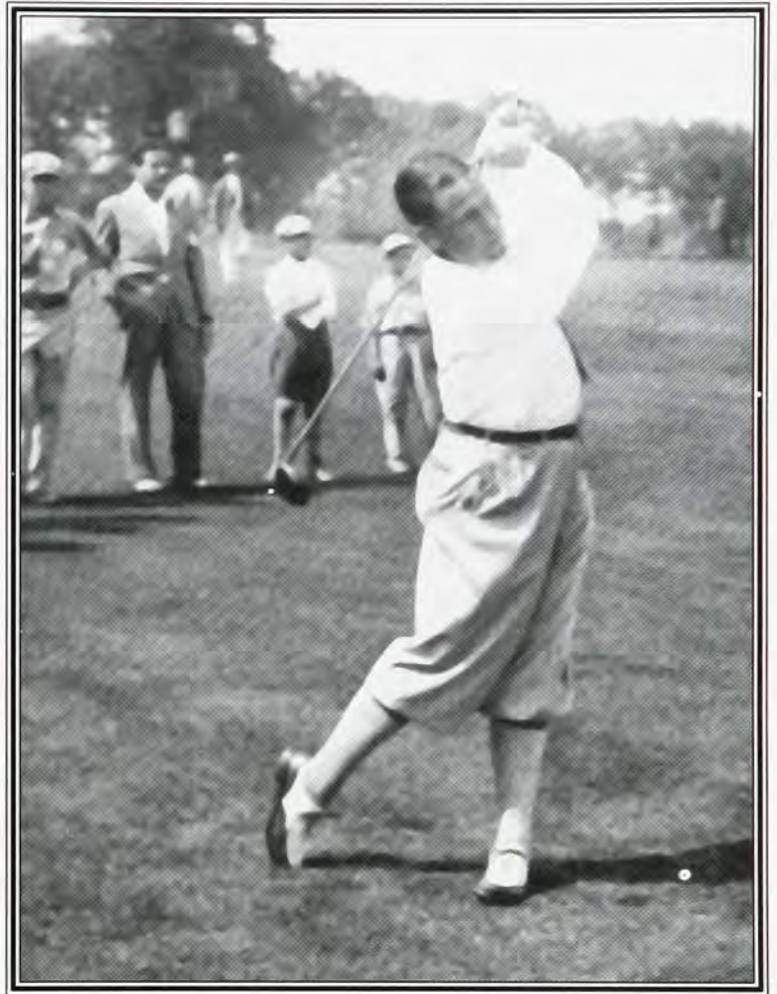
After lunch, Nassau members Harry Crane and Jake Kramer were out playing a single. About the time that they finished nine holes, Bobby Jones and Stewart Maiden arrived at the Nassau pro shop. After Jim Maiden had finished giving a lesson, the five went out for another nine holes.

When they had holed out on the 18th hole, Charles Brett was nearby, standing on the mound by the green. He overheard Jones complaining about his putting and witnessed Jim Maiden giving Calamity Jane to Jones.

According to Cam Maiden, his father always described what happened on that 18th green like this. "Jones had been having a bad time with his putting, and asked my father, 'What's wrong?' So, they worked on his stroke for some 15 to 20 minutes, as Jones struck all sorts of putts. Despite Maiden's best efforts, Jones's putting still wasn't quite right. My father then said, 'I want you to try a putter I've got in the shop,' and sent the caddie into the shop to get his own putter, Calamity Jane. So Jones starts putting with it, again hitting putts from all over the green. A few minutes later, he turned to my father and said, 'Jim, I really like this putter. I love the feel of it.' My father then put three balls down some eight to 10 feet from the hole and said, 'Bob, put these three balls into the hole, and the putter is yours.' Jones knocked them in, one, two, three, and the rest is history."

That week Jones putted brilliantly to win his first national championship, beating Bobby Cruikshank in a playoff, 76 to 78.

After Jim Maiden gave Calamity Jane to Jones, Brett continued to watch them. "They say that Jones never took a lesson," he says, "but he got one that day from Jim Maiden. I was



Bobby Jones in the mid-1920s.

The original Calamity Jane resides at the Augusta National Golf Club.



CHAPTER SEVEN—VISITORS IN THE '20s and '30s

standing about 30 feet in the background as Jones hit a bunch of balls out between the two swamp maples in back of the caddie house, over the hill and down to the area that is now the women's 11th tee. Although I couldn't hear what they said, it was obvious that Maiden was watching Jones swing and making suggestions.



Inset, the back of Calamity Jane, right, that of Calamity Jane II.



Here, one must tell the history of Calamity Jane itself.

In 1923, the club already was quite old. One source says that Jim Maiden had owned the club "for some 15 years," another says "from the beginning of time." According to Charles Brett, Maiden brought Calamity Jane with him when he came to America in 1903 to go to work for his brother-in-law Alex Smith at Nassau. "It certainly was his club," says Brett. "Maiden regularly played with it."

According to Bobby Jones, the clubhead had been forged around the turn of the century. This is undoubtedly correct. The iron-headed putter bore the "rose" mark of Robert Condie (1863-1923), a master iron maker from St. Andrews, Scotland, who used the mark from about 1900 on. Below the rose were the words "Warranted—Hand Forged"; on the toe, the word "Special." It also was stamped "Made for William Winton, Acton." Winton was the professional at Acton, London, England, from 1900 to 1910. In those days, professionals usually bought iron heads and shafted and gripped the clubs themselves. So, probably Winton made up the head into a finished club.

The putter had a slightly offset, wry neck, eight degrees of loft, and a lie angle of 66 degrees. Its shaft length was 33 1/2 inches. The clubhead was 4 7/16 inches long and weighed 9 3/4 oz. The club's total weight was 15 1/2 oz.

Wear had made the face of the putter almost smooth. This had come from years of use, as well as the club cleaning ritual of those days, which included rubbing iron clubheads with emery cloth after every round to eliminate rust. Other Condie putters in nearer mint condition indicate that originally the putter probably had hand-punched dot face markings.

The putter has one more stamping. High on the back of the club appear the words "Calamity Jane," applied to the club by Jim Maiden himself. Maiden named several of his other clubs in this way: He called his driver "Long Tom," and he stamped his mashie with the name "Auchtermuchty" (a town 20 miles west of St. Andrews, Scotland).

The original Calamity Jane was a real person called Martha Jane Canary (c. 1852-1903). Growing up in mining camps and rough frontier communities, she first came to notice dressed in men's clothing boasting of her marksmanship, her exploits as a pony-express rider and as a scout for Custer's forces. Later, she toured the West in burlesque shows. The origin of her nickname is obscure, although in a film of her life story, she is represented as saying the reason she got the name was "because of what happens to my enemies!"

Whether Maiden knew of her story, we don't know. However, by itself, the name "Calamity Jane" is an ideal one for a putter. As golf historian Robert Browning pointed out, "What greater calamity can befall a golfer than a short putt missed? What greater averter of calamity could there be than a long putt holed?"

Keen golfers would recognize Calamity Jane solely from the distinctive three whippings on the hickory shaft above the hosel. How the putter acquired them is a story in itself.



Joe Merkle on the putting green at Nassau, probably in the 20's or 30's. Merkle invented the "Graveyard" myth.

According to Jim Brett, Maiden was playing golf with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bonner and a friend at Paul Smith's in the Adirondacks. (Note: According to Cam Maiden, this occurred during one of Maiden's August visits to the Pratts, mentioned in Chapter Four.) They had double caddies who accidentally left Calamity Jane in a bag other than Maiden's. The Bonners shipped the putter down to Maiden at Nassau by parcel post and it arrived with the shaft slightly cracked. (Charles Brett tells the same story, except that he says the course they played was Wolferts Roost Country Club, Albany, NY.) To remedy this weakness, someone in the Nassau shop applied the three whippings to the shaft to strengthen it. That someone was probably Joe Merkle, Maiden's assistant and repairman.

Jones used Calamity Jane until 1926, and with it he won three championships, the 1923 Open at Inwood, the 1924 U. S. Amateur at Merion and the 1925 U. S. Amateur at Oakmont. However, the constant buffing and polishing of the club eventually caused the clubface to develop an irregularity in the sweetspot area. Both Jones and J. Victor East, a golf professional and also the club designer with whom Jones worked at Spalding, began to suspect that it was enough to cause mis-hits.

Finally, on a visit to Boston, East took Jones to a club that had a billiard room. East erected a pendulum-style putting device on a billiard table, inserted Calamity Jane, and tested the club. Sure enough, the ball did not go where it should when struck on the sweet spot. The slight indentation in this area caused the putter to be inaccurate.

At this point, Jones decided to ask East to make a replacement. In 1926, Spalding made half a dozen copies of Calamity Jane for Jones's personal use. He gave a few to friends, but selected one of the copies to put in his bag, and it was with this club, Calamity Jane II, that he won his remaining 10 championships, including the Grand Slam in 1930, when he captured the Amateur and Open championships of the U. S. A. and Britain in one year.

What happened to the other copies of Calamity Jane is not known. For the record, they do not have the rose, William Winton—Acton, Warranted—Hand Forged, Special or Calamity Jane stampings of the original. The only marking on the clubhead of Calamity Jane II is "Robert T. Jones, Jr." in a unique script. This also appears on the shaft near the bottom of the leather grip.

It seems probable that Spalding made all the copies during the same time period, and, since Jones was to choose the one that suited him best, all the putters were substantially the same.

Today, Calamity Jane and 11 other clubs Jones used in the Grand Slam are at the Augusta National Golf Club. Jones presented them to the Club in 1948. Calamity Jane II rests at the USGA Museum in Far Hills, N. J.

The "Graveyard" Myth

We now must deal with what some would call the "revised" version of Calamity Jane's history or the "Graveyard" myth. The story teller is Joe Merkle.

According to Merkle, one day in 1923, he was on his way to work at Nassau. His usual route took him past the graveyard behind the 18th green to the pro shop. In passing the graveyard, Merkle noticed the two pieces of a broken putter. He took them to the pro shop, and later reshafted and regripped the club. He also claimed that it was he who named the putter "Calamity Jane" and added this stamp to the back of the head.

According to one version, after Jones complained of his poor putting, Jim Maiden asked Merkle if he had a putter to lend Jones for a practice session on the 18th green. According to another, Jones had failed to bring his clubs with him, and Maiden simply took Merkle's newly restored Calamity Jane off the end of the work bench. On the green, one version has Jones trying putts from all angles and distances and only missing one. Another says that Jones started sinking six-footers with some regularity, and that day Maiden helped him develop the longer, sweeping putting stroke that was Jones's hallmark in his winning years.

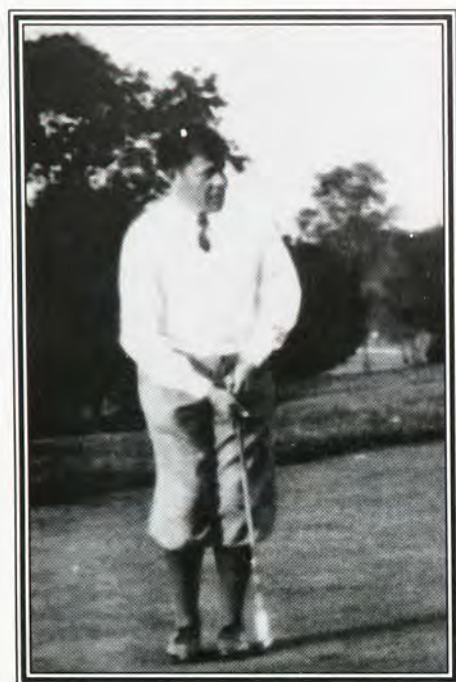
Merkle claimed that, after Jones had expressed his interest in keeping the putter, he (Merkle) would not take any money for it, but gave it to Jones as a present.

Unlike Charles Brett's version of the story, which is corroborated by his brother Jim, also by Jim's talks with Jim Maiden and Bobby Jones, as well as Cam Maiden's memories of his father telling the story, Merkle's story rests solely on his unverified word. Moreover, as Jim Brett points out in one of his letters to his brother, he never heard the "Graveyard" story in all the years he worked (as Nassau's caddie master) with Merkle and it was his opinion that Merkle made it up after Jim Maiden left Nassau around 1949. The



Photo above shows Jones's wristy putting style. Note Calamity Jane with one wrapping on the shaft. Later photos show additional windings.

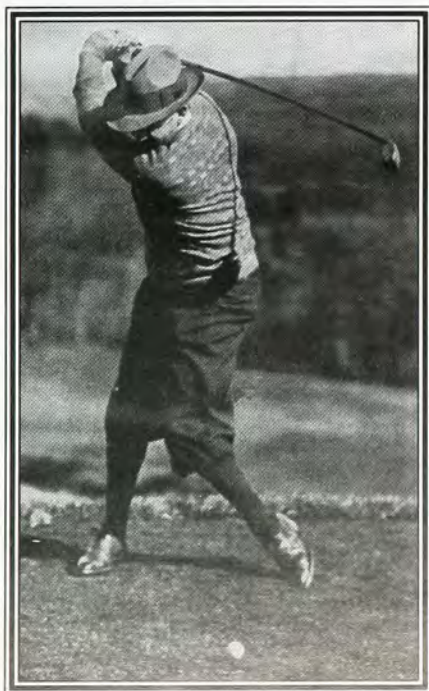
CHAPTER SEVEN—VISITORS IN THE '20s and '30s



*Bobby Jones
at Nassau in 1932.*

A replica of Calamity Jane, distinguished by the three windings on the shaft, along with the ball signed by Jones, resides at a revered spot in the Calamity Jane halfway house in front of the cemetery shown on page one of this volume.

The photo sequence below shows Mac Smith's powerful swing in 1932. The "whip" of the club shaft in the center photo is misleading. It is due to the type of shutter in the camera, not a quirk of the swing.



"Graveyard" story never appeared in print until 1951. Put another way, Merkle evidently enjoyed the attention of the press, who years later wanted to know about his connection to Calamity Jane, and he saw no harm in stretching the truth a trifle.

Jones's Visit To Nassau Of 1932

Charles Brett remembers another of Jones's visits to Nassau. This occurred in June of 1932. Brett carried for Jones. "He played with George Dawson, a good amateur, Victor East and Milton Reach." Jones and his group played nine holes in the morning, had lunch and played 18 in the afternoon.

Not unnaturally, Brett can remember few details of a day over 60 years ago. The memories that do remain, however, are sharply focused.

"I remember Jones's scores, even par on the day. He had 35 in the morning, 70 for eighteen in the afternoon.

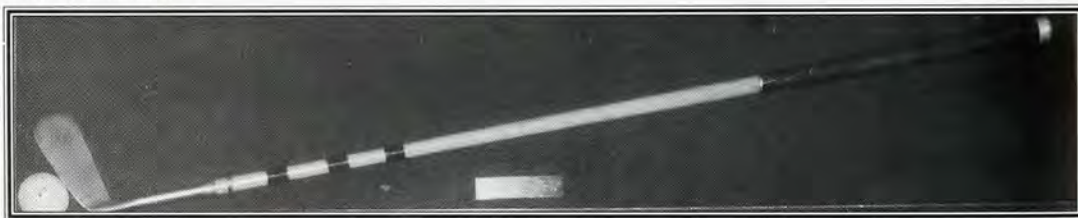
"What impressed me most was the smoothness of his swing. It appeared as though he could deliver as much power as he wanted at any time.

"It's difficult to remember particular shots, because they were all so great, all—well—so *mechanical*. His control was impressive. High, low, draw, fade, or any combination of these, he had them all.

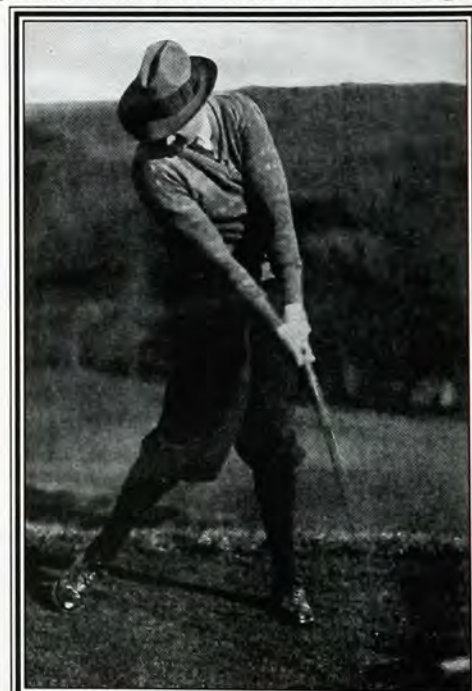
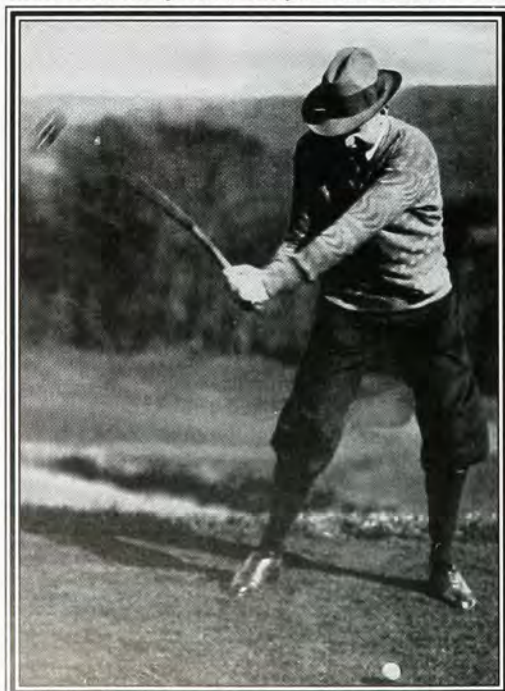
"The only shots I can picture were the mistakes he made. He made just two all day—on the 13th and 17th, he misjudged his approaches and was short in sand. Both times he just strolled into the bunker, and blasted the ball out as easily as if he were throwing it out. He holed both putts.

"During the round, he and Victor East talked about extra clubs, mostly woods, that Jones had in his bag. I gathered these were prototypes for new clubs which Spalding planned to put on the market, and Jones, a Spalding consultant, was testing them.

"Afterward, I helped them with a ball test. The test was blind, the balls only being marked A, B, or C. Jones hit them out from the first tee (at that time in the area of the present practice tee). I was picking up the balls, telling Jones and East which went farthest, by how much, and so on.



"Jones presented me with a ball, which he autographed for me, as a souvenir of the day. He was such a gentleman. The ball is now in the Calamity Jane House. Jones's signature has faded with the years, but you can still see the impression his driver made on the ball, right



on the word 'Spalding.' He hit that hard."

"They talk about Nicklaus. I still think Jones was the best."

Also in the Calamity Jane House is one of the later Spalding reproductions of Calamity Jane. (Spalding first made these in 1931.) About 14 years ago, Nassau member Henry Shepherd donated the club for the purpose. Originally, the putter had one of the early, yellow, steel shafts. To make it as authentic as possible, Nassau's long time clubmaker Ralph Panetta reshafted it with a hickory shaft, regripped the club with an old hand wrapped leather grip and applied three whippings to match the original Calamity Jane.

Babe Ruth, Mac Smith and Gene Tunney

Other famous people Charles Brett remembers playing at Nassau were Gene Tunney, Macdonald "Mac" Smith and Babe Ruth.

"Gene Tunney visited Nassau in 1923 or possibly 1924," says Brett. "Some of the wealthy local people put on a fair in Glen Cove that year. Tunney, who was a New Yorker, gave a boxing exhibition there. This was before he became heavyweight champion." (Note: Tunney defeated Jack Dempsey for that title in 1926.)

"Tunney played at Nassau with member H. H. "Had" Will, a real boxing enthusiast. I didn't carry for Tunney, but heard this story from those who did.

"One of the caddies with his group was walking behind Tunney. Thinking that Tunney would not turn around, the caddie made a fist at the boxer—just fooling. Exactly at that moment, however, Tunney did turn around and caught the caddie in the act. Fortunately, Tunney just thought it hilarious and burst out laughing."

Mac Smith played Nassau in 1930. "I did carry for him," says Brett. "I remember this was just after he got back from the British Open at Hoylake, where he had finished second to Bobby Jones by a couple of shots. At the time Mac was pro at Lakeville in Great Neck (now Fresh Meadow). (Note: Mac held the record at Lakeville, a 63 shot in 1925 on the 6,512-yard course.)

Mac played with a couple from Chicago. They were members at Nassau and Lakeville, but Brett couldn't remember their names. Mac used special, extra heavy clubs. "They were good looking clubs," Brett recalls, "with stainless steel shafts covered with red sheaths.

"He shot right around par that day. I particularly remember his ability to hit a ball off the fairway with either a wood or iron without disturbing a blade of grass." This was one of his trademarks. His close friend Tommy Armour once said of Mac that "he treats the course like an altar cloth."

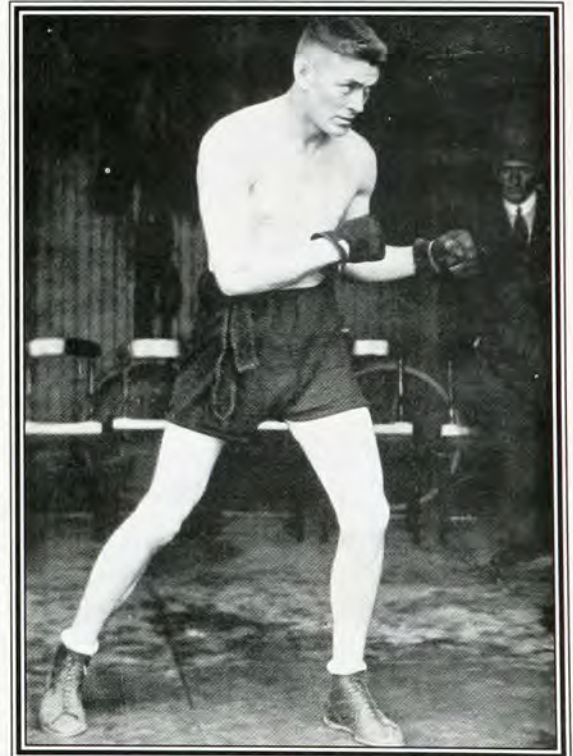
Brett remembers Mac's game. "He was always known as the finest swinger of the club never to win the U. S. or British Opens. His swing, however, although a marvelously rhythmic action and very smooth, was a little different from that of Bob Jones. Jones had a fluid, flowing action. Mac's swing was more of a crisper hit. Like Jones, Mac was a complete golfer, and could work the ball high, low, left or right at will. He also was a marvelous putter, with an unusual, distinct pause at the top of the backswing."

According to Brett, Babe Ruth visited Nassau in 1932. "I remember the caddie master got me out of school. So it must have been early in the year. As near as I can remember, the date was January 2. The foursome was made up of Ruth, Fred Hann, Willie Knott, of hotel fame, and David Knott, Willie's nephew. David was a Nassau member. The other three were from the old St. Albans (Queens) Golf Club, which no longer exists. I carried for Ruth and Davie Knott.

"Ruth was a lefty in golf, as in baseball. He could hit the ball a long way, but had power to all fields—he simply didn't know where the ball was going. He probably shot in the mid-80s that day. "What an eye that man had! After they had finished play on the 18th hole, he threw a ball up in the air on the first tee, and hit it baseball style with his putter. He caught the ball solid, hitting it 135 to 140 yards."



Babe Ruth was an avid golfer and brought his murderous southpaw swing to the golf course, unsuccessfully, as one can see here. He swung hard but, alas, none too accurately.



Gene Tunney visited Nassau when he gave a boxing exhibition in Glen Cove.

CHAPTER SEVEN—VISITORS IN THE '20s and '30s

Watts Gunn

Watts Gunn was born in Macon, Georgia, in 1905, and grew up, as did his good friend, Bobby Jones, his senior by three years, as a member of the East Lake course of the Atlanta Athletic Club.

Gunn had a meteoric rise as a youngster, winning the 1923 Georgia Amateur at the age of 18, and narrowly losing in the final in 1925. Gunn's play was so impressive that Jones, as he put it in his book *Down the Fairway*, "begged" Gunn's father to send his son to the 1925 U. S. Amateur, held at Oakmont (Pa) Country Club. By the time the championship was over, Jones was to wonder why he had begged so hard!

Gunn was the sensation of the event. He was three down in his first round match with Vincent Bradford, then won the next 15 holes to win by 12 and 10. (Note: The USGA experimented with the format that year, qualifying 16 for match play over 36 holes.) Gunn then beat Jess Sweetser by 10 and 9 and R. A. "Dicky" Jones, Jr. in the semi-finals by 5 and 3.

Gunn met Bobby Jones in the final, the only time that the finalists have come from the same club. Gunn made a great start. After 11 holes, Jones was one under par, but found himself one down. The match turned at the 600-yard 12th, where Jones was bunkered by the green in three, while Gunn was on the green in three. Jones blasted out to 10 feet, but then holed the putt for a half. This inspired him to a run of 3-3-4-3-3-4 to finish the morning round two under par and 4 up. He continued to play brilliantly after lunch, besting Gunn by 8 and 7.

Later that summer, Gunn visited Nassau at the suggestion of Jones. Jim Maiden invited Gunn to lunch at his home before their round in the afternoon. After the meal, Cam Maiden, then 11 years old and very much in awe of Gunn, asked his father whether he could caddie for the great amateur. His father said, "Come along," Cam chuckles. "When I walked past the caddie yard over to the first tee with Gunn's bag on my shoulder, I was King of the Mountain!"

Incidentally, Cam also remembers Bobby Jones coming to lunch at the Maiden home twice during the 1920s and early 1930s, the first time Bobby Jones's father, the Colonel, being also at table. However, being so young at the time, he can't link these occasions with Jones's visits to Nassau previously recorded.

In 1926, Gunn played in the Walker Cup at St. Andrews, Scotland, winning his foursome, with Bobby Jones, by 4 and 3 and his single by 9 and 8. In the British Amateur at Muirfield, he went to the fifth round, and in the U. S. Amateur at Baltusrol, to the third round, where he lost to George Von Elm, the eventual champion.

In 1927, Gunn won the National Intercollegiate tournament at Garden City, L. I., entering from Georgia Tech. At one point he scored seven consecutive birdies. He also won the Georgia amateur for the second time.

In the following year, Gunn won the Southern Amateur. He again played in the Walker Cup, and kept his perfect record, winning his foursome by 7 and 5 and his single by 11 and 10. In the National Amateur, he went out in the first round.

That year, Gunn graduated from college, and after that he devoted less time to competitive golf. He appeared in the U. S. Amateur twice more, in 1930 losing at the 19th hole in the first round and in 1934, in the second. Thereafter, he was no longer in the national picture.

O. B. Keeler compared the golf games of Gunn and Bobby Jones in the March, 1926, issue of *Golf Illustrated*. Keeler pointed out that both used the overlapping grip and the straight left arm, but at that point their styles diverged. Where Jones had a big hip turn, the left heel rising high, and swung beyond parallel, the club shaft pointing well across the line, Gunn's action was compact, a limited hip turn and heel lift resulting in a three-quarter length swing, the clubshaft parallel to the target line. Where Jones was a swinger of the club, Gunn was a hitter, using perceptibly "more muscular effort." Where Jones swung from an open position at the top to closed through impact, Gunn played from shut to open. In putting, Jones used the reverse overlap, then comparatively new, while Gunn stayed with the regular overlap, something a later great putter, Bobby Locke, also did.

Gunn's great strengths were his "firm" irons and crisp pitches. While his woods were as "long as anybody," they and his putting evidently weren't as reliable. Jones was a great driver, and sneaky long with woods, drawing on 30 extra yards at will. He was the master of any full iron. His putting was fabulous. His only weakness was with the pitch shot.

Gunn's second connection with Nassau came during World War II, when he did government work in New York. He became a member of Nassau in 1943 and that year won the Club's championship.



Watts Gunn visited Nassau in 1925. He became a Nassau member in 1943, winning the Club championship that year.

Between the first and second World Wars, Nassau had to weather Prohibition as well as the Great Depression. Two notable early members also died during this time. However, the news was not all bad. The Club went through a major reorganization, becoming a proprietary club. It redesigned the course, refurbished the clubhouse and built its swimming pool. There also were several important additions to the Club's roll of honorary members and some interesting visitors.

Club Improvements

After World War I, one of the Club's earliest considerations was to provide swimming facilities for Nassau members. At the annual meeting of 1919, President Maxwell stated that "the Club greatly needed a bathing beach of its own, but thought that the new Governing Board should take up the matter." After some favorable discussion it was left that way for several years.

At the Club's annual meeting on October 14, 1922, a motion carried stating "that the Club's newly elected Directors give due consideration to the acquisition of the bathing beach." On the 23rd of that month, the Directors suggested that the President appoint a Beach Committee, and in the following May they empowered Mr. Richard E. Dwight, chairman of the committee, to "spend \$20,000" for the beach. By September of 1924, matters had advanced to the point where the Directors had a definite property in mind. For the



CHAPTER EIGHT—Nassau—Between the Wars



Eleanor Holm set a world swimming record in Nassau's 2-year-old pool in July of 1931.

first time, they referred "purchase of the bathing beach on the Ladew estate" to Dwight for investigation and report at the next meeting.

Apparently, these negotiations ended unsatisfactorily. The Club certainly abandoned the idea of obtaining a bathing beach, because the next we hear of swimming is several years later, in June, 1928, when the Directors appointed a Committee to "look into the advisability, situation, cost, etc., of a swimming pool for the Club," and to report back to the Board with a plan "as soon as possible."

This report was evidently favorable, because in August, 1928 the Directors authorized the Swimming Committee to raise by subscription "the minimum sum of \$40,000" and to build a swimming pool. Early in September, the Committee already had pledges of \$40,000 and cash in hand of another \$900, and by August of 1929, the Directors reported that the pool had been built at a cost of \$53,587.90, with receipts at that date standing at \$52,700.

The new pool was soon the site of a new world swimming record. On July 17, 1931, the *Glen Cove Echo* reported that "Miss Eleanor Holm, 17-year old champion of the Women's Swimming Association, captured major honors on Sunday at the Nassau Country Club's A. A. U. swimming carnival when she established a new record for the 300 metres back stroke." In a "sanctioned trial against time," Miss Holm covered the distance in 4: 47, breaking the old mark of 4: 49 2/5 that she had established in a smaller pool in 1928.

Another concern after World War I was the condition of the clubhouse. In December of 1920, the House Committee reported that it had made a complete examination of the clubhouse and that "considerable and expensive repairs were necessary to put it in first class condition." In October, 1923, it completed these repairs and alterations (including furnishings) at a cost of \$85,640.16.

In 1920, the Club initiated redesign work on the golf course, hiring Devereux Emmet as architect. In 1922, there began a further redesign by Herbert Strong. These will be discussed in more detail later.

Squash also saw a renewal during this period. In 1927, the Club built new squash courts at a cost of about \$60,000.

Prohibition

Financially, one of the more serious consequences of World War I was the coming of Prohibition, which resulted in a marked reduction of most clubs' income. In those days, as today, the bar proved one of the sturdiest supporters of club life.

Although prohibition had its roots in 19th century temperance movements, World War I gave the movement a new thrust, when conservation policies made it necessary to limit liquor output. Prohibition went into effect June 30, 1919. Anticipating the deadline, there was a special meeting of Nassau's Governors and Directors on the 19th of that month. The meeting authorized the President and Chairman of the House Committee to send out a notice to the members, offering for sale the Club's stock of liquors and wines on a pro rata basis, "the same to be removed and paid for before July 1."

During Prohibition, Charlie Brett remembers that about eight to 10 members often used to play together as a group. Many of them, he says, had been members of the Lafayette Escadrille. (Note: This was a small band of American volunteer flyers, formed in 1916, who fought in the first World War.) Included in the group were Gardiner

White, Jack Stearns, Archie Macelwaine and Howard W. Maxwell, Jr. Brett adds that they would hire a special caddie whose sole responsibility was to carry liquid refreshment!

Fortunately for Nassau and other clubs, prohibition proved impossible to enforce, and repeal came in 1933. Most golfers probably would agree with Harry Vardon's view on the matter.

During his last tour of the United States in 1920, a temperance worker ran up to Vardon, and asked him for his opinion on the evils of drink. He replied, "Madam, I believe in moderation in all things, but I must tell you that never in my life have I failed to beat a teetotaller!"



Federal Agents smashing kegs of bootleg beer in the 30's.

Change To Proprietary Club

On January 17, 1922, there was a special meeting of the Club's Directors and Governing Board at Delmonico's in New York City. Thoroughly discussed at that meeting was the "proposition of buying the property of the Nassau Development Company (NDC) and making the Nassau Country Club a proprietary club."

Later that same evening, and also at Delmonico's, the Club held its Annual Meeting. The President, Howard F. Whitney, aired the same proposition. It was resolved that the Nassau Country Club purchase all the property held by NDC at a price of \$150,000 for the NDC stock and assumption of mortgages totaling \$73,000. It was also resolved that the President appoint a Committee to prepare a plan for financing the Nassau Country Club on a proprietary club basis, to include the necessary improvements to the grounds and buildings.

On May 6, 1922, there was a special meeting of the Club to consider the following:

- Amendment to the by-laws and, in the event of the new by-laws being adopted;
- The purchase of the entire existing capital stock of the NDC (consisting of 1,500 shares of the par value of \$100 each);
- Increasing the authorized stock of the company to \$450,000 (4,500 shares of the par value of \$100 each), and
- A resolution requiring each regular Club member and all new members to purchase a certificate of ownership in ten shares of NDC stock.

Further, the NDC was to lease the clubhouse and grounds to the Nassau Country Club in consideration of the Club paying all taxes due or payable by NDC or upon its property, interest on existing mortgages, and the expenses of the company.

The lease also provided that the monies received by the NDC from the sale of its stock were to be paid out as requested by the Club for paying off principal on mortgages and for improvements to the clubhouse and grounds.

A unanimous vote of all those present adopted the plan. Thirty eight members—a quorum—attended the meeting.

The Great Depression

The Stock Market crash of October 29, 1929, found Nassau in good financial shape. At the annual meeting of the Club, held earlier that month, the Secretary reported a total of 392 members. There were six resignations to be acted on, but a healthy 33 candidates for membership.

It took a while, but in the end the Depression took hold at Nassau. At the following annual meeting, in October, 1930, the membership figures were still good: 391 total members, 13 resignations, and 18 candidates for membership. However, during the next year, resignations rose. At one Directors' meeting alone, there were 37 resignations. The minutes also thought it noteworthy to mention that one member had been "dropped for not paying dues;" evidently, a shocking new development. At the annual meeting held the same day, total membership was down to just 345, with just six candidates for membership.

That annual meeting also took some emergency measures. The members authorized the Directors to transfer all or any part of initiation fees for the ensuing year for operating expenses. The President deferred reporting the budget for the next fiscal year "until conditions can be studied."

At that same meeting, the Club also showed its determination to retain what membership it had by adopting a proposed amendment to the by-laws. The amendment allowed a widow to continue as a regular member by paying regular dues and acquiring her husband's property certificates from his estate.

By April of 1932, matters evidently had worsened. At a Directors' meeting there was a discussion "at length of present economic conditions with respect to club membership." The

STAGE
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VARIETY

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NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1929
PRICE 25¢

WALL ST. LAYS AN EGG

Going Dumb Is Deadly to Hostess

In Her Serious Dance Hall Profess

Hunk on Wincell

... (text continues) ...

Drop in Stocks

Ropes Showmen

Merger Halted

... (text continues) ...

Kidding Kissers in Talkers Burns

Up Fans of Screen's Best Lovers

Talker Crashes Olympics

... (text continues) ...

Homeless Women Scarce

Can't Earn Over \$25

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Filthy Show of

Shubert's Good for Screen

... (text continues) ...

Soft Drink Smuggling

... (text continues) ...

Ad for Exes

... (text continues) ...

Studio in Church

... (text continues) ...

Brooks

COSTUMES

... (text continues) ...

CHAPTER EIGHT—Nassau—Between the Wars

Women of Nassau

In April, 1939, the Club's minutes show Mrs. David C. Halsted was elected to Regular membership under Article A, Section 8, of the then existing By-Laws. In April, 1946, they record the resignations of Nancy Martin Graham, Margaret Whitney, Doris Eldridge and Marg G. Cooper.

Directors passed a resolution that "activities of the Club be made as inexpensive as possible." In the following month, the President sent a letter to members telling them of the reductions in charges and other economies.

The Club continued to make every effort to keep members as long as possible. In September of 1932, the Directors authorized the Treasurer to accept an interest bearing note, secured by a Club property certificate, in lieu of payment of dues for the next year by seven members in arrears. At the annual meeting in October, the members adopted an expanded version of the new amendment to the by-laws mentioned above. It now allowed a wife or husband of a Club member (or former wife or husband) to be elected a member of the club by transferring to his or her name the late spouse's property certificate.

By December, 1932, the membership had sunk to just 280, and there were no candidates for admission. At the Annual Meeting of 1933, the Club acknowledged 28 resignations for the period January to October, 1933, alone.

Despite the obvious difficulties the Club was experiencing, its officers recognized that, to keep the golf course up to date, it was time to install a watering system. In typical Nassau fashion, the financing of the new system was novel and voluntary: Each subscriber paid \$5 a month for two years. In return, the Club gave him the privilege of two guests each month without charge.

The Club's problems would not go away, however. In October, 1934, there were 40 resignations, membership had sunk to 190, and the auditor Haskins Sells reported that the year 1934-35 would be still another year of deficit.

One way in which the Club brought in new members was by creating summer memberships. There were many families that only came to this area in the summer—almost invariably in an effort to escape the sweltering heat of the city—and the Club felt such a membership should be most attractive to these people. And it was. To accommodate this new type of membership, the necessary changes were made in the by-laws in December, 1934.

At the same time, the Club also took economy measures in regard to the staff. Two items have come down to us that illustrate this: First, Jim Maiden, the Club's professional, accepted a salary reduction that literally cut his monthly check in half, and second, the Club decided to release the stablemen and three horses who up to that time were still used to cut the fairways and rough and to buy in their stead a tractor to tow these "cutting implements" and "for other functions."

In June, 1935, 12 members, headed by the then Club President, Henry Crane, personally guaranteed a loan to the Club by the Brooklyn trust of \$26,000 at 4 1/2 per cent per annum. This tided the Club over for that time.

However, by January of 1939, it had become apparent that the best solution to the Club's difficulties involved a reorganization, and the Board of Directors approved a study on how this could best be done.

As background, one should remember, as previously mentioned, that, from Nassau Country Club's beginning, there was a land holding corporation called Nassau Development Company (NDC), which owned the Club property. Nassau Country Club, also a corporation, was the operating corporation and leased the real estate from NDC. Members of the Club purchased property certificates in the amount of \$1,000 each, representing ten shares of the capital stock of NDC.

On February 17, 1939, the Board of Directors of both the Club and NDC adopted a reorganization plan to raise the funds necessary to meet financial needs.

An agreement dated April 4, 1940, between Brooklyn Trust Company, the holder of several Club mortgages in the total amount of \$54,000, Nassau Country Club, and NDC, voluntarily dissolved NDC.

Before the reorganization, members could redeem NDC property certificates at ten cents on the dollar by taking debentures of \$100 denominations for each \$1,000 certificate of

REQUEST TO CALL SPECIAL MEETING

of

NASSAU COUNTRY CLUB

TO:

Mr. Hunt T. Dickinson, President,
Nassau Country Club,
Glen Cove, New York.

Dear Sir:

The Board of Directors of NASSAU COUNTRY CLUB, pursuant to resolution duly adopted by two-thirds thereof at a Special Meeting held on January 16, 1939, hereby requests you to call a Special Meeting of the members of said Club entitled to vote, to be held on Saturday, March 25th, 1939, at 3:00 o'clock P. M. at the Club House, Glen Cove, New York, for the purpose of considering and acting upon proposed amendments to the Certificate of Incorporation and to the By-Laws of the Club, upon the creation and issuance of First and Second Debentures of the Club in connection with the proposed Plan of Reorganization of the Club and the Nassau Development Company, upon the purchase of real and other property held by the said Company and assumption of its liabilities and upon other matters in connection with said Plan. By the Plan First Debentures are to be authorized in the amount of \$90,000, noninterest bearing, redeemable at 110% and to receive 125% upon liquidation or sale of substantially all the assets of the Club. The purchase price will be the face amount. Denominations will be \$300 and less. Second Debentures will be authorized and issued in the amount of \$53,406.81, non-interest bearing, redeemable at face amount and to receive face amount upon liquidation or sale of substantially all the Club's assets. They will be subordinate to the First Debentures and are to be issued at the rate of \$1.00 face amount of Second Debenture for each \$10.00 face amount of Certificates or amount paid upon subscription to Property Certificate unissued, or amounts contributed in exchange for rights on account of such payments for outstanding Property Certificates, shares of stock of the Nassau Development Company, Squash Courts Participation Certificates and Swimming Pool Certificates.


Secretary

NDC. However, on or after April 4, 1940, since NDC was dissolved, its property certificates became worthless. For further detail, a copy of the request to call a special meeting to consider the reorganization is shown at left.

Murdoch and Whitney Die

At the 1922 Annual Meeting, held on October 14, the membership appointed a Committee consisting of George E. Fahys, William V. Hester, and John B. C. Tappan to 'draw up a resolution in commemoration of the late Harvey Murdoch.' and present a copy to his family.

Murdoch was a founding member of the Club. He was the first president of both the Queens County Golf Club and Nassau Country Club. He headed the Committee that designed and laid out the first golf course at Nassau.

On October 15, 1927, the Club adopted a resolution "re the death of Howard Frederic Whitney." The August issue of *Golf Illustrated* said of him, "Golf has lost one of its staunchest and most interested interpreters, a charming personality and sincere advocate of the royal and ancient game."

Born in 1874, Whitney was a fine player. He twice went to the second round in the National Amateur (1903 and 1908), and in 1920 competed in the British and French Amateurs, losing a match in the former to Major Charles O. Hezlet, a little later a British Walker Cupper, on the last green. At Nassau, he won the Club championship three times (1901, 1903, 1909). He won the Piping Rock championship twice. Whitney also was a keen trapshooter and yachtsman.

However, it was as a golf administrator and rules expert that he made his greatest contributions to the game. At the USGA, he rose to that organization's highest office, president, in 1921. He also served as chairman of the Rules Committee at the USGA from the committee's inception in 1922. Whitney was the only American (up to that time) elected to membership of the Rules committee of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, Scotland.

Just before his death, Whitney had announced that he was close to completing a USGA Decisions Book, a book interpreting the Rules of Golf that was to be published by the USGA for the benefit of its members. This was the forerunner of today's annual USGA Decisions books.

Honorary Members

On April 14, 1924, Nassau elected the Hon. Calvin Coolidge to honorary membership. The 30th President of the United States was noted for his Yankee thrift and was often heard to say that the game was "rather expensive for the average pocketbook." In one match he played while chief executive, his golf partner, Chris Dunphy, remarked that "he appeared on the links in a pair of trousers that had long since served their usefulness for social functions, a white canvas hat, no coat or waistcoat, and instead of golf shoes, he elected to wear gym sneakers." On another occasion, he made a bad stroke and broke the (hickory) shaft of his club. Turning to the pro with whom he



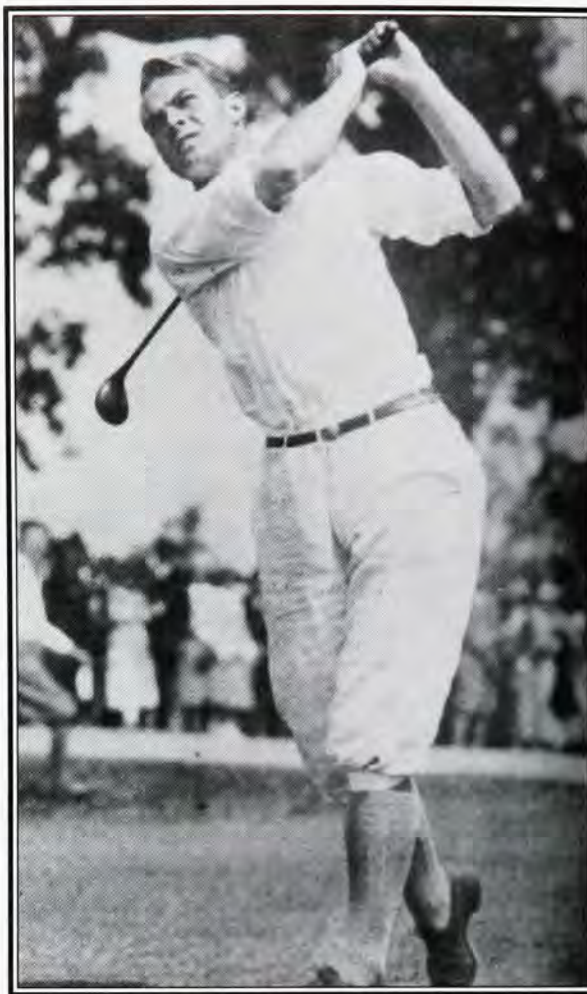
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Whitney were very active in Nassau's early years. Howard Whitney was also responsible for codifying the Rules of Golf, being chairman of the USGA Rules Committee from its beginning in 1922.

Calvin Coolidge enjoyed his golf, even though he thought it "rather expensive." He had a nice sense of humor. On one occasion, a society lady sitting across from him at a formal dinner commented that some of her friends had bet her that she couldn't get him to say more than two words. "You lose," he responded.



CHAPTER EIGHT—Nassau—Between the Wars

Beware the sick golfer! Jess Sweetser proved the truth of this saying when he became the first native born American to win the British Amateur despite flu, an injured knee and a sprained wrist.



Jones was devastating in the Walker Cup that followed. He and his protege Watts Gunn defeated Jamieson and the great Cyril Tolley in the foursomes by 4 and 3, then in the singles, Jones handed Tolley his worst defeat ever, by 12 and 11.

Jones went on to win the British Open at Royal Lytham and St. Annes. He qualified for the championship at Sunningdale with what was described at the time as a "perfect" round—a 66, made up of even nines of 33, six under par. During the round, he only missed one full shot, a slightly pushed 4-iron at the 13th into a greenside bunker, but then he got it up and down in two. He had a total of 33 putts and 33 other shots. There were no 5s or 2s on his card. He then added a 68, to lead the field by seven strokes. Jones commented, "I love a score with only 4s and 3s on it—the implication is that you're shooting golf, not carrying horseshoes!" Bernard Darwin, the renowned British golf writer, described Jones's play as "incredible and indecent!" Although his form fell off a little in the championship, Jones nevertheless won his first British Open with a score of 291, which tied the four-round record. Jones was the first American amateur to win the championship.

In this Open, Jones and fellow American Al Watrous came to the 17th hole in the final round tied for the lead. Watrous drove down the middle and put his approach on the green. Jones slightly pulled his drive into a sandy waste 175 yards from the green, but then played one of the great shots of all time, a mashie iron (about a 3-iron) shot taken cleanly off the dry sand that finished inside Watrous, who promptly three-putted. A commemorative plaque now marks the spot. It says simply: "R. T. Jones, Jr., The Open Championship, 25th June, 1926." The mashie iron is a treasured memento in the Royal Lytham and St. Annes clubhouse.

Meanwhile, Jess Sweetser had won the British Amateur, the first native born American to do so. On that occasion, Sweetser was the perfect embodiment of one of the game's oldest sayings, "Beware the sick golfer!" He fought through the hardest part of the draw despite suffering from flu, an injured knee and a wrist sprained during his semifinal match. He then won both his matches in the Walker Cup. On his return home, he had to be carried off the boat in an ambulance and it was more than a year before he could play tournament golf again.

With his previous victory in the U. S. Amateur of 1922, Sweetser's win in the British Amateur made him the second American (Walter Travis, born in Australia, was the first) and the third person to win both the U. S. and British Amateurs. (The first to achieve the feat was

was playing, he anxiously asked, "Freddy, that can be fixed, can't it?"

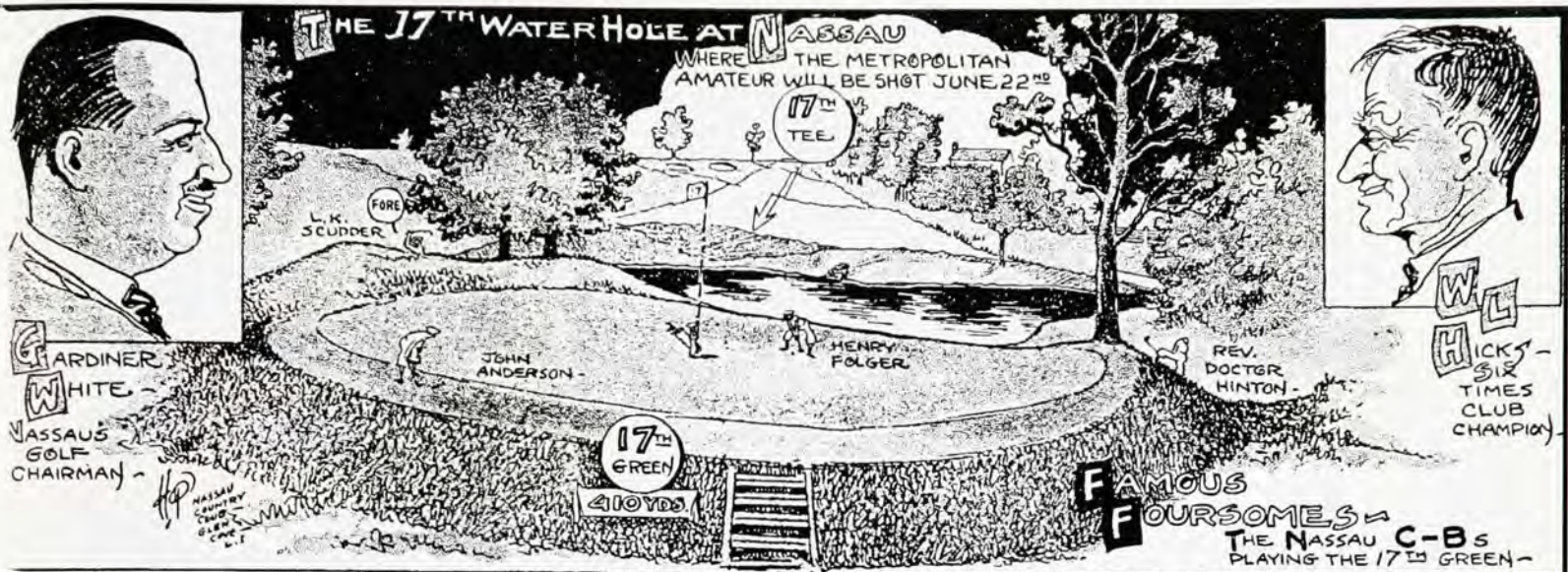
In September of 1925, the Club elected Robert Lee Bullard, a distinguished soldier of World War I, to honorary membership. Bullard graduated from West Point in 1885, and then served in the Southwest, the Philippines, the provisional government of Cuba and on the Mexican border. By June of 1917, he had risen to brigadier general when he went to France with the American Expeditionary Forces. After commanding the III Corps, which fought with distinction in the Aisne-Marne and Meuse-Argonne offensives, he was promoted to lieutenant general and took command of the Second Army shortly before the Armistice. Bullard retired in 1925.

On July 4, 1926, Nassau elected Robert T. Jones, Jr. and Jesse W. Sweetser to honorary membership. Considering the deeds of the pair that year, it was highly appropriate.

In 1926, Jones had a rocky start, but a brilliant finish. Surprisingly eliminated by a youngster called Andrew Jamieson in the sixth round of the British Amateur,



The plaque commemorating Jones's amazing shot at the 17th hole of the 1926 British Open.



Britisher Harold Hilton.)

It should be noted that, while Bobby Jones went on to win the U. S. Open in 1926, the first time any player had won the British and U. S. Opens in one year, the U. S. Open was played July 6 through 8, two days after Nassau had elected him to honorary membership.

On August 15th, 1928, Nassau elected Miss Helen Wills to honorary membership. Coming on the tennis scene at the height of the Golden Age of Sports, Wills won her first national title, the Girls Singles in 1921. By the end of the 1928 season, she had won 13 more U. S. titles, including the singles crown every year from 1923 through 1928, plus two Olympic titles in 1924.

The year before the Nassau honor, her run of significant international wins had begun. In 1927, she won her first All-England singles championship as well as the U. S. title. In 1928, she added the French singles championship to singles wins at Wimbledon and Forest Hills. She achieved this "triple" without losing a set. By this time, her losing a set was front page news. For the record, she repeated this feat in 1929, again without losing a set, and went on to win her last singles championship, at Wimbledon, in 1938.

In honoring Wills, Nassau was honoring a player that many still believe was the greatest woman player of all time. As her nickname—"Little Miss Poker Face"—indicates, Wills played near emotionless tennis. Mechanically, she was a perfectionist whose genius for ball placement and unerring accuracy wore an opponent down. Mentally, she was shrewd and methodical. Always careful to put out only that amount of effort needed to beat an opponent, she knew exactly when she had to raise her game to a higher level, and when to simply let the opponent beat herself.

On November 9, 1928, Nassau's minutes record the election of The Hon. Herbert Hoover to honorary membership of Nassau. This continued the Club's tradition of electing the current President of the United States to honorary membership. There probably wasn't another reason, since Hoover didn't take much interest in golf, preferring to play catch on the White House lawn with a medicine ball.

Nassau's Visitors Book

In 1924, there were three golfing personalities of great interest recorded in Nassau's Visitors book.

In June, Richard Tufts came to the Club, introduced by Miss A. Vail. He was the grandson of James Walker Tufts, the founder of Pinehurst. Tufts was then 35 years old, and had been involved in running the resort since 1920, something he would continue to do through 1970. During this time, he was responsible for building 40 new holes at Pinehurst. He also was

A cartoon predicts the hole that will decide the Met Amateur on June 22nd of 1927.



Helen Wills was nearly as well known as Big Bill Tilden in the 20's and 30's. She became an honorary member of Nassau in 1928.

Nassau Country Club Airport, 1938

Early in May, 1938, the Club granted the Post Office permission to land a light airplane on Club property on May 19 in connection with National Airmail Week. The Club stipulated that the plane must keep off the greens, and use only designated fairways (6, 12, 13 or 14). To guide the pilot's landing, the Club would mark these fairways with towels.

Transpacific airmail had been introduced in 1935, transatlantic airmail came in 1939.

CHAPTER EIGHT—Nassau—Between the Wars

very active in the USGA, serving on more committees than any other person, and was president of the association from 1956-57. He wrote the book *Principles Behind The Rules Of Golf*. If you've

never understood the reasoning behind the Rules, this is a book that can still be very helpful.

On September 26, Charles Evans Jr., Chicago, visited Nassau, introduced by Malcom Fay. Yes, this was the famous "Chick" Evans, once described by Harry Vardon as "the best amateur in America." On September 12 and 13, Evans had played on the victorious American team in the Walker Cup matches, held at the neighboring Garden City Golf Club. Evidently, Evans had then extended his stay in the metropolitan area.

In 1916, Evans had won the U. S. Open, breaking the record by four shots, and the U. S. Amateur—the first to win both championships in one year. Incredibly, he won the U. S. Open playing with just seven clubs, a brassie, spoon, midiron, jigger, lofter, niblick (2- and 3-woods, and 2-, 4-, 6 and 9-irons) and putter. In October, Jim Brett, the brother of Charlie Brett, visited the Club. Gene Sarazen signed the space for the introducer. However, since Gene never was a member of the Club, this evidently was an error. We will never know the name of the member hosting Jim and Gene that

day. He obviously was too polite to point out Sarazen's error.

In September of 1921, two Republican politicians, Senator Frank B. Brandegee and Representative Nicholas Longworth visited Nassau. Both signed in from Washington, D. C. Brandegee, a Senator from Connecticut since 1905, delighted in obstruction, and among other things, opposed income tax. Longworth, from Ohio, was a strong protectionist and later served as Speaker.

However, the most important non-golfing visitor to the Club was Colonel Charles Lindbergh, St. Louis. He signed the Visitors book on May 12, 1928, and was introduced by A. Ames. This was a little less than a year after his epic flight across the Atlantic.

After service as a flying cadet, Lindbergh took up a commission in the air force reserve in 1925. When he heard of the Orteig prize of \$25,000 for the first nonstop flight from New York to Paris, he ordered a special monoplane, which he named *The Spirit of St. Louis*, to be built for the flight. On May 20, 1927, he took off from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, at 7.50 a. m., and landed at Le Bourget Field, Paris, 33 1/2 hours later. This was not only the first nonstop flight between New York and Paris, it was the first solo flight across the Atlantic as well.

On Lindbergh's return to America, President Coolidge officially welcomed him, awarding him the Distinguished Flying Cross and giving him a commission as colonel. Lindbergh then made a nation-wide tour to boost interest in flying. In World War II, Lindbergh flew combat missions in the Pacific, shooting down at least two enemy planes.

Chick Evans, around the time of his visit to Nassau.



Lucky Lindy poses in front of his plane The Spirit of St Louis. His epic flight began from Long Island. He visited Nassau in May of 1928, about a year after the flight.



CHAPTER NINE—WORLD WAR II TO The Present

In the period from World War II to date, the Club has had its problems. The war itself caused a financial crisis as it did at so many country clubs, starved of support and use by absent members and gas rationing. Later, there were two more financial storms to weather, in the late 1940s and in the 1970s.



It was also, as had to be expected, a time when the Grim Reaper gathered several more of the Club's earliest members—Herbert L. Pratt, Howard Maxwell, Lewis J. Luckenbach, and Horatio M. Adams.

Winter came to Nassau as shown in this view of the clubhouse in 1939. It was also the beginning of the war in Europe which would coldly impact on the membership of the club for the next six years.

However, more importantly, this has been a period which continued something that started between the wars. Originally, Nassau was like so many of the other pioneer golf clubs in this country. It was very much a rich man's club, more exactly a *very* rich man's club. Today, it is very much a *family* club.



CHAPTER NINE—WORLD WAR II TO The Present

During this time one can see the Club's officers exploring every reasonable opportunity to make this transition a reality: From providing new facilities such as golf carts, paddle courts, modern all weather tennis courts and a practice ground, to vastly improving the irrigation system; from totally modernizing the ground floor with a stunning new dining room overlooking the course, a modern kitchen a short chip shot away, and the Great Hall now a sitting room second to none, to attending to such necessary detail as installing an infant's changing table in the upstairs ladies locker room with its convenient access to the pool area.

Their devotion has made Nassau what it is now, an old-line Club in terms of its traditions and cachet, but one that concedes nothing in the way of excellence to any country club created today.

As in previous eras, the visitors to Nassau make fascinating reading. They include the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, who dined here, and top tennis players such as Vic Seixas, Arthur Ashe, Rod Laver and John McEnroe, and PGA Tour stars such as Cary Middlecoff, Doug Ford and Jerry Pate. Other sportsmen visitors included champion boxers "Jersey Joe" Walcott and Ezzard Charles and basketball legend Julius "Dr J" Erving. The Hollywood contingent was particularly fine—Cary Grant and Katherine Hepburn visited Nassau as well as the movie stars of the original "Sabrina"—Audrey Hepburn, William Holden and Humphrey Bogart.

World War II

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor took place on December 7, 1941. The next day, the United States, the British Commonwealth (except Ireland) and the Netherlands declared war on Japan. Within a few days, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States.

Early in the war, Nassau managed quite well, as a letter written to the membership by

the President of the Club, Skeffington S. Norton, Jr., just after the annual meeting, held October 21, 1942, indicates. Here is what he said.

Nassau was then benefiting from economies made over the previous four years, first by eliminating old bank loans and paying off the first mortgage down to the lowest point in the Club's history, and second by economies effected by simplifying operations.

In common with all country clubs, Nassau had lost members mostly due to members going into the U. S. Armed Services. Norton felt that the increased military and war requirements for 1943 undoubtedly would cause a reduction in income from dues. However, the Club was expecting this and had prepared by making economies. In addition, the Club could cushion this loss to some extent by making use of the substantial cash balance in the Debenture Fund.

The Club budgets for these years show that it cut expenses to the bone.

Operating expenses in 1941 to 1942 were a little over \$61,000. For 1942 to 1943, the Club cut its budget for these expenses to \$42,000 and for 1943 to 1944 to a little under \$40,000. Particularly hard hit by the cost cutting axe were Golf Course and Tennis expenses, down from about \$19,000 to \$13,000 and \$11,000.

Naturally, the Club did everything it could to retain members. At the time, a regular member paid \$200 a year in dues. One of the earliest wartime measures was setting up an Army and Navy membership for regular members going into the armed forces. Many of these preferred to maintain this military membership (with dues of \$5 a month) rather than simply resigning. In a few cases, the Club's Directors made special arrangements. During the war, they voted



In the dark days of World War II, Winston Churchill would appear all over London to encourage his fellow citizens. Here he inspects the bomb damage in south west London in the early 1940's. Nassau members faced troubled times both as families at war and to support and uphold the club.

to continue the memberships of some 25 members and to waive their dues for the duration of the war while they were in military service, and while they and their families were absent from the community.

The Club also took steps to maximize use of the Club facilities. In October, 1942, it created a special squash membership with dues of \$25 a year and offered squash facilities to Cedar Creek Club members on payment of regular playing charges. It also gave skeet shooting privileges to applicants "approved by President Norton and Messrs. Coe and Wooley and upon payment of \$20 for the shooting season."

Such efforts continued up until the end of the war. In May, 1943, the Club elected Fred C. Baggs and several others to summer memberships (a membership created in 1934). Later, in March, 1944, the Club created a "Season" membership (May 15 through September 4, 1944) at \$100 a year. The Club obviously hoped that this membership, like the summer membership, would attract, among others, the many people who had summer homes in the area. At the same time, the Club established a special annual membership with dues of \$150 for "those members of the Brookville Country Club, who were contributing \$100 each at this time to the said club (i. e., Brookville). In June of 1944, the Club created a special military membership for the balance of the fiscal year for \$100; it was open to military who were not former members of the Club.

To help make use of the Club's facilities as inexpensive as possible, in December, 1942, the Directors further reduced the cost of Club services, exempting "The services and equipment rendered and supplied by the Golf, Tennis and Squash Pro and by the Valet from the 10 per cent service charge."

Despite all these efforts, the Club continued to lose both revenue and members. On April 7, 1943, alone there were 33 resignations.

Gas rationing also took its toll on Club activities. One can see this from the losses of over \$1,000 sustained each year from 1942 to 1944 on locker room fees as well as the halving of greens and tennis fees. Also, in February, 1943, the Club thought it necessary to dispose of a "list of wines and liqueurs which seemed likely to remain unsold."

In December of 1942, the Club had another abnormal expense. The shortage of fuel oil led to a special meeting of the Directors to discuss closing the Club in winter and/or converting the Club's furnaces to burning coal. In the end, the Directors recommended the switch to coal, but not closing the Club during the winter. Ironically, only a short time earlier, in March, 1941, the Club had converted its kitchen from coal to gas, the House Committee having been allowed \$1,059 for the improvement.

By July 15 of 1943, the Club was evidently in financial trouble. On that date, a Directors meeting discussed "the Club's financial situation, and authorized the President to appoint a fiscal affairs Committee to study the situation." In the next month, the Directors authorized two of their number to go to the Brooklyn Trust Co. "to see what could be done about the interest and taxes re mortgage held by them on the Nassau property." A little later, the Club told the Brooklyn Trust Co. that it "could pay no interest on the mortgage and required some relief on the taxes."

Here one should interject some purely verbal history. Older Club members have told the author that Edgar T. Appleby, a future Club President, and Augustus "Gus" Wheeler were the persons who quietly tided the Club over this financial crisis.

In March of 1944, the Directors left "the location of the Air Raid Warden on the Club grounds to the discretion of the Treasurer, Mr. Forrester. Also early in 1944, the Directors discussed ways and means of raising additional revenue, since "the Club was technically in default of the first half 1944 real estate taxes." They then unanimously resolved to raise dues for all members except juniors and military to \$250 per annum. In October, 1944, the President "was instructed to write members asking for a voluntary contribution of \$25 to take care of the oper-



Nassau members, like all Americans were subject to gasoline rationing that was monitored with windshield stickers and rationing stamps like the ones shown at left.



Edgar T. Appleby, who along with Augustus Wheeler, financially supported the club through the war years.

CHAPTER NINE—WORLD WAR II TO The Present

ating deficit.”

In February, 1945, one of the Club's most well respected members, Herbert L. Pratt died. On February 16, the Directors sent an expression of sympathy to Mrs. Edith Pratt Mclane on the death of her father.

At that same meeting, the Directors decided to “fix up the Club House and bedrooms” and instructed the President to write a letter to members telling them of this work and starting a membership drive, requesting each member to try to recruit one new member.

That was the year in which the war ended. On May 7, 1945, Germany surrendered, unconditionally. Germany had collapsed after the Western and Russian armies met on April 25, 1945, at Torgau in Saxony and Hitler's suicide on April 30. In the Pacific, Japan formally surrendered on board the U. S. battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay on September 2.

According to the Club's minutes, the sons of two Nassau members were killed in action during World War II: Eugene L. Maxwell (the son of Howard W. Maxwell) in October, 1942, and Alfred H. Benjamin, Jr. in April 1943 in North Africa.



Every discharged GI was awarded this bronze lapel button decorated with a spread eagle, irreverently nicknamed “the ruptured duck.”

This is all that is left of the trapshooting house today. It must have been a warm and cozy retreat from a chilly skeet competition.



Recovery From The War

After the war, Nassau's most immediate concern was to put the Club back on a sound financial footing for the future. On October 30, 1945, the Club's Directors instructed the then President, Mr. Norton, to send a letter to Annual Members inviting them to become Regular Members by subscribing to a \$300 Debenture of the Club. He also was to write to Regular Members inviting them to subscribe to additional \$300 Debentures.

In December, 1945, the Treasurer, Mr. Forrester, stated that he had received 13 subscriptions to Debentures. The mortgage was now \$69,125. Originally, the mortgage had been \$76,000, with interest at 6 per cent. By the Club's agreeing to amortize the mortgage, the bank had reduced the interest rate to 3 per cent. After reducing the mortgage to \$69,125, the Club had been able to have amortization waived for the duration of the war. Several Board members commented “on the excellent financial condition of the Club as a result of these adjustments.”

Forrester also announced there were now 130 members paying full dues and that 50 more were “in sight.” The Club was on its way back.

However, at the same December, 1945, the Green Committee Chairmen, Mr. McChesney, commented that by cutting expenses so drastically during the war, the grounds equipment was in bad repair. He recommended buying a new main mower and two putting green machines. He also commented that the rough mower was not of the proper type, not built to be operated by a tractor. As a result, it overheated, and the operator had to stop from time to time to allow the bearings to cool.

Apparently, the Club was still using the old sickle bar machine—designed to be towed by a horse!—that Charles Brett remembers. McChesney recommended buying a mower designed for tractor operation. He got what he wanted.

As a point of interest to today's Green Chairmen, McChesney also mentioned the cost of labor at the time: One full time man at \$55 a week, seasonal men at \$42 a week.

Trapshooting Ends

Trapshooting evidently survived through the winter of 1946-1947, as a motion carried by the Board at its meeting in November, 1946, indicates: “that the Treasurer, Mr. Cowan, and the Chairman of the Trap-Shooting Committee, Mr. Stringfellow, be authorized to determine the guest fees to be charged for trapshooting.”

However, that was trapshooting's last season at the Club. In the following November, the Board “resolved that the Club sell the remaining shotgun shells now on hand.”

Trapshooting came to an end due to local ordinances prohibiting the use of firearms. Also, the noise the guns caused on winter Sundays close to adjoining residential areas was objectionable—especially when one considers that in winter there were no leaves on the trees to deaden the sound.

Ralph Panetta, Nassau's longtime clubmaker, describes another

problem caused by shooting at the Club. "The trapshooting house was located to the right of the second fairway. My father's house was directly across from the shooting. On days when the wind was blowing that way, I remember how the pellets used to fly right up against our windows. It drove my father crazy!"

Howard Maxwell Dies

On September 13, 1947, Howard W. Maxwell, died. A fine, low handicap golfer, Maxwell was a founder and charter member of the Queens County Club and active there and at Nassau Country Club for over 50 years.

Maxwell graduated from Princeton University in 1895—the same year that the Queens County Club came into existence—and then went to work in his family's business, the Atlas Portland Cement Company. He retired as a vice president of the company in 1929 to attend to personal financial affairs. His home in the Red Spring Colony adjoined that of his father, John Rogers Maxwell and Craigdarroch, the estate of his sister, Mrs. Howard F. Whitney.

On October 21, 1947, the Board instructed the Secretary to send to Mrs. Howard W. Maxwell and family a sincere expression of the Club's deepest sympathy in their loss.

Nassau's Visitor's Book

During the 1940s, Nassau's Visitor's book records many notable visitors.

On February 23, 1940, Cary Grant signed in from Hollywood, California. Member Jamie Abbott introduced the famed screen actor.

On January 10, 1941, Elias Victor "Vic" Seixas, Jr., along with George Segura of Ecuador, visited the Club. Then only 17, Seixas was to win the United States singles championship in 1954 and was runner-up in 1951 and 1953. He was Wimbledon champion in 1953.

On August 10, 1941, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lukas, Hollywood, California, signed the Club's visitors book. Paul Lukas was a famous film actor. Among his many screen credits was *Watch On The Rhine*. Walter Pate introduced the Lukases.

On August 26, 1944, there was a rather "different" entry, from a person who evidently had an excellent opinion of himself. It reads: "The Great Bodine performed for a dinner on this day." The Great Bodine was a magician.

On May 28, 1947, Clark Gable, Katherine Hepburn, T. (Tallulah) Bankhead and Greer Garson signed the register. That this galaxy of movie stars converged on Nassau on one single day does, at first blush, seem almost too good to be true. However, a senior Nassau member assured the author that W. Neafsey, who introduced them, was not only a highly respected member, he also was a person whose name no one would dare to misuse at the Club!

Then, in September, 1949, there was an interesting "mixed bag" of athlete visitors. First, came professional boxers "Jersey Joe" Walcott and Ezzard Charles, both heavyweight champions of the world. Second, came golfers Melvin R. "Chick" Harbert and Cary "Doc" Middlecoff, and tennis great/pro golfer Ellsworth Vines.

"Jersey Joe" Walcott was the George Foreman of his era, a boxer who had incredible longevity. In 1936, he knocked out Phil Johnson. In 1950, he knocked out Phil's son, Harold. Walcott became a professional boxer at age 16, but only got his first chance at the world title in 1947, when he was already 33 years of age. That evening he twice sent Joe Louis to the canvas, only to lose a notoriously bad split decision. Louis recognized this, saying "I'm sorry, Joe" to Walcott after the fight. Over the next few years, Walcott lost three more world title fights. But at 37, he got another chance, and knocked out the champion, Ezzard Charles. Walcott thus became the oldest man to ever win the title, a record that lasted 43 years until Foreman won the title at the age of 45. Walcott was to lose the heavyweight crown in the very next year. He was well ahead on points and about to hand Rocky Marciano a bloody defeat when one desperate punch put him down for the count.

At the time that he visited Nassau, Chick Harbert was 34 years old. By the end of the 1949 season, he had won half-a-dozen PGA Tour events, and he was to win 10 in his career. Harbert was a finalist three times in the PGA Championship, at that time a match play event, winning it in 1954 and barely losing in 1947 and 1952, when his final round matches went to the 35th and 36th holes respectively. One of the longest hitters of all time, he won over 50 driving contests.

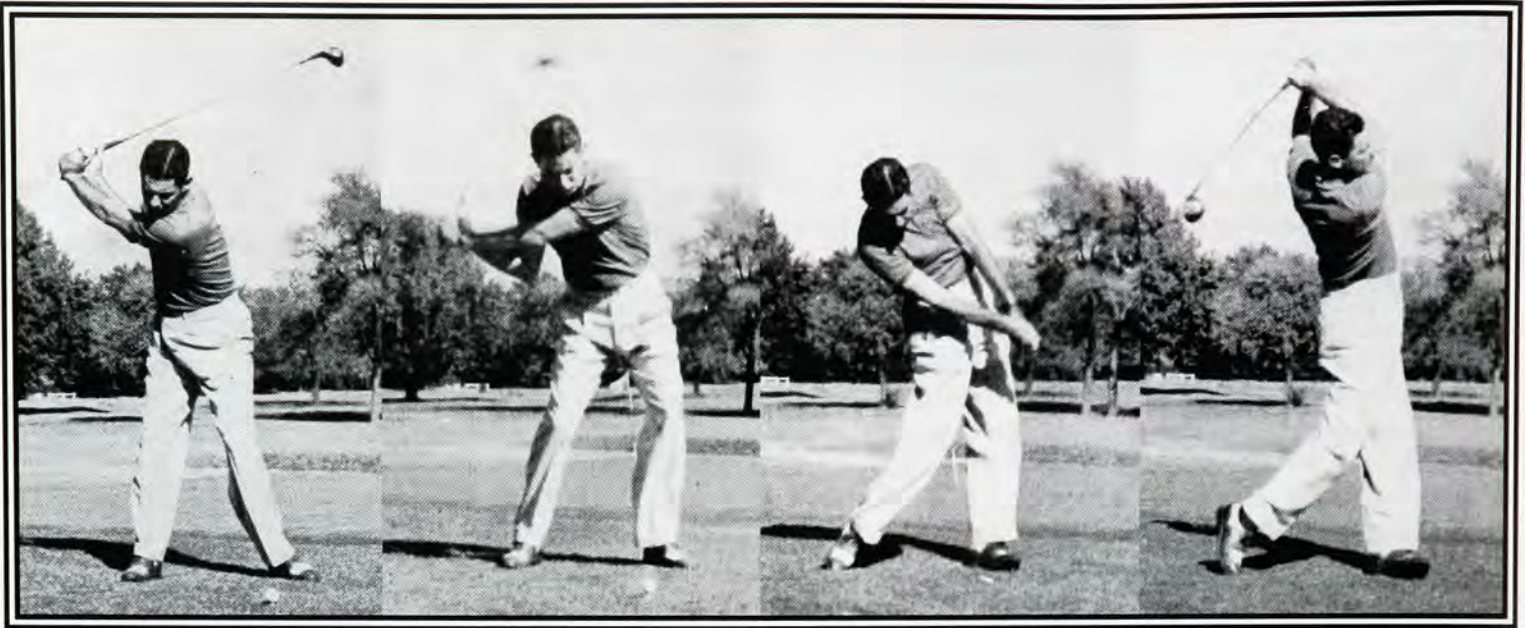


Nassau felt the loss of one of its most distinguished members in 1947, Howard W. Maxwell. His son Eugene was killed in the war five years earlier.



"Jersey Joe" Walcott visited Nassau in 1949, two years before he won the heavyweight crown at the age of 37.

CHAPTER NINE—WORLD WAR II TO The Present



Dr. Cary Middlecoff displays the classic swing that won him 35 Tour events.



Ellsworth Vines was one of the few athletes to compete successfully in two sports. He was better at tennis, winning major international tournaments in the 30's, then went on to turn golf professional in 1942.

Dr. Cary Middlecoff was then 28, with just three seasons of professional golf under his belt. This golfing dentist had enjoyed a distinguished amateur career, in which he had won the prestigious North and South Open, then one of the premier stops on the PGA Tour, the only amateur to do so. In 1949, he had won six Tour events including the U. S. Open.

In one of those wins in 1949 Middlecoff set, with Lloyd Mangrum, a record that still stands. At the 1949 Motor City Open, the pair tied for first and after 11 holes of sudden-death, they were still tied when darkness stopped play. They were declared co-winners. This is still the longest sudden-death playoff in PGA Tour history. Middlecoff went on to win 35 Tour events.

Ellesworth Vines was then 38. One of the few athletes to compete at the highest level in two games, Vines was one of tennis's all time greats. He won the United States Singles championship in 1931 and 1932, won the National Clay Court championship in 1931 and was the champion at Wimbledon in 1932. He turned professional in 1933. After winning several amateur golf events in California, he turned professional in 1942, and won five events. The nearest Vines came to winning a golf major was when he reached the semi-final round of the 1951 PGA Championship at Oakmont, losing at the 37th hole to Walter Burkemo, who then lost in the final to Sam Snead by 7 and 6.

As the 1940s came to a close, three small items deserve mention.

In June, 1949, the President "reported that there had been only a few responses to the inquiry about the beach, and Mr. Scholl had agreed to follow up on this, and, if sufficient interest is evidenced, to form a Committee to work out the details." Evidently, there was little if any interest, because there is nothing in the Club's minutes for some years. However, this idea was dormant, rather than dead, as will be seen.

In December, 1947, the Board authorized the Secretary, Edgar T. Appleby to sign a contract for the "repair and painting of of the water tower of the Club in the amount of \$1,390." A hardy perennial problem!

In November of the following year, the Board discussed "the television set recently installed in the Club House on trial" and "decided not to purchase it at this time." One wonders how many clubhouses today have no TV set!

A Crisis Averted

Toward the end of 1948, the House Committee had reported on the poor condition of "the Club House, Caddy House, repairs necessary to heating system, kitchen, roof, gutters, leaders, etc." and as a response the Treasurer was empowered to negotiate with Richmond Savings Bank to increase the first mortgage of the Club to \$100,000 so that it could pay for these capital improvements.

However, by June of 1949, the financial picture was not good. There had been monthly losses of about \$1,000 since the previous year. However, these problems apparently went away quite speedily. Among the solutions adopted were raising a second mortgage of \$50,000, holding a dinner when members could voluntarily contribute toward reducing the deficit, and making an effort to get 50 new members.

Another money raising tactic was to attract outside groups. In December, 1949, the Board said that "the Club should make a concerted effort to hold conventions, parties and tournaments one day a week during the summer, preferably on a Tuesday, these outside groups to range from 50 to 150 people to play golf and generally use the Club's facilities." This was the first occasion that one finds a reference in the Club's minutes to trying to attract outside groups.

Incidentally, at the same meeting Mr. Patty, President, suggested that the Board of Directors create an Executive Committee with full power to act for the Board. This would obviate the necessity of more than one meeting a month of the full 16 member Board. This was done.

The efforts to turn the finances of the Club around evidently paid off. By July of 1950, the Treasurer could report that there was a profit of over \$7,000 for the three months ended June 30.

On March 14, 1951, the "Atomic Age" impinged on the Club. On that date, the manager presented a request from a Mr. Gifford, Superintendent of the North Country Community Hospital, asking for permission to use the Club as an auxiliary hospital in the event of a catastrophe such as an atomic bombing of the North Shore area. The Directors granted the request.

Later in 1951, there was a lighter side to the deliberations of the Board's Executive Committee. Mr. Appleby reported that Robert C. Dunne has signified his willingness to conduct a series of Bingo evenings during the winter. Dunne was appointed Bingo chairman and authorized to conduct the Bingo evenings at the Club "with the sincere appreciation of the (Executive) Committee and of all prospective winners!"

Lewis J. Luckenbach dies

In July, 1951, Lewis J. Luckenbach, a long and faithful member of the Club died at the age of 68. Mr. Luckenbach inherited the Luckenbach shipping company and was its president from 1932 until his death.

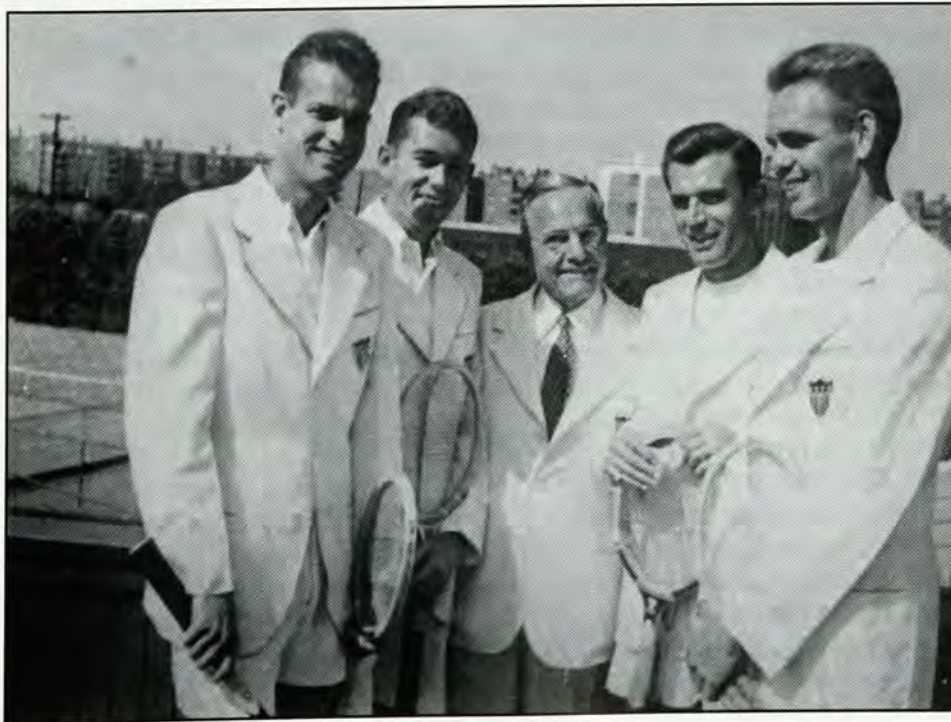
Luckenbach was a forceful advocate of a strong American merchant marine and represented the United States at many important international meetings, among them the International Conference for the Safety of Life at Sea of 1948.

Maiden And Pate Honored

On October 14, 1951, at the annual meeting of the Club's Directors and regular members, Henry M. Crane, a former president of the Club, talked at length to members about the long and faithful service of Mr. James C. Maiden, formerly the professional of the Club. Crane recommended that Maiden be made an honorary member. The motion to do this was carried unanimously.

On April 24, 1952, the Secretary read a letter to the Board from Walter L. Pate, in which Pate resigned from the Club. He said that he had sold his property in Locust Valley and therefore could no longer make use of the Club's facilities. The Board's opinion was that under no circumstances should it accept Mr. Pate's resignation, that his years of outstanding service to

Jim Maiden, below, was made an honorary member of Nassau in 1951. This photo was taken in the 1950's. Below left, Walter Pate, captain, in the center of the Davis Cup team of 1946. With him from left to right are Gardner Mulloy, William Talbert, Grant Parker and Jack Kramer.



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the Club had contributed greatly to its standing and success, and they merited his election to honorary membership. He was duly elected an honorary member.

This was the last old style Honorary Membership at Nassau. In April, 1955, the Board carried a motion resolving that in future there no longer would be a classification of honorary membership. However, it added that "this would not preclude the Board from extending the facilities of the Club to certain persons from time to time as might be advisable."

For completeness, in 1983 the Board initiated quite a different type of honorary membership. To quote the minutes, "In future, a candidate for honorary membership must be at least 80 years of age at the beginning of the Club year and be a regular member for at least 25 continuous years."

Sabrina

Hollywood again came to Nassau in the 1950s, when a scene for the Billy Wilder romantic comedy "Sabrina" was shot at the Glen Cove railroad station, and Nassau Country Club became the cast's "changing room."

The stars of this immensely successful 1954 movie were the "heaviest" hitters that "Tinsel Town" then had to offer.

The leading lady was the enchanting English actress Audrey Hepburn, who caused a generation of women to cut their hair short in order to emulate her elfin looks. Hepburn was fresh off her Academy-winning performance in the 1953 movie "Roman Holiday."

Her leading men were William Holden, who also had won an Oscar in 1953 for his role in "Stalag 17," and Humphrey Bogart, then renowned for his best actor award for the "African Queen" in 1951.

In the movie, Hepburn played Sabrina Fairchild, who becomes involved in a love triangle between two rich brothers, Humphrey Larrabee—the stuffed shirt with rugged good looks, played by Bogart—and his younger brother, David—the handsome playboy, played by Holden.

As the writing on this book was coming to a close, Sydney Pollack was doing a remake of "Sabrina," starring another young English actress, Julia Ormond. This time around, the Bogart role is going to Harrison Ford, while Holden's part will be played by Greg Kinnear, who is making his big screen debut. The second "Sabrina" was scheduled for a "holiday release" late in 1995.

Horatio M. Adams Dies

On January 27, 1956, Horatio M. Adams died at the age of 102. He was the last surviving charter member of the Club. Adams, with his father Thomas (a photographer with the Union Army during the Civil War) and elder brother, Thomas, Jr., pioneered the introduction of chicle to this country as a base for chewing gum.

In 1866, Thomas Jr. began experimenting with chicle, a gum obtained from the Central American sapodilla tree, in the family's New York home. He first tried to turn the gum into commercial rubber. That effort failed. So he decided to use it after the fashion of the Mexicans, in the manufacture of chewing gum. In 1869, he persuaded his father to set up the chewing gum manufacturing business in Jersey City. Both Thomas Jr. and Horatio entered the business.

Tobacco chewing was much more popular in those days, and at first the Adamses had to give away their product with purchases of candy. Later, through adding sugar and flavorings to the gum, they created a demand for chewing gum. In 1888, Adams & Sons built a large factory in Brooklyn. Horatio became a vice president, and retired in 1902. The company later merged with other firms to become the American Chicle Company, makers of "Chiclets" and "Dentyne" chewing gum.

Caddie Cars

On June 23, 1955, we find the first mention of "caddie cars" (i. e., golf carts) in the Board's minutes. The Directors said that "the use of caddie cars on the course is prohibited without prior approval of the Board. Permission will only be granted for reasons of health."

In so decreeing, Nassau was following the practice of most other golf clubs. For a few years, no club allowed the hale and hearty to ride in a cart; only those who suffered from such ailments as heart disease or arthritis or who had sustained a physical injury were permitted to ride. Many clubs did not allow carts at all. In fact, in 1955, according to a PGA of America sur-

vey, only 40 per cent of clubs permitted carts. Traditionally, golf had been a walking game, and at first clubs upheld that tradition.

At Nassau, the first chink in that tradition's armor came in 1957 when Dr. Joseph L. Boyd requested authorization to ride in a cart, because "an injury to his leg made it impossible to walk." The Board granted his request, but only "provided his physical condition continued to make it impossible." A little later that year, Raymond Stoye also received the Board's permission to ride, but at that time the Board further restricted the Club's cart rule, saying that use of carts was limited to the Club year, subject to annual renewal. In those early days, carts usually were the property of the players riding in them. In 1959, "Stoye and LeRoy Newell were authorized to use *their* carts for the coming season." (Author's italics.)

This state of affairs continued for several years, at least through the early 1960s. However, by 1962, the pendulum started to swing in favor of golf carts. A survey of Nassau members' interest in carts produced 294 replies; of these 158 indicated various degrees of interest, although only 20 gave an outright "Yes," and 136 were not interested. In May, the Board decided not to acquire any carts, but then quickly reversed itself in the following month, deciding to lease a limited number of carts on a trial basis for the balance of the year.

It was the thin end of the wedge. By 1965, the Club had 10 carts in use, "some for medical reasons, others for people who preferred carst." By March of 1967, 20 new carts arrived ready for Opening Day and the Club installed asphalt roads and cart paths in early May, at a cost of \$16,000. The acceptance of golf carts had then become general. In 1967, a survey by *Golfdom Magazine*, then the foremost golf trade publication, revealed that golf carts were available at 92 per cent of the responding clubs. The cart had become a fact of golfing life.

One reason why golf carts became so quickly respectable was that popular figures such as former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Arthur Godfrey, Bing Crosby, Bob Hope and Jackie Gleason were frequently pictured in golf carts. Hope and Gleason even had "special" golf carts built for them which attracted plenty of "photo opportunities." The side view of Hope's cart showed the comedian's profile, with his distinctive nose. Gleason had two "specials," the first cart featuring a radiator and hood ornament from Rolls Royce, the second, from Mercedes Benz.

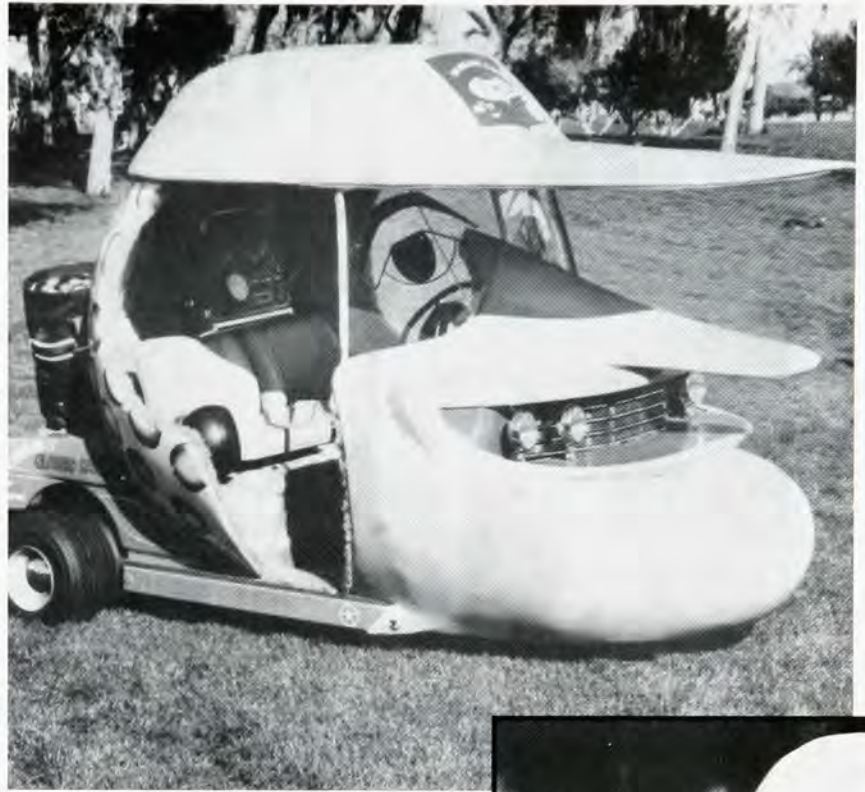
However, the main reason why clubs so quickly grew to love golf carts was that the income they generated made a very welcome addition to the clubs' coffers. The feeling at Nassau was no different. By December of 1971, the Club even had made the switch from leasing golf carts to owning them. A Board Meeting in that month approved owning a fleet of 27 carts.

At that same meeting, the Board discussed a report on a three-wheeled Robot cart that would transport one bag "with some success." According to the report, the player hooked a small electronic signal device to his belt, and the Robot followed about eight to ten feet behind the player. When entering bunkers, heavy overgrowth or at the green, the player switched off the device. Bernard Stott, Nassau's Golf Cart Chairman at the time, recommended leasing six such Robots.

However, there is no further mention of these Robots in the Club's archives. A story about these machines then going the rounds of the golf world may well have discouraged any further action. It went something like this.

A salesman for the "robot" company was putting on a presentation at a Florida golf course, and had lined up half-a-dozen or so robots behind the 18th green all ready to go. Unfortunately, the salesman didn't realize that the radio frequency on which his robots operated was the same as that of the local police. When the police changed shifts, there was much radio conversation, and to the salesman's horror, the robots took off, running across the green, diving into bunkers, and generally causing ruin and destruction.

In the circumstances, closing the sale became a trifle difficult!



Bob Hope's then new golf cart, at top which, as one can see, was clearly designed in part after him.

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Another reason why these types of carts, which at least had the merit of requiring a golfer to walk the course, did not catch on was that they simply appeared too late. Once people had become used to riding in a golf cart, they viewed these newcomers as a retrograde step.

Bathing Beach II

In June, 1949, there was, as previously reported, a brief, rather cryptic, item in the Club's minutes on the subject of the beach. It was not until July of 1959 that the matter came up again. At that time, the Board was evidently considering the possibility of buying beachfront property on Long Island Sound so that Nassau would have a beach club. Two pieces of property were available and the Board appointed a Committee to investigate.

By mid-1960, the Board learned that there was a problem with one of these properties, the one owned by Rudolph Learning: The upland owners at that time had an unrestricted right of use of the entire property. Still, the second property, owned by the estate of H. I. Pratt, might be available for development as a beach club and country club, too. It was large enough for the Board to consider it for relocation of the entire Club.

It took a while, but in May, 1969, W. Mudge, who had been appointed liason between the Club and the Pratt estate, reported to the Board that "the Pratt estate was priced at \$3.75 million for 202 acres (30 under water). The Board's view was that this price was "out of line." However, it still felt that it might be possible to negotiate some lower figure.

By the Club's Annual Meeting in November, 1969, the Club's officers reported: "The Pratt Estate property, which is for sale, and was considered as a possible new location for Nassau Country Club, for all practical purposes is no longer considered at all feasible." This is the last we hear of the matter.

Short Takes

Here are some brief items of interest that deserve a mention.

At a June, 1954, meeting, the Directors made the following statement, "The question of proper shorts for the golf course had been discussed by the Women's Golf Committee and referred to the Directors by the Committee. It was the opinion of the Directors that the Committee be advised that Bermuda length shorts were proper for golf."

In December, 1954, the Board considered dress for Sunday night dinners in the Grill, and made a house rule that gentlemen wear ties and jackets.

In November, 1958, the Tennis Chairman "stressed the rule forbidding other than white clothes on the courts." From the game's inception, "whites" had been the only "proper" tennis attire. It was not until March, 1973, that the Board, in line with new fashions, "relaxed" the white rule "as long as the colors worn were bonafide tennis attire." From this evolved the "50 per cent color" rule in force today.

In November, 1958, the Board extended to "Mrs Edgar T. Appleby, wife of 'our beloved president,' all privileges of the club for the remainder of her life." Appleby had died a short time before.

The following was excerpted from Nassau's Golf Program for 1959. At the time, caddie fees for 18 holes were: One bag, \$3, two bags, \$6.

In March, 1959, a Board meeting noted that "the Entertainment Committee is considering 'a Jazz Concert' in June with Louis Armstrong's orchestra. The Board recommended that the Committee curtail their budget in planning for the concert." A senior member told the author that the concert never took place. A pity.

A meeting of the Board of February 19, 1959, marks the first time in the Club's minutes that the location of the meeting is recorded as the "Clubhouse." Before this, it was always written as two separate words, that is "Club House."

Cecilia Ludlum, a long time waitress at Nassau, remembers serving the Duke and Duchess of Windsor at the Club often during the 1950s.

Food and drink minimums started in 1963 when the Board "requests regular members to support the Club to the point of spending not less that \$250 for food during the fiscal year.



The Nassau Bowl, the oldest U.S. Tennis trophy, was begun by Walter L. Pate and was reported missing in 1966. It was returned and can be seen today in Nassau's trophy case.

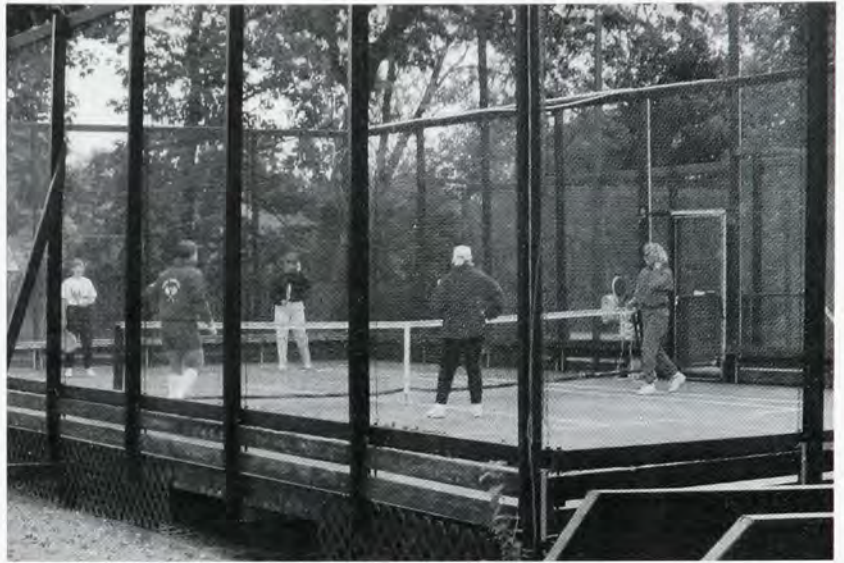
... those who don't spend that much will be reclassified in the following year as Regular Sustaining Members with annual dues of \$720." At the time dues for a Regular Member were \$500.

In July, 1966, a Board meeting noted that the Nassau Bowl had disappeared. The Directors "decided to announce a reward of \$100 for its return, no questions asked." This action evidently had the desired effect.

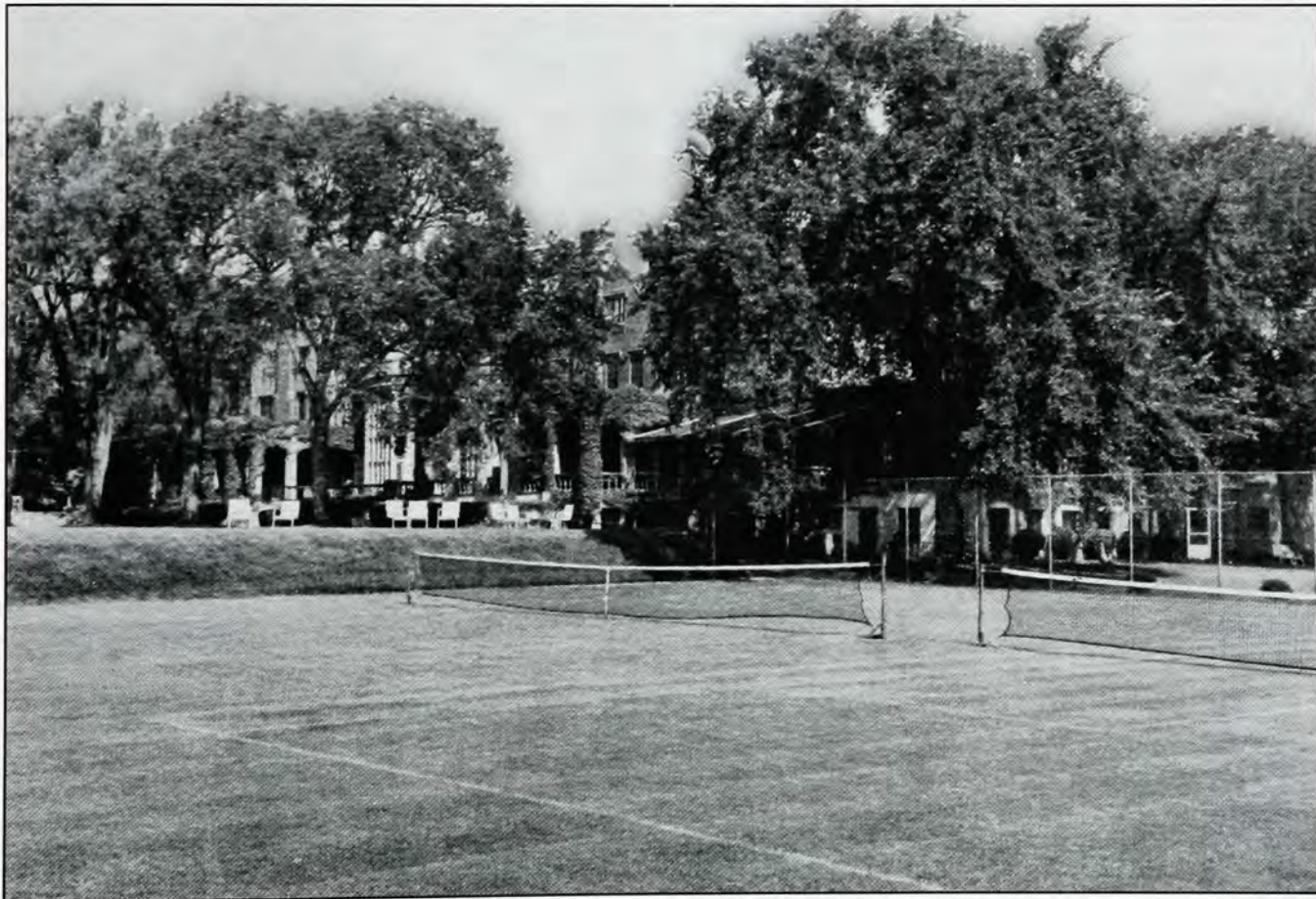
Squash and Paddle

In August, 1965, Dr. Maxian, the Squash Chairman, presented a plan to the Board for updating the squash courts. These had been built in 1927 and not materially altered since then. Maxian pointed out that at that time the courts did not qualify for official play. The lighting was inadequate and he suggested changing it to a flush type. Other needs were for a new upper structure, raising the singles top line by two feet, the doubles, by four feet, and applying new epoxy coating to the walls. The Board decided to proceed immediately with this plan.

In January, 1967, the Board heard a request from James Nick that it consider two pad-



Paddle tennis began in 1969 and continues today.



dle courts for the Club's Capital Improvements program. The cost would be about \$15,000. A little later, a builder of paddle courts showed the Board movies of the sport, and the Board said it "liked" the idea.

In January, 1969, the Board authorized Nick to sign a contract for two courts, to be built by the end of March for \$17,000. At that time, Nick sent out a letter to members on procedures for use of the new courts. Paddle had come to Nassau.

The grass courts were sanctioned to hold the Nassau Bowl Tournament in 1963. Ten years later, they began to give way to Har-Tru.

From Grass To Har-Tru

In October, 1973, the Tennis Committee recommended that the Club replace four of the Club's grass courts with Har-Tru (all weather) surfaces. At the time, there was a boom in tennis participation nationally, and the Committee felt that, since Har-Tru was a far more popu-

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Arthur Ashe at right, and Rod Laver, with an amazing demonstration of agility, hits an overhead. Both practiced at Nassau to prepare for Forest Hills or Wimbledon



"Fortunately, we will retain two center grass courts for the members who enjoy them."

When this work was completed, the Club had 10 Har-Tru courts, and the two grass courts retained as exhibition courts.

In 1985, the Tennis Committee requested that these two remaining grass courts be converted to Har-Tru and this work was completed in October of that year.

It was the end of an era. The Club's grass courts had been the envy of other clubs in the area since they so often brought players to Nassau to prepare for the National Championships, which were played on grass courts at Forest Hills through 1977. Also, top players competing at Wimbledon, a championship still played on grass, came to the Club. Fred Baggs, Charlie Mattman and Chuck McKinley all played at Nassau as members. Arthur Ashe, Rod Laver, John McEnroe and Vitas Gerulaitis also played at the Club in preparation for Forest Hills or Wimbledon.

The Club In Crisis

In 1979, President Fletcher began a review of the Club's operations. His concern was for the Club's loss of members and mounting deficits.

From 1962-3 to 1969-70, the number of regular members had fluctuated from 314 to 325, but in 1970-71, a decline set in. During this fiscal year, regular membership fell to 298, from 1971-72 to 287, and in 1972-73, to 259. Similarly, junior membership had fallen from about 27 to 16. Total membership had fallen by about 100.

The Club had responded by creating a new type of membership—that of Annual Subscriber, with full privileges and regular dues, but no equity or voting privileges—and it temporarily stopped the leak in the dyke. By March of 1973, the Club had welcomed 31 Annual Subscribers, and there were 28 further applicants.

Yet, despite this effort, the year ending March 31, 1973, showed an operating loss, and the losses mounted each year. By the time of President Fletcher's review in 1979, the accrued deficit had grown to some \$260,000, yet the Club faced needed Capital Expenditures of \$450,000. It had even been forced to defer essential repairs to the roof, boilers, kitchen, pool and tennis courts.

During this period, the team of Jim Tingley and Charlie Brett were maintaining Nassau's golf course with a staff of just eight men, the Superintendent (Brett) and one foreman for a nine-month work period. In the off season, four men dismantled and refurbished the Club's aging equipment. Nassau's annual course budget for 1978 was a mere \$172,000 at a time when *Golf Business Magazine* reported that the course budget of a "nice private club" could vary between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

The minutes of a Board meeting in November, 1979, include this statement: "We have not resorted to bailing wire and adhesive tape. However, this can be expected and must be considered. Greens aeration was limited, and the tree program cancelled for this year."



President Jim Fletcher, along with his board, had the vision that led to the development of the Nassau Country Club that exists today.

As an aside, the team of Tingley and Brett had somehow managed to automate the Club's watering system back in 1972 for some \$50,000 when other clubs in the area had been paying \$100,000.

At any rate, by the 1970s, Nassau had become inefficient and was unattractive to new members. The central problem was the clubhouse. While area clubs that were successful at that time had modern, efficient dining facilities and substantial house membership and/or numbers of outside functions, Nassau had few house members, around 45, and could only accommodate a limited number of outside functions with only 100-120 guests. It was essential that Nassau modernize the main floor so that it would seat 250 to 300 people, while also installing airconditioning and an efficient kitchen.

One should point out that Nassau was by no means alone in its financial "crisis." The October, 1974, issue of *Golf Digest Magazine* had reported a combination of economic and social changes which were creating a cost crunch. The prime market for new members—the 30 to 49 age group—was shrinking. Also, the tennis boom referred to earlier had led many prime prospects for private clubs to join racquet clubs rather than golf clubs.

For example, in 1972, Scarsdale Golf Club—traditionally ultra private—had determined that it either had to double its dues or bring in 300 new members, just to pay its bills. It



While the pool was an ongoing dilemma in the 80's, it is now refurbished and playing its role as a unique center for social activities, some after swimming is over as shown here at dusk.

increased membership to 940 (all categories), the regular membership going from 207 to 300.

At Nassau also, a dues increase was not an option, since it would make the Club non-competitive with other Clubs, which had modernized, air-conditioned and so on. Yet, something had to be done. The Club's bank had refused to maintain short term borrowing facilities, let alone increase the Club's credit line. The Club sought a new mortgage and obtained a commitment of \$600,000 at 11 1/2 percent for 10 years. The new mortgage was signed in October, 1979. The Club also decided to explore development of property between the fourth hole and Forest Avenue, and in December of 1979, prepared a submission to the Town of Oyster Bay to rezone the land along the fourth hole for building condominiums. At the same time, the Club's officers implemented a moratorium on all by emergency spending, and formulated an austerity budget.

With the mortgage fixed, Nassau was able to bring its creditors to a current position in 1980. The Club's next requirement was improved upstairs dining facilities. However, the time for this was not quite right from a financial point of view.

Meanwhile several other matters needed attention. The pool needed extensive repairs, the estimated cost between \$30,000 and \$44,000. The proposal for this work was turned down. However, the Club did manage to patch the roof for \$18,000, and plant 100 trees.

In 1981 and 1982, "make do" continued. The Club had the water tank painted outside

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and in (sterilized), completed the steam boiler, but continued to make only bandaid repairs to the pool. Still, these temporary remedial actions did keep the Club functioning and at least attractive on the surface.

Despite these problems, the Club never lost its sense of humor. The August, 1979, issue of the Club's magazine, the *Nassau News* recorded a happening in the best, fun filled tradition of the Club.

"The Half-Way House was the scene of a dinner party followed by a fantastic three-hole tournament. Thirty-six of the Club's best golfers teed off at the 10th in a mixed Pinehurst. Each golfer was only allowed one club (not a putter). For putting, the Committee left a broom on the 10th green, a croquet mallet on the eighth green, and a broken hockey stick on the ninth green. Eddie Doyle and Gisel Englat won with a gross of 39, equivalent to 199 for 18 holes! There also were prizes for most balls in the water and most sand shots.

"The nearest to the hole prize went to Jimmy Nick and his partner Concetta DiBartolomeo, who won a brand new Mercedes Benz donated by a local Match Box Car dealer. Concetta said that since Jimmy had done all the work, she made him the sole owner of the yellow convertible!"

New Practice area

In March 1981, Jim Tingley proposed construction of a practice area on the site of the then first tee. Overall length of the area, he said, would be 195 yards, but it could be 250 yards if the Club were to extend the trap on the right side of the fairway. He recommended repositioning the first tee to the left of the tennis courts. The Board was enthusiastic about the idea and asked Tingley to produce plans.

In August, the Board recommended hiring a golf course architect to review the plans for the practice area and also for a new hole to replace the fifth hole if it were lost to a drainage area wanted at that time by the Town of Oyster Bay. The Club hired Rees Jones in November of 1981 for these purposes.

Jones observed that "many vintage courses such as Nassau have a similar problem—no practice area." He recommended running the first hole more parallel to the out of bounds, giving more room on the left side and reducing the number of shots that might finish in the practice area. He also suggested trees to separate the two areas, and a bunker on the right side of the fairway, a long and narrow one to prevent balls rolling into the practice area.

Jones further stated that a primary item when planning a modern day golf course is providing for a practice area. This thinking was in accord with that of the Board—new members would expect such an area—and so it approved going forward with the new practice facility.

By October of the following year, Tingley reported that the grounds crew had completed work on the new first tee, and that the practice range would be ready in Spring, 1983. And it was.

Experience showed a problem with the range, with practice balls going into the 18th fairway. The Board concluded that this could be hazardous, and ruled that the range be restricted to irons (i. e., no woods).

The second review point for Rees Jones, as mentioned above, was the fifth hole, to cover the possibility of the Club losing the hole to the proposed drainage area. (This was the same land that the Club had earlier applied to have rezoned for condo use. Now, the Town of Oyster Bay had told the Club that it needed the land for drainage.) Jones and the Club considered and recorded several options. However, Rees said that he would prefer to keep the fifth hole if possible, adding that it was an "excellent" hole. If Nassau could get a fair price for the northeast corner of the fourth hole to satisfy the drainage needed by the Town of Oyster Bay, this would be best. (Note: In 1984, the Town awarded Nassau \$217,350 for the land.)

As a point of interest, Jones was impressed with the entire course. He said that the only thing that he might change would be to cut the hill on the first hole so as to eliminate the blind shots into the green.

Main Floor Modernized

In 1983, the time had come to modernize the upstairs dining facilities. For the good of the Club, it just couldn't be delayed any longer.

The Club's annual meeting on October 1 was a test of member resolve. On the agenda was the Board's plan to make major improvements to the main floor, including reconstructing the main dining room to accommodate 225 people, relocating the kitchen, and installing air-



In 1981, the Club commissioned Rees Jones to review plans for the practice ground and a possible new fifth hole.

conditioning. The estimated cost was \$800,000. A majority of members approved the plan, and a membership poll taken later in October was positive, too, 159 members voting Yes, and only 69 voting No. The work was completed in November of 1984 for a little over \$1 million.

The good news at the 1983 annual meeting was the success of the membership drive. There was now a full membership of golfers, and a waiting list for these categories. The Club was only accepting applications for non-golf memberships.

Despite the action taken at this meeting, it would still leave a legacy to future Boards of unresolved projects, costing about \$400,000; these included refurbishing the upstairs bedrooms, modernizing course equipment and the irrigation system, relocating the cart barn and general building maintenance. In addition, there was the outstanding mortgage and debentures. A September, 1983, letter reported that in 1989 there would be a debenture liquidation and payment of the mortgage balance of \$500,000.

After the large expenditures in 1983 to 1984, a relatively stable period followed. The Annual Meeting of October, 1986, confirmed a satisfactory cash flow. At this time, the Club Treasurer was recommending that it was in the best interest of the Club to refinance its mortgage. However, on further exploration, the best option turned out to be paying off the old mortgage—done on August 24, 1987—with part of a line of credit for \$1.2 million that the Club negotiated with Apple Bank at the rate of 9 3/4 percent for five years.

This new financial arrangement allowed the Club to proceed with two of the more pressing needs—a new cart barn and the irrigation system.

The Cart Barn

From 1984 onwards, the Board explored several different proposed sites for a new cart barn. By January of 1986, there were four options:

1. Building an above and below ground structure at the first tee to house club, bag, and cart storage as well as the pro shop—estimated cost, \$450,000;
2. Extending the cart barn at the eighth hole—about \$75,000;
3. Leaving the cart barn at the eighth hole as it was, and moving the maintenance area to the 15th hole—about \$100,000, and
4. Moving the cart barn to the location of the three lower tennis courts. About \$500,000, plus the expense of moving the courts.

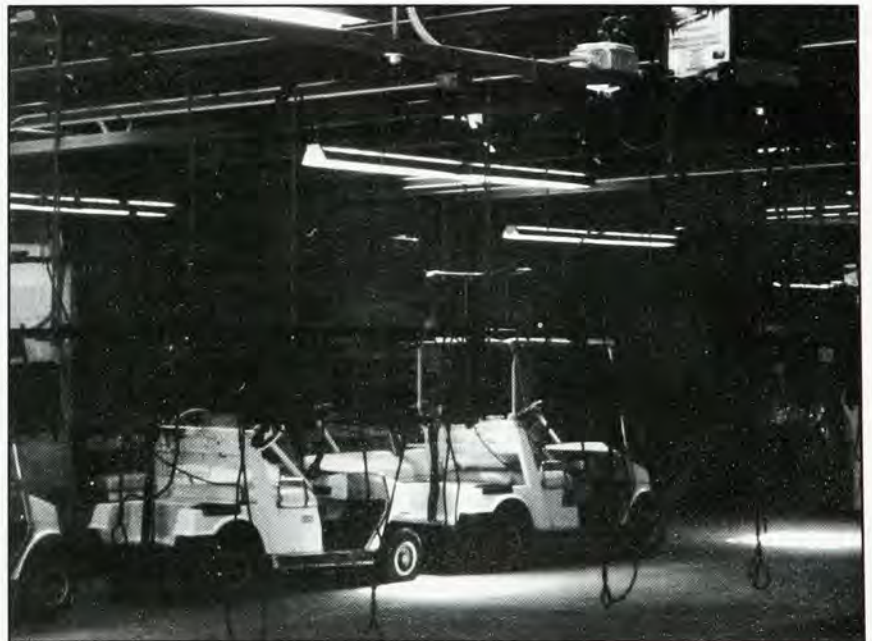
By October of 1986, the Board was considering another possibility—moving the cart barn to a site in the service area behind the kitchen. For a while, the Board liked this option the best and went so far as getting an architect to draw up plans for a building to cost about \$252,000. In February, 1987, the Glen Cove Planning Board had approved this location.

Then came a change of heart. In June of 1987, the Board again started to consider the location near the first tee and had an architect draw up plans. This time around, the estimate was for a building costing about \$300,000. The Board was then considering two alternative sites for the barn:

1. The parking lot, provided more employee parking could be provided at the eighth hole, or
2. The west end of the tennis courts, using about 3/4 of one tennis court—an option that would avoid having to move the first tee.

A little later, the Special Projects Committee reported the second option was not feasible, and that, if the membership didn't want the barn in the first tee area, it recommended abandoning the area completely and expanding the existing buildings on the eighth hole to house new carts.

Finally, at a special meeting of the Board in December, 1987, there was further discussion of all the various possibilities. The vote was 12 to 3 to expand the Club's existing facility at the eighth hole. In the following June, the Board approved plans for a barn large enough to store 72 carts, located next to the maintenance building on the eighth hole; total cost—\$150,000. The barn was completed in the fall of 1989 thanks to the supervision of Philip Neilson.



After a variety of proposed sites, a cart barn facility was completed in 1989.

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Irrigation System

At a meeting in October, 1985, the Board thoroughly discussed the state of the course irrigation system. At the time, portions of the system were as young as 16 years, but other parts were 60 years of age. The average age of the tees was 40 to 50 years. Earlier in 1985, the grounds crew had repaired four tees, but there still wasn't enough water pressure. The Green Committee was planning to repair three more tees in the Spring of 1986. Each year, the Club was spending from \$10,000 to \$15,000 to repair the system.

Early in 1987, a special Board meeting considered a report on the system by the superintendent as well as a survey by James Barrett Associates and a proposal. Evaluation continued that year, and by June the Board recommended that Barrett draw up plans and specifications for bids. There were four bids, the low bid being one of \$470,000 for a Toro system. After some discussion with the designer and contractor, the price was reduced to just under \$400,000. The work was completed in the summer of 1988.

Important Visitors

Visitors to the Club of interest in recent years include basketball players Julius "Dr. J" Erving and Rick Barry in 1994, Arthur Treacher, who was best known as one of Hollywood's

British butlers and who later in life lent his name to a chain of franchised "fish and chip" establishments, and golfers Doug Ford and Jerry Pate.

Doug Ford is one of the finest golfers to come out of the New York area. He won 19 times on the PGA Tour from 1952 to 1963, including victories in the 1955 PGA Championship and 1957 Masters. Ford was one of the very few, very fast players on the Tour. He learned this as a boy. "After I finished caddying or working in the pro shop, there wasn't much light," he says. "I had to play fast if I wanted to play at all. Often, I'd get in 18 holes in the last 90 minutes before sun-down." He had a swing to match his pace—fast and flat—not a thing of beauty. What



Jerry Pate demonstrating his expertise at racing dives.

made him great was his short game: He was a wizard with a wedge and a brilliant putter, rapping the ball firmly with a wristy stroke akin to Billy Casper's. Ford's victory in the 1957 Masters with a score of 283 came two weeks after he predicted he would win with a score of 283. Ford made his nominated number the hard way, holing out for a birdie 3 on the 72nd hole from a buried lie in the left front bunker.

Jerry Pate is a man very much after Nassau's heart. His flair for pure fun, as well as pure drama, was unique among modern players. Pate burst on the golfing world as a PGA Tour rookie in 1976, when his brilliant 5-iron from the rough at Atlanta Country Club on the 72nd hole of the U. S. Open left him a two-foot birdie putt for a two-stroke victory. He is perhaps best remembered for the 1982 Tournament Players Championship, the first time the event was played at the Tournament Players Club at Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra, Florida. When a playoff seemed inevitable, he first holed a 15-foot birdie putt on the notorious 17th hole with its island green, then birdied the 18th hole, thanks to another 5-iron shot that left him less than a couple of feet from the hole in two. As he stood on the final green at the awards ceremony, he enticed PGA Tour Commissioner Deane Beman and course architect Pete Dye to the edge of the bulkhead and pushed both of them in. Finally, he followed them into the water, executing a masterful racing dive. Pate had done this before, diving into a lake by the 18th green after winning the 1981 Memphis Classic. Unfortunately, Pate tore a cartilage in his left shoulder in mid-1982. This injury ended a career that for sheer showmanship might well have rivaled that of Walter Hagen.

In Short

At a March, 1975, Directors' meeting, Jim Tingley recommended that Nassau publish annually a loose leaf club book with a vinyl cover. The book would contain: The club's officers, committees and champions; the club's by-laws, rules and regulations; a club history; the tour-

nament schedules, and the membership list. The expense of the first year would be offset in future years when it would only be necessary print changes. The Board approved.

In October, 1987, the Long Island Philharmonic requested the Board that they be allowed to give a string quartet concert on December 6 at 4 p. m. with the proviso that they could invite up to 12 guests. The Board granted the request. The Club gave a buffet dinner for members attending the concert.

On January 7, 1986, Geoffrey Cornish, the golf course architect, visited Nassau. He went round the course to inspect a proposed tree program. With minor exceptions, he agreed with it. He also "contoured" the course. At the time, it was the conventional wisdom that there would soon be water shortages, labor shortages and vastly increased expenses in course maintenance. "Contouring" involved shaping the edges of the rough, to get away from straight lines and change them to curved lines. The technique became very fashionable, because it not only made the course more playable and more interesting to look at, it also gave practical savings in maintenance costs.

To celebrate Nassau's 90th Anniversary in 1986, the Club hired Paul Hahn, Jr., the famed trick shot artist, to give an exhibition at that year's Lobster. Not surprisingly, a Board meeting at the end of June reported that the tournament was completely sold out.

Bringing It Up To Date

In October, 1988, Robert Van der Waag, President, presiding at the Annual Meeting, was confronted by a member group who demanded spending constraints and By-Law revisions. In response, the Board created a high-powered committee made up of members of the dissident faction as well as individuals then on the Board.

At the time, the Board was already rather active and very much concerned with the downturn in operating revenues as well as the need for improving the Club's facilities and more efficient management. Also, members were expressing their concern at the rapid turnover in club managers—three in the five years from 1985 to 1989. It set up a study group to consider various options.

As a result, the Board created a Capital Projects Committee with the then Vice President, Raymond G. Auwarter as Chairman. Its purpose was to create a long term plan. Key players on this team were:

Arthur J. Keenan, Treasurer, who was already well into updating and revising specific budget procedures, and also revisiting and then streamlining for efficiency and reductions the costs of any immediate and upcoming borrowings, as and when necessary;

Daniel Coleman, Secretary, who also assumed the challenges of chairing the House Committee;

Richard Drosch, who repeated an earlier stint as Chairman of the Membership Committee, and in the process contributed his past experience to the newly instituted interview and approval procedures, and Foster Nichols, who, as Chairman of the Green Committee, continued to introduce long range planning into the golf course upgrade.

The specific targets of this action group, were to: Establish and maintain financial integrity; plan to renovate and modernize Nassau's historic clubhouse, set up an orderly program to restore the Club's course to its roots as a classic links, and simultaneously improve the tennis and platform tennis facilities.

The Capital Projects Committee began its work with the conviction that it should provide balance in the use of available funds; in other words, not make the mistake of committing all the monies to just one facility while ignoring others.

One of the first steps the Committee took was to request the Board for an engineering study of the clubhouse. The Board approved, recognizing that the clubhouse required attention from top to bottom as it went into its second one hundred years. The result was the Bishop Report, and this has become the blueprint for future work. At the same time, it has been a comfort to the Committee to know that members Robert Bonazzi and Philip Neilson always are available to lend



Paul Hahn, Jr., appeared at Nassau in 1986. His exhibition helped sell out the Lobster that year.

CHAPTER NINE—WORLD WAR II TO The Present

their expertise in planning and construction for final evaluations or decisions to proceed.

Meanwhile, Foster Nichols continued preparation of a five-year golf course plan with Green Superintendent Lyman Lambert and Walter Glaws undertook an evaluation of our swim facility with a view towards its upgrading.

All the above were dedicated members—and each recognized as a leader in his career activity.



The 1988 Capital Projects Committee with Chairman Raymond Auwarter, third from left, board members Arthur J. Keenan, Treasurer, Richard Droesch, Chairman of the Membership Committee and Daniel Coleman, Secretary.

It's worth mentioning that having the Vice President chair the Capital Projects Committee was very much intentional, as it ensured continuity in managing Club projects, and this, of course, was because the Vice President was the likely person to succeed as President. When Auwarter became President in 1990, he vacated his position with the Capital Projects as planned, and Droesch became the head of the Capital Projects Committee as he stepped into the Vice President spot.

As the Committee identified target responsibilities, it carefully reviewed outside specialized firms in terms of their cost efficiency as well as their ability to

best address Nassau's needs. After much study, they selected the following:

Bishop for building, construction, and HVAC (Heating and Air Conditioning); Peter Charles Interiors for interior design and decoration, and Forse Designs, Inc. for architectural research and planning the restoration of the golf course.

By 1991, the financial planning was in place. The Club issued a refundable non interest bearing bond, acquired by each member. It was then in a position to present the plans to the members, following a survey to establish priorities that they wished the Board to follow.

Another key move came in June of the same year when Auwarter and Droesch met with Francis X. Keefe. Their interest here was in hiring a "hands on" manager. The Board's concern for more efficient management was mentioned above. Also, Auwarter and Droesch earlier had discussed the type of manager they thought would be best for the Club; a professional who

had the necessary managerial skills, but also someone who was not from a country club background. They had come to the conclusion that a person who had done nothing else but manage country clubs usually would have fixed ideas on how to run a club as well as ingrained procedures. "We wanted *new* ideas in all areas. Hiring Keefe, who had previously been with Marriott and Harrison House, felt just right."

Now the team was fully in place as the Club looked forward to its Centennial in 1996.

In October, 1993, Edward F. McAdams succeeded Auwarter as President, and Coleman became Vice President. The planning that began in 1990 continues in carefully programmed stages.

The restoration of the golf course may be completed to start the 1996 season. However, this is still under review. Mark Haslinger, Chairman of the Green Committee and his active committee members have finished Phase I with minimal disturbance to the members' use of the course. The course itself, already a challenging par 70 links design, is presenting new challenges every time out—this is exciting for all players, members and their guests alike.

We are confident that Nassau's founders, as well as our Scottish brethren, would approve.



Francis X. Keefe came to Nassau in 1991.

The first course the Club built on the present site opened in August, 1899. As stated in Chapter Two, the first scorecard we have for the new links comes from a short article published late that year in the magazine *Golf*, which described a round Walter

J. Travis played at Nassau shortly after the course opened. (For reference, this card appears on the next page.)

The magazine “heartily congratulated” Harvey Murdoch, J. B. Coles Tappan and the other members of the Club’s course design Committee on the “splendid links almost second to none in the country.”

In the following May, *Golf* published a full description of the course and the accompanying map that first appeared on page 8 of this book. (For reference, this is shown again on the next page.) Following are excerpts from this article.

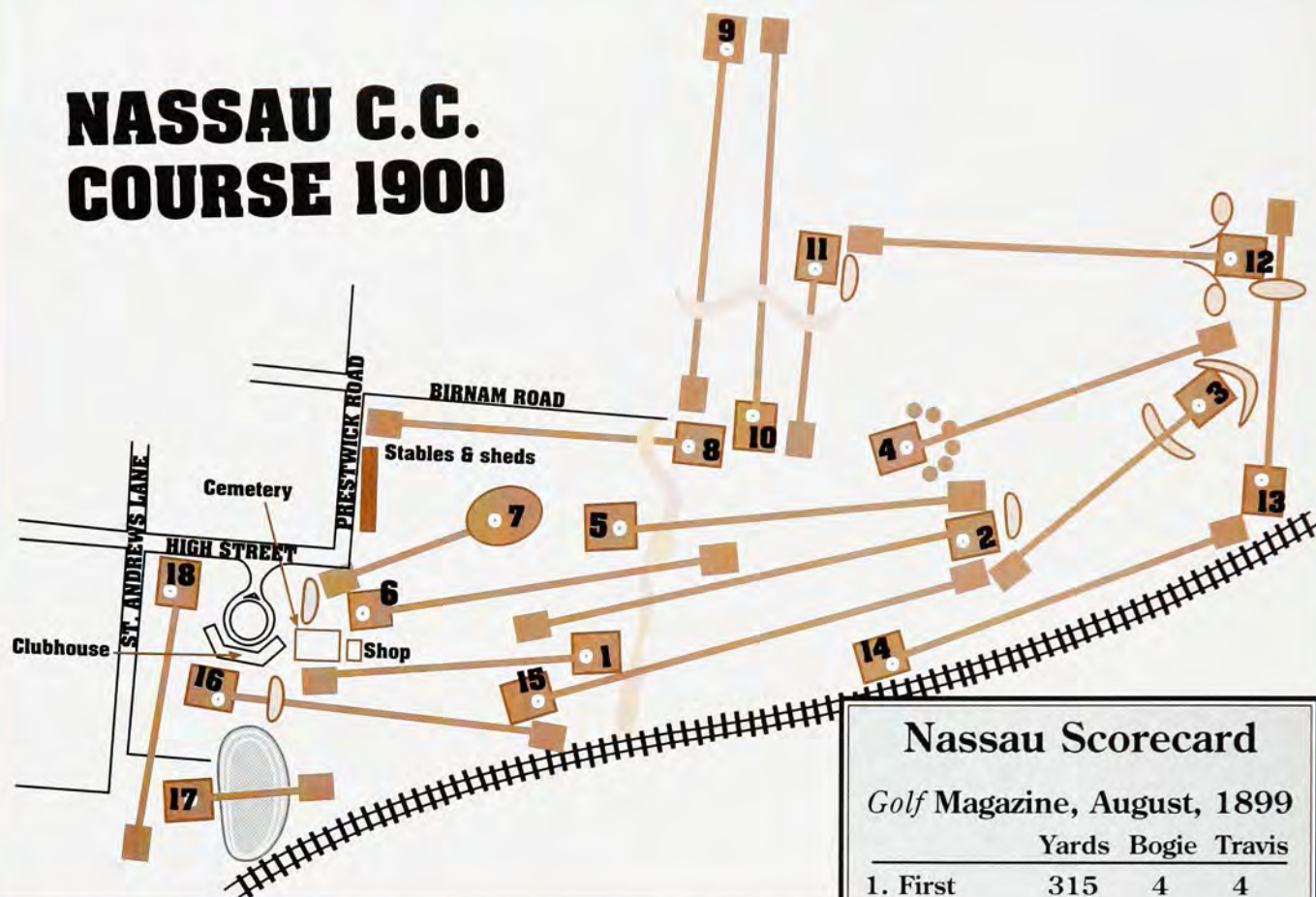
“In its general aspect the course is undulating, but not hilly. It pleases the eye, and at the same time spares one’s legs and wind—a rare and happy combination of the ornamental and the utile. Well that it is so, because the measured playing distance is over 6,000 yards, and the average walk from putting-green to the succeeding tee is unusually long. Full two hours and a half will be used up playing the round under ordinary conditions.”

Nassau in 1899

“The Nassau Country Club has no impulse behind it but golf. In its present location on its own 107 acres of splendid meadow and upland, immediately adjacent to Nassau railroad station, it may be in one sense considered the latest and most ambitious of the Long Island clubs; but in reality it traces its lineage back to a more remote period, for it is an outgrowth of the old Queens County Club whose links lay between Red Spring Lane and Crescent Beach Road on Long Island Sound, inconvenient to the bulk of those who through its medium became inoculated with the virus of the game. The extent of their enthusiasm may be measured by the outlay they incurred to secure and insure for years to come the exercise of the game in the uncontaminated country where, secure in their own possession and surrounded in every direction by estates which are not and are not likely to be in the market, they are entrenched against the probabilities of disturbance and enjoy a sylvan prospect, uninterrupted and unmarred. The 18-hole course of 6,102 yards length they are preparing here is commensurate with the other preparations of the club, not the least of which is the magnificent collection of buildings which will make the Nassau Country Club a home and rendezvous worthy of the splendid residential district in which it is so happily placed”—*Outing Magazine*, September, 1899.



NASSAU C.C. COURSE 1900



The reader should realize that the Club's fathers built this first course at Nassau, like the one at Queens County, when the unresponsive gutta percha ball was still in use. At that time under normal conditions, 180 to 200 yards was a *long drive* for weekend golfers. The average drive of the longest of hitters would be only a trifle over 200 yards. Thus, one can readily appreciate that a 6,000 yard course was a long course for that time. Incidentally, in those early days they measured the length of a hole as we still do today—"between the usual teeing ground and the center of the green."

The article pointed out that, "if the course had any weakness at all, it is in the comparatively easy carries from the tee. At the seventh hole (Circus, 161 yards), the carry must be at least 120 yards to clear the all-around hazard of sand-pit and cop. At all the other holes, however, the bunker (if any) is generally well within the hundred-yard mark."

The Club's design committee laid out the course in such a manner that "the man who slices his shots is almost certain to go scot-free, while out-of-bounds penalties and other unpleasant consequences attend upon the crimes of hooking and pulling." Since hooking is the crime of the low handicapper and slicing that of the duffer, there seems little doubt where the committee's sympathies lay!

Nassau Scorecard

Golf Magazine, August, 1899

	Yards	Bogie	Travis
1. First	315	4	4
2. Long	500	6	5
3. Meadow	317	4	5
4. Mounds	318	5	5
5. Old Lane	367	5	5
6. Graveyard	382	5	5
7. Circus	161	3	4
8. Woods	365	5	5
9. Roadside	375	5	5
Out	3,100	42	43
10. Slide	400	5	5
11. Sand Pit	188	4	4
12. Corner	395	5	5
13. Railroad	300	4	4
14. Cedar	390	5	5
15. Hill	473	6	7
16. Hollow	360	5	4
17. Pond	150	3	3
18. Home	280	4	3
In	2,936	41	40
Totals	6,036	83	83

In reading the article's descriptions of the holes, the short distances a golfer could expect from a gutty ball are rather obvious.

"No. 1 (First, 315 yards). Two full shots should make the green, which is protected at the back from an over-play by a shallow sand-pit. Bogey is 4. (Note: A sand-pit was another word for bunker.)

"No. 2 (Long, 500 yards). There is a cop-bunker 110 yards from the tee, but thereafter the way is clear to the green. The land rises for nearly the entire distance, most players require three full wood shots to be hole high, or at least a drive, brassie (2-wood), and cleek (long iron). Bogey is 6. (Note: "Cop" and "cop-bunker" were terms for a knoll or bank which golf's early course designers used as a hazard or obstacle.)

"No. 3 (Meadow, 317 yards). The play is downhill, and the second shot should easily carry the cop-bunker, which lies some 65 yards short of the green. A V-shaped trap is to be put in to catch an overplay. Bogey is 4.

"No. 4 (Mounds, 318 yards). The ground rises from the tee, and it will take two full shots from play-club (Driver) and brassey to make the 'saucer pattern' green. This is protected by a semicircular row of conical grassy mounds. Between the mounds are shallow sand-pits. The (Club) committee propose to deepen these traps and to build small cops on their inner sides. If this is done, the green will be indeed difficult to reach on the second shot, and most players will prefer to play short and loft over. Bogey is 5. (The green, bunkers and mounds for this hole were located in the area between the 13th tee and 4th fairway.)

"No. 5 (Old Lane, 355 yards). The way is downhill, with a cop-bunker some 40 yards in front of the green. First class driving will put a man on the green in two, but it has been found that a fine second shot is trapped oftener than is fair. Accordingly, the bunker is being changed into a figure S, the convex curve making a difference of about 10 yards to the carry. Bogey is 6. (This is now the 17th hole.)

"No. 6 (Graveyard, 410 yards). The cop-bunker is about 70 yards from the tee, and the play is uphill, requiring two full shots and a half-iron. Near the green is an old graveyard, and a ball lying within the enclosure or the surrounding hedge may be lifted and placed a club's-length from the hedge, the penalty being one stroke. Bogey is 5. (This is now the 18th hole.)

"No. 7 (Circus, 161 yards). This is a picturesque and sporty a hole as one may see anywhere. The green is a punchbowl of from 60 to 70 yards in diameter, and is protected by a cop-bunker and sand-pit that completely invest its upper rim. It looks a great deal easier than it is. Bogey is 3. (One can see what was the green for this hole in the middle of the practice fairway. The tee for the hole was close to the location of the present practice tee.)

"No. 8 (Woods, 340 yards). The woods on the left are out of bounds, and punish a badly pulled ball. It takes a first-class drive to reach the summit of the hill, and the straight cop-bunker protecting the green has been found a little too much of a carry for the second shot. The bunker connects with the cop guarding the fifth green, and it will be changed at the same time with that into a curved line, thus reducing the carry. Bogey is 5. (This hole was the same as the present 1st hole.)

"No. 9 (Road-side, 375 yards). The woods are still on the left, and there is a cop-bunker 80 yards from the tee, and steadily rising ground to the green. The (Club) committee propose putting in a long shallow sand-pit to divide the ninth and tenth holes and incidentally trap sliced balls. Two full shots and a quarter-iron should make the green. Bogey is 5. (This is now the 2nd hole.)

"No. 10 (Slide, 400 yards). Downhill off the tee, the long sand-pit to be put in between this and the ninth hole will take care of a slice. A pulled ball is out of bounds on the left. There is a cop-bunker about 290 yards from the tee to be carried by the second shot. The ground, however, descends, and a player is apt to get a hanging lie for the brassey. Once over the hazard, the



The old 7th (Circus) hole. If you look closely, you can see a tiny figure of a workman on the center of the green.

CHAPTER TEN—The Golf Course

way to the green is clear. Bogey is 6.

"No. 11 (Sand-pit, 188 yards). A first-class drive should make the green, but the sand-pit, a deep excavation running at right angles to the cop-bunker, inflicts merited punishment upon the man who cuts his ball. The carry over the bunker 115 yards. Bogey is 4.

"No. 12 (Corner, 395 yards). The fence on the left is out of bounds, and there is a V-shaped bunker (without any trench) 40 yards short of the green. The 'class' player has a chance to gain a stroke here, as most men will be content to play short and loft over on the third shot. A shallow sand-pit traps an overplayed approach. Bogey is 5.

"No. 13 (Railroad, 300 yards). Play is toward the railway, with out-of-bounds on the left. A sand-pit 50 yards in front of the tee lies in wait for a top, and a second trap-bunker, which is to be put in back of the third green, will catch a sliced second. The green should be made in two. Bogey is 4.

"No. 14 (Cedar, 390 yards). A ball outside of the railway fence on the left must be brought in and dropped, with a penalty of one stroke. For the drive, the going is uphill, but the ball generally lies cocked up, and a well-played second will make the green; there being a sharp descent to the hole. Bogey is 5. (The tee of this hole remains on the present sixth hole, about 180 yards off the tee on the left. The hole is the present 6th hole with a new green on top of the highest point on the course.)

"No. 15 (Hill, 473 yards). The cop-bunker lies about 370 yards from the tee, almost too much to carry with the second. Vardon could do it, but not the average scratch man, although

the tee is elevated and there is every chance for a cracking drive. Bogey is 6.

"No. 16 (Hollow, 360 yards). There is a shallow sand-pit 60 yards short of the green, but as the going is all downhill the average player should lie close up with his second, and be on in three. Bogey is 5. (This hole was located below the old clubhouse, site of the present practice green.)

"No. 17 (Pond, 150 yards). The tee is close to the pond, and the necessary carry is



The old Pond hole, then on the 17th hole, was a medium-length par 3.

not over 70 yards. Barring a top, the hole should be made in a Bogey 3. (This is today's 8th hole, except today it is longer, a par 4.)

"No. 18 (Home, 280 yards). There is a cop-bunker 80 yards from the tee, and a road and out-of-bounds on the left. Otherwise the road is clear, and the green is the largest and finest on the course. It should be made easily in the bogey of 4." (This is now the 9th hole, but the green for the old 18th hole was short and left, on St. Andrews Lane.)

Editor's note: The course has gone through so many changes that it is very difficult to identify the exact locations of individual holes on the original course. However, we have noted what remnants we can identify, and also, for convenience, summarized them later at the end of this chapter.

Returning to this second scorecard, bogey for the 10th hole is 6 rather than the 5 on the original card, even though its length did not change. Thus the bogey for the second card totals 84, one more than the original card.

The article was published in May, 1900, just before Nassau was to host the Met Amateur and so the question of par arose. "The value of the par round, in which distance is taken as the chief factor, would figure down as low as 75, and it is not impossible that Douglas or Travis

may score below the 80 mark."

More significant is that, even though there are only six months between the scorecards, the lengths of a few holes on the front nine of this second card are slightly different from the first card. On the original card, page 89 the fifth hole is 367 yards, the sixth hole is 382 yards, and the eighth hole is 365 yards, whereas these holes measure 355, 410 and 340 yards on the second card). One can note similar slight variations in subsequent cards for the course. These presumably represented slight adjustments of greens or tees.

The *Glen Cove Echo* of July 28, 1900, provides an interesting footnote to the discussion of what sort of score a good amateur golfer might make on the course. It describes play at Nassau "last Saturday" for various Club cups, then continues as follows.

"In the 72-hole competition between J. B. C. Tappan and W. L. Hicks the former established a new club record for the links. He went out in 41, and in in 40, making 81 for the round. He used but two clubs during the entire match, a driver and a mashie, otherwise he would doubtless have done even better. The record for the course is 80, made by ex-Champion Findlay Douglas in the opening round of the Metropolitan Golf Association (Championship) last Spring. Mr. Tappan won the 72-hole competition by 6 up and 4 to play."

Tappan's score is even more remarkable when one remembers that Walter Travis's score in August, 1899, was 83. Tappan and Hicks were both Club champions at Nassau's predecessor Club, the Queens County Club; Tappan in 1897, Hicks in 1898.

The Course In 1909

As the above shows, the Club made minor revisions to the course almost immediately. Otherwise, the holes of the new course remained substantially the same for a long time. One can see this from an article about Nassau by Leighton Calkins in a 1909 issue of the *American Golfer*. The lengths of each hole then were as on the scorecard at right.

As one can see, the course hasn't changed much. However, Calkins pointed out that the tee of the 15th hole had been put forward "when the rubber ball came into use." This comment deserves further explanation.

The Coming of the Haskell Ball

Until 1898, the old gutta percha ball or "guty" reigned supreme. However, that year Coburn Haskell, a wealthy Cleveland businessman, invented the rubber core (or Haskell)

Nassau Scorecard *American Golfer* Magazine, 1909

	Yards
1. First	310
2. Long	500
3. Meadow	325
4. Mounds	325
5. Old Lane	405
6. Graveyard	391
7. Circus	161
8. Woods	390
9. Roadside	375
Out	3,182
10. Slide	390
11. Sand Pit	190
12. Corner	395
13. Railroad	300
14. Cedar	392
15. Hill	443
16. Hollow	360
17. Pond	140
18. Home	280
In	2,890
Total	6,072



Feathery Circa 1400



Gutta percha circa 1880's



Haskell ball early 1900's

ball. The new ball had a small rubber core wrapped with rubber windings and then covered with gutta percha (later a balata) cover.

B. F. Goodrich put the ball on the market in the following year. At first, the Haskell encountered resistance even though it was some 30 yards longer off the tee than the gutty and made iron shots much easier to play for the average player. This was because the ball—known as the "Bounding Billy," from which, incidentally, the term "bounder" or cad derived—was more difficult to control around and on the green than the unresponsive gutty. However, it didn't take long for the golfing world to adapt to it.

When Walter Travis, a great putter, first tried the Haskell in 1901, he condemned the new ball on the ground that he couldn't putt it with any degree of consistency. A few months later, he used the Haskell to win the Amateur Championship. In 1902, the winners of both the U. S.

CHAPTER TEN—The Golf Course

and British Opens played Haskell. When Travis, a short hitter playing a Haskell, managed to beat Britisher Ted Blackwell, one of the longest hitters of that time playing a gutty, in the final of the 1904 British Amateur, the Haskell relegated the gutty to the ashcan.

The new ball's extra distance gave club green committees, including Nassau's, a problem. In most cases, the solution they adopted was to lengthen their courses. The reason that Nassau stayed with much the same course probably is because they couldn't increase the course's yardage significantly without acquiring new land. Opportunities to do this did not come until later. Moreover, from the time the Haskell ball came into general use, the Club's top priority was enlarging, later replacing, the clubhouse. Modernizing the course could wait.

Even so, one can detect other changes—besides the shortening of the 15th hole from 473 yards in 1900 and 1901 to 443 yards by 1909. Comparing the 1909 card to the earlier cards, there were slight increases in yardage at the third and fourth, and considerable increases at the fifth and eighth holes. The fifth went from 367 yards in 1900 to 355 yards in 1901 and then to 405 by 1909, the eighth from 365 and 340 yards to 390 yards. Some of the other holes show slight decreases.

Critiques Of The Course

Calkins started by praising the Nassau course's "fine stretch of rolling country," adding that "It was a tribute to Mr. Harvey Murdoch, who laid out the course over 10 years ago, to note how perfectly every foot of slope plays its part in the character of each hole." However, while he praised the Nassau's two-shot holes and "perfect" greens, he was not in love with Nassau's artificial hazards—as opposed to natural hazards such as the pond on the 17th hole.

"The most objectionable thing about Nassau," he said, "is the ugly cop bunker, but I understand that it is to be relegated, and if so the course would not be hurt a particle and its appearance much improved. The bunkers at Nassau, and the other hazards, have always been too shallow and for that reason ineffective, but the work has already begun and an able committee is in charge of it." He also criticized several greens for being too flat, saying they would be "improved by being more uneven in surface."

Calkins went on to make specific recommendations on each hole. They included lengthening the 15th back to its former length, and the 7th "Circus" hole from 161 by 20 yards, as well as doing away with every cop bunker on the course. These he would have replaced either with a pot bunker or simply eliminating them altogether and leaving rough in their place. On just about every hole, he recommended making existing bunkers much deeper and also suggested several additional bunkers. (Note: A pot bunker is a deep, usually small bunker with steep sides.)

Calkins disliked the mounds on the 4th hole. "I do not care for the grand and pompous artificiality of the mounds guarding the green in front," he said. "However, the hazard is certainly effective. Perhaps it may be as well stand as a monument to the bunker idea of a decade ago!" He did suggest removing the "artificial mounds" on the eighth hole.

Calkins was hardly alone in criticizing the artificial features often found on America's early courses, including Nassau. As early as 1906, Van Tassel Sutphen wrote that green committees had begun to realize that "terraced teeing grounds, pocket-handkerchief greens and an endless succession of cross cop bunkers were not the whole of golf." He also talked of the "new side hazards along the line of play replacing cross-bunkers." (Note: Cross-bunkers were long bunkers sitting astride most or even the whole of the fairway). By 1909, these artificial hazards were "out" and more natural looking hazards were "in." One can see this from Calkins' suggestion for Nassau's 11th hole to pull down the cop bunker and build a trap—"made irregular in such a way as *almost to appear like a natural hazard*" (Author's italics).

Calkins also was not the first to critique the Nassau course. In 1906, Walter J. Travis, writing in the January issue of *Country Life in America*, made similar criticisms to Calkins, saying that many of Nassau's fairway bunkers were not deep enough. "Frequently," Travis said, "the ball is lying so well the green may be reached. The coarse quality of the sand does not allow the ball to sink in, but rather prevents its doing so. This, combined with frequent raking—something that never should be done—assists in securing a very good lie. These particular hazards are not stretched forward sufficiently far toward the hole enough as balls frequently carry beyond them."

Like Calkins, Travis felt that generally the course was "distinctly good, with first class greens" and ranked "among the best in the metropolitan district," but he also disliked the artificial quality of its hazards. The course "is disfigured," Travis said, "by so many purely artificial creations in the shape of cop bunkers extending across the fairway. They serve their purpose as hazards, but they mar the beauty of the course from the golfing point of view." He suggested

replacing them with "irregularly shaped mounds" so that the "present cut-and-dried appearance would give way to a more natural—more golfy—look."

Many of the bunkers, cop bunkers and mounds found at Nassau, as well as other many other early American courses, seem very dated, even laughable, to us today. The banks at the front of bunkers and those that formed cop bunkers were often near triangular in cross section. Mounds often had a near perfect cone shape and, because of this, received the nickname of "chocolate drops."

Mounds originally were an ingenious way which early course builders devised to get rid of surface stones at a time when the only power available was man and horse power. So they would make a pile of these stones, cover it with earth and turf, and there was your chocolate drop. These mounds then became so popular that often designers used them even if there were no surface stones.

Some Course Adjustments

For the next few years, the holes on the Nassau course remained much the same, but the Club did shuffle and re-shuffle the order in which it played them.

For example, we have another card for the Nassau course that is dated 191..., shown below. Thus, we know it dates from 1910 or the teens, but not, of course, the exact year.

The distances of individual holes on this score card are slightly different to the previous card. Also, this is the first card we have that shows bogey and par figures together. Another interesting feature are the Par "4 1/2" holes: These came from an early attempt to rate holes more exactly and thus be able to develop more accurate handicaps. However, the most important change here is that the Club radically altered the order in which golfers played the holes.

No. 4 (Mounds), No. 5 (Old Lane) and No. 6. (Graveyard) on the 1900 score card became No. 16, 17, and 18 on the 191... card;

No. 7 (Circus), No. 8. (Woods), No. 9. (Roadside), No. 10 (Slide), No. 11 (Sandpit) and No. 12 (Corner) on the 1900 score card became No. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 on the 191... card, and

No. 13 (Railroad), No. 14 (Cedar), No. 15 (Hill), No. 16 (Hollow), No. 17. (Pond), and No. 18 (Home) on the 1900 score card became No. 4,

DATE		191					
	HOLE	Y'DS	BOGEY	PAR	SELF	OPPONENT	
First	1	310	4	4			
Long	2	500	5	5			
Meadow	3	310	4	4			
Railroad	4	295	4	4			
Cedar	5	383	5	4 1/2			
Hill	6	443	5	5			
Hollow	7	345	5	4			
Pond	8	140	3	3			
Hicks Cor.	9	280	4	4			
Circus	10	171	3	3			
Woods	11	370	5	4			
Roadside	12	375	5	4			
Slide	13	390	5	4			
Sand Pit	14	190	3	3			
Corner	15	395	5	4			
Mounds	16	325	5	4			
Old Lane	17	405	5	4 1/2			
Graveyard	18	391	5	4			
Totals		6018	80	72			
Handicap							
Net Score							
Self							
Opponent							

Nassau Scorecard

191...

	Hole	Yards	Bogey	Par
First	1	310	4	4
Long	2	500	5	5
Meadow	3	310	4	4
Railroad	4	295	4	4
Cedar	5	383	5	4 1/2
Hill	6	443	5	5
Hollow	7	345	5	4
Pond	8	140	3	3
Hick's Corner	9	280	4	4
Out		3,006	39	37 1/2
Circus	10	171	3	3
Woods	11	370	5	4
Roadside	12	375	5	4
Slide	13	390	5	4
Sandpit	14	190	3	3
Corner	15	395	5	4
Mounds	16	325	5	4
Old Lane	17	405	5	4 1/2
Graveyard	18	391	5	4
In		3,012	41	34 1/2
Total		6,018	80	72

CHAPTER TEN—The Golf Course

5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 on the 191... card, with the name of the former 18th hole changed from "Home" to "Hick's Corner."

By the time the Women's Amateur came to Nassau in 1914, the Club was in the process of lengthening and altering the course. But, since

these were not yet complete, the regular course was used for the championship. This was substantially the same as the above 191... course with only a minor "shuffle" of the holes—No. 3 (Meadow) on the 191... card became No. 15 for the championship, and No. 15 (Corner) on the 191... card became No. 3 for the championship. Three holes were longer for the championship: No. 4 (Railway) went from 295 yards to 300, No. 5 (Cedar) from 383 to 392 and No. 7 (Hollow) from 345 to 360. One was shorter: No. 10 (Circus) went from 171 to 161.

Course Redesign, 1911-1915

With the new Clubhouse finished in 1910, and its furnishing completed by October of 1911, the Club could now turn to modernizing the golf course. On the 17th of that month, the Club's Governors appointed a special committee "to arrange for the further bunkering of the course: Messrs. Whitney, Douglas, Doubleday, Busch and H. L. Pratt."

On October 26, the Directors stated: "That the links need to be intelligently bunkered, so as to be brought up to date is well recognized by your Board of Governors, and the suggestions which we have gathered from visiting experts are now to be placed in the hands of a special committee to lay out the work, so that much of it can be done in the coming winter, when labor is easily obtained, will, it is expected result in the needed improvement."

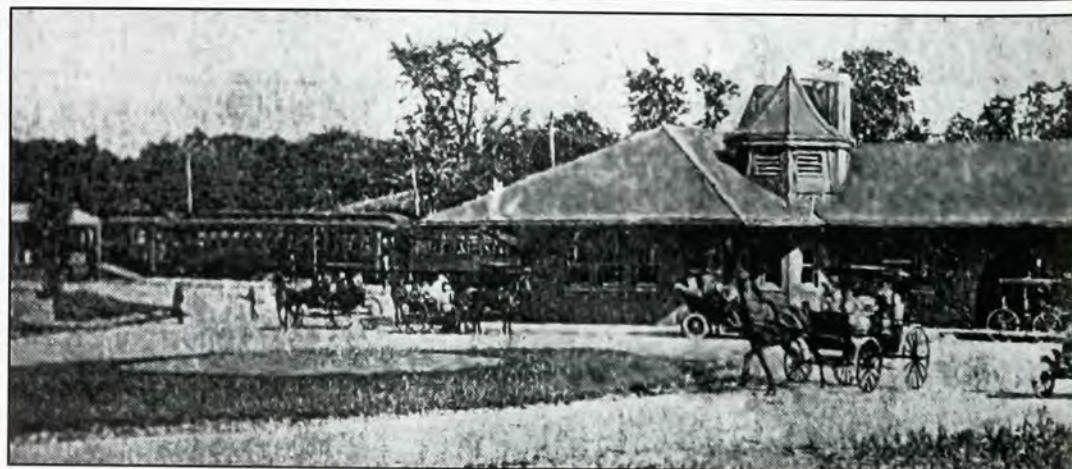
Unfortunately, we have no records of the work done, but must assume that the "visiting experts" made recommendations similar to those of Travis and Calkins, who may well have been two of these unnamed experts.

A couple of years later, the



The first clubhouse is shown here as it appeared in 1908. Two years later it gave way to a larger and more classical design.

The first photo of the new clubhouse in 1910, still under construction here. Note some of the new model cars in front. Before the course changed, the road wound to the front of the building as shown here. Below is a postcard view of the Glen Cove station as it appeared in 1908.



Club's Annual Meeting, held following an informal dinner at Delmonico's on January 21, 1913, signaled important changes to the course. The President reported that the Nassau Development Company had purchased as an addition to the existing course, and just to the east of it, nine acres of land. He said that the Club planned to use the land to extend the course from about 6,000 yards up to some 6,500 yards and had raised a special fund of \$30,025 for the construction.

In February there was a Special Meeting of the Club's Governors at which H. F. Whitney, the Grounds Committee Chairman, reported on one improvement made to the course during the previous two years. He said that his Committee had gradually enlarged the greens, "in line with recommendations by leading authorities for bettering courses." Evidently, Nassau's greens must have been of the "pocket handkerchief" variety mentioned earlier.

Whitney also described plans for the future of the course. "Several features of the course are completely out of date," he said. "First, the size and flatness of the greens. Second, many greens are not properly protected by modern sand traps. Third, the three short holes at Nassau have hardly an interesting feature. Fourth, the cross bunker is being supplanted by the properly built sand trap (the side hazards mentioned above), the best way to punish a poor shot as well as the most economical way to do so. Fifth, the tees should, where practicable, be made larger and level with the ground, to afford more area in which to move the (tee) marker."

In October, 1914, the *Brooklyn Eagle* reported: "The alterations in the Nassau links are proceeding so well that the new lengthened course should be in fine condition for the opening of the playing season next spring." However, apparently, there were two interim courses before the course reached its full length of some 6,500 yards. About April of the following year, the *Eagle* stated that the new course would be about 6,200 yards long. This agrees with the length of the two interim scorecards that follow.

It's difficult to fully comment on the first Interim Course, because so many of the hole names were different to those of the 191... course. The 1st hole was much the same, as were the 6th (Hill) 7th (Hollow), 8th (Pond), 9th (Hicks) and 17th and 18th even though these last two had different names. One can also spot the Mounds hole (No. 16), but as will be seen in a moment, this was one of the holes the Club substantially revised and lengthened. Possibly the Club used new names, because this was not the final layout. Moreover, one can see the "work in progress" aspects of this card from the names that appear here for the first time—Overlook (2nd), Oasis (the new 4th), and Redan (13th)—also seeing use in the fully lengthened course. Also, the Circus hole was not in play here even though it became part of the final revised course, and while Buckram was the name used for the 15th here, a short par 3, in the fully lengthened course it became a par 5.

A remarkable fact about this scorecard is the number of par 5s—four going out, and three coming in, for a grand total of seven ! Today, the yardages suggested by the USGA for par 4s are 251 to 470 yards. So, six of those par 5s—the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 10th, 14th and 16th—now would most probably be par 4s. However, in those days, these par 5s were legitimate, because golf balls did not fly nearly as far as modern balls, nor were they anywhere near as consistent.

One small point: The holes with pars of 4 1/2 are gone.

The 13th (Redan) evidently was the same hole as the old Sandpit. Not only are both 190 or so yards long, but, while one card we have for the final revised course identifies the hole as "Sand Pit," the other calls it "Redan." We can probably assume that using the name "Redan" indicated new bunkering and reconstruction of the green that converted the hole to a Redan-type design (after the famous Redan 15th hole at North Berwick, Scotland). A report by Howard F. Whitney, then Nassau Green Chairman, of the work done in 1913 and 1914 bolsters this supposition, as it mentions rebuilding the green as well as new bunkers for this hole.

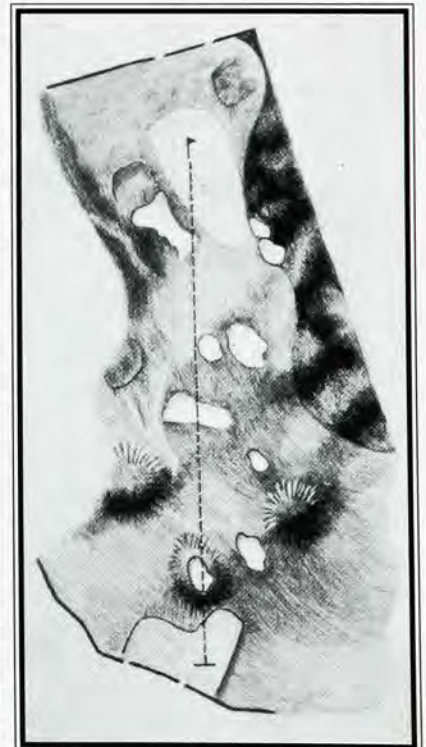
The idea of having a Redan hole at Nassau may well have come from Charles B. Macdonald's National Golf Links of America, near Southampton, L. I., N. Y. It featured hole designs based on great British holes such as the Alps at Prestwick, the Eden and Road holes at St. Andrews and the Sahara at Royal St. George's. It also included a Redan hole. The National had opened in 1909 to a torrent of praise in the golfing press, including such famed writers as Bernard Darwin and Horace Hutchinson. It became an inspiration and model for American golf course architecture from that day to this.

A Redan hole usually is a longish par 3 hole requiring a long iron. The axis of the

First Interim Course 1913-1914

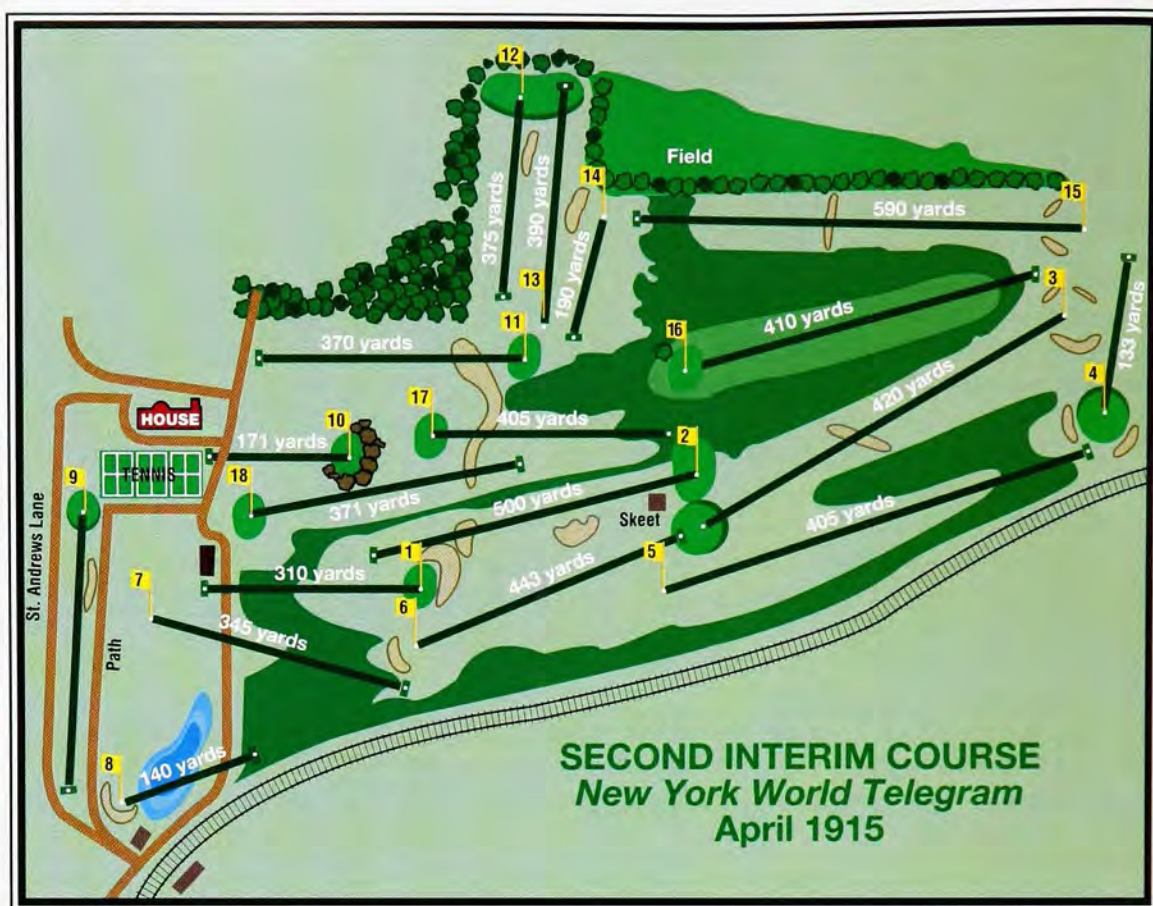
(Club Scorecard)

Hole	Name	Yards	Par
1.	First	306	4
2.	Overlook	448	5
3.	Pepperidge	466	5
4.	Oasis	146	3
5.	Tip-Top	438	5
6.	Hill	478	5
7.	Hollow	361	4
8.	Pond	149	3
9.	Hicks	266	4
Out		3,058	38
10.	Woods	448	5
11.	Misery	381	4
12.	Humps	390	4
13.	Redan	192	3
14.	Vale	454	5
15.	Buckram	127	3
16.	Mounds	451	5
17.	Grove	400	4
18.	Home	382	4
In		3,225	37
Total		6,283	75



*The original Redan hole, the 15th at
North Berwick, Scotland.*

CHAPTER TEN—The Golf Course



Second Interim Course

New York World Telegram, April 1915

Hole	Name	Yards
1.	First	310
2.	Long	500
3.	Meadow	420
4.	Plateau	133
5.	Cedar	405
6.	Hill	443
7.	Hollow	345
8.	Pond	140
9.	Hick's Corner	280
	Out	2,976
10.	Circus	171
11.	Woods	370
12.	Roadside	375
13.	Slide	390
14.	Sand Pit	190
15.	Corner	590
16.	Mounds	410
17.	Old Lane	405
18.	Graveyard	391
	In	3,292

green is set diagonally across the line of play on a right-to-left angle, with a rise leading into the front right of the green. The tee shot has to flirt with a deep bunker on the left side of the green; another bunker is on the right at the back. (Some "Redan" holes reverse these features.) Short of the green is a feature that hides the player's view of the area between it and the green. This can be a hollow, a ridge or more bunkers. Its purpose is to mislead golfers into underestimating the distance.

A description of the second interim course appeared in an article published on April 10, 1915 in the *New York World Telegram*. The newspaper evidently was under the impression that it was reporting on the finished redesign of the Nassau course, scheduled to be completed on Memorial Day. However, even though it was not the final version, the article did describe the main features of the redesign and included a scorecard and a diagram of the revised course.

The article began, "Beginning Memorial Day, Nassau Country Club will open the way for the experts to write their names afresh on the scroll of fame by putting into commission a strip of land at the Locust Valley end of the links on which have been laid out three new putting greens and three new tees. As the extension adds 250 yards to the length of the course, the records will have to be revised. William L. Hicks who holds the amateur mark of 70, will have to try again, as will James Maiden, the club professional, who has been round in 67."

The article then makes an interesting statement. "After Memorial Day, the course will measure 6,268 yards and it will always be possible to add a little more by building new tees." This probably accounts for the difference between the length of this course and that of the final revised course.

The article continued, "The changes have particularly to do with the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 15th and 16th holes. The 4th hole is a new one, it will be a mashie (5-iron) shot of 133 yards to a plateau green. The old 4th of 295 yards will be eliminated entirely.

"All the way to the 15th, the course will be much as it has been for several years. The 15th takes the player over the old putting green to the new ground and will be almost 200 yards longer than it was. Next comes the Mounds hole, now 325 yards, but it is to be stretched to 410 yards, and the mounds are to be removed to allow for the second shot getting home."

The article mentioned that, while the individual holes had remained much the same since the time of the 1903 U. S. Amateur in regard to distance, at times the start of the round had "alternated between the "Graveyard" tee (18th hole) and the "Circus" (10th hole)." When the Club had completed its new clubhouse (in 1910), members favored the Circus hole, because it gave golfers less of a walk from the clubhouse. However, this article makes it clear that the first hole was to remain where it had been in the times of the old clubhouse.

The article also noted changes in the bunkering since 1903. At the first hole, bunkers now guarded the formerly "quite unguarded green." The 8th (Pond) hole described as "one of the sportiest holes on the course" now had "a deep bunker running three-quarters of the way around the green which had been raised in recent times." Bunkers now made the approach at the 9th more difficult. The 10th (Circus) hole had been "better trapped than ever and lengthened by 10 yards," and the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th holes all had "had their system of bunkering overhauled."

The Final Design, 1915

The *Brooklyn Eagle* of May 26, 1915, described the final design. Like previous articles, this said that the five new holes would go into commission on Memorial Day and that "only one of the five is entirely new. That is the 4th. The other four holes—the 3rd, 5th, 15th and 16th—have been lengthened considerably. The increase in par is two strokes. " The scorecard printed in the *Eagle* is shown at left. Following are excerpts from the article.

"At the third hole, the green has been carried east from the old green a distance of 152 yards. With an easterly wind, the second shot will have to be a screaming brassie. Most golfers will consider 'three on the green' good enough.

"Then comes the entirely new short fourth hole, which runs about north to south. The tee is back of the high bunker guarding the back of the 15th green. The play is toward the railroad to a plateau green, a shade higher than the tee. Between tee and green there is a vast excavation that leaves nothing to be desired in the way of creating mental hazards.

"(Nassau) Superintendent H. L. Hedger, adept with short irons, says, 'they say that water presents the worst of mental hazards, but for myself I'd rather play over the River Styx with old Charon for a caddy than face this ghastly hole in the earth with a south wind in my face or a cross wind from east or west. Around the green is trouble galore (the green was heavily trapped) so that the ball must be played to hold the carpet.'"

"The old fourth fairway and green no longer exist and the new tee at the fifth has been shifted from just west of the (old) fourth green to a position near the new fourth green. The drive from the new fifth is directly over the sand trap that used to guard the old fourth green. Consequently, the tee shot at the fifth, instead of reaching the crest of the hill along the railroad track, as of old, is well down under the slope. This makes it a three-shot hole, and, in addition, a blind hole on the first two shots."

"The 15th is now rightly called 'Tipperary' for it is a long, long way to the green. Now the green has been pushed straight east 180 yards, making three long shots to get flag high. In playing the third shot, the green lies behind a low knoll. The green is backed by a high, grassy mound. In front, between knoll and green, lies a deep opening, filled with soft, white sand warranted to trouble the fiercest of niblicks. From where the golfer will play his third shot, he can see only the flag. Unless he ascends the knoll, he will be unaware of the terrors awaiting him in the gully.

"On the 16th, formerly conspicuous by the 'chocolate drops' guarding the front of the green, these mounds have been cut away, although they still remain at the side. Extra trapping along the fairway will make up for opening the path to the green. Elimination of the fourth fairway that used to pass behind the 16th tee will enable this tee to be moved eastward so as to add 113 yards to the length of the hole."

"In places where the golfers do not play, some 1,500 trees have been set out in the process toward beautification."

On May 29, 1915, the new holes opened, and the *Brooklyn Eagle* reported that "The opening was signaled by a score of 74, the even par, by James Maiden." The best amateur score was a gross 82, and a net, off 8 handicap, of 74 by Carol H. Sayre, playing

Nassau Scorecard as of Memorial Day, 1915

Brooklyn Eagle, May 26, 1915

Hole	Name	Yardage	Par
1	First	306	4
2	Overlook	499	5
3	Buckram <i>Meadow</i>	466	5
4	Peach <i>Oasis</i>	146	3
5	Cedar	533	5
6	Hill	441	5
7	Hollow	361	4
8	Pond	149	3
9	Hicks	266	4
Out		3,167	38
10	Circus	182	3
11	Woods	370	4
12	Italy <i>Roadside</i>	381	4
13	Hump <i>Slide</i>	390	4
14	Sand Pit <i>Redan</i>	192	3
15	Tipperary <i>Buckram</i>	75	5
16	Mounds	438	5
17	Grove <i>Old Lane</i>	400	4
18	Graveyard	382	4
In		3,310	36
Total		6,477	74

Note: There also exists a Nassau score card from this time identical to the above in regard to the distances, hole by hole. But, some of the hole names are different (these are shown above in *italic*).

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in the Memorial Day Cup.

On opening day, Walter J. Travis was on hand to play a friendly round at Nassau. Afterwards, he declared the new fourth hole "to be one of the finest of its kind in the country."

The May, 1916 issue of the *American Golfer* noted two adjustments to the recently redesigned course. It stated, "Recently work has been started on a couple more changes. The long fifth hole, running parallel with the railroad, will be converted into a two-shot hole, the green to be located on the top of the hill and the next one will be correspondingly lengthened, making it a three-shot hole."

Today's green chairmen and golf course superintendents may smile at the following. The redesign of the course during 1913 and 1914 cost a total of \$28,809.83. Besides the work on the five new holes described above, this figure also included rebuilding the greens on the eighth, 13th, 14th and 18th holes, new bunkers on 13 and 14 and the cost of a second well, new water lines and a new pump.

Course Changes In The 1920s

In March of 1920, the Club's Governors authorized the Grounds Committee to proceed with its plan of collecting by subscription money "for the improvement of the links" and

employing Devereux Emmet as golf course architect. They also extended "the privileges of the club" to Emmet for the year.

Emmet was a well known course architect who mostly worked on the East Coast, but also designed several courses in Bermuda and the Bahamas. In 1901, he had designed the Garden City Golf Club course.

In April, the Grounds Committee reported that they had gone ahead on the reconstruction of the course. The estimate Emmett submitted for the work was about \$7,000, but he had said that it probably would cost more.

Unfortunately, no records have come down to us of the course changes made at this time. However, if Emmett's estimate of \$7,000 was about right, they can't have been too extensive, as it was roughly one quarter of the sum expended in the redesign up to 1915. The only detail we have is that in October, 1920, the

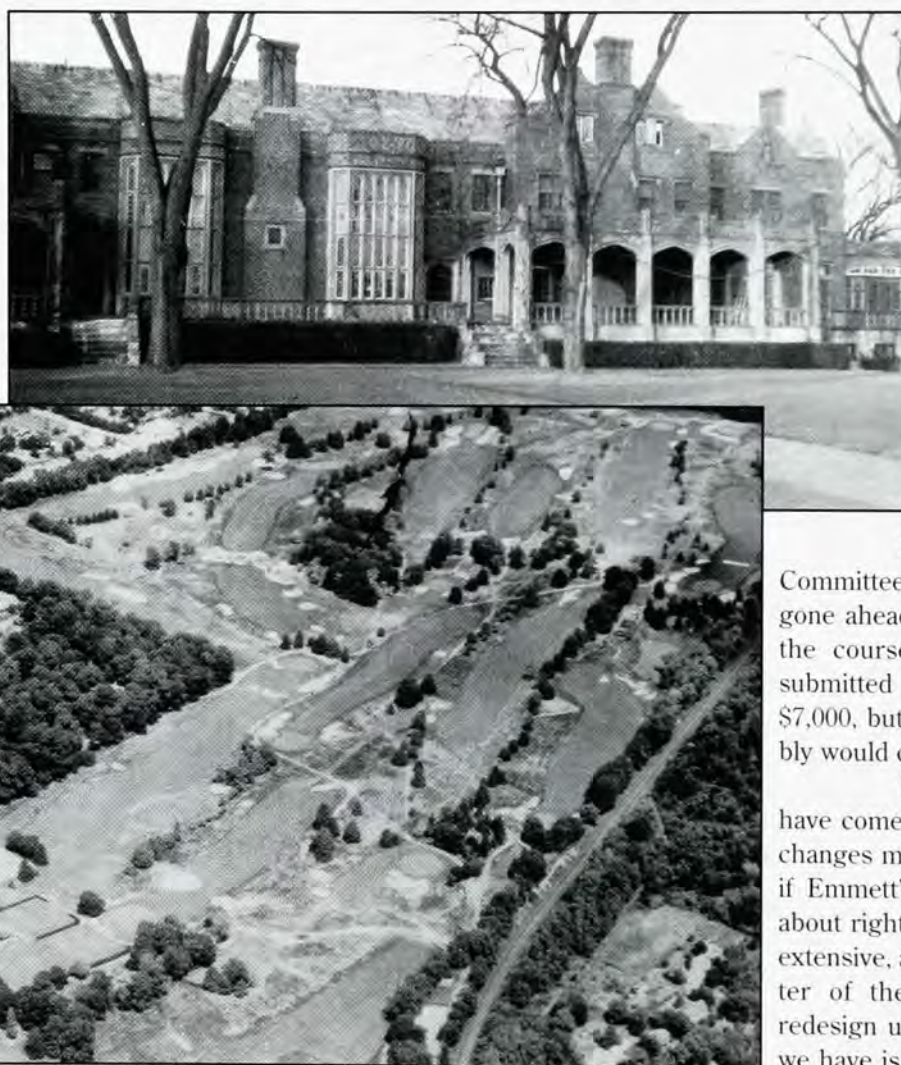
Grounds Committee reported that "preparations were under way for a new 14th green."

Very probably, the Club felt that it couldn't do much more to improve the course without obtaining more land and without spending a lot of money. In a few years, both became possible.

In 1921, the Club experienced some financial difficulties. To overcome them, a reorganization and re-financing of the Club took place in the first half of 1922. This plan included "the necessary improvement to the grounds and clubhouse."

In October, the Club's Board of Directors appointed a Committee to "devise a comprehensive plan to remodel the golf course, to recommend a golf course architect, and report back to the Board." The chairman of the committee was Henry Crane. The members were

*The clubhouse and course
in the 1950's*



Howard F. Whitney, Gardiner White, William L. Hicks, and J. B. C. Tappan. The Directors also authorized this committee to finish the remodeling of the 8th hole, then in progress. At the same time, the President appointed another committee, headed by Howard W. Maxwell, "to take up the question of the advisability of purchasing the property adjoining the golf course and to obtain the terms on which this ground can be purchased."

In November, 1922, the Directors of the Nassau CC requested the Nassau Development Company to purchase 22 acres of adjoining land at the north end of the Club property, heretofore called the Smith property "at a price not to exceed \$2,500 an acre." This brought the Club's total acreage to 138 acres.

At the same time, the Directors authorized the Golf Committee to employ Herbert Strong as golf architect until December 31, 1923 at a cost of \$3,000. They also carried a motion to adopt "the recommendations of the Golf Committee for the proposed changes to the 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th holes."

Herbert Bertram Strong began his golf career as the professional at the famed Royal St. George's Golf Club, England. He emigrated to the U. S. in 1905 at the age of 26, and first worked here as a pro. In 1911, he moved to Inwood Country Club in Far Rockaway and, after remodeling the course, became a golf course architect. Most of his work was on the East Coast. Strong was a charter member of the PGA of America, serving as its first secretary-treasurer.

According to an article on the redesign in the *Glen Cove Echo* of June 6, 1924, the Club's purpose in acquiring this property had been two-fold. It "rounded out the property" and "protected it against undesirable encroachment." It also, of course, presented "entirely new possibilities for a rearrangement of the golf course."

Henry Crane, the chairman of the Grounds Committee, sent a report to members about the redesign. Here are some highlights.

"Our study included everything from modification of existing holes to complete rearrangement and reconstruction of the course. The underlying idea was to obtain a pleasanter and more interesting course and a better test for all golfers. It also attempted to improve the bad conditions caused by playing into the sun on some holes at certain periods of the year. Unfortunately, the land lies in a general direction from west to east, with the Club House at the west end, and it therefore was impossible to entirely remove this unpleasant feature. The best that could be done was to break up the sequence of sun holes as far as possible.

"At the outset we were convinced that the pleasure of playing on any course depends not only on its quality but on the beauty of the surroundings. In all the new work the arrangement of the holes has been considered with a view to fitting them into the landscape as well as possible, while a large amount of planting is under way to improve the beauty of the property. We made an effort to change the whole point of view in going from hole to hole and to provide as great a variety of holes as possible.

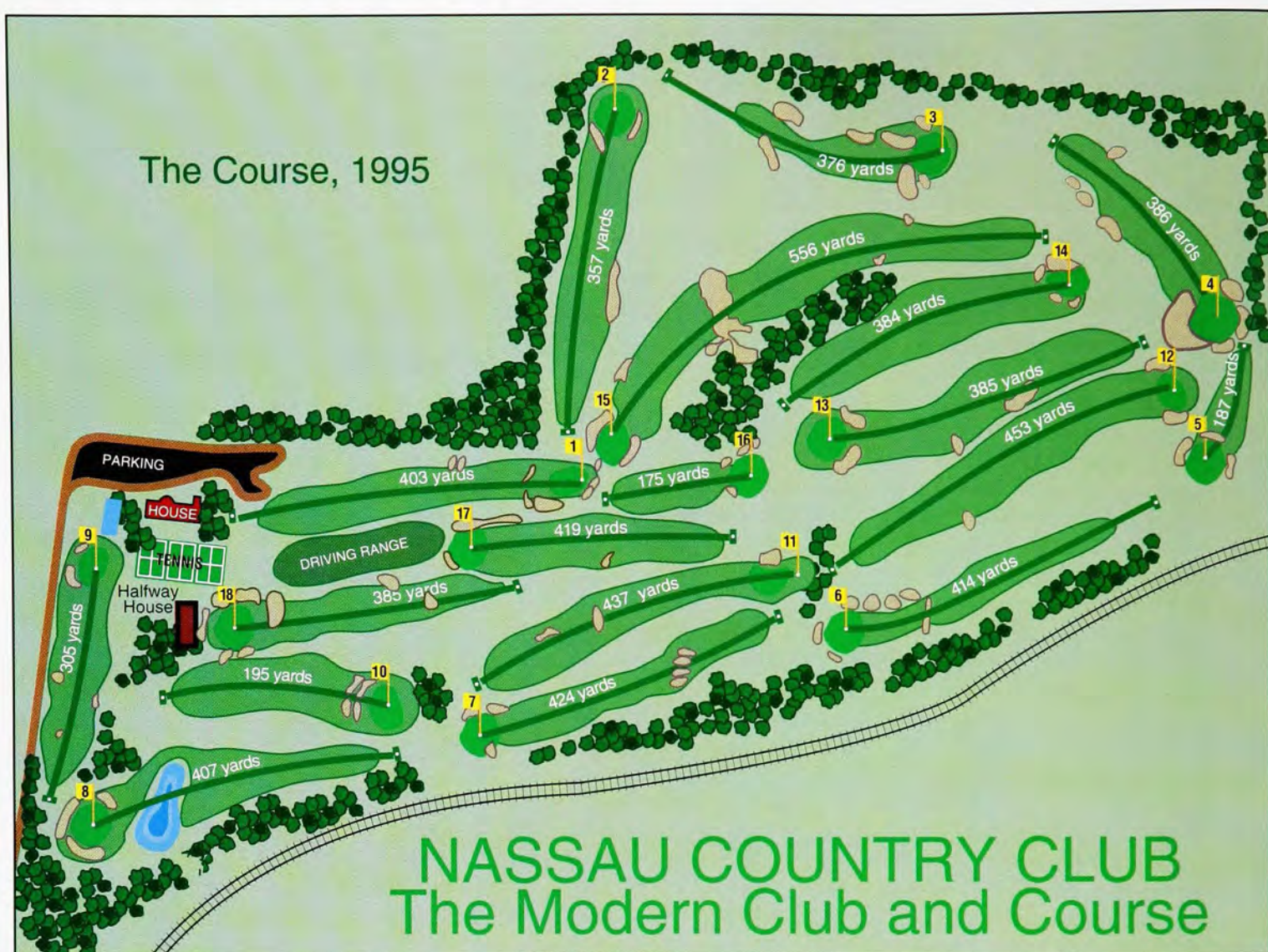
"The general scheme was based on the desirability of having a greater number of holes in the future that could be reached in two shots by players of moderate skill, holes which would still be a good test for the expert, and further, on the basis that the so-called "standard" long two-shot hole running from 400 to 450 yards in length, is really a three-shot hole for most Club members."

"We decided at the beginning to have expert advice throughout the work, and we hired Mr. Herbert Strong because of his careful consideration to landscape requirements. This is Mr. Strong's second year with the Club and his service will continue until the work is completed. The plan finally adopted, which has resulted in an entirely new course, has really interfered surprisingly little with play on the old course".

After the redesign by Strong, the course was substantially as it is today. However, it's worth noting that in September, 1924, the Club purchased from Mary V. Titus and Emily N. Titus for \$925 "that part of Townsend Road lying south of Crofters Lane, the Julia W. Coles property and Nassau Road." This is the area along the first hole. Up to this time the Club didn't own the land. Later, in 1932, the Board decided that a watering system for the golf course was desirable. However, at that period in golf history, the system probably only covered the greens and tees.

Since Strong, there have been only some minor adjustments to the course. In the 1970s, Tingley and Brett took out some bunkers that were no longer in play. They expanded some greens that had been allowed to shrink in size over the years. They added some new tees, including a new "tiger" tee at the 16th, and a new tee at the 17th. They did lengthen the 5th from a maximum distance of 135 yards to a maximum of about 190. However, they didn't change any

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green configurations except around the 4th hole, where they elevated the traps in the back of the green. They also decreased the depth of the two traps on the 5th hole, built ramps, and replaced rotted railroad ties in the bank. At the 12th hole, they put a grass bunker behind the green. This prevented balls running off the green back into the woods in front of the 5th tee. At the 8th green, they put in bunkers to prevent balls running across the 9th tee and into the bushes along St. Andrews Lane.

In 1982-83, as described previously, they did change the first hole to accommodate the new practice ground. However, other than the changes above, the Strong course was pretty much the course as it is now.

The Modern Course

The Nassau course today is rather different from the norm. At a time when most 18-hole courses have four par 5s, four par 3s, and 10 par 4s, Nassau has only one par 5, three par 3s, and 14 par 4s. There are not many birdie opportunities at Nassau, and then only for extremely accurate shotmakers. An indication of its difficulty is shown by the course having a course rating of 72.8 with a par of 70. Its slope rating is 134 from the back tees.

Because of all the different people who either designed various holes or influenced their design, the course does not have the homogeneous look of a course designed at one time by one architect. Instead, on the 3rd hole you'll see a typical Herb Strong bunker by the green followed by a Charles Macdonald-style green at the 5th hole, and Devereux Emmet cross-bunkers on the 15th hole. The course is not too difficult for bogey players because they easily can reach most holes in three.

As a point of interest, the Strong course is in the shape of "bulls eye," a very popular design in golf course architecture, in which the holes start down the outside of the property, then work around inside and finally turn to come home up the middle.

Following is a description of the course hole by hole as well as how it plays for the scratch player and bogey golfer. (The author's thanks go to Jim Tingley for this.) It is assumed, as in course rating, that the scratch player drives the ball 250 yards, including roll, and that the bogey golfer can drive the ball a maximum of 200 yards, including roll, and in two shots can hit the ball 387 yards at most. It's also assumed that both play the back tees, except as noted.

Hole 1

Blue Tees: 403 yards, Handicap 5, Par 4

White Tees: 389 yards, Handicap 5, Par 4

Red Tees: 392 yards, Handicap 11, Par 5

Nassau's first hole plays straightaway from the tee, with the land rising in the far end of the driving zone, then levelling out some 120 yards short of the green. There's out of bounds in the tree line on the left. The best line is left of center.

For all but very long hitters, the second shot will be blind. The bogey golfer needs a long iron or even a fairway wood to get home in two. However, he is playing from a flat lie. The scratch player usually will have a short or medium iron shot from a slightly uphill lie to the green.

The green is at ground level, is quite wide and has a slight right to left slope. On the left front of the green is a large bunker and another on the right front. About 50 yards short of the green there used to be a cross-bunker; today, a grass path divides it in two.



Hole 2

Blues Tees: 357 yards, Handicap 11, Par 4

White Tees: 351 yards, Handicap 11, Par 4

Red Tees: 345 yards, Handicap 3, Par 4

The 2nd Hole plays uphill to an elevated green. Trees overhanging the fairway on the left force the golfer to drive to the right, where the bogey golfer must flirt with a very large fairway bunker.

The green is in a bowl formed by the high lips of bunkers guarding it at front left and right and the third tee in back of the putting surface. The green slopes down at the back. The scratch player will have 7- to 9-iron into the green, the bogey golfer a middle iron.



Hole 3

Blue Tees: 376 yards, Handicap 13, Par 4

White Tees: 341 yards, Handicap 13, Par 4

Red Tees: 306 yards, Handicap 13, Par 4

The 3rd hole demands a straight drive from a slightly elevated tee to a fairway curving slightly left to the green. A bad slice can be lost in rough and trees on the right. A badly hooked ball will encounter dense brush and woods, and hard ground on the left side near the driving area bunker can make a ball run deep into the woods.

This is the hole where one sees Herb Strong's hand in the mounding and bunkers on the left side from the driving zone to the green. There also are bunkers on the right side, making it difficult to hit the green unless you land in the fairway. The scratch player's approach will require a short iron, that of the bogey golfer a medium to long iron.

The flat, ground level green is hard and difficult to hold, especially with the rather rapid falling off at the back. The green is guarded by bunkers at front left and front right. However, planning to land short of the green with your second shot is no guarantee that the ball will bounce up onto the green. This is because the fairway short of the green is rather lush and there also is a small rise for the first three feet or so of the green. To bounce up, you need to play a low, punched iron.



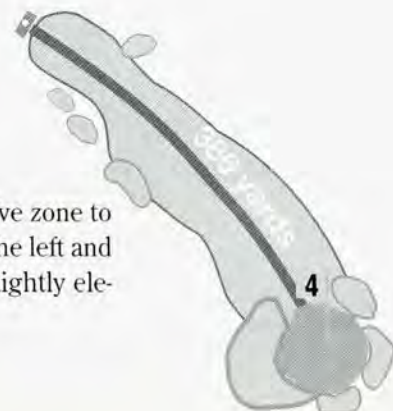
Hole 4

Blue Tees: 386 yards, Handicap 9, Par 4

White Tees: 346 yards, Handicap 9, Par 4

Red Tees: 325 yards, Handicap 9, Par 4

The 4th hole is a dog-leg to the right, with about a 15-foot drop from the drive zone to the green. The green slopes from left to right and is guarded by two large bunkers at the left and right front. At the rear there are three bunkers, with mounds behind them, that are slightly elevated above the putting surface.



CHAPTER TEN—The Golf Course

This hole has an alternate tee. The original tee is on the left, skirting the left border of the course. The newer tee, constructed in the 1970s, forces the player to hit through a chute of trees and demands a dead straight drive. From both tees, the players must avoid four bunkers positioned in the right rough.

Without a wind, a scratch player often has only a 9-iron or pitching wedge into the green, the bogey player probably a 4- or 5-iron. Against the prevailing wind, the hole plays longer. The hole length from both tees is identical.



Hole 5

Blue Tees: 187 yards, Handicap 17, Par 3

White Tees: 144 yards, Handicap 17, Par 3

Red Tees: 106 yards, Handicap 17, Par 3

The difficult section of the course begins here. With the exception of the blind shot on the first hole, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th holes present possible birdies for the scratch player. If he is over par coming to the 5th hole, he is in deep trouble; ideally, he needs to be one or two under.

The 5th hole is an excellent par 3, with a green in the style of Charles Macdonald. The back tee can be pushed to 191 yards, if necessary. The scratch player will probably play a long iron, and the bogey golfer a wood unless he plays the white tees, which are considerably shorter. Their shots have to carry a bunker 15 feet deep at the front of the green, which also is guarded by a bunker of similar depth on the left and another not quite as deep on the right.

The putting surface has two levels, the upper level is horseshoe-shaped around a punchbowl level at the front. The rear part of the "horseshoe" is only 15 feet deep at its narrowest point. A hole placement in the left rear or right rear is very difficult. However, a hole cut in the bowl is easier, because the balls roll off the sides of the punchbowl down to the hole. Most holes in one are made with the hole cut in the punchbowl.

Missing the green here is very costly, unless the hole is in the bowl. It's very difficult to hold a sand shot from any of the bunkers on either of the top levels. What usually happens is that it rolls down into the bowl. Missing the green at the back makes a recovery especially difficult as the ground falls off severely into light rough, woods and behind that, the railroad tracks.

This is the extreme southeastern point of the course and it's possible to play from this point to the first hole at Piping Rock Club, as they did in the old days, in the Nassau vs. Piping Rock cross country matches.

Hole 6

Blue Tees: 414 yards, Handicap 1, Par 4

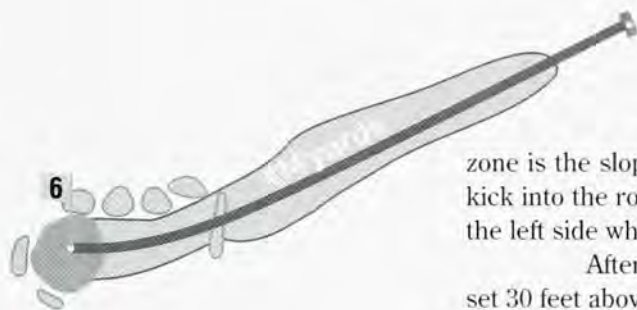
White Tees: 388 yards, Handicap 1, Par 4

Red Tees: 330 yards, Handicap 1, Par 4

This is a big, tough par 4 requiring a long, straight drive. Narrowing the drive zone is the slope of the right quarter of the fairway which will cause a ball that lands there to kick into the rough or trees. Out of bounds in the shape of the Long Island Railroad runs down the left side while giving an authentic British flavor to the hole.

After the drive, the hole then bends slightly to the right. It also plays uphill to a green set 30 feet above the drive zone. This is the highest point of the course. Because you're playing uphill on your approach shot, you need to add 20 yards to your yardage estimates. The scratch golfer will need a long iron or even a wood to reach the green. The bogey golfer cannot reach the green in two. A cross-bunker 70 yards short of the green is an obstacle that many bogey golfers find difficult to carry in two, forcing many of them to lay up on the second shot and then play a short iron into the green.

The green itself falls from back to front and is protected by two deep bunkers on the right. A small bowl on the front right of the green causes many good approach shots to not quite get up the hill and roll back 20 yards away from the pin.



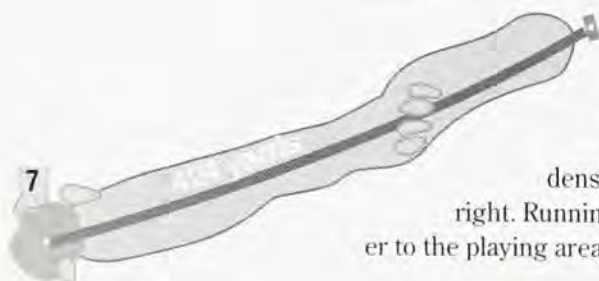
Hole 7

Blue Tees: 424 yards, Handicap 3, Par 4

White Tees: 408 yards, Handicap 3, Par 4

Red Tees: 328 yards, Handicap 5, Par 4

The 7th hole plays from an elevated tee to a fairway that has dense trees on the left in the driving zone and scattered mature trees on the right. Running down the whole left side of the hole are the LIRR tracks, which come closer to the playing area here than anywhere else on the course, making it very easy to hook out of





A view of the second hole. It is a par 4, 357 yard challenge with a fairway bunker to the right and a guarded, elevated green.

bounds. Also in the driving zone are bunkers on the left and right, new bunkers across the center of the driving zone, and mounds on the right.

The best line off the tee for the scratch player is over the bunkers, which opens up the green. He normally can carry these bunkers with no problem. For his approach, he then would take a medium iron. A bogey player most often hits a wood for his second shot. The green slopes from back to front and has two bunkers on the left and three large bunkers on the right. It is very difficult to putt, especially if the hole is on the right half. After the 9th and 13th holes, this is the third most difficult green on the course.

The mounds, which have small “smile” bunkers in them, go back to the very early days of the Club’s history. At one time on the left there was a green in this area, but the ground was so damp, golfers were losing balls that plugged in the dirt. This is the lowest point on the course, and even with today’s technology, the fairway is may be damp. It gives you very little run on your drive and your ball can even plug on occasion.

Hole 8

Blue Tees: 407 yards, Handicap 7, Par 4

White Tees: 387 yards, Handicap 7, Par 4

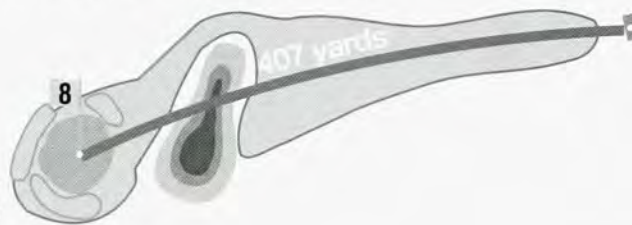
Red Tees: 323 yards, Handicap 7, Par 4

The 8th Hole is the most dangerous on the course. It is the only hole at Nassau where even a scratch player can make a big number.

The drive is from an elevated tee to a fairway that at first runs downhill, but then levels off toward a lake, which cuts across the fairway diagonally from right to left. The lake is about 100 yards wide and 70 yards across. On the left side of the fairway are trees and out of bounds (the railroad).

From the back tee to the lake measures about 275 yards. Very few golfers, even scratch players, can hit the ball that far. However, from the white tees, the lake is only some 240 yards away, making it very much in range for longer hitters. Typically, one plays his approach from a slightly downhill lie over the lake. The scratch player usually is playing a medium iron. The bogey player often needs as much as a 3- or 4-wood to get home. Over the water there is about 30 yards of land between the hazard and the green.

The putting surface is the largest on the course and has a small ridge running from the right rear to the left front. It slopes from back to front. On the left side is a large bunker and a pot bunker at the right front. There are two bunkers in back. This is one hole where you must carry the ball onto the green. The grass is so lush in front that it is rare for a ball that hits short to bounce up onto the green. Shots over the green leave a difficult sand shot as one is playing



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Hole number 3 above is a 376-yard par 4 from a slightly elevated tee. The fairway is well protected so the tee shot must be well placed for a decent chance at a second shot.

Hole number 5 is a picturesque par 3. Its 187 yards is deceptive, because of its sloping elevated green. It is the beginning of the most difficult part of the course.



back down the slope of the green.

Hole 9

Blue Tees: 305 yards, Handicap 15, Par 4

White Tees: 286 yards, Handicap 15, Par 4

Red Tees: 253 yards, Handicap 15, Par 4

Even though the 9th is a short par 4 even from the blue tees, it is a potentially disastrous hole. The tee shot is hit out of a semi-chute of large oak trees and must carry two bunkers set side by side 190 yards out from the tee to reach the rolling fairway. Originally, there was one cross-bunker, but later a path was put in to split it in two. To the left of the hole is the old St. Andrews Lane, which is severely tree lined and out of bounds. If a hooked drive doesn't go out of bounds, it becomes close to unplayable in the trees. There also are trees all the way down on the right and a sliced drive probably will finish behind one of them. Assuming a tee shot in the fairway, often played with an iron, the scratch player will only need an easy pitch with a wedge. Even the bogey golfer should not need more than a drive and a short iron.



Most of the difficulty on the hole centers around the green, which slopes severely from front to back. Because of this, you want to keep your approach shot below the hole. But, this is very difficult as the last 25 yards in front of the green is heavy rough, preventing a ball from running up. On the left of the green are two bunkers. On the right there are a mound and hollow that make for an almost impossible chip. At the back of the green are a trap and berms which stop shots that go over the green.

Putting is very difficult, because it's tough to figure the right speed. This green appears to baffle anyone playing it for the first time. During the last Nassau Invitational in 1987, there were two 5 putts, eight 4 putts and some seven 3 putts on this green!

Hole 10

Blue Tees: 195 yards, Handicap 16, Par 3

White Tees: 175 yards, Handicap 16, Par 3

Red Tees: 146 yards, Handicap 16, Par 3

The 10th is a long par 3, all carry, to a slightly elevated green, guarded in front by four bunkers. There are two levels of bunkers, one 20 yards short of the green, the other right up against the green. A shot hit three inches short of the green will either embed in the heavy grass bordering the bunker or bounce back into the bunker itself.



For the scratch player, the hole demands a long iron, even a 4-wood. The shot demanded is a long, high one, and a bogey golfer usually finds it difficult to carry his ball onto the green from the back tee, although from the white tee, he can get on with a nice wood shot. There's a bailout area, about 15 yards wide, to the left side of the green, which many players aim for; this leaves an easy chip to the green. The green is fairly large, but has few subtle rolls and no predominant slope. It's slightly mounded on the right side. Trees in a horseshoe shape line the sides and back of the green.

Hole 11

Blue Tees: 437 yards, Handicap 2, Par 4

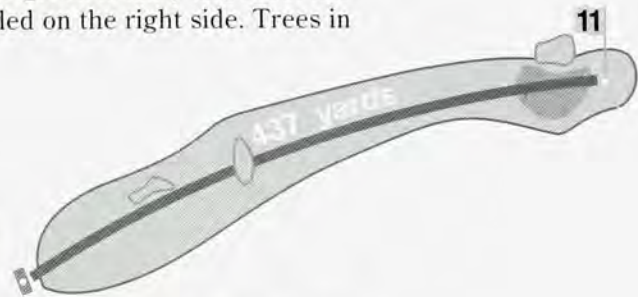
White Tees: 426 yards, Handicap 2, Par 4

Red Tees: 355 yards, Handicap 2, Par 4

The 11th hole is a long, backbreaking par 4 and is perhaps the most difficult hole on the course. It's been picked many times as one of the best par 4s on Long Island.

The hole doglegs a little to the right and plays slightly uphill to a two-tier green elevated some 10 feet above the fairway and guarded by a mound on the right and a bunker on the left. There's a bunker on the left side of the fairway that will catch a hooked drive by the scratch player from the back tee and by the bogey golfer from the white tee. The area over the bunker is heavy rough, and at 275 yards, there is a new fairway bunker. There also are trees all the way on the right side.

It's best to put your drive on the left side of the fairway. Even though you may hit a drive long and straight, if you leave the ball on the right side of the fairway, you have to give some thought to catching some tree limbs on your approach. You're forced to punch the shot low, not a good shot into this green.



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bunkers on either side and a gully and berm behind. However, if you go through the green, your chip won't be too difficult unless you're behind the berm.

A scratch player will hit a 5- to 7-iron into the green, a bogey player often will have to use a long iron. A front pin placement on this hole makes it much easier. The hole is measured to the top of the rise in the middle of the green. If playing to the lower tier, mentally subtract 10 yards from the hole yardage; to the higher, back tier, add 20 yards.

Hole 15

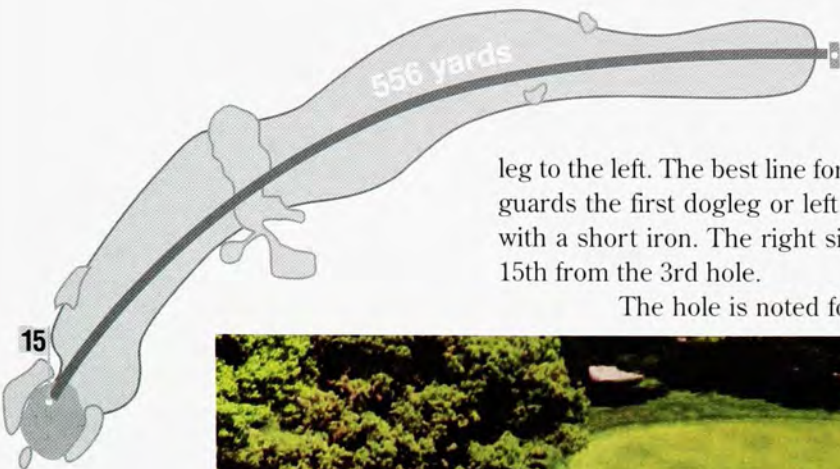
Blue Tees: 556 yards, Handicap 4, Par 5

White Tees: 533 yards, Handicap 4, Par 5

Red Tees: 437 yards, Handicap 6, Par 5

This is the only par 5 at Nassau, and is a double dogleg to the left. The best line for the drive is to the left of center, but not too close to a tall oak that guards the first dogleg or left of it where there is a huge bunker that only permits a recovery with a short iron. The right side of the hole has a fairly dense stand of trees that separate the 15th from the 3rd hole.

The hole is noted for the series of Devereux Emmet cross-bunkers, which a scratch



Above is the 16th hole at 175 yards is probably the most birdied hole, partly because of its flat green and relatively open approach. The lower photo shows some of the reconstruction of the traps. This one is to the right of the 18th green and one can see the final challenge of the day if you roll down the sloping green into the sand. The Calamity Jane house and the cemetery appear in the background.



player must carry on his second shot. (In the middle of these cross-bunkers is a marker indicating 188 yards to the middle of the green.) But, his second shot must first carry a patch of rough filled with sand and mounds which bisect the fairway at the second dogleg to the left.

You must avoid the left of this hazard, known as "The Pit." Any hook on a second shot will land in this area six feet down and dotted with trees. From there, you can't hit to the green on your third shot, in fact you often have to hit out backwards.

There are trees sprinkled all along the sides of this hole. There also are fairway bunkers to catch a long second pulled left or pushed right, and a bogey player's third shot.

If the scratch player hits two good woods, his third shot should be a short iron. The bogey golfer often can't carry the cross-bunkers. In fact, he's often short of the rough area in front of the cross-bunkers in two and usually will need another wood to get home in three.

The green slopes from back to front and is completely surrounded by bunkers. Going over on the right you will catch a raised bunker, on the left a bunker abutting the 16th tee. The other bunkers wrap around the left and right fronts of the green.

Hole 16

Blue Tees: 175 yards, Handicap 18, Par 3

White Tees: 159 yards, Handicap 18, Par 3

Red Tees: 139 yards, Handicap 18, Par 3



The back tee for the 16th hole was built under trees behind the first green.

Because it is so small, it cannot sustain steady play. Thus, it is used almost entirely in tournament or championship play. The hole is generally played from the white tees, at 159 yards.

This hole is the most birdied hole at Nassau and is the only giveaway hole on the course. The hole is flat except for a slight elevation of the green. The green is also flat and lies behind a pair of large bunkers at its front corners. But, there is enough room between them for a shot to roll up onto the green. Another bunker guards the left side of the green.

Scratch players take a 3- to 5-iron from the back tee, and a short iron from the whites. The bogey golfer never plays the back tees, so he will have a medium-iron shot from the whites.

Hole 17

Blue Tees: 419 yards, Handicap 10, Par 4

White Tees: 396 yards, Handicap 10, Par 4

Red Tees: 371 yards, Handicap 4, Par 4



The 17th hole plays straightaway to the green. It is probably the straightest hole on the course—it is so straight you could land an aeroplane on it. On the left in the driving zone out about 190 yards from the green is a small bunker that will catch the scratch player and the bogey golfer who hits an exceptional drive. The bunker leaves an exceptionally difficult long shot to the green.

It was from this bunker that David Glenz played one of the most dramatic shots in Met Open history. Playing from wet sand, his iron shot landed eight feet behind the hole, then backed up over the edge of the hole, finishing four inches away. This preserved his one shot lead in the final round of the 1986 Met Open.

A scratch player has a good medium iron for his approach, the bogey golfer often has to play a wood. The green itself is protected by a huge bunker on the right and another bunker on the left that appears to be beside the green but in fact is well short of it. This can deceive a player coming in from the left side into underclubbing. The opening into the green is narrow with rough covering its left half. Thus, you can only bounce a ball up onto the green over the right half.

Hole 18

Blue Tees: 385 yards, Handicap 14, Par 4

White Tees: 373 yards, Handicap 14, Par 4

Red Tees: 326 yards, Handicap 10, Par 4



The 18th is a good finishing hole even though it is not very long. The drive should be played to the left of center over a hill faced with a bunker. Even a drive a few yards right of the center of the fairway will bounce to the right with the left to right slope into rough, trees and newly placed mounds. Often, it is then effectively out of play and you must chip out. However, you can usually get away with hitting to the left, because on this side over the hill the ball will bounce to the left into rough and scattered trees.

A large cross-bunker lies astride the fairway about 300 yards off the tee. (The bunker has been there since very early days. A photo in the Club's archives shows Bobby Jones putting

CHAPTER TEN—The Golf Course

on the 18th green with this large bunker in the background.) The cross-bunker doesn't present a problem to the scratch player, as he can't reach it on his drive. It should only be hazardous to the bogey golfer if he misses his first two shots.

The scratch player will play his approach with anything from a 4- to a 7-iron; the bogey golfer, a long iron. About 30 yards beyond the cross-bunker is the green, guarded on the left by two tremendous bunkers six to eight feet deep. Farther left lies the graveyard and caddie house. A deep bunker across 90 per cent of the back of the green is designed to prevent balls from reaching the cart path (out of bounds) or the tennis courts beyond. Two other bunkers protect the right side.

This is the only green at Nassau that runs away from you. Past the mounds in the center of the green, the green slopes severely to the back left, and a ball will run off into the rough or back bunker.

Old Course Remnants

Old-timers at Nassau frequently are asked: What elements of the old course can you still see today? Here is a summary of the individual statements made in parentheses earlier at the end of some of the hole descriptions of the original course, with some additions.

On the 6th hole, if you look about 180 yards from the tee, along the railroad tracks, you'll see the remains of the 14th tee on the original course. The old Cedar hole went over the hill where the present 6th green is, down into the valley, which was the damp area of the 7th fairway.

They had a green there where you can still see some of the bent grass growing. They gave up on that green, because of all the balls embedding and becoming lost. This slowed down play. Thus, the original 14th hole became the present sixth hole with a new green on top of what is the highest point on the course.

The 8th Hole, the water hole, was the 17th on the original course; it then was called the Pond Hole. However, in those days it was a short par 3 over the pond. You can still see the original tee located a little left of the telephone poles placed on the ground overlooking the pond. The trees formed a semicircle round the whole right side of the pond. So, you teed off alongside the trees to a green close to the present 8th green.

Then at the 9th Hole, which was originally the 18th Hole (Home), you can see the old green by the bunker that now is the farthest bunker up on the left side. The green

used to be behind that bunker, right along St. Andrews Lane. However, in the redesign, this green was not visible from the clubhouse. So, they decided to build the hole up and moved in enough fill to bring the 9th green up to the same level as the modern clubhouse and so allow a view of this green from the clubhouse. Since that time, the Club built the pool and put in much shrubbery and trees so that now the 9th green is no longer visible from the clubhouse.

Today, you can still see the punchbowl green for the old par 3 Circus or 7th Hole of the original course in the depressed area in the middle of the practice ground. It was played from a point close to the present practice tee.

The area between the 13th tee and 4th fairway at one time contained a green, sand pits and high mounds. This is the area where the old "Mounds" (4th) Hole on the original course was located. All traces of the hole have long since gone. Also, the location of the original 16th hole (Hollow) was below the old clubhouse, the site of the present practice green.

Another point of interest comes when one is playing the 15th Hole. The trees that line the first 150 yards of the hole on the left were the borderline of the original course. All the property to the right, namely the present 3rd, 4th and probably the fifth Holes, were part of the later purchase when the course was redesigned.



The Calamity Jane house today. At the rear of the house is the cemetery.

Today, there are only a few holes from the original course that are still in play. Besides the present 8th and 9th holes, described at left, here are the holdovers: The new first hole was the 8th hole (Woods); the present 2nd Hole was the 9th Hole (Roadside); the original 10th Hole (Slide) started from the present 3rd tee; the original 1st hole went to a green located on the site of the present women's tee on the 11th hole; today's 17th Hole was the 5th (Old Lane) on the original course, and today's 18th Hole was the 6th Hole (Graveyard).

Another interesting remnant is located on the left side of the 7th fairway, between the fairway and the railroad tracks. There you can plainly see an old oak lined cart path, which presumably led up to a farmhouse owned by one of the original settlers.

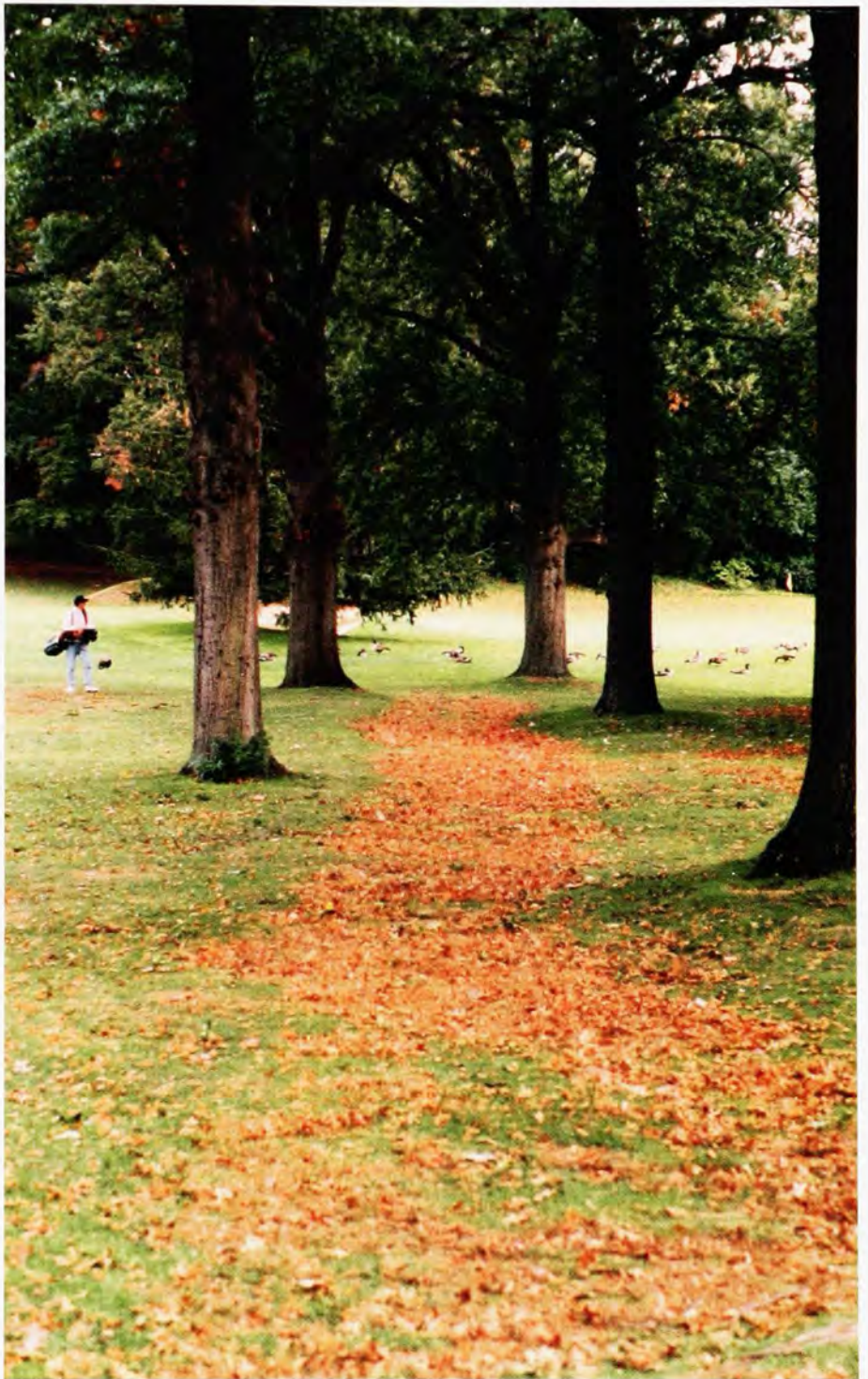
Restoration

In September, 1994, there began an effort to restore the course to the condition intended by Herb Strong, the architect who designed the modern course. Following the primary season, work started on a three-phase program of renovation following a plan by Ron Forse Associates. A number of contractors are doing the actual construction. At this writing, Phase I is nearly complete. Here are the highlights.

Over the years, many bunkers had become shallower than they should be because of "fill in" when, from time to time, the grounds crew added new sand and the trampling of the banks as people entered and left the bunker. So, the Club is now deepening them, and also taking this opportunity to install proper drainage, something that is very desirable considering the clay subsoil of the course. All bunkers in this first phase have had considerable earth and sand removed. Most of them have been enlarged as well as made much deeper. Many now have steep sides. A series of bunkers drastically increases the difficulty of the 7th hole.

A number of additional tees more suited for high-handicap players and ladies are now in place at Holes 1, 7, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 18. Also, some new mounds, moguls or chocolate drops have been constructed, primarily on Holes 7 and 18.

It is expected that this program will be completed by Spring, 1997.



This is the pathway leading up to the clubhouse from the railroad station shown on the map of 1915.

CHAPTER ELEVEN—Golf at Nassau

*Mrs. H. Arnold Jackson, who won
the 1914 U.S.
Women's Amateur at Nassau.*



Nassau has been fortunate enough to host two USGA championships, both of them occurring early in its history. Ironically, for both victors, it proved to be their last win in the championship. In 1903, the U. S. Amateur came to Nassau, with Walter J.

Travis taking his third title. He had previously won the championship in 1900 and 1901. In 1914, the Club hosted the U. S. Women's Amateur. Mrs. H. Arnold Jackson emerged as the winner. This was her second victory in the championship, her previous win coming in 1908. Immediately after the 1903 event, Nassau enjoyed an historic visit by the Oxford and Cambridge team then touring this country. In a match against the All-America team at Nassau, the visitors lost a very close match. Later, the NY State Amateur was played at Nassau in 1967. The champion was John Baldwin.

From its earliest days, the Club had its own annual tournament. These tournaments began at the old Queens County Club. As far as we can tell, the tradition started in October of 1897, and continued at Nassau, with interruptions, until 1987.



The tournament resumed again in September, 1995, as the start to the Club's celebration of its 100th year.

The reason for the hesitancy above is because, unfortunately, the Club's records of its tournaments were lost some years ago. Thus, it's all too possible that we have missed some of the events here. If there was no writeup in either the newspapers or golf magazines of the time—or no reference to the event in the Club's minutes, golf periodicals' annual indexes or calendars—there was little we could do at this point to supply the deficiency. In some cases, we know that the event was played in a particular year, we may even know the winner, but unfortunately could find little or no contemporary literature with which to body forth the bare facts.

This chapter will also honor the Nassau members who have had outstanding golf records in more recent years. From Bob Kiersky, Gordon Stott, George Gennity and Jim Tingley among the men, to ten and nine time Nassau champions among the women, Mrs. V. DeP. Larkin and Mrs. Karl Clement, their achievements make impressive reading.

It is beyond the scope of this book to write up all the tournaments played at Nassau. However, one can find the MGA, WMGA and LIGA tournaments the Club has hosted at the end of this chapter in summary form.

1903 U. S. Amateur

The first U. S. Amateur, in 1895, had been entirely at match play. There had been no qualifying, and all 32 entrants were drawn. But, after that, players had qualified on site for 16 places for match play, and, as the number of entries increased, for 32 and then 64 places. In 1903, when the U. S. Amateur Championship came to Nassau, the USGA adopted the method of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, namely allowing all the entrants to compete on site in match play. The dates of the event were September 1-5.

Before the championship, as the magazine *Golf* reported, there were "dire predictions" that, with no qualifying round "to be feared", the starters for the event would "attain to unwieldy numbers." Fortunately, there were only 145 entries, much the same as in the previous couple of years. Still, to get the field down to 128, this necessitated a "preliminary" round of 17 matches. In other words, there was an extra round before the "first" round, with 111 players drawing byes.

Heading the field were the defending champion, Louis N. James, and former champions Findlay Douglas (1898) and Walter J. Travis (1900, 1901). Among the other crack golfers entered were Eben M. Byers, a finalist in the previous year and who was to win the championship in 1906, Walter E. Egan, a finalist in 1901 and the then reigning Western Amateur Champion, and Arthur G. Lockwood, a semi-finalist in 1900.

Other entrants of interest were: John Reid, Jr., and Archibald M. "Archie" Reid, sons of John Reid, the founder of America's oldest golf club, St. Andrew's, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York—the latter son became president of the USGA in 1938; William C. Fownes, Jr., son of a co-founder of the Oakmont Country Club—he later won the championship (1910) and served as president of the USGA (1926-27); A. W. Tillinghast, who later became a distinguished golf course architect, and Devereux Emmet, who also became a well known course architect and had a part in redesigning the Nassau course.

As one would expect, there was a good entry from the host club—besides Douglas, it included the reigning Nassau champion Howard F. Whitney, and former champions W. L. Hicks and John B. C. Tappan. Other Nassau members in the field were Jerry Travers, T. D. Hooper, H. R. Townsend and O. E. Stevens.

Golf noted that the course

1903 U.S. Amateur at Nassau, September 1-5

No.	Name	Yards	Par
1.	First	310	4
2.	Long	500	5
3.	Meadow	310	4
4.	Mounds	325	4
5.	Old Lane	405	4
6.	Graveyard	391	4
7.	Circus	161	3
8.	Woods	370	4
9.	Roadside	375	4
	Out	3,147	36
10.	Slide	390	4
11.	Sand Pit	190	3
12.	Corner	395	4
13.	Railroad	300	4
14.	Cedar	392	5
15.	Hill	443	5
16.	Hollow	360	4
17.	Pond	140	3
18.	Home	280	4
	In	<u>2,890</u>	<u>35</u>
	Totals	6,037	71

Walter Travis driving from the first tee at Nassau during the 1903 U.S. Amateur.



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for the championship had a total yardage of 6,037 yards. The score card is on the previous page.

Two Nassau members had the misfortune to be drawn for the "preliminary" round: Douglas and Stevens. Stevens lost, but Douglas advanced by 9 holes up and 8 to play. However, Douglas did not survive much longer, going out in the first round after he had "manifested a weakness on the greens . . . a failure in his approach putts and his holing-out putts" leading to his defeat. The defending champion, James, also went out in the first round in similar fashion, due to "poor putting" and a "decidedly weak short game." The other Nassau entrants were scarcely more fortunate, all of them except Hicks losing in the second round, and Hicks failing in round three.

Going through to the 36-hole final were Byers and Travis. There, Byers was no match for Travis. As the *Record-Herald* put it, Byers "led only for four holes in the first quarter of the journey. He was playing against the odds the rest of the way."

The final started at 10.30 a. m. with the weather "dull and threatening" and the atmosphere "close and hot." Few people followed the match at first, but the gallery steadily increased to 250 at the end.

After halving the first two holes, Travis holed a 15-footer for a 3 on the third hole to go 1 up. When Travis pulled his drive into a bunker on the fourth hole, Byers' four was good enough to bring the match back to square. At the fifth hole, both had poor second shots, and halved in 5. At the sixth, Byers put his second shot of 160 yards with a brassie four yards from the flag, and got his four. Travis had a rare three-putt from 60 feet to lose the hole. On the short Circus hole, Byers put his mid-iron eight inches from the pin, and his 2 won the hole and put him two up.

After halving the eighth hole in 4, Travis started a tremendous surge, winning the next five holes. It was a tale of Travis' steadiness vs. Byers' mistakes. At the ninth, Byers half-topped his cleek second, going far past the hole and three-putting for a losing 5. At the 10th, Byers sliced his tee shot into rough, was again long on his second and took another 5. At the par 3 11th, Byers' cleek and second were both short, and he took 4. At the 12th, Byers must have become somewhat unnerved. His two-foot putt jumped the rim of the cup; another 5. At the 13th, Byers sliced his brassie into rough, and could only just reach the green in 3; another 5. Meanwhile, Travis had scored 4, 4, 3, 4, 3 to go 3 up. His play on the 13th was particularly devastating, where he holed a five-yarder for a 3.

On the 14th, Byers got lucky. After the second shots, Travis lay just short of the green on the fringe, with Byers 50 yards left of the hole in rough. Byers' pitch, carefully calculated to be left dead, kept on rolling right into the cup for a winning 3. On the 15th, Byers' mistakes were described as "less grievous" than those of Travis, and Byers won with a 5 to Travis' 6. Travis was now just 1 up. Like a true champion, he again turned up the heat, scoring 4, 3, 4 on the remaining holes of the round. Byers slipped farther behind as he three-putted the 16th for a 5, missed the green on the 17th for another 5, and flubbed his drive at the home hole, taking 6. Byers conceded the 18th hole, as Travis lay four yards from the cup in 2. Had Travis holed this putt, he would have scored 72, by far the best round of the week. Thus, Travis finished the morning round 4 up.

Medal scores, morning round:

Travis—Out 4, 5, 3, 5, 5, 5, 3, 4, 4—38

Byers—Out 4, 5, 4, 4, 5, 4, 2, 4, 5—37

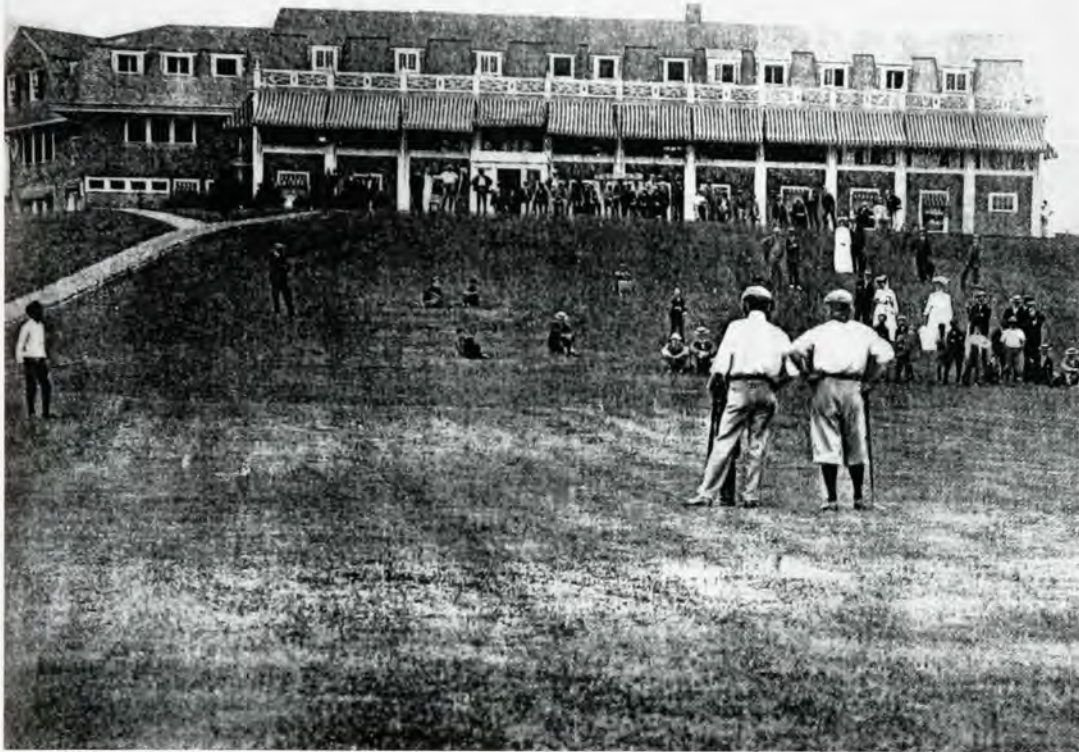
Travis—In 4, 3, 4, 3, 4, 6, 4, 3, 4—35—73

Byers—In 5, 4, 5, 5, 3, 5, 5, 4, 6—42—79

Travis, 4 up.

The match resumed at 3 p. m., when the sky was clearer, but at the half-way point, it grew darker. The rain held off until the 13th hole, when it began to sprinkle. When the last putts were made on the 14th hole, it started to rain hard, drenching the "umbrellaless" spectators before they could reach the clubhouse.

In the afternoon, Byers managed to hold Travis almost even, but "threw away good chances to cut down the handicap." The pair halved the first two holes. At the third, Travis put his 65-yard approach four feet from the hole for a winning 3. He was now 5 up. Byers had his chance at the fourth, when he put an excellent second shot 10 feet from the hole, but his putt was short all the way; a half. At the fifth, as he had in the morning, Travis pulled his drive; this allowed Byers to get one hole back. Travis, 4 up. Both played the sixth sloppily; a half in 5. At the seventh, Travis, the master putter, actually missed a six-footer, allowing Byers a half in 3. At the eighth, both played "poor golf." Travis pulled his drive out of bounds, while Byers' tee shot



Travis and Byers on the Home green in front of the old clubhouse.

found a sand pit. Byers had the hole "cinched," but was fatally short on his third, and a half in 6 was the result. Byers "gave" the ninth hole to Travers, when he failed to hole a three-foot putt for the win. Travis, still 4 up.

At the 10th, Travis holed a 10-footer for a 4 to win the hole and again go 5 up. At the 11th, Byers laid Travis a stymie and won with a 3 to a 4. But, at the next hole, Byers left his first putt seven feet shot, and missed the next. Travis took two putts for a winning 4 to go back to 5 up. At the 13th hole, it is recorded that Travis drove the ball 255 yards, Byers, 250. The hole was halved. Travis was then dormie.

The end came at the next hole. Ironically, the players put their second shots in nearly the identical places they had in the morning—Byers in the left rough, pin high, Travis just short of the green. This time there was no miracle shot from Byers, who left his pitch eight feet short, and missed the putt for a 4. Travis also took three to get down, but the half was enough to give him victory, by 5 up and 4 to play.

Medal scores, afternoon round:

Travis—Out 4, 5, 3, 4, 5, 5, 3, 6, 5—40

Byers—Out 4, 5, 4, 4, 4, 5, 3, 6, 5—40

Travis—In 4, 4, 4, 4, 5

Byers—In 5, 3, 5, 4, 5

Travis won by 5 up and 4 to play

Oxford-Cambridge Vs. All-America

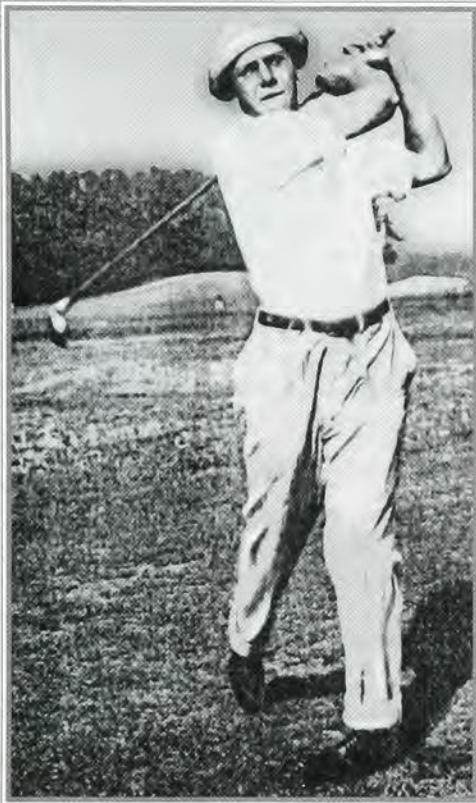
On the Monday after the U. S. Amateur, September 7, 1903, the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society team visited Nassau. (To be a member of the Society, one must have earned one's "Blue," i. e., play for one of the university teams in the annual Oxford vs. Cambridge golf match. Oxford's colors are dark blue, Cambridge's, light blue.) The Society's team was on a U. S. Tour at the time. It was to take them to Boston and Chicago, then back to Long Island where they played at Shinnecock and Garden City before the Nassau match.

The team had entered Boston harbor on August 7 on the *Mayflower*. As the magazine *Golf* reported, "This was not the same ship that the pilgrims steered to Plymouth Rock, but it carries the first group of British golfers, who after falling on their knees, probably will fall on the aborigines—at least American golfers seem to be so regarded by Mr. Horace G. Hutchinson, who is not with the team." (Hutchinson, a two-time British Amateur champion turned master golf writer, had his tongue firmly in his cheek, of course!)

Put another way, Harry Vardon's U. S. Tour of 1900 had given a tremendous boost to the progress of American golf. As British golf historian Robert Browning put it, "His easy, grace-

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Oxford & Cambridge		All-America	
John L. Low	0	Walter J. Travis	1
Norman F. Hunter	1	Finlay Douglas	0
T. Mansfield Hunter	0	E. M. Byers	1
G. D. Barnes	1	F. O. Reinhart	0
G. D. Bramston	0	George T. Brokaw	1
C. H. Beveridge	1	H.C. Egan	0
H.G. B. Ellis	0	Bruce D. Smith	1
P. W. Leathart	1	George A. Ormiston	0
D. F. Ransom	0	L. H. Conklin	1



Bruce Smith from
Onwentsia Club.

ful style brought converts to the game wherever he played and started a new golf boom in the United States. Three years later the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society arranged the first American tour by a British golf team—the beginning of an international rivalry which has been of incalculable benefit to the game.”

The Society put together a strong team and did, as Browning put it, “quite well” against American teams, winning eight and halving one of the ten matches played. Their one defeat came at the hands of the All-America team at Nassau, and, as one will see, the result of the match came down to one match out of nine, which went to the 38th hole.

The Society’s captain was John L. Low, who had been a semi-finalist in the 1897 and 1898 British Amateurs, and a finalist in 1901, losing to the great Harold Hilton by just one hole. It also included J. A. T. “Johnny” Bramston, a

British Amateur semi-finalist in 1900. However, the team they faced was even stronger, drawn as it was from the cream of the American players who had just competed in the National Amateur, namely:

Walter J. Travis, Garden City Golf Club, the new champion;

Eben M. Byers, Allegheny Country Club, Sewickley, Pa., runner-up in the 1903 Amateur and who was to win the event in 1906;

Findlay S. Douglas, Nassau, 1898 champion;

H. Chandler Egan, Exmoor Country Club, Highland Park, Ill., who lost in the third round in 1903, but who was to win the National Amateur in 1904 and 1905;

Frank O. Reinhart, Baltusrol Golf Club, Short Hills, N.J., semifinalist in 1903, losing to Travis;

Bruce Smith, Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest, Ill., semifinalist in 1903, losing to Byers;

George A. Ormiston, Highland CC, Pittsburgh, Pa., who lost in the third round to Smith, 1 down in 19 holes;

George T. Brokaw, Deal, NJ, who lost to Travis, 1 down, in the quarterfinals, and L. H. Conklin, Princeton, who lost in the first round, 1 down in 19 holes.

The nine-a-side contest was at individual match play over 36 holes, each match to count as one point. After the morning round, the British led in six matches to two for the home players, and one match, that between F. O. Reinhart and G. D. Barne was tied. Unfortunately, neither the *N. Y. Times* nor *Golf* reported the state of all the individual matches at that point, merely saying that the British led by 20 holes to nine (a result presumably arrived at by adding together the number of holes the players on

each side were “up”).

However, these sources do state that Walter Travis led John Low by three holes in the morning and then defeated him by 7 and 6. Also, that E. M. Byers, after being 2 down in the morning, won by the same margin in the afternoon. Findlay Douglas was beaten by 5 and 4.

At any rate, it’s apparent that the visitors had a healthy lead, and it is much to the credit of the All-Americans that they managed to win in the afternoon. What decided the contest was the match between George T. Brokaw and J. A. T. Bramston. Bramston was 5 up going into lunch and looked a certain winner. However, in the afternoon, Brokaw had evened the match by the 12th hole and it was still even after 36. The first extra hole was halved. At the second hole, 500 yards long, Brokaw won with a 5 to Bramston’s 7.

The story behind the win was, if you like, old fashioned Yankee ingenuity! Bramston was still playing the old, solid gutta percha ball. The Britisher hit three perfect shots at the second, but, since the day was a damp one, did not get anywhere near home and admitted he could not possibly have done. Brokaw, even though not a more powerful hitter, reached the green easily with two woods and an iron. The American, of course, was playing the still comparatively new, much livelier and longer, designed in the USA, Haskell wound ball.

In effect, the Haskell decided the whole match.

In November, 1903, USGA President J. Herbert Windeler gave the press a letter he had received from John L. Low. It read in part:

"Having brought myself at last into a state of rest, I am able to thank you and your association from this side for your manifold kindnesses to myself and my team during our greatly enjoyed visit to America. From first to last, we met with a hospitality, courtesy and kindness which exceeded even the tradition of your country. . . If our visit has made for the advance of golf in America and helped in any way to further a noble recreation among a nation of workers, our journey and work will have been many times repaid."

1914 U. S. Women's Amateur

The U. S. Women's Amateur Championship came to Nassau in September, 1914. There was an 18-hole qualifying round on Monday, September 14th, with play continuing through Saturday, September 19th.

Today, if you're defeated in a match play championship, you pack your bags and go home. Back in 1914, that was not the case. Nassau laid on a golf program that allowed everyone to stay for the week. On the Monday, of course, everyone attempted to qualify. However, on the other days, the championship rounds, all at 18 holes, including the final, took place in the mornings. Each afternoon, Nassau presented prizes for an 18-hole event: On Tuesday, a Handicap Consolation for non-qualifiers; on Wednesday, a Handicap Versus Bogey; on Thursday, there were Driving, Approaching and Putting contests; on Friday, a Best Ball Foursome off scratch, and on Saturday, after the final, a Mixed Foursome Medal Play Handicap. It was quite a week's golf. Incidentally, Nassau added a touch now standard in championships: "There was a large force of (Club) employees smoothing the bunkers."

There were 92 starters in the championship, 26 of them from Long Island. In a preview of the event, the *Brooklyn Eagle* stated that "the most fancied players" in order were:

Miss Lilian B. Hyde of South Shore, who, "on this season's play, seems to be playing better than any other entered for the competition";

Miss Marion Hollins of Westbrook, because "of her splendid work in the National last year, at Wilmington, when she carried the far-driving Miss Gladys Ravenscroft, the 1912 British champion, to the home green in the final"—as mentioned earlier, Ravenscroft could not defend, due to World War I;

The Curtis sisters of the Essex County Country Club, near Boston—"each has been a national champion" (Miss Harriot Curtis in 1906, Miss Margaret Curtis in 1907, 1911 and 1912) and

Mrs. Ronald Barlow of the Merion Cricket Club, "who has held the Eastern title several years, and only lost it last spring to

"Mrs. H. Arnold Jackson, formerly Miss Kate Harley, national champion in 1908."

Other outstanding players entered were Mrs. Caleb Fox, Huntington Valley, Mrs. C. H. Vanderbeck, Philadelphia Cricket, who would win the National in the following year, and the then 16-year old Miss Alexa Stirling, Atlanta, who would win the three championships after that.

There were ten entries from Nassau: Mrs. W. Goodby Loew; Mrs. Howard F. Whitney, Mrs. G. D. Geddes, Mrs. C. L. Tiffany, Mrs. Carl Runyon, Jr., Mrs. J. E. Davis, Mrs. C. C. Smithers, Mrs. S. P. Smithers, Mrs. C. M. Fair and Mrs. A. C. Sumner.

The *Brooklyn Eagle* proved a good handicapper. All its "fancied" players qualified for the 32 match play places. The medalist was Miss Georgianna Bishop with 85, then came Mrs. Jackson with 87. The highest qualifying score was 96. Four players tied at this figure, necessitating a playoff. One of the survivors was Miss Elaine V. Rosenthal of Chicago, who was to go right through to the final. Of the Nassau players, only Mrs. Sumner (92) and Mrs. Davis (93) qualified.

When considering these scores, one should realize that the women were evidently playing the "regular (i. e., men's) course," which then measured 6,037 yards. (Not only did the *Eagle* show this yardage, but the *American Golfer* and *Golf Illustrated* magazines as well. See score card at right.) True, that year there was a drought and, as the latter magazine pointed out, Nassau's fairways were "burnt up and the ground in consequence very hard so that long drives were far from uncommon." However, it added that "the bounces and the angles which the ball would shoot off when the long



*Miss Lilian Hyde from
South Shore.*

1914 U.S. Women's Amateur at Nassau September 14-15

No.	Name	Yards	Par
1.	Lucky	310	4
2.	Long	500	5
3.	Corner	395	4
4.	Railroad	300	4
5.	Cedar	392	4
6.	Hill	443	5
7.	Hollow	161	3
8.	Pond	140	3
9.	Hick's Corner	280	4
	Out	3,120	37
10.	Circus	161	3
11.	Woods	370	4
12.	Roadside	375	4
13.	Slide	390	4
14.	Sand Pit	190	3
15.	Meadow	310	4
16.	Mounds	325	4
17.	Old Lane	405	4
18.	Graveyard	391	4
	In	<u>2,917</u>	<u>34</u>
	Totals	6,037	71

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irons were played toward the greens made up for the extra distance on the drive.”

The media all commented on the unhappy draw in this event. In those days, the draw was literally a draw out of the hat, and it sometimes, as on this occasion, resulted in many of the best players meeting in the first round. As the *Eagle* put it, “It was seen that there would be a similar “extinguishment of the high lights of the feminine golf world” as had marked the U. S. Amateur in the previous month, “when such bigwigs of the golf world as J. G. Anderson, Fred Herreshoff, ‘Chick’ Evans, Edward P. Allis III, B. Warren Corkran, Gardiner W. White, and Max R. Marston were all laid away to sleep for another year.”

That day’s draw saw Harriot Curtis pitted against Mrs. Jackson, Miss Bishop against Miss Stirling, and Mrs. Barlow against Margaret Curtis. As a Metropolitan area paper, the *Eagle* was particularly upset by a further clash, between Miss Hyde, then Women’s Met champion, and Miss Hollins, the 1912 champion. It pointed out that if the USGA had employed the draw used at the *Eagle’s* trophy matches—where the method was to “draw numerically the low against the high scorers in the medal round” (like today’s General Numerical Draw)—low scorers such as Bishop, Hyde, Hollins, Barlow and Margaret Curtis would not have met until the third round or semifinals.

In the first round, three of the five former champions were out—Barlow losing to Margaret Curtis, Jackson defeating Harriot Curtis and Frances Griscom succumbing to Miss Eleanor Allen. Bishop defeated Stirling by 2 and 1. In the Metropolitan matchup, Hyde defeated Hollins by 4 and 3. The press commented on the fine driving by Hyde, who “time and again drove 250 yards and at the ninth, a distance of 280 yards, her drive left her almost on the edge of the green.” Of the Nassau qualifiers, Sumner lost to Miss Florence McNeeley, Merion, 1 down. Davis advanced, defeating Miss Louise Swabacker, Ravisloe, by 2 and 1.

In the second round, Barlow won comfortably, as did Jackson. Rosenthal defeated Bishop by 6 and 5. In another one-sided match, Hyde defeated Davis of Nassau “as expected,” by 7 and 6. “Mrs Davis, former-

ly Miss Molly Maxwell, is known the country over as a horsewoman of exceptional ability, found the little white ball more refractory than any fractious steed she had ever sought to control on the race track.”

In the third round, there was a “suspicion of a breeze, and the sun blazed down from a cloudless sky, as it has been doing all week.” Barlow defeated Hyde in an exciting match by just 1 up. Jackson continued to play good golf, going out in 39, the best score on the outward half up to that point. Rosenthal was 1 down going to the 18th, but parred the hole to square the match and won at the 19th. Vandebeck also advanced easily.

The semifinal matches started at 10 o’clock. The weather was hot. “From a sky of cloudless splendor, the sun beat down with midsummer fierceness with little or no breeze to temper its rays.”

The first match, between Barlow and Rosenthal, was a ding-dong affair all the way. Barlow won the first hole, but then lost the third and fifth. On the 8th (Pond) hole, “something happened that is rare in championships.” Both missed the green, and after their chip shots, it was impossible by eye to determine who was away. President Watson of the USGA measured the distances with the flagstick, but there was no difference. In the end, he took out a \$10 gold piece and tossed. Barlow called “heads,” but it came down “tails” and Rosenthal played the odd. She missed the three-footer, Barlow holed hers, and the match was square. After halves in 4 at the ninth hole, both were out in 41.

Incidents like this are the reason that a referee in match play should *always* carry a tape measure or some other measuring device!

Not a single hole on the inward half was halved. Rosenthal lost the 10th, squared at the next, and became 1 up at the 12th, and went back to square at 13. She took the lead with a 3 at 14, only to lose her advantage at the next hole. They exchanged the 16th and 17th holes and were all square on the home hole. Here Barlow missed an easy putt of three feet and that was that.

In the other semifinal, Jackson was never headed after the fourth hole. Yet, Vanderbeck managed to take the match to the 17th hole. Vanderbeck was three down at the turn, and would have been four down had she not laid Jackson a dead stymie close to the hole when Jackson had a short putt for a 4 at the ninth.

Jackson was playing steadily from tee to green, but her putting was not as good as that



The Curtis sisters played at Nassau. They donated the trophy for the Curtis Cup international matches. Margaret is at left and Harriot, right.



of her opponent, who had a habit of rolling up "nifty approaches or delicate chips for a single putt." Still, Vanderbeck could only reduce Jackson's lead to one, and when she missed a short putt at 17 for a win, Jackson had won by 2 and 1.

In the final between Jackson and Rosenthal, President Watson of the USGA sent the pair away at 10 o'clock. A gallery of about 500 was at the first hole. A cool 15-mile-an-hour east wind made the course more difficult, offsetting the roll obtained from the hard ground.

Jackson won the first hole 5 to 6, after a poor drive from Rosenthal, but at the next hole the roles were reversed, and Rosenthal squared with a 6 to a 7. Jackson won the third with a par 4 to a 5. The fourth and fifth holes were halved in par 4s "without incident," but at the sixth hole, Jackson appeared to have the upper hand when her second shot with a brassie was just over the green, and Rosenthal was bunkered 30 yards short. But Rosenthal holed a 10-footer for 5, and Jackson missed an eight-footer for a 4, leaving the ball three inches short. "This miss rather nettled the Bostonian, and she stamped her foot in vexation."

The seventh hole provided "the first fireworks of the day." Both played the hole poorly, but Jackson ran her fifth stroke to the lip of the cup, laying a dead stymie to Rosenthal, who was three feet away playing five. Rather than run the risk of knocking Jackson's ball in the hole for a win in 5, Rosenthal played safely to one side for a half in 6.

The turning point of the match probably came at the eighth hole, where Jackson hit into a bunker by the green, and it appeared as if she must lose the hole. But then

Rosenthal topped her mashie shot into the pond, and had to drop, playing 3. Jackson won with 4 to a 5, putting her 2 up when the match should have been square. Still, Rosenthal won the ninth hole with a birdie 3 to bring her back to 1 down. Jackson was out in 43, Rosenthal, 44.

Against the wind at the 10th (Circus) hole, both women took wood. Rosenthal pulled wildly and could only manage a 5. Jackson was just over the green and chipped dead for a 3. Rosenthal was equally wild at the 11th, going from rough off the tee, to a bunker short of the green in 3, took two to get out, and then put the ball in a bunker at the back of the green. From there, she put it back in the first bunker. She picked up, conceding to Jackson, who was on in 3. Jackson 3 up. Jackson lost the 12th, where she sliced her brassie into a bunker. Rosenthal back to 2 down. They halved the 13th with 5s, then at the 14th Jackson hit into a bunker and lost 4 to 3. She was now only 1 up. They halved the next three holes in 6, 4, 5. Jackson was now dormie.

At the 18th hole, both hit good drives, but then Jackson pulled her iron into deep rough. Rosenthal went for the green with her brassie, but fell short in the right-hand bunker. Jackson's third went over the green "onto the path between the green and tennis court." Rosenthal's third was just out of the bunker, still 40 feet from the hole. Jackson then chipped to within three feet. Rosenthal's fourth ran 15 feet past, and she narrowly avoided laying herself a stymie. She then made the putt, "an exhibition of nerve that brought a burst of hand-clapping." Then, Jackson calmly holed her three-footer for a 5, a half, and victory by 1 up.

Jackson was 43 in for an 86, Rosenthal 46 in for 90.

Medal scores:

Jackson—Out	5, 7, 4, 4, 4, 5, 6, 4, 4—43
Rosenthal—Out	6, 6, 5, 4, 4, 5, 6, 5, 3—44
Jackson— In	3, ?, ?, 5, 4, 6, 4, 5, 5—43—86
Rosenthal—In	5, ?, ?, 5, 3, 6, 4, 5, 5—46—90
Jackson won by 1 up.	

Note: Scores for holes 11 and 12 were not recorded, since both holes involved one of the players conceding the hole. However, the *Brooklyn Eagle* did give the above approximate totals for the second nine and 18-hole totals.



Elaine Rosenthal chips onto the 14th green with Jackson watching at left.

CHAPTER ELEVEN—Golf at Nassau

One would have thought that this would have been enough excitement for one day for both Rosenthal and Jackson. Not so. That Saturday afternoon, "one of the most successful championships known to the history of American women's golf" ended with the "customary handicap mixed foursomes." Both finalists competed.

In the competition, 35 pairs appeared. There was a tie for first place between Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Fidler, Jr. of Merion, Pennsylvania, and Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Davis, Nassau, with 79 – 12 – 67 and 84 – 17 – 67, respectively. The Fidlers won the playoff.

Many of the top names among the women took part, including Margaret Curtis, paired with C. L. Tiffany, Mrs. Vanderbeck, whose partner was H. L. Pratt, and Alexa Stirling who played with Howard W. Maxwell Jr. Nassau women in the event included: Mrs. Whitney, paired with Archie Reid; Mrs. Runyon, paired with Harold W. Carhart, Mrs. Smithers, who played with Findlay Douglas, and Mrs. Tiffany, who played with Howard F. Whitney. Two other famous amateurs who played were Max Marston and Gardiner White. (Other than Reid and Marston, all the men mentioned above were from the host club.)

As mentioned earlier, both finalists competed despite their labors in the morning, but not surprisingly finished at the tail end of the field. The runner-up in the championship, Rosenthal, played with C. T. Richardson and produced an 85 – 6 – 79, while the new champion, Jackson, played with her husband and scored 90 – 7 – 83.

1967 New York State Amateur

In 1967, the New York State Amateur came to Nassau. Qualifying for the championship took place on July 11 at the Creek Club. The event proper began with a dinner at Nassau on Monday, July 24, with match play involving 128 players beginning on the following day. All matches were at 18 holes except the 36-hole final.

In the field were: The 17-year old defending champion, Nick Raasch, Onondaga; Bill Tryon, Elmira, 1962 and 1963 winner; John Baldwin, Port Washington, LIGA Amateur champion, a title Baldwin had won a week before; George H. (Pete) Bostwick, Locust Valley; his brother Jim Bostwick, Jericho, the former French Amateur champion; Jim Fisher, New Rochelle, the Met champion; Judge Joe Gagliardi, Mamaroneck, 1956 New York Amateur winner and runner-up in the National Amateur in 1951; Doug Ford, Jr., Tuckahoe, the son of the famous Masters and PGA Champion; Gene Francis, Huntington, National quarter-finalist in 1961, and Nassau's Jim Tingley and George Gennity.

In the first round, Raasch advanced easily, as did Francis, both winning by 5 and 4. Ford won fairly comfortably, 3 and 2. Tingley and Fisher also won, with 2 up and 2 and 1 victories respectively. Gagliardi and Jim Bostwick eked out 1 up wins, whereas Baldwin and Pete Bostwick won by default. Tryon eliminated Gennity by 2



Bostwick, left, and Baldwin with their trophies.

and 1.

In the second round, Baldwin upset Raasch, stopping him by 3 and 1. Tryon also advanced by 5 and 4. Pete Bostwick routed his opponent by 8 and 6. Bostwick was out in 34 and ended the match at two under par. Francis and Tingley both won by 4 and 3. Fisher came from four down against John Ward to win by 3 and 2. Jim Bostwick also had a 3 and 2 win. Ford squeaked through, 1 up, as did Gagliardi with a win in 19 holes.

In the third round, Gagliardi enjoyed a 5 and 4 win, while Tingley advanced by 4 and 3. Baldwin, Francis and Jim Bostwick all won by 3 and 2, while Pete Bostwick and Tryon enjoyed 2 and 1 margins. Ford just came through in 20 holes. Fisher defaulted.

In the fourth round, Pete Bostwick rallied from 2 down against Tingley to square the match at the 18th, where Bostwick sank a 20-foot birdie putt. Both three-putted the 19th, but Bostwick took the 20th as Tingley hit over the green. Tryon's match also went into overtime; he won at the 19th hole. Baldwin defeated Jim Bostwick, 1 up. Francis disposed of Ford by 3 and 2. Gagliardi also advanced.

In the quarterfinals, Pete Bostwick, Jr. who, it should be noted, was then using the croquet-type putting style that was soon to be banned by the USGA, eliminated Tryon thanks to a two under par burst on the outward half of 34, winning by 2 and 1. The match between Charles Murphy, Jr., Albany, a Siena College senior and John Cuomo, Utica, resulted in Murphy advancing by 4 and 3. Murphy only lost one hole, where he three-putted. Baldwin won by 1 up against Billy Edwards, Garden City. Baldwin drew even at the 15th hole after successive birdies. Baldwin won the 17th with par, as Edwards bogied after driving in rough. Francis defeated Gagliardi by 2 and 1.

In the semifinals, Bostwick beat Murphy by 3 and 2. Bostwick was one over par for

the match. As a matter of interest, Bostwick was very much an all-round athlete—at the time he held the National Amateur Court Tennis crown. Baldwin played the best golf of the day against Francis, shooting a two-under-par 68 to win by 1 up.

The All-Long Island final, therefore, was between the 22-year old John Baldwin, a member of the Plandome club, and Pete Bostwick, Jr., ten years Baldwin's senior, of the Piping Rock Club, Locust Valley. This was Baldwin's first appearance in the State amateur. Bostwick had competed in the event once before.

So keen and accurate was the morning play that the contestants went into luncheon all even. They also had exactly the same medal score, each holing the 6,413-yard Nassau course in 71 strokes during what turned out to be the start of a long, exhausting test in humid weather.

In the afternoon, the tee to green game of the 6-foot-3-inch, 190-pound Baldwin was impressive, but it was his putting that proved to be the turning point in the match. During the first six holes, he used only eight putts, and it was through this stretch of holes that he gained his lead. After that, Bostwick had to call on all his experience as a many sports competitor to prevent Baldwin from making it a rout.

At the first hole, Baldwin one-putted for a half, then on the second hole holed a real roller coaster of a putt for a winning birdie and a 1 up lead. William B. Stark, representing the New York State golf Association and acting as referee, measured the putt with a special gadget he carried. It came out at 45 feet.

Baldwin also one-putted the third after being bunkered for another half. The next two holes were parred, but at the sixth he sank a putt for a winning 4 where Bostwick had driven into the rough and was on a grassy slope with his second.

Baldwin went 3 up as Bostwick misjudged a roll in the ninth green and three putted for a losing bogey 5. Baldwin was out in 34, one under par, while Bostwick scored 37.

A fine chip won the 12th hole for Baldwin, but he overplayed the next hole, and lost it. At the 14th, he hit a brilliant approach within six inches of the hole for a conceded birdie 3 to go back to 3 up again.

Bostwick wasn't beaten, though. He halved the 15th and then when Baldwin, who used the orthodox putting stroke, three-putted the 16th, Bostwick was only 2 down. However, his comeback stopped there. Baldwin, who was driving long and straight, was on in two easily at the 17th. Bostwick missed the green to the right and could do no better than a 5 to Baldwin's 4, to lose the match by 3 and 1.

Medal Scores, morning round

Par—	Out	4, 4, 4, 4, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4—35
Baldwin—	Out	5, 3, 4, 4, 3, 5, 4, 4, 4—36
Bostwick—	Out	5, 4, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 3—35
Par—	In	3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 3, 4, 4—35—70
Baldwin—	In	3, 4, 5, 4, 4, 4, 3, 4, 4—35—71
Bostwick—	In	3, 4, 5, 4, 4, 5, 3, 4, 4—36—71

Match even.

Medal scores, afternoon Round

Par—	Out	4, 4, 4, 4, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4—35
Baldwin—	Out	4, 3, 4, 4, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4—34
Bostwick—	Out	4, 4, 4, 4, 3, 5, 4, 4, 5—37
Par—	In	3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 3, 4, 4—35—70
Baldwin—	In	3, 5, 4, 5, 3, 5, 4, 4,
Bostwick—	In	3, 4, 5, 4, 4, 5, 3, 5,

Baldwin won, 3 and 1.

Nassau's Own

As mentioned in Chapter One, the tradition at Nassau of holding a men's open event in the Fall started at the Club's predecessor, the old Queens County Club. The overall format for the event, one day's qualifying in stroke play followed by two days of match play, either Thursday through Saturday, or Friday through Sunday, in three (or more, if necessary) 16's continued, with some variations in format and season for many years.

1897 Queens County G. C. Open Tournament

The first event we find in the *New York Times* began on Thursday, October 14, 1897, when 48 golfers qualified to play for three different cups offered by the host club. The first 16

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played for the Queen's County Cup, the second 16 for the North Country Cup, and the third 16 for the Glen Cove Cup.

In the 36-hole qualifying round, four rounds of the nine-hole course, W. G. Stewart, described as "the English golfer of the Seabright Golf Club, who has been doing such excellent work on the links recently" finished at the head of the list, scoring 93-97—190 for the 36 holes. (Remember: This is still the era of the old, unresponsive gutta percha ball.) Earlier that year, Stewart had qualified for the National Amateur, losing to C. B. Macdonald, 1895 champion, in the second round.

Next came Foxhall P. Keene, Rockaway, with 191. Other overseas player were A. Gray, "a prominent player from the St. George Golf Club, England—this must be what is now Royal St. George's Golf Club, Sandwich, one of the clubs on the British Open rota, and W. B. Cheney, Oxford, presumably a young English player still studying at that university. Gray scored 192, Cheney, 196. Behind them was Walter J. Travis, Oakland, 197, and another prominent amateur golfer of the time, Devereux Emmet, Oyster Bay, the same person who later would be involved in redesigning the Nassau course, with an even 200. Queens County players playing for the top cup were: Harold Godwin, 209, W. L. Hicks, 212, H. C. Hall, 217, J. B. C. Tappan, 218, F. B. Pratt, 218, and S. A. Jennings, 220.

In the semifinals, Emmet "occasioned somewhat of a surprise" in beating the second leading qualifier, Keene, who that year had gone to the third round in the National Amateur, by 1 up, whereas Stewart beat Travis "after a warm game," by 2 and 1. In the final, Stewart defeated Emmet by 4 and 3.

1898 Queens County G. C. Open Tournament

In the following year, Nassau's "annual open tournament" again started on a Thursday, but a little earlier, on September 29, 1898. The golf was appreciably better. The low scorer was Dr. Burdette O'Connor of Staten Island, with 89-87—176, the 87 setting a new course record. (Ironically, the year before O'Connor had only been able to qualify for the third 16, after scoring a snappy 258.) Right behind O'Connor, however, were Walter J. Travis, Oakland, and W. L. Hicks, both with 183. Besides Hicks, the only other member of the host club in the top 16 was C. O. Gates, 209.

Travis was undoubtedly the class of the field. As the *New York Times* said, "The Queens County Club is liberal in its prizes, and the opportunity to win something was grasped by a large number of local golfers. With the exception of Walter J. Travis, there was an absence of the cracks . . . the presence of Travis in the first sixteen, however, was viewed with apprehension by his other fifteen companions, nearly all of whom otherwise would have the easy golf confidence of possible victory."

Their apprehension was well justified. Travis won his first three matches by 4 and 3, 5 and 4 and 8 and 7. In the final, he faced G. A. Toffey, described as the "leading golfer of the Jersey City Club." Travis won by 3 and 2.

He also scored an 86, a new course record. Today, the player who scores lowest in qualifying is called the medalist, because of the medal he receives for this feat. That was also true back in 1896 at the U. S. Amateur. However, in that same year the Queens County Club evidently liked to do things a little differently. The Club had offered a gold medal for "the best score of the tournament." O'Connor had the lowest score in qualifying, but the Club definitely counted Travis's round in the final, because it gave him the medal. As if this were not enough aggravation for the luckless O'Connor, he finished dead last in the handicap tournament, shooting 115-2—113!

1902 Nassau C. C. Open Tournament

In 1899, the Club moved to its present site, changing its name to Nassau Country Club, and the move necessitated a hiatus in its tournament. From the Club's minutes, it appears that it did not hold another open event until 1902.

Played September 25-27, the tournament attracted a record entry of 144 players. Four silver cups were offered. However, according to the magazine *Golf*, rain fell "in sheets" that day and 75 competitors tore up their score cards. Since there were so many starters and the weather was so bad, the qualifying round was reduced from 36 to 18 holes. Bostonite C. B. Cory, Wollaston, was



Walter Travis, champion in 1898 and 1902.

low scorer with 80, "very good work considering the weather." Cory was then the Florida champion. Walter J. Travis, Garden City, who by now had won two U. S. Amateurs, C. H. Seeley, Wee Burn, a semi-finalist in the U. S. Amateur in 1901, and Frank Croker, Deal, tied for second with 81. Nassau members also in the top 16 were W. L. Hicks, 87, J. D. (Jerry) Travers, then a lad of 15 playing in his first Nassau open event, 87, and J. R. Maxwell, Jr., 90. Devereux Emmet was also playing for the top cup, with 89.

The first day at match play was marked by "a continuance of the wet weather," but it didn't seem to make much difference to Travis. In his first match, he was out in 38, and beat his man by 6 and 5. However, his match with Seeley was close. Here, Travis's usual "superior work on the green" saved him and he won, 2 up. Travers lost in the first round.

The *New York Times* recounted that "One of the humorous incidents of the day was furnished by George E. Armstrong, one of Staten Island's veterans. After driving a long ball, he walked up to where he thought it lay and seeing a white object standing out temptingly to be hit, took it for his ball, addressed it with great care, and gave it a resounding whack. The object flew into a hundred pieces. "That was a mushroom, George," said his partner. "Your ball is behind you!"

In his semifinal, Travis was "brilliant in the extreme." He scored 73, a tournament record for the course, crushing F. A. Marcellus, Yountakah, who scored 88, by 7 and 6. Marcellus did not win a hole. In the other semi-final, Cory defeated J. R. Maxwell, Jr., by 2 and 1.

In the final, Travis disposed of Cory by 6 and 4. He was out in a steady 38 to his opponent's 41, and was 3 up. After two halves, Travis won three holes with 4s, and the game ended on the 14th green.

1904 Nassau C. C. Open Tournament

In 1903, the Club's event was not played. So, in 1904, Travis was the defending champion. Held October 6-8, there were over 90 players in the starting field. The Club offered three cups for as many sets of 16 golfers. In the qualifying, Walter Travis won the gold medal, scoring a steady 77, 82—159. Second and third were Nassau's Findlay Douglas and Jerry Travers with 165 and 168, respectively. Other Nassau men in the top 16 were W. L. Hicks and T. D. Hooper, both with 179, and Howard W. Maxwell, 180.

This was one of the most significant Nassau events ever. As described earlier, Jerry Travers not only defeated Findlay Douglas in the semifinals in the morning, after lunch he took care of the formidable Travis in the final at the third extra hole.

Golf said of Travers, "This is an unexpected feat for a boy of 17. He played golf of the highest quality throughout, as a glance at his card will indicate, and he won strictly on his merit."

Medal scores:

Travers—Out	4, 6, 5, 4, 5, 4, 2, 4, 5—39
Travis—Out	4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 3, 4, 4—38
Travers—In	5, 4, 5, 4, 4, 5, 4, 3, 4—38—77
Travis—In	5, 3, 5, 3, 5, 5, 4, 4, 4—38—76
Travers—Extra holes	4, 5, 2
Travis—Extra holes	4, 5, 3
Travers won at third extra hole.	

In a later issue of 1904, the magazine added: "At no period in the history of the game in this country has so young a player occupied so high a position. . . Travers has physique, a graceful and effective style, which should be lasting, and he seems to possess the proper golfing temperament. With such qualities, he should go still further." Prophetic words, indeed.

1905 Nassau C. C. Open Tournament

In 1905, the Nassau tournament was played September 28-30, and as *Golf* reported, it was "noteworthy for the match (in the final) between Jerome D. Travers and Walter J. Travis." There were 66 entrants in the qualifying round, competing for three cups. Travis, Garden City, had 75-74-149, the low score. Travers, Nassau, was next with 76-77-153. Only two others broke 160. Other Nassau players in the top 16 were W. J. Evans, W. L. Hicks, F. C. Jennings, and T. D. Hooper, who shot 163, 167, 170, and 171 respectively.

That year, there was also a team match. Evidently, there were four-man teams, selected in advance, because Nassau's winning team was Travers, 153, Evans, 163, H. F. Whitney, 176,



Jerry Travers, 1904 and 1905 Nassau champion.

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and C. A. Dunning, 179, for a total of 671. Princeton came in second with 692, and Baltusrol third with 707.

In the semifinals, Travis beat Allan Lord, Washington, by 5 and 4 to play, and Travers defeated Douglas Laird, Princeton, by 4 and 3.

The result of the final was a repeat of the previous year. However, Travers won with far more ease. Travis, "to the surprise of his friends, failed lamentably to maintain his customary machine-like accuracy. His approaching, usually so deadly, was quite erratic." In contrast, Travers was "very steady in both the long and short game."

At the turn, Travers was out in 38 to Travis's 41 and was 3 up. He then won the 10th, 4 to 5. The 11th was halved in 3. Travis had a 3 on the 12th, the first hole he had won. The next three holes were halved. Travers, dormie 3. At the 16th Travis topped his drive, played short from a bad lie, and took 5 to Travers 4. Travers won, 4 and 2.

1908 Nassau C. C. Open Tournament

We have found no records for 1906 and 1907. Possibly, the event was not played in those years.

In 1908, the Club changed to a summer date and also experimented with a slightly different format. It was played over two, rather than three days, on Friday and Saturday, June 19

and 29. More than 80 golfers competed. As the *New York Times* put it, "By the conditions, sets of eight were to qualify (over 18 holes) and the field was so large, the committee generously announced that prizes would be awarded for nine sets." In the field were two ex-National champions, Walter J. Travis, Garden City, and Findlay S. Douglas, Nassau.

In the morning qualifying, Travis and Nassau's W. L. Hicks played together and each had 73 strokes, the best of the day. Douglas, however, needed 82 in the medal play, and dropped into the second eight, as did Fred Herreshoff, Ekwanok, a fine golfer who had been a finalist in the National Amateur in 1904, and was to be a semifinalist later that year. In the afternoon matches, Hicks lost at the 20th hole to E. M. Wild, Cranford, while Travis defeated Nassau's F. C. Jennings.

In the semifinals, Wild defeated Bert Allen, Fox Hills, by 4 and 3 and Travis eliminated Chadwick Sawyer, Midland, by 6 and 5. As an

aside, later that year Sawyer qualified for the National Amateur, the only time he was to do so. He went out in the first round, again losing to Travis! In the final, Travis defeated Wild by 5 and 4. This marked the third time that Travis had won one of the Club's events.

As a small consolation, Findlay Douglas won the second cup. Herreshoff lost in the semifinals.

1909 Nassau C. C. Open Tournament

In 1909, Herreshoff, Westbrook, more than made up for his disappointing showing in the previous year. He won everything. Although a high wind and "late Fall" temperatures sent scores soaring in the qualifying, he shot 79-80—159, tying former baseball player and fellow club member John M. Ward, who had 76-83—159. It was agreed to let their scores in the handicap tournament decide the medalist honors, and Herreshoff won by a stroke. Fine golfers in the top 16 were H. G. Legg, a Yale student who that year had won the Minnesota Amateur Championship, an event he was to win it a total of nine times, 166, and Oswald Kirkby, Englewood, 175, as well as Nassau's T. D. Hooper, 161, F. C. Jennings, 165, W. L. Hicks, 170, and H. S. Hubbell, 177.

As in 1905, there was a team event, and Hooper, Jennings, Hicks and Hubbell represented Nassau, which won with a total of 673. A team from Yale came next with 690 and Dyker Meadow was third with 710.

Kirkby went out in the first round. Ward went out in the second. Ward's nemesis was



Findlay Douglas and Fred Herreshoff at Nassau.

Legg, who laid Ward three stymies en route to a 2 and 1 victory! In the semifinals, Legg defeated Hicks by 4 and 3, while Herreshoff took care of Hubbell by 3 and 2.

In the final, Herreshoff, the *New York Times* said, "showed the same consistent golf that has characterized his play all week" and was 2 up at the turn, going out in 38 to Legg's 40. At that point, Herreshoff "let himself out a bit" and closed out the match on the 14th green, defeating Legg by 5 and 4.

As can be seen, that year, the tournament returned to four sets of 16 for match play and a three-day format, but had an even earlier date than before, May 20-22.

1910 Nassau C. C. Invitation Tournament

In 1910, the Nassau event continued its Thursday through Saturday format, but returned to dates in the Fall, October 6-8. This year marks the first time the press describes the event as the *invitation* tournament of the Nassau Country Club, rather than the open tournament. The Club had provided for five 16s, what the *New York Times* said was "just about right" for the 88 starters. "For the average golfer," the newspaper added, "scoring was harder than usual because of the baked out condition of the fairways to say nothing of the slippery greens. Nearly everyone had a hard-luck story to tell about putting, one man having the misfortune to take five putts from 12 feet."

The conditions did not faze Walter Travis, Garden City, who shot 75-76—151, despite missing two short putts on the last two holes, which was, as the reader by now will realize, most un-Travis-like behavior. Following Travis came John M. Ward, Garden City, and B. T. Allen, Fox Hills, both with 159. Also in the top 16 were Nassau's Howard F. Whitney, 164, Clifford Dunning, 165, C. E. F. McCann, 168, A. E. Jones, 170, and W. L. Hicks, 173. A newcomer to the event was one Gardiner White, the then current Interscholastic champion, who scored 167. White then was playing out of Flushing, but later, of course, became a Nassau stalwart.

Again, a team match was held in conjunction with the qualifying round. Garden City won this event, with the team of Travis, 151, J. M. Ward, 159, G. C. Greenway, 171, and P. R. Jennings, 181, and a total of 662. Nassau's No. 1 team came in second. Composed of W. L. Hicks, 173, F. C. Jennings, 173, A. W. Rossiter, 175, and Howard F. Whitney, 164, the team's total score was 685. Nassau No. 2 came in third, with 704.

On the second day, conditions much improved, as rain fell throughout the day, softening the turf. In the morning White shot a 76, counting the bye holes, to beat his man by 5 and 4. Meanwhile, Travis had a tough time with Whitney, who shot 38 going out, to go 1 up, but was unsteady coming home to allow Travis a 3 and 1 win. Ward won easily by 3 and 2. Jones just scraped through, 1 up.

In the afternoon, Ward again won handily. The "old baseball hero" scored 76, disposing of his man by 4 and 3. Travis also scored well—out in 36, he won by 4 and 2. White struggled to win at the 17th green, while Jones had to play two extra holes to advance.

In the semifinals, Ward easily beat White, who early on began slicing his drives, and this weakness left him too much to do on his second shots. White compounded this error by becoming "wobbly" on the greens, and Ward won by 4 and 3. In the meantime, Travis had an easy time with Jones, who was totally outclassed by Travis's "mechanical accuracy." Jones could only halve a few holes, and went down 7 and 5.

In the final, the *Times* said, "the gallery was treated to high-class golf." Off the tee and through the fairway, "the strokes of Travis and Ward left little to choose," but when it came to putting, the steadiness of the "Old Man" counted in the long run. Ward was brilliant and correspondingly weak in turns. Travis shot 36 going out to Ward's 37, to take a 1 up lead. Ward squared the match at the 13th hole where he holed a long putt for a 3, but then promptly lost the next three holes, to lose by 3 and 2.

Both finalists played out the bye holes. Travis scored a 72, "one of the best scores by an amateur in competition at Nassau." Ward had 77. Travis had now won four of the Club's events, his previous victories coming in 1898, 1902 and 1908.

Medal Scores:

Travis—Out 4, 4, 4, 4, 3, 5, 4, 4, 4—36
 Ward—Out 4, 5, 4, 4, 3, 4, 3, 5, 5—37
 Travis—In 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 3, 4, 4, 4—36—72
 Ward—In 4, 4, 4, 3, 6, 5, 6, 5, 5—42—79
 Travis won by 3 and 2.

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1911 Nassau C. C. Invitation Tournament

In 1911, the Invitation Tournament of the Nassau Country Club was held October 5-7. There were 85 entrants vying for flights of five 16s. In the qualifying, the then 49-year old Walter Travis, Garden City, and W. L. Hicks, Nassau, tied for medalist honors with totals of 155. Oddly enough, Travis and Hicks both had the same score in the morning, both scoring 76. Since the conditions of the competition stated that, in the event of a tie, the contestant with the better morning round would take the medal, the tie was not broken. Although the *New York Times* did not cover this point, presumably both got medals, suitably inscribed.

Oswald Kirkby, Englewood, scored 156, and next came C. B. Macdonald, National, with 162. James R. Hyde, South Shore, had 166, as did Gardiner W. White, Oakland. Among a trio at 167 was J. D. Foot, Apawamis. Besides Hicks, Nassau members in the top 16 were A. N. Cowperthwaite, 169, C. A. Dunning, 171, and Howard F. Whitney, T. D. Hooper and B. B. Tilt, all with 172.

C. B. Macdonald, National, or, to give him his full name, Charles Blair Macdonald, was one of the major figures behind the popularization of golf in this country. Introduced to golf by Old Tom Morris during his student days at St. Andrews, Scotland, Macdonald returned home in 1875 and designed the Chicago Golf Club course in 1893, the first 18-hole layout in the U. S. A. He was that club's representative at the famous dinner in 1894 which founded the USGA. Macdonald won the USGA's first amateur championship in 1895 and designed the National Golf Links of America after the great links holes at British courses. Incidentally, Macdonald's effort in qualifying for the top 16 at Nassau with 162 was a pretty good effort for a man then 65 years of age, also considering the high wind prevailing throughout the day.

In the first round, Macdonald fell a victim to Hicks, losing by 7 and 6. Hyde took out Travis in a tough match, 1 up in 22 holes. Dunning, Cowperthwaite and Tilt also were eliminated. In the second round, Hicks lost to White, Kirkby beat Hyde, Hooper beat Whitney, and Foot defeated E. L. De Forest, Midland.

On the last day, the *Times* reported, "Half a gale of wind out of the East confronted the golfers when they stood on the first tee in the morning. There was also a chill in the wind that made the players seek the warmth of sweaters and coats." In one semifinal, Kirkby defeated Hooper by 5 and 4, while White stopped Foot by 4 and 3.

Throughout the final, Kirkby played "sound golf" and always was in command. White was a trifle unlucky in putting, missing tries for halves at the first three holes by "the narrowest of margins." Off the tee, there was little to choose, first one, then the other getting the longer ball. With the wind behind at the ninth, Kirkby "got fully 280 yards," and won the hole in 4. This put Kirkby 2 up, and out in 38 to 40. "Thereafter, White's direction became faulty, so that he lost the 11th, 12th, and 14th holes, where the match ended." Kirkby won 5 and 4.

In winning at Nassau, "Oswald Kirkby won his third chief cup of the season." One should note that Kirkby was a fine golfer, who qualified several times for the National Amateur before and after World War I. He won the Met Amateur three times (1914, 1916, 1919). In the New Jersey Amateur, he lost in the final to Jerry Travers in 1911, but won the event, beating Travers in the final in 1913. He also won it in 1914 and 1915—in the latter year, defeating Max Marston, later the National champion.

1912 Nassau C. C. Invitation Tournament

In the 1912 event, played October 3-5, the Club originally scheduled a 36-hole qualifying round, but the unwieldy field made it impossible to complete the double round without eliminating 40 or 50 of the players because of darkness. The Club finally decided to base the qualifying round on the first 18 holes played, and to declare that there would be no medal winner. It was offering cups for five 16s.

The low score for the first round was made by Walter Travis, Garden City, with 78. Next came Oswald Kirkby, Englewood, and H. B. Lee, Yale, with 81. Both Travis and Kirkby completed the double round, with 159, 157 respectively. A. L. Norris, Nassau, had 82. Fred Herreshoff, Garden City, who had recently won the National Links's tournament, took an 83, as did Clifford A. Dunning, the Nassau champion, H. J. Topping, Greenwich, and Percy R. Pyne 2nd, Morris County, among others. F. C. Jennings, Nassau, shot 84, while W. L. Hicks, Nassau, had 85, the highest score to make the top 16. John N. Stearns, Jr., (Princeton and Nassau), who had won the Fox Hills and Dunwoodie tournaments early that season, scored a 90, good only for the third 16, which he won.

Marking Balls

"It is strongly recommended that the initials of players will be marked on golf balls. The professional will do this free of charge and the committee recommend that the members order balls to be prepared in advance. . . A letter or postal to James Maiden, Glen Cove, will facilitate this plan.

"Any caddie who does not turn over to the Caddie-Master a marked ball will be prosecuted. These balls will be returned to their owner on payment of 5 cents each, and members are particularly warned against buying them from any caddie directly."

Notice in Nassau Tournament Schedule booklet for 1913

In the first round of the match play, Norris lost in the first round, as did Dunning, who lost to Kirkby. Topping defeated Jennings. Hicks lost to Herreshoff in the second round. In the semifinals, Topping lost to Kirkby by 2 and 1, while Travis succumbed to Herreshoff by the same score.

In the final, Kirkby took an early lead over Herreshoff by winning the second hole 5 to 6, and became 2 up at the next, but Herreshoff took the fourth. Even 4s halved the next three holes. Kirkby got a 3 at the eighth (Pond) hole, winning the hole and going back to 2 up. At the ninth, both holed 15-footers for birdie 3s. Coming home, they halved the 10th, but Herreshoff then quickly overtook Kirby by winning three holes in a row with 4s and was 1 up at the 13th. Herreshoff went 2 up at the 15th, where Kirkby drove into the rough, and the next two holes were halved to make Herreshoff the winner by 2 and 1.

This was Herreshoff's second victory in the Nassau event. He is perhaps most famed for his close loss to Britisher Harold Hilton in the U. S. Amateur of 1911, when he finished 1 down in 37 holes. However, he qualified seven other times in the National, losing to such people as Walter Travis and Jerry Travers, and also was a finalist in 1904. He won the Met Amateur in 1910, defeating Travers 4 and 3.

1914 Nassau C. C. Invitation Tournament

In 1913, the Club's tournament was not played due to changes the Club was making in the course.

In 1914, Nassau's tournament resumed, being played on October 1-3. The event was described on the sheet the Club sent out to Clubs for their notice boards as "open to members of clubs belonging to the USGA and such others as may be invited by the Nassau Country Club." That year, there were 187 entries, and 146 starters, attempting to qualify for one of five flights of 16 players. The *Brooklyn Eagle* described the Club's event as "one of the largest fields of high-class golfers ever seen in a club tournament in this country."

As in 1912, originally the Club had planned 36 holes of qualifying, and offered a gold medal for "the best 36 holes medal play in the qualifying rounds," but the size of the field forced it to reduce qualifying to 18 holes.

Gardiner White, Flushing, was the medalist with 72, just two strokes more than the Club record, 70, then held by Nassau's W. L. Hicks. The next best score was 76, made by John N. Stearns, Jr., Nassau, Maxwell R. Marston, Baltusrol, and three other golfers. Other competitors of interest in the top 16 were: Herbert M. Harriman, former Met and National champion, National, 77, Henry J. Topping, finalist in the French Amateur, Greenwich, 77, and Walter J. Travis, Garden City, 78. Other Nassau men in the top 16 were Clifford A. Dunning, 80, H. C. Berner, 80 and Henry Cape, 81.

As he did in 1908, Fred Herreshoff only qualified for the second 16, which he won. He shot 81 in qualifying, but lost a playoff for the last spot.

White went out in the first round by 6 and 5, as the *Brooklyn Eagle* put it, "owing to an inability to hole even easy putts." The newspaper continued, "Walter Travis, the veteran, and three of the younger generation of golfers, James R. Hyde, Maxwell Marston and Jack Stearns will be the semifinalists."

Stearns defeated Marston, the result being 1 up. The match, according to the *New York Times*, was "what is generally described as a corker." Stearns appeared to be making a runaway of it, becoming 3 up in the early holes. However, Marston hung on gamely, though "playing raggedly, especially on the greens, where he missed putts galore." With Stearns 3 up and 5 to play, Marston won two holes, but lost when Stearns holed a 20-footer for a winning half on the home green.

Travis eliminated James R. Hyde, South Shore, by 2 and 1. Travis took an early lead, winning the first two holes, and "after that the brother of the women's metropolitan champion never could catch up."

Travis took care of Stearns in the final, winning by 4 up and 3 to play. Stearns never was up in the match, as Travis took the lead at the fourth hole and after that was never headed. The *Brooklyn Eagle* commented, "A feature throughout the day of Travis's play was his frequently chipping up dead or running a 40-foot approach putt to the lip of the cup." Travis also saved a half at the 12th by jumping a stymie with a niblick. "The balls lay about a foot from the cup, but Travis's jump was so true that his ball, after hopping over the other, never wavered from

A Good 21-Cent Cigar

One Box of 100 Bock Havana
Corona Cigars \$21

Item from a Nassau House
Committee mailing—Winter, 1913.



Walter Travis lining up a downhill lie. Note the ever-present cigar!

CHAPTER ELEVEN—Golf at Nassau

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Walter Travis demonstrates how to jump a stymie.

Battle At Nassau Club As Golfers Flee

Sunday, May 30, 1915: Many wealthy members of the Nassau Country stood on the verandas of the club house this afternoon and watched a battle royal among the caddies and then a fight between them and policemen called from Glen Cove.

A dozen of the bigger caddies struck for double pay for the holidays and threatened the smaller boys if they accepted bags. When the smaller boys decided to work, the bigger boys pounced on them and, after fighting on the lawns, held them in the caddie house. Meanwhile, Constable McCahill had been telephoned at Glen Cove and he and several deputies drove to the club in an automobile. McCahill ordered the big boys off the grounds. With peace restored, the small caddies went to work again. . . they won the sympathy of the members and most made more than double wages!

Special dispatch to the *Herald*

Unfortunately, two of the "big guns" of women's golf of the day were indisposed. Miss Lillian B. Hyde, Women's Met champion, had to withdraw due to illness. Also, Miss Marion Hollins, Westbrook, had been ill for several days before the event with ptomaine poisoning, and said before her round that she "felt hardly able to play."

Of course, we all know what happened! Hollins shot the lowest qualifying score, an 89 and a new record for the remodeled course. She must have been some tough lady, because it's recorded that she had "ridden to Nassau from Islip, some 50 miles, on her motor cycle." Her nearest rival, Georgianna Bishop, Brooklawn, former National champion, was seven shots back. She had "played little golf this season, so her 96 was all that could be expected." Only two other players broke 100. The ultimate winner, Mrs. H. C. Phipps, of Piping Rock and Nassau, shot an even 100. The highest score in the top eight was 103.

In the afternoon, Bishop, Mrs. J. S. Irving, Scarsdale, Hollins and Phipps all won their first round matches.

The next day, Hollins confessed to being "Too full of health today. I'm going to write an article," she said, "on how not to play golf when feeling well." She then lost to Phipps by 2 and 1! Bishop won the other semifinal, defeating Irving by 7 and 6.

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For the record, Phipps, playing out of Piping Rock, had qualified in the National at Nassau in 1914, losing to Elaine Rosenthal in the first round. In 1923, she again qualified and met Bishop in the first round. Bishop got her revenge, winning by 1 up.

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A Golfing Conundrum

What is the difference
between a
pot hunter and
a professional?
One makes a business
of a pleasure
and the other
a pleasure
of a business.
Golf Illustrated, 1910

Tommy And Bobby

After Thomas Armour turned professional in 1924, he became known as "Tommy" Armour, and the "Black Scot," after his dark hair, later the "Silver Scot," when his hair turned gray. Armour was a great friend of Bobby Jones.

At the 1927 U. S. Open, Jones played the worst golf of his career, finishing tied for 11th at Oakmont CC, near Pittsburgh. Armour won the championship. A few weeks later, Armour got together with Jones for some friendly \$2 Nassaus. Armour says that Jones won so often that he quietly started to give Armour 1 up a side.

Some years later someone asked Armour how he could take 1 up a side from an amateur when he was the reigning U. S. Open champion. Armour snapped, "Because that's how goddamn good he was!"

Nassau Country Club" on Thursday, September 25. A field of 112 teed off in the traditional three-day Nassau event, "the first to be held since 1915." There were cups for five 16s.

In the qualifying, the long hitting J. Simpson Dean, Princeton, was medalist with a 77. (As a point of interest, Dean was to win the 1921 NCAA individual championship.) Right behind him was Sam J. Graham, Greenwich, 78. The Nassau men in the top 16 were Gardiner White, 80, J. S. O'Rourke, Jr., 81, Howard W. Maxwell, Jr., 83, and William L. Hicks, A. W. Rossiter, and George A. Dixon, all of whom shot 84. Another golfer of note was John M. Ward, Garden City, who also had 84. Ward was amusingly described as "the old time New York Giants' short stop, pitcher, second sacker, manager and so forth." The newspaper added that, though then over 50 and "eligible to play the Seniors' Golf Association", Ward had chosen to play at Nassau against men young enough to be his grandsons!

Yes, Ward won the whole thing! He eliminated Dean, the medalist, in the first round, by 1 up, then advanced by 3 and 2 and another 1 up margin to the final. Meanwhile, White went out in the second round, "because he couldn't sink putts two and three feet long." He was ousted by Sam Graham. Hicks, Dixon, Rossiter and O'Rourke all lost in the first round.

Ward's opponent in the final was Graham. They exchanged the first two holes, then halved the next three. Ward won the sixth hole, then drove out of bounds at the seventh, and again the match was square. At the Pond Hole (8th), Ward hit a great tee shot, while Graham "scooted over" into a trap. Ward holed the remaining 13-footer for a birdie 2 that put him ahead again. After a half in 4 at the ninth, Ward remained 1 up. He was out in 40, Graham in 43.

Ward was stymied at the 10th, but still halved. The 11th and 12th were also halved. At 13, Ward's 4 won the hole, taking him to 2 up. The next hole was halved in 5, but Ward's 3 at the next took him to 3 up. Graham won the 16th, but a half in 5 at 17 ended the match, 2 and 1.

Although Ward came to the game late, he was talented enough to qualify for the National Amateur in 1913 and 1916.

1920 Nassau C. C. Invitation Tournament

In 1920, Nassau's Invitation event, played October 11-13, 111 starters attempted to qualify for four 16s. That year the tournament had a distinctly international flavor, as a 25-year-old Scottish amateur, Thomas D. Armour, entered. Armour's club was listed as Lothianburn, Scotland.

Armour was then the holder of the French Amateur title. Armour had arrived in this country in mid-summer. Here Walter Hagen befriended him. Hagen saw that Armour was "a bit short of cash," and invited him to stay as his guest at the Westchester-Biltmore Club (now Westchester Country Club) in Rye. Hagen even got Armour a job, as secretary of the club, a post that evidently left him free to play a lot of tournament golf. However, thus far, his only success had been in the Shawnee amateur tournament. He had tied for the Canadian Open, but finished third in a playoff, finished 48th in the Open and had lost to Francis Ouimet in the third round of Amateur. Gardiner White had defeated him in the Piping Rock Invitational. So, when Armour got to Nassau, as today's saying goes, "he wanted it so bad he could taste it."

Armour, said the *New York Times*, must have felt right at home "in the Autumn weather", because he had no difficulty in "clicking off" a 37, one under par going out, and a 39, two over, coming home. His 76 led the field. Gardiner White, "pride of Nassau", and Reginald M. Lewis, Greenwich, who that year had taken Chick Evans to the 41st hole in the National Amateur, both had 77s. J. Simpson Dean, Princeton, had 78. Clifford A. Dunning, Nassau, and J. Wood Platt, the Philadelphia district champion, North Hills, had 79s. The only other Nassau name in the top 16 was the veteran W. L. Hicks with 81.

Many big names failed to return a card, including John M. Ward, the defending champion, Garden City, and Howard J. Maxwell, Jr., Nassau. The reason? That year, the greens at Nassau were so fast that "four and five putts were not rare." Another surprise was that John N. Stearns, Jr., one of the best Nassau players, shot an 85, good only for the second 16.

Hicks was defeated in the first round, but coming through to the semifinals were White, Platt, Armour and F. H. Holland, Wee Burn. Armour was expected to give Holland "a drubbing", and he did just that, winning by 5 and 3. Platt also had an easy time against White, winning three holes going out to turn 3 up, then winning three more of the final six that were played, White winning only two. Platt's winning margin was 4 and 3.

In the final, the *New York Times* commented that Armour had the prize won at least half-a-dozen times, but "evidently didn't want it." After being down by one hole most of the way,

Platt won the 18th with a 4, where Armour took four putts from 50 feet for a 6. At the first extra hole, both were on the green, but Platt holed a difficult 30-footer for a 3 to Armour's 4 to take the match 1 up in 19 holes. Neither golfer "played anything approaching championship caliber." Both were out in 38, and on the inward half, Platt had 40, Armour 43.

Normally, Platt was a terrific golfer. He won the Philadelphia Amateur seven times and in 1919, had been a semifinalist in the National Amateur, losing to the ultimate champion, S. Davidson Herron. He won the Pennsylvania Amateur in 1935. Today, he is still remembered for his start one day in a friendly round at Pine Valley. Par on the first four holes is 4, 4, 3, 4. Platt went 3, 2, 1, 3. Incredible! Platt thought so, too. He went into the clubhouse, by the fourth green, and never finished the round!

1921 Nassau C. C. Invitation Tournament

In 1921, the Nassau Invitation was played Sept 26-28. 100 players teed off to qualify for four divisions of 16. Thomas Armour was back, anxious to remedy his disaster of the previous year. Gardiner White, the Met champion, could not play, having sprained his wrist in an automobile accident. The weather was perfect for golf.

Armour and John N. Stearns, Jr., Nassau, led the field in the qualifying round, both scoring 74. Armour won the playoff for medalist honors. Other Nassau men in the top 16 were H. F. Will, H. C. Berner, George T. Brokaw and Howard Maxwell, Jr., all with 81s.

In one semifinal, Armour defeated John M. Ward, Garden City, in a "thriller." Ward won the first three holes, and was 1 up at the turn, and was out in 35 to Armour's 37. Ward won the 10th and 13th, so Armour was 3 down with 5 to play. Armour then won four holes in a row, squaring the match at 16, and taking a 1 up lead at 17. A half at 18 gave Armour the match, 1 up. Both players scored 75. In the other semifinal, Jack Stearns was out in 38 against Ray Thompson, the "Engineers' star", and the match was even. Stearns won the 10th and 12th. Thompson's 3 won the 13th, but he lost the 14th and 17th for Stearns to win by 3 and 1.

In the final, Armour won a "desperately fought match" with Stearns by 3 and 1. Neither player could gain an advantage going out, both scoring 36. Then Armour began a "brilliant march", winning the 10th in 5 to 6, the 12th in 4 to 5, and 14th in 4 to 5, and although he lost the 16th in 4 to 5, his 5 to a 6 by Stearns at the 17th gave Armour the victory by 3 and 1.

Armour was one of the greatest golfers to win the Nassau Invitation, going on to win, as a professional, the 1927 U. S. Open, the 1930 PGA Championship and the 1931 British Open. He also won three Canadian Opens and a Western Open, then reckoned a major.

1922 Nassau C. C. Invitation Tournament

In 1922, the dates for the Nassau Invitation were October 12-14. In the qualifying round, the *New York Times* reported that Nassau's Gardiner White "not only led the field, he lapped it," his fine score of 75 being seven shots better than the second best scores, 82s by Howard Maxwell, Nassau, and Richard Lounsberry, Oakland.

As the sun was sinking, the Nassau Committee appeared to have a unique arithmetical problem—how to fit 25 players into the top 16 without resorting to a playoff! Fortunately, there were exactly nine withdrawals from within that group, so everything worked out perfectly.

Another unusual circumstance was that three Maxwells from the host club qualified for the top 16—Howard, the Long Island Amateur champion, and J. R. and E. L., who scored 86 and 87, respectively. Other outstanding golfers in the top 16 were A. C. Gregson, Belleclair, and Roger W. Bacon, Highland. Other Nassau men in the top division were: W. L. Hicks, 85, Crowell Hadden, 3rd, 87 and E. T. Fox, 87.

Unfortunately for the Maxwells, E. L. was drawn against White, and Howard W. against J. R. in the first round. White and Howard Maxwell met in the second round, White succumbing by 4 and 3. Meanwhile, Hicks had lost to Gregson. Both semifinals were "close", Bacon defeating Maxwell, 3 and 1, and Gregson disposing of Lounsberry, 3 and 2.

In the final between Gregson and Bacon, "neither man played anything like the brand of golf expected from two finalists." Gregson scored an 81 to 84 by his opponent. After exchanging the second and third holes, it became a see-saw affair, first one, then the other winning a hole. After nine, Gregson was 1 down, having scored 41 to Bacon's 40.

Coming home, Gregson took the 10th in 4 to square the match and they halved the



*Tommy Armour hits a mid-iron
(today's 2-iron).*

How To Qualify

An amateur once asked Tommy Armour for tips on how to qualify in a tournament such as Nassau's, where players must play a medal round or rounds to qualify for match play.

He replied: "Take no sixes, no double bogeys, and remember there are lots of ways to make four!"

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11th in 5. Gregson took the 12th in 4, they halved the 13th in 3, then Bacon “made a mess” of the 14th, taking 6 to his opponent’s 4. Both missed the green at the short 15th, but Bacon “made amends” by holing a long putt for a winning 3. The 16th and 17th were halved in 5 and 6, leaving Gregson 1 up. At the 18th, Gregson was dead in 4, and Bacon missed a three-yard putt for a half. Gregson won by 2 up.

The *New York Times* commented that, although Gregson had been the medalist at the first LIGA Amateur earlier that year, “this is his first chief cup.”

1923 Nassau C. C. Invitation Tournament

In 1923, the Nassau Invitation was played in June, the dates being the 14th through the 16th. The *New York Times* reported that over 100 players attempted to qualify for four 16-man flights.

In the qualifying round, Nassau’s Gardiner W. White and E. M. Barnes, Piping Rock, tied for the medal, each scoring 74. However, on completing his round, Barnes announced that he had to withdraw from the tournament. Richard Lounsberry, Oakland, who in the previous year lost to Gregson in the semifinals, was back. So was Gregson, now playing out of Lido. They scored 78 and 80 respectively. Other Nassau members in the top 16 were: Clark Bedford, 77, H. H. Will, 77, Leon Abbott, Jr., 80, and George T. Brokaw, 80.

The early rounds were notable for the fine play of Gregson, the defending champion, who scored 72, 74 in advancing to the semifinals. In one semifinal, Gregson took on Abbett, and had an easy victory by 4 and 3. Out in 38 to his opponent’s 41, Gregson was 3 up. He played out the bye holes, registering a 75. In the other semifinal, White was off his game and able to win only hole against Lounsberry, who had a 36 to the turn. Lounsberry won by 6 and 5.

In the final, Gregson got off to a fast start, scoring par 4s at the first two holes, and an eagle 3 on the third to put him 2 up. Par 3s halved the fourth, but then Lounsberry topped both his second shots at the fifth and sixth holes, losing both holes in 6, 6, to 4, 5. At the seventh Lounsberry made amends with a fine second to the pin, but Gregson recovered from rough left of the green and holed the putt to halve in 4. After that Lounsberry “did a Jekyll and Hyde” and won the next two holes with pars, a 3 and a 4, to turn only 2 down. Gregson was out in 36, one over par, Lounsberry in 41.

When Lounsberry won the 10th, 4 to 5, Gregson might well have started to worry, but that was as far the spurt went. Gregson won the 11th to go back to 2 up, Lounsberry overplaying the green, and taking 5. At 12, Lounsberry got one back, putting his second from the rough less than two feet from the pin, for a winning birdie 3. Gregson won the next, where Lounsberry missed a short putt, but at 14, Gregson failed to get out of a bunker, and lost 6 to 4. Gregson 1 up. The 15th was halved in 3s, but a 6 by Lounsberry at the 16th put him 2 down again, and when the 17th was halved in 5s, it was Gregson’s match, 2 and 1.

By repeating as champion, Gregson was in good company. This had not happened since Jerry Travers won in 1905 and 1906, and Travis in 1898 and 1902.

1924-28 Nassau C. C. Invitation Tournaments

There now comes another gap in the records of the Nassau Invitation. Originally, we found no records from 1924 through 1928. However, in an article on the 1931 event, won by Max Kaesche, the *New York Times* reported that this was the third time Kaesche had won the event, “having previously won in 1927 and 1928.” To date we have found no additional records.

1929 Nassau C. C. Invitation Tournament

In 1929, the Nassau Invitation was played September 27-29. The *New York Times* reported that a field of 85 competed for five 16s. In the qualifying, Nassau’s Gardiner White, who that year was runner-up to Eddie Held in the Canadian Amateur, won the medal with a score of 75. Only four contestants broke 80, White beating by a stroke “young Roland Mackenzie of Washington, fourth among the qualifiers for the National Amateur at Pebble Beach.” However, Mackenzie withdrew from the match play, pleading a previous engagement.

Max Kaesche, Ridgewood, was third with 78, while George C. Hepburn, Nassau, scored 79 and A. Giles, Wee Burn, 80. Other Nassau members in the top 16 were: George C. Hepburn, 79, C. B. McGovern, 83, R. M. B. Potter, E. L. Maxwell and H. T. Dickinson with 84s, and Leon Abbot, Jr., 85, R. A. Burdick, 85 and J. L. Maxwell with 85s.

In the seminals, White had “rather an easy time” against Giles, leading all the way to win by 2 and 1. Kaesche had a tougher time against Hepburn who was 3 up going to the seventh

hole. Then Kaesche shot 2, 4, 4, to square the match at the turn. At the 17th, Kaesche put his mashie shot almost dead, and had another fine approach at 18, to win by 2 up.

In the final, White got off to a fine start, winning the first three holes in 3, 5, 4. Kaesche won the fourth by putting his second less than a foot from the cup, a birdie 3 to White's 4, and won the fifth, 4 to 5, where White drove in the rough. The sixth was halved in 6, Kaesche losing an opportunity by taking three putts. White still 1 up. After halving the seventh and eighth in 3 and 5, White increased his lead with a par 4 at the ninth—Kaesche visited two bunkers and took 6. White, then 2 up, was out 39 to Kaesche's 42.

A bunkered second cost Kaesche the 10th, his 5 losing to a par 4. White 3 up. The next two holes were halved in 5 and 4, then Kaesche reduced his deficit, holing a 12-foot putt for a birdie 3 at the 13th. He also took the 14th with another birdie three, as White took three putts for a 4. White back to 1 up. But Kaesche topped his tee shot at the 15th, White winning 5 to 6. The match ended at the 16th hole, where Kaesche was short in two and missed a five-foot putt. White had a routine par 4 to take the match 3 and 2.

By winning the event, White gained the first leg on the new H. T. Dickinson trophy.

1930 Nassau C. C. Invitation Tournament

In 1930, a field of 85 golfers vied for at least two cups in the annual Nassau Invitation event. That year, the *New York Times* did not devote quite as much space to the event. This is hardly surprising since the dates, September 26-28, overlapped with the dates of the 1930 U. S. Amateur, September 22-27. In this championship, Bobby Jones completed his Grand Slam, winning the British Amateur, British Open, U. S. Open and U. S. Amateur, in one year. Most of the available sports space in the newspaper naturally was devoted to reporting this feat. At any rate, the *New York Times* only reported results for two 16s, although one has to suspect that there was a greater number of cups offered.

In the qualifying round, Dick Potter, Nassau, led the field of 85 golfers with a score of 76. Max Kaesche, Ridgewood, R. A. Burdick, then the Nassau Country Club champion, and Winthrop Hoyt, Cherry Valley, had 78s. The defending champion, Gardiner White, Nassau, "faltered on the greens" and took an 83.

Besides Potter, Burdick, and White, other Nassau men in the top 16 were: K. G. Sheldon, 79, C. B. McGovern, 84, F. R. Finlayson, 85, and James A. Hewlett, 85. Potter went out in the first round, as did Finlayson, McGovern and Sheldon. Burdick and Hewlett lost in the second, leaving Gardiner White alone to carry the Club's banner. He was more than adequate to the task.

In the semifinals, White defeated Dwight Rockwell, Engineers, by the comfortable margin of 4 and 3. In the other semifinal, Kaesche defeated Hoyt, also by 4 and 3.

In the final, and not a moment too soon, White "completely recovered his putting form." The first two holes were exchanged, as were the next two, par being the winning score on each. White won the fifth with par, but then took 6 at the sixth, losing to a bogey. The seventh was halved in 5s, but then White's par 4s at the eighth and ninth were enough to win Kaesche's bogeys. White was out in 40, five over par, to Kaesche's 42. White was then 2 up.

Coming home, White played par golf, scoring 3, 4, 4, 4 through the 13th hole. Kaesche had gone 3, 5, 5, 5 in the same stretch, so that White was now 5 up. When the players halved the 14th in 5s, it was White's match by 5 and 4.

White had now won two years in a row, gaining the second leg on the H. T. Dickinson cup.

1931 Nassau C. C. Invitation Tournament

In 1931, the Nassau Invitation was played September 25-27. There were over 90 players in the field, although the *New York Times* did not give a count. In the qualifying, Ellis Knowles, "the veteran Apawamis star", won the medal, with an excellent score of 74. He had only twice previously played the Nassau course, and his unfamiliarity with it led to three errors in judging distance, each costing him one stroke. Knowles had won the NCAA individual championship back in 1907, as well as leading Yale to victory in the team event.

Only two other players broke 80, Max Kaesche, Ridgewood, 78, and Captain Ernest F. Carter, Sands Point, 79; Carter was Irish Amateur champion in 1919 and 1921. Nassau's Findlay Douglas, then 44 years of age, tied for third place with 80. The main upset was that of Gardiner White. Needing only par figures on the last four holes—5, 3, 4, 4—for a 78, White had to put 7, 5, 5, 6 on his card, shooting 85. This left him tied with two other players, with only one place in the top 16 left for the three of them. When J. B. Patterson, Engineers, finished in almost complete darkness with 84, he gained the last place.



The Nassau Invitational trophy.

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Other Nassau golfers in the first 16 were: Robert A. Burdick, F. R. Finlayson and S. Trowbridge with 81s, C. Hadden, 83, and George F. Hackl, Jr., 84.

Douglas bowed to Knowles in the quarterfinals. In the semifinals, it was Knowles versus Kaesche, and Burdick versus Carter. Kaesche, who had only a short time before won the Westchester C. C. Invitation, showed devastating putting form, defeating Knowles by 5 and 3. Carter got the best of Burdick by 2 and 1. Like Kaesche, Carter took an early lead and was never headed.

Sweetser Leads Nassau Teams

As reported earlier, in 1926 Nassau made Jess W. Sweetser an honorary member of the Club. Later, the former United States and British Amateur champion led Nassau teams of 1937, 1938 and 1939 in the inter-club matches then played late in May and October between Meadow Brook, Rockaway Hunting Club, Piping Rock and Nassau.

In the final, Carter, a "terrific hitter", was erratic. Kaesche was shorter on his drives, but was more accurate and had a slight edge on approach shots, especially on the last few holes. Kaesche also continued his excellent putting, "ramming down long, spectacular putts."

The round got off to a sloppy start. On the first two holes, both players took double-bogey 6s, followed by bogey 5s. Carter won the third with a birdie 3, they halved the next in par 4s, but then Carter gave the lead back, taking 5 on the par 3 fifth hole where Kaesche got his 3. Match square again. They halved the next four holes in 4, 5, 5, 5. Kaesche was out in 40 to Carter's 41.

At the 10th, Carter's birdie 3 beat Kaesche's par, but after that Kaesche played par golf to the conclusion of the match. From the 11th through 17, Kaesche went 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 3, 4 to Carter's 5, 4, 5, 5, 5, 3, 4 for Kaesche to win by 2 and 1.

This was Kaesche's third win in the Nassau Invitation. Kaesche qualified twice for the National Amateur, in 1934 and 1936.

1932 Nassau C. C. Invitation Tournament

The dates of the Nassau Invitation in 1932 were September 23-25. The *New York Times* reported that over 90 competitors vied for 5 flights of 16. Kaesche did not defend his title.

In the qualifying round, Captain Ernest F. Carter, Sands Point, was medalist. Carter was the only one in the field to shoot even par, 70, a score "only three strokes above the competitive course record made by the late Paul Haviland several years ago under far more favorable conditions." R. M. B. Potter, Nassau, was next with 73, and David Gamble, Race Brook, had 74.

Drizzle hampered players during the round, as "it made it difficult for players to grip their clubs." In those days, leather grips were the norm, and these became slippery in the wet. As the newspaper put it, "Even such stars as Tommy Tailer (T. Suffern Tailor, Jr.) this year's Metropolitan champion, and E. H. Driggs, Jr., the 1927 Metropolitan champion, were unable to approach Carter's figures": each shot 76.

Other Nassau members in the top 16 were Gardiner W. White, who also had 76, and Robert A. Burdick, and Kenneth H. Sheldon, both with 81.

Sheldon created "a mild upset" when he defeated White in the first round by 2 and 1. However, Sheldon was crushed in the second round by Carter 7 and 6. Burdick also did not survive the first round. Playing "superb golf," Eddie Driggs, Cherry Valley, the former LIGA amateur champion (1925) and Princeton football star, defeated his clubmate Tommy Tailer in the second round.

In the semifinals, it was Gamble versus Carter, and Driggs versus Lloyd. Gamble had a tough battle against Carter, only winning 1 up in 19 holes. Driggs had an easier time against Lloyd, disposing of him by 3 and 2.

In the final, Driggs squared off against Gamble, a former Yale player. The tall Gamble won the first hole with a par 4. After halving the second, Gamble three-putted to lose the third, Driggs squaring the match. The fourth and fifth were halved in par, but Driggs took the sixth with a par 4 to a 5. At the seventh, Driggs got up and down from a greenside bunker "with a well directed niblick shot" for 4 while Gamble took 5. Driggs extended his lead to three holes at the eighth, scoring 4 to Gamble's 6, but lost the ninth, Gamble's 4 taking the hole. At the turn, Driggs was 2 up, having outscored his opponent, 38 to 41.

Gamble three-putted the short 10th, but gained a half in 4 when Driggs took two putts after exploding from a bunker. They halved the 11th and 12th, but at the 13th, Gamble got one back with a par 4, and another par 4 at the 14th forced Driggs to concede. All square. In spite of a bogey 6 at the 540-yard 15th, where he found a cross-bunker, Driggs won the hole when Gamble took three putts. The remaining three holes were halved in 4s, Driggs holing a six-footer on the last green to win by 1 up. Gamble shot 82 for the round. Driggs had no score, having picked up at the 14th. Assuming a double bogey there, he would have had an 81.

1933 Nassau C. C. Invitation Tournament

The 1933 Nassau Invitation event was played on September 22-24. Ninety-two players attempted to qualify for four flights of 16.

In the qualifying round, the medalist was Tracy Barnes, Piping Rock, with 75. The *New York Times* described Barnes as "recently of Yale, where he concentrated on baseball rather than golf." There were four tied at 77: Eddie Driggs, Cherry Valley, who won the Nassau event in the previous year, Larry Lloyd, Greenwich, Harry Fisher, Rumson, and "the veteran Gardiner White of the home club." Captain Ernest F. Carter, Sands Point, a finalist in the Nassau event in 1931 and medalist and semifinalist in 1932, was back, scoring 79. Max Kaesche took 81. Two other Nassau members were in the top 16: R. A. Burdick, 81, and F. R. Finlayson, 82.

Barnes lost in the first round, losing to Kaesche 7 and 6. Kaesche lost in the second round to Fisher. All the Nassau contingent went out in the first round, Finlayson losing to Fisher, 2 and 1, Captain Carter defeating Burdick, 4 and 4, and White losing 2 down to F. T. Scholl of Huntington. In one semifinal, Lloyd defeated Carter by 4 and 3. Driggs won by default from Fisher, who was prevented from playing by the illness of a relative.

"The final," said the *New York Times*, "while interesting, hardly came up to expectations."

The first three holes were halved in 5, 5, 4. Lloyd won the fourth, 5 to 6, and the fifth, 3 to 4, but his wildness enable Driggs to get them back with 5s as Lloyd went 6, 7. The eighth and ninth holes were halved in par 4s. All square at the turn, Driggs was out in 42, Lloyd in 43.

After halves in 3 at the short 10th hole, Driggs won the 11th and 12th with par 4s to go 2 up, but then gave the holes right back, taking 5s to Lloyd's 4s on 13th and 14th. Match all even. After halves in 5 and 3 at 15 and 16, they were still all square.

The deciding hole was the 17th. There Driggs could use a niblick for his second, but Lloyd had to use a 4-iron. It was too much club—his ball rolled over the back of the green into deep rough. His recovery went seven feet past, and he missed the putt. Meanwhile, Driggs laid his first putt dead, to go 1 up. At the 18th hole, Lloyd hit another errant approach, his ball "scooting over the green and finishing up on the gravel path between the green and tennis courts." After Driggs had pitched up fairly close, Lloyd missed his recovery and was still off the green. Driggs putted up close, and when Lloyd's chip went past the hole, he conceded the match.

Driggs took 37 on the back nine, scoring 79. Lloyd took 40, for 83.

The *New York Times* commented: "Although Driggs was far off form, the chances are that the match would not have gone nearly as far as it did were it not for the sensational putting by Lloyd." Apparently, he saved himself time and again by holing long putts. This was particularly so on the back nine, where he had only 14 putts.

Driggs had thus won back-to-back victories at Nassau, and he went on to repeat the feat in winning the New York State Amateurs of 1933 and 1934. He also had been the winner of the first New York State Amateur back in 1923. Driggs qualified three times for the National Amateur, 1930, 1934, and 1936, going to the sixth round in 1934.

1934 Nassau C. C. Invitation Tournament

In 1934, the *New York Times* reported that 129 players teed off in the Nassau Invitation, one of the largest fields ever in the history of the event. The event was played from September 21-23. There were five flights of 16. Eddie Driggs, the winner in the previous two years did not enter, although his son, Eddie Driggs, 3rd represented the family at Nassau. Another notable entrant was A. W. "Laddie" Biggs, Crescent Athletic-Hamilton Club golfer and then the LIGA Amateur champion.

In the qualifying, Dan Topping, Greenwich, won the medal with a three over par 73. James Knott, Piping Rock, was only one shot behind at 74. H. T. Dickinson, Nassau, had a 77. Gardiner White, Nassau, shot a 78, as did Max Kaesche, Ridgewood. Biggs and the only other Nassau player who qualified for the Championship Flight of 16, R. M. B. Potter, both scored 80. Eddie Driggs, 3rd., Garden City Golf, shot an 84, only good for the second 16, where he lost in the first round.

There was an upset in the second round of the top 16, when Topping defeated Biggs by 1 up. After being three down, Biggs squared the match at the 16th, and they halved the 17th. At the 18th, Topping left himself short on his second putt for a 4. Biggs putted past Topping's ball and left himself a stymie and had to try to negotiate it with his niblick for the half. He failed to hole the shot, and conceded the hole.

In the semifinals, neither White or Topping had any difficulty. White "vanquished



Eddie Driggs.

CHAPTER ELEVEN—Golf at Nassau

young Knott" by 6 and 5, while Topping eliminated Kaesche by the same margin.

Because Topping had been the medalist and played through to the final in "true championship fashion," he was a slight favorite in the final against White. But White was equal to the challenge. The final "produced a situation unique in the game." White won without losing a single hole and yet his margin of victory was only 2 and 1. White won only the seventh and ninth holes, the other 15 being halved.

The *New York Times* summed up: "By his victory White retired the Nassau Bowl, posted in 1929. That year and again in 1930, White gained legs on it, and today completed the required three for permanent possession."

1935 Nassau C. C. Invitation Best-Ball Tournament

In 1935, the Club changed the format of the Nassau Invitation Tournament to a best-ball event. The dates were Friday through Sunday, September 20-22. That first year, 54 couples entered the qualifying round, and, as in the previous individual format, there were prizes for three 16's, and beaten 8s in each 16. In some cases teams were made up of Nassau members. In others, a Nassau member was paired with a member of another club or both team members were members of other clubs.

The team of Max B. Kaesche, Ridgewood, and Richard M. Potter, Nassau, won the qualifying medal with 35-35—70. Kaesche, who had previously won three individual titles at Nassau, was described by the *New York Times* as the "mainstay of his team." In second place were Edmund H. Driggs Jr., three-time New York State champion, and C. P. Smith, Garden City Golf Club, with 71.

With only five places left in the top 16, six couples shot the qualifying limit of 77. One of them was the team of the then 60-year old Findlay S. Douglas, Nassau, and C. H. Jennings, Garden City GC., both former senior champions. On a match of cards, one couple dropped into the second 16.

Coming through to the semifinal were the following along with their qualifying scores: Kaesche and Potter, 70; Mark Flanagan, Riverhead, and J. Ebb Weir, Timber Point, 73; K. H. Sheldon, Nassau, and Charles F. Shelden, Siwanoy, 76, and Harry B. Fisher, Rumson and Leonce Fuller, Rockaway Hunt, 75.

In one semifinal, Flanagan and Weir had an uphill fight against Kaesche and Potter, the latter team being 1 up at the end of the first nine. Flanagan and Weir had to "dig in for a sub-par round of 69" before they could pull through to victory on the last green. In the other, Fisher and Fuller only succumbed on the 18th green after giving the Sheldon and Shelden team its one-hole lead at the long 15th.

In the final, Flanagan and Weir gained a two-hole lead on the the outward nine, going out in 35, regulation par. Then, for the next six holes Flanagan's steady pars kept Chuck Shelden, who was also grinding out par figures, scrambling to close up the deficit. At the short 16th, both Flanagan and Shelden faltered, while Weir three-putted to lose the hole to Sheldon's par. But Weir redeemed himself at 17, driving straight down the center and winning the hole with a par 4, as the losers both pulled their approaches. Flanagan and Weir won by 2 and 1.

1936 Nassau C. C. Invitation Best-Ball Tournament

Originally, we could find no record of the 1936 Nassau Invitation Best-Ball event, but articles in the *New York Times* on the 1937 event make it clear that the team of Charles R. Shelden, Siwanoy, and Kenneth R. Shelden, Nassau, won the event "last year." To date, we have found no additional records.

1937 Nassau C. C. Invitation Best-Ball Tournament

In 1937, the Nassau Invitation Best-Ball was played on September 17-19. Fifty-five teams took the field. In the qualifying round, the pair of Charles Shelden, Siwanoy, and Harold W. Matzinger, Indian Creek, took the medal. Shelden had a 70 on his own ball, and, with his partner's aid, this resulted in a team score of 68. The team of Rudy E. Knepper, Garden City Golf, and John S. Martin, the "one-armed wonder of the home club," as the *New York Times* put it, were next at 72. One stroke behind them came Kenneth R. Shelden, Nassau, and Thomas W. Potter, Sands Point, 73, and Henry Picoli and W. W. Stockhausen, Garden City Golf, 74.

Other pairs in the top 16 of interest were the all-Nassau teams of Robert A. Burdick and Andrew Stewart, 75, George Hepburn and Bradley Collins, 75, and C. V. Dunning and E. S. Knapp, Jr., 79, as well as Max B. Kaesche, Ridgewood, and T. S. Potter, Jr., Nassau, and Gardiner

White and James Knott, Piping Rock, both with 76.

This event, however, ran true to the form established in the qualifying round, with the top four teams at medal play coming through to the semifinal round. In one semifinal, Picoli and Stockhausen beat Knepper and Martin 3 and 1. In the other, Shelden and Matzinger defeated Sheldon and Potter by 2 and 1.

In the final, the first three holes were halved in pars. At the fourth, Shelden and Matzinger took the lead, Matzinger chipping close for a winning birdie 3. Their lead was short lived, however. At the long uphill sixth, normally a par 4, but a 5 that day due to a stiff breeze, both took 6 to lose the hole. Stockhausen put his team ahead with a par 4 at the eighth. After a half at the ninth, the Garden City pair turned still 1 up.

Stockhausen gained another hole when he downed a putt for a birdie 3 at the 11th, and Picoli put the team 3 up when he also got a birdie 3 at the 14th. Halves at the next two holes gave them victory by 3 and 2.

1938 Nassau C. C. Invitation Best-Ball Tournament

In 1938, the Nassau Invitation Best-Ball was held on September 16-18. Forty seven teams entered the event. There were three flights of 16 teams each in the match play. In the qualifying, the Wee Burn pair of Percy Furber and Edwin Hoyt took the medal with a score of 38,

Queens County Golf Club Open Tournament

1897 W. G. Stewart, Seabright Golf Club, df.

Devereux Emmet, Oyster Bay Club, by 4 and 3

1898 Walter J. Travis, Oakland, df.

G. A. Toffey, Jersey City Club, 3 and 2

Nassau Country Club Open Tournament

1902 Walter J. Travis, Garden City, df.

C. B. Cory, Wollaston, by 6 and 4

1904 Jerome D. Travers, Nassau, df.

Walter J. Travis, Garden City, at third extra hole

1905 Jerome D. Travers, Nassau, df.

Walter J. Travis, Garden City, 4 and 2

1906 No records found

1907 No records found

1908 Walter J. Travis, Garden City, df.

E. M. Wild, Cranford, by 5 and 4

1909 Fred Herreshoff, Westbrook, df. H. G. Legg, Yale, 5 and 4

Nassau Country Club Invitation Tournament

1910 Walter J. Travis, Garden City, df.

John M. Ward, Garden City, 3 and 2

1911 Oswald Kirkby, Englewood, df.

Gardiner White, Oakland, 5 and 4

1912 Fred Herreshoff, Ekwanok, df.

Oswald Kirkby, Englewood, 2 and 1

1913 Not played, due to course changes

1914 Walter J. Travis, Garden City, df.

John N. Stearns, 3rd, Nassau, 4 and 3

1915 Philip Carter, Nassau, df.

Gardiner White, Flushing, 1 up in 19 holes

Nassau Country Club Women's Invitation Tournament

1915 Mrs. H. C. Phipps, Piping Rock and Nassau, df. Georgianna

Bishop, 1 up in 19 holes

Nassau Country Club Invitation Tournament

1916-18 Not played, World War I

Red Cross Exhibition

1918 Oswald Kirkby and Gardiner White df.

Jim Maiden and George Fotheringham, 1 up in 37 holes

Nassau Country Club Invitation Tournament

1919 John M. Ward, Garden City, df.

Sam J. Graham, Greenwich, 2 and 1

1920 J. Wood Platt, North Hills, df.

Thomas D. Armour, Lothianburn, Scotland, 1 up in 19 holes

1921 Thomas D. Armour, Lothianburn, Scotland, df.

John N. Stearns, 3rd, Nassau, 3 and 1

1922 A. C. Gregson, Belleclair, df.

Roger W. Bacon, Highland, 2 up

1923 A. C. Gregson, Lido, df.

Richard Lounsberry, Oakland, 2 and 1

1924 No records found

1925 No records found

1926 No records found

1927 Max B. Kaesche

1928 Max B. Kaesche

1929 Gardiner W. White, Nassau, df.

Max Kaesche, Ridgewood, 3 and 2

1930 Gardiner W. White, Nassau, df.

Max Kaesche, Ridgewood, 5 and 4

1931 Max B. Kaesche, Ridgewood, df.

Captain Ernest F. Carter, Sands Point, 2 and 1

1932 Edmund H. Driggs, Jr., Cherry Valley, df.

David Gamble, Race Brook, 1 up

1933 Edmund H. Driggs, Jr., Cherry Valley, df.

Larry Lloyd, Greenwich, 2 up

1934 Gardiner W. White, Nassau, df.

Dan Topping, Greenwich, 2 and 1

Nassau C. C. Invitation Best-Ball Tournament

1935 Mark Flanagan, Riverhead, and J. Ebb Weir, Timber Point, df.

Kenneth H. Sheldon, Nassau, and

Charles F. Shelden, Siwanoy, 2 and 1

1936 Won by Charles R. Sheldon, Siwanoy, and

Kenneth R. Sheldon, Nassau

1937 Henry Picoli and W. W. Stockhausen, Garden City Golf, df. Charles

Shelden, Siwanoy, and Harold W. Matzinger, Indian Creek, 3 and 2

1938 T. F. Scholl and Trumbull Richard, Nassau, df. Henry Picoli and W.

E. Stockhausen, Garden City Golf, 3 and 1

1939 No records found

1940 No records found

1941 Sumner Waters, Nassau, and Charley Newman, North Hempstead,

df. Ken Sheldon, Nassau, and Paul Cavanagh, South Bay Club, 2 and 1

Nassau Country Club Invitation Tournament

1982 Won by Edward McGoldrick, Garden City Golf

1983 Howard Pierson, Rivervale, df. Klaus Johncke, Winged Foot, 6 and 5

1984 George Zahringer III, Sands Point, df. Greg Carlin, Tam O'Shanter, 5 and 4

1985 John T. French, Nassau, 144. Runner-up, David Hillman, Westchester, 147

1986 Won by Patrick J. Fogarty, Garden City Golf

1987 Robert Van Norden, Plandome, df. Vincent Furci, Bellport, 3 and 2

1988 Mike Giacini, The Hamlet, df. Chris Van Tuhl, St. George's, 1 up

CHAPTER ELEVEN—Golf at Nassau

35—73. Right behind them were Robert Burdick, Nassau, and Ken Smith, Oceanside, with 74. Tied for third place were Ken Sheldon, Nassau, and Dr. C. J. Robinson, Wheatley, and T. F. Scholl and Trumbull Richard, Nassau, at 75. The defending champions from Garden City Golf Club, Henry Picoli and W. E. Stockhausen, qualified for the first flight with 77.

In the semifinals, Scholl and Richard defeated Donald C. Greeff and Harry V. Brower, Nassau, by 2 and 1, while Stockhausen and Picoli eliminated Furber and Hoyt 1 up.

In the final, Scholl and Richard dropped the first hole to Picoli's par. However, at the third, Richard, a Princeton undergraduate who had recently won the Maine Amateur, had a birdie 3 to halve the match. Two up at the turn, Scholl and Richard dropped the 12th to Picoli's 4, but won the 15th to go 2 up with three to go. The 16th was halved in 3s. At the 17th, Stockhausen and Picoli faltered, and lost the hole and the match, 3 and 1.

1941 Nassau C. C. Invitation Best-Ball Tournament

In 1941, we go to the *Glen Cove Echo* for a report on the Nassau Invitation Best-Ball, which was held in September. The newspaper only reported the final day's matches, although it did comment on the "blistering heat" in which the three-day event was played.

In one semifinal match, Ken Sheldon, Nassau, and Paul Cavanagh, South Bay Club, defeated Jimmy Knott and Jimmy Walker at the 19th hole. In the other, Sumner Waters, Nassau, and Charley Newman, club champion at North Hempstead, defeated Don Grant and Mark Stuart, 1 up.

In the final, three-putting the seventh and eighth holes put Sheldon and Cavanagh 2 down at the turn. They then dropped the 10th, to fall back to 3 down. They made a brave fight of it, getting back to where they were only 1 down with two to play. But their efforts proved in vain when Newman won the 17th with a 15-foot putt for a par 4.

The Big Hiatus

The Nassau Invitation was not played again until the 1980s. In 1982, Nassau member Dr. Steve Alchermeres decided to try and revive the tournament.

Alchermeres said that his inspiration came when Sylvia Harwood, the daughter of long-time Nassau member Gardiner White, gave Alchermeres the sterling silver bowl that White had retired after winning the Invitational for the third time in 1934.

"White was one of the best-ever players here," said Alchermeres at the time. "He was a patient of mine. I approached our (Nassau's) Board about reviving the tournament, and everybody thought it would be a great idea."

The 1980's

The event was played September 24-26, 1982. In the qualifying, Nassau's Gene Kurihara led the field with 33, 37—70. Two strokes behind him came the trio of Edward McGoldrick, Garden City, Fred Winseck, Echo Lake, and Jim Stalerow, Garden City. At 73 were Gene Francis, Wheatley Hills, and Dick Stanley, Fox Run. Another Nassau golfer in the top 16 for match play was Dennis Hackett, one of three players who shot 77, the highest qualifying score.

In the first round, Kurihara narrowly lost to Klaus Johncke, Winged Foot, 1 down. Hackett was defeated by Tom Ansbro, Echo Lake. In the quarterfinals, Johncke defeated Jackie Pirozzi, Peddle, 4 and 3; Ansbro defeated Dr. George Gilbert, Huntington, 4 and 2; McGoldrick defeated Lon Wanser, Wheatley Hills, 1 up, and Tom McQuilling defeated Mike Volpe, Hempstead, 3 and 1.

The tournament was won by McGoldrick. Unfortunately, we have no further detail on the semifinals or final.

In 1983, Howard Pierson,

S. Alchermeres and J. Coliolo (at left and third from left) with 1983 Nassau Invitation winner H. Pierson and runner-up K. Johncke (second from left and at right).



Invitational. "It was one of the finest rounds I ever played," says Pierson. "I was four under par at the finish of the match." Pierson beat Tom McQuilling, North Hills, in the quarterfinals by 2 and 1, and Gene Kurihara, Nassau, in the semifinals by 3 and 2.

Pierson is the only African-American to win the Met Amateur, defeating George Zahringer III in the final in 1980. He also is the only African-American to win the Nassau Invitational. Pierson's other wins include the Baltusrol Invitational, the New Jersey Four-Ball championship and the Bergen Open. He was twice runner-up in the New Jersey Amateur and qualified five times for the U. S. Public Links and twice for the U. S. Amateur.

In 1984, the Nassau Invitational was played September 21-23. Although we don't have details of the qualifying round, the results of the first round were: Jay Guerra, Montclair, defeated Vincent Furci, Bellport, 2 and 1; George Zahringer III, Sands Point, defeated Jeff Pirozzi, Nassau, 7 and 6; Scott Benjamin, Glen Oaks, defeated Richard Stuart, Winged Foot, 1 up, 19th hole; John Barone, Glenwood, defeated Wally Ullrich, Winged Foot, 3 and 2; Jeff Thomas, Plainfield West, defeated Dr. Steve Alchermes, Nassau, 2 and 1; Greg Carlin, Tam O'Shanter, defeated Mike Volpe, Hempstead, 2 and 1; Peter Van Ingen, Piping Rock, defeated Anthony Trombino, Nassau, 4 and 3; Peter Loughlin, Westhampton, defeated Gene Francis, Wheatley Hills, 4 and 3.

In the quarterfinals, Zahringer defeated Guerra, 3 and 2; Barone defeated Benjamin, 3 and 2; Carlin defeated Thomas, 4 and 3; Van Ingen defeated Loughlin, 3 and 1.

In the semifinals, Carlin defeated Van Ingen by 4 and 3, while Zahringer beat Barone, 1 up. In the final, Zahringer defeated Carlin by 5 and 4.

Zahringer is the most important modern winner of the Nassau Invitational. Not only did he win the Met Amateur every year from 1984 through 1987, he has three times been runner-up. In 1985, he also shot a fine 210 in the Met Open, good for a two-stroke win. Winning the Met Open and Amateur in one year is a "double" never achieved by any other golfer. He is only the third amateur to win the Met Open—the others were Garden State legend Chet Sanok in 1952 and the great Jerry Courville in 1967.

In 1985, the Nassau Invitational was scheduled for September 27-29. However, a hurricane interrupted the tournament, which the Committee then shortened to a two-round stroke play event. John T. French, a Nassau member, won with a score of 72, 72—144.

Second came David Hillman, Westchester, 147. Tied for third were Phil Rusnack, Nassau, and Steve Greiner, Pine Hills, with 151. Solo fifth was Stu Titus, The Creek, with 152. Tied for sixth place with 154 were Jim Tingley, Nassau, John Barone, Glen Wood, and Joe Holden, Bonnie Briar.

In 1986, the Nassau Invitational was won by Patrick J. Fogarty, Garden City Golf, but unfortunately we have no further detail.

In 1987, the Nassau Invitational was played October 1-3. In the semifinals, Robert Van Norden, Plandome, defeated his club mate Randy Bell 1 up, and Vincent Furci, Bellport, beat Chris Van Tuyl, St. George's, 4 and 3. In the final, Van Norden defeated Furci by 3 and 2.

In 1988, the Nassau Invitational was played September 30-October 2. In the quarterfinals, Chris Van Tuyl, St. George's, defeated Jon Doppelt, Fresh Meadow, 5 and 4; Greg Carlin, Tam O'Shanter, defeated Scott Hawkins, Spring Lake, 1 up; Mike Giacini, The Hamlet, defeated Brian Brown, Southward Ho, 2 and 1, and Mike Meehan, Glen Cove, defeated Brian Benz, Pine Hills, 5 and 3.

In the semifinals, Giacini beat Carlin, 20 holes and Van Tuyl defeated Meehan, 1 up. In the final, Giacini defeated Van Tuyl, 1 up.

Dissatisfaction At The Club

In October, 1986, the Board received a letter requesting that the Board discontinue the Nassau Invitational. The Board discussed the matter, then directed the Golf Committee to survey the membership feeling on the matter. The Board felt that, if sufficient members wished to continue the Invitational, the Golf Committee should then propose a format which would involve fewer players and better reflect the original goals of the tournament.

The survey revealed that "We should be involved in the golf scene, but, somehow, the Nassau Invitational doesn't do the job. The members didn't want to give up the course (for the



George Zahringer III.



*Robert B. Kiersky
Club champion 1953, 1961.*

CHAPTER ELEVEN—Golf at Nassau

The survey revealed that "We should be involved in the golf scene, but, somehow, the Nassau Invitational doesn't do the job. The members didn't want to give up the course (for the event). The Golf Committee is divided—some felt a new format for 1987 would help."

However, after the 1988 event, the Nassau Invitational was discontinued. Now, the Club is resuming the tournament. In September, 1995, it will initiate the Club's 100th Year celebrations.

Nassau's Modern Players

The third chapter of this book recorded the achievements of Nassau's earlier greats of the game—Findlay Douglas, Ruth Underhill, Alex Smith, Jerry Travers, Phil Carter, John N. Stearns, 3rd, Howard W. Maxwell, Jr. and Gardiner White. However, besides these standout players, there always has been a good number of Club members who have done exceptionally well in sectional and regional competition as well as qualifying at a national level.

Robert B. Kiersky, a two-time Club champion (1953, 1961), won the USGA Senior Amateur in 1965 at Oakmont in a great 19-hole battle against George Beechler. He also won the United States Seniors' Golf Association Championship twice, in 1967 and 1973, and the Long Island Amateur in 1961. Earlier, he won the Texas State Public Links Championships of 1940 and 1941.

Kiersky was a member of the United States team that competed in the first World Senior Amateur Team Championship held at Pinehurst No. 2 course in 1967. Kiersky led the American team to victory with rounds of 73-75-73-76—297, the lowest four-round total for the championship. He died in 1992 at the age of 84.

Gordon Stott, a three-time Club champion (1955, 1956, 1958) qualified for the 1955 U. S. Amateur, held at the Country Club of Virginia (James River Course), Richmond, Virginia. Stott won his first round match against David W. Smith by 2 up, and his second round match against T. A. Hadley by 2 and 1. In the third round, he had the misfortune to draw Harvie Ward, who went on to become the champion. Stott lost to Ward by 5 and 3.

Stott won the Long Island Amateur in 1950 at Garden City Golf Club and in 1960, when the event came to Nassau. He also was a finalist in the 1958 Met Amateur, losing to Bob Gardner, a six-time champion. Stott was co-medalist in the Long Island Amateur in 1953 and medalist in 1955. He won the LIGA's Richardson Invitational in 1955. Stott was Nassau champion three times (1955, 1956, 1958). He died in 1990.

It is also worth mentioning that Stott was a member of all four Nassau teams that won the LIGA Club Team Championship in the 1950s. The other members of these four-man teams were: Thomas Scholl, Dick Fales and Harry Brown in 1955 and 1956; George Gennity, Dick Fales and Thomas Scholl in 1957, and Jim Tingley, Dick Fales and Bob Kiersky in 1959. This was not the first time Nassau had won this event: In 1928, when the Club hosted the championship, the winning team was Gardiner White, W. L. Hopkins, George Hepburn and Hunt Dickinson.

George A. Gennity was a four-time Club champion, in 1959, 1965, 1969 and 1973. He qualified for the 1965 U. S. Amateur at Southern Hills Country Club, Tulsa, Oklahoma. He also was a finalist in the Long Island Amateur at Meadow Brook in 1966, losing to Pete Bostwick.

Jim Tingley has been Club champion five times (1964, 1966, 1972, 1976, 1979) and Senior champion 15 times. Earlier, in the 1950s, he was three times the Club champion at both Forsgate, NJ, and Shackamaxon, NJ. Tingley won the Walter J. Travis Memorial in 1963, defeating Ken Gordon in the final and was the medalist on another occasion, and he and Robert Chaffer won the Walter J. Travis Memorial member-guest in 1959. Tingley qualified for both the U. S. Amateur at Pebble Beach in 1961 and the first USGA Senior Open at Winged Foot in 1980. He was a finalist in the North and South Senior at Pinehurst in 1976 and 1978.

Tingley has qualified for the USGA Senior Amateur eight times: In 1974 at Harbour Town, Hilton Head, SC; in 1975, at Carmel Valley, CA, and went on to the quarter finals; in 1976, at Cherry Hills, Denver, CO; in 1977 at Salem Country Club, Mass.; in 1978, at Pine Tree Country Club, Boynton Beach, Florida; in 1979, at Chicago Country Club, Ill.; in 1981, at Seattle Country Club, Seattle, Washington, and 1984 at Birmingham Country Club, Detroit, Michigan. He won the 1974 Met Senior Championship at Mt. Kisco, NY and the New York State Senior Golf Association



Gordon Stott, three-time Club champion, qualified for the 1955 U.S. Amateur.



Jim Tingley, Nassau champion five times.



Above, the 1979 Club champion luncheon. From left to right, top: J. Connor, D. Goings, H. Kolb, R. Steilen, R. Cox, S. Alchermes, Bottom: C. Brett, G. White, J. Tingley, C. Yamaoka. Above, right: Perry Hudson and Jim Tingley, both five-time Club champions. At right, Nassau's "A-team." Left to right: Mel Mudge, Edith Larkin, Connie Miller, Bea Steinemann and Jean Schneider.



Tingley won the LIGA Senior Championship in 1984 at Glen Oaks. He also has had two second place finishes. He won the Long Island Senior Golf Association Championship in 1976 and 1979. Tingley was medalist in the 1969 LIGA Amateur, played at Nassau, scoring 68. His lowest round at Nassau came in August of 1979, a 65. His score card read: Out 4, 4, 3, 5, 2, 4, 3, 4, 4—33; In 2, 4, 5, 4, 3, 5, 2, 4, 3—32—65. He has had 14 holes in one.

Mike Matwell, Nassau's champion in 1971, won the LIGA Richardson Invitational in 1962 and 1965. He qualified for the U. S. Amateur at Waverley Country Club, Portland, Oregon in 1970. Matwell has won the Met Senior Championship four times (1981, 1983, 1987, 1989). He won the LIGA Senior Championship at Glen Oaks in 1981 and was runner-up in 1987.

Abbott Van Nostrand qualified for the U. S. Amateur in 1941 at Omaha Field Club, Nebraska.

Phil Rusnack, now a professional, was a two-time Nassau champion (1985 and 1987). He qualified for the 1988 USGA Amateur at Virginia Hot Springs Golf and Tennis Club, Cascades Course, Hot Springs, Virginia.

Richard Ciuci won the LIGA Amateur at Fresh Meadow in 1937. Ciuci had five brothers, all golf professionals. Richard was the only one to remain an amateur.

Kenneth H. Sheldon also won the LIGA Amateur, in 1939. Then 40 years old, Sheldon defeated John Humm, a 20-year-old undergraduate at Dayton University. Sheldon was a five-time Nassau champion (1935, 1936, 1939, 1940, 1942). Another five-time champion was Perry E. Hudson III (1967, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1981). A six-time champion was William L. "Billy" Hicks (1898, 1907, 1910, 1911, 1913, 1924), his earliest victory coming at the old Queens County Club.

Besides Gennity, four-time winners of the Club championship are Richard W. Fales (1952, 1954, 1957, 1960) and Gene Kurihara (1988, 1989, 1991, 1992). Kurihara also has been successful at the national level, qualifying for the 1988 USGA Mid-Amateur at Prairie Dunes Country Club, Hutchinson, Kansas, the 1989 Mid-Amateur at Crooked Stick Golf Club, Carmel, Indiana, and the 1991 Mid-Amateur at Harbour Town Golf Links, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

In other LIGA championships, Mrs. F. K. Thayer (Piping Rock) and Jim Tingley (Nassau) won the low gross in the Mixed Foursomes Championship in 1966; Mrs. Geoffrey Steinemann (Nassau) and Gino Scalamandre (Sands Point) did the same in 1967. In the Best-Ball

CHAPTER ELEVEN—Golf at Nassau



*At top left
nine-time Club champion
Mavis Clement, and top right Gail
Nick, 1982 Club champion.
At right, President Ray Auwarter
presents 1991 Club champion
awards to four-time winner
G. Kurihara and eight-time
winner Mrs. V. Simione.*

(Nassau) won the low gross in the Mixed Foursomes Championship in 1966; Mrs. Geoffrey Steinemann (Nassau) and Gino Scalamandre (Sands Point) did the same in 1967. In the Best-Ball Championship, Gordon Stott and Bob Baird were the winners in 1952, Stott and Frank Guernsey in 1954. In the Amateur-Professional Best-Ball Championship, Stott and Ed Scott were the 1964 winners, Joe Jones and Robert Hooper in 1976.

The women of Nassau have set some impressive records for multiple wins in their championship, boasting one ten-time champion: Mrs. V. DeP. Larkin (1959, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1969, 1975, 1978, 1980), and one nine-time champion, Mrs. Karl Clement (1950, 1951, 1953, 1963, 1966, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1976).



Mrs. Vincent F. Simione has been Nassau's Women's champion eight times (1984, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992). A six-time champion was Miss Constance Miller who won in 1954. She won again in 1960 as Mrs. Richard Fales, and as Mrs. George Holzkamp in 1968, 1972, 1974 and 1977. Mrs. Sarah Vuillet is a four-time champion (1979, 1981, 1983, 1986).

In closing, one should point out that qualifying for national events in more modern times—let alone winning them—is infinitely more difficult than early in golf's history. For example, when Findlay Douglas won the U. S. Amateur back in 1898, there were only 120 entries for the championship. By 1936, there were over 1,000, from the mid-1950s on, over 1,500, and from 1980 on, over 4,000.

As in the professional game, competition among amateurs has grown by leaps and bounds.



OTHER EVENTS PLAYED AT NASSAU

MGA Amateur

1900 W. J. Travis
df Herbert M. Harriman 3 and 2
1907 J. D. Travers
df Findlay Douglas 8 and 7
1916 Oswald Kirkby
df Fred Herreshoff 3 and 1
1927 E. H. Driggs, Jr.
df Lauren Upson 2 up
1939 Frank Strafacci df
Richard D. Chapman 2 and 1
1957 Paul Kelly
df Robert Sweeny 3 and 2
1963 Robert W. Gardner
df John J. Humm 1 up (39)

MGA Open

1962 Miller Barber 282
df Tom Nieporte in playoff, 70 to 77
1986 David Glenz 208, Tom Joyce 209.
1992 Mark Mielke 207,
Rich Vershure 208

MGA Junior

1934 Won by August Boyajian
1970 Won by Jim Ulozas

MGA Intercollegiate

1950 Won by Columbia,
individual winner Al Bange,
Seton Hall

WMGA Match Play Championship

1901 Genevieve Hecker
df Ruth Underhill 2 and 1
1909 Julia R. Mix df.
Georgianna M. Bishop 8 and 6
1913 Marion Hollins
df Georgianna M. Bishop 2 and 1
1921 Mrs. William A. Gavin df.
Georgianna M. Bishop 9 and 8
1948 Mrs. Mortimer May
df Mrs. R. M. Torgerson 3 and 2

Note:

The WMGA Stroke Play Championship
has not been played at Nassau.

LIGA Amateur

1928 Winner George Voigt
df E. H. Driggs, Jr. Medalist Voigt, 74
1952 John Humm .
df Frank Strafacci. Medalist Tom Strafacci, 72
1960 Gordon Stott
df Charles Slicklen.
Medalist James Bostwick, 70
1965 John Baldwin
df Charles Slicklen. Medalist Gene Francis, 72
1969 Gene Francis
df Tim Holland. Medalist Jim Tingley, 68
1980 George Zahringer III
df Richard Serian. Medalist Zahringer, 72
1991 John Baldwin
df Malcolm Smith.
Medalist Mal Galletta III, 70

LIGA Open

1975 Tom Nieporte
df John Sutter, Jr. in playoff, 214

Tennis always has been a great part of Nassau's history. Much of this history was, of course, written on the Club's famed grass courts in the era of the Nassau Invitational (or Nassau Country Club Invitation Grass Court Tournament, to give it its full name). For many years, the Club's tournament was



Tennis at Nassau in 1904. The tennis courts and clubhouse from the northeast corner.

one of a grass court, "amateur-only", circuit that led up to the National, then also played on grass. The United States Tennis Association (USTA) Championships were at first held at Newport (1881-1914). From 1915 to 1920 they were at Forest Hills, from 1921 to 1923 at the Germantown Cricket Club, Philadelphia, and then returned to Forest Hills until 1978, when the new stadium at Flushing took over.

The major trophy at the Club's invitational was the singles prize, the fabulous Nassau Bowl, often cited by tennis scribes as "the oldest tennis trophy still in competition."

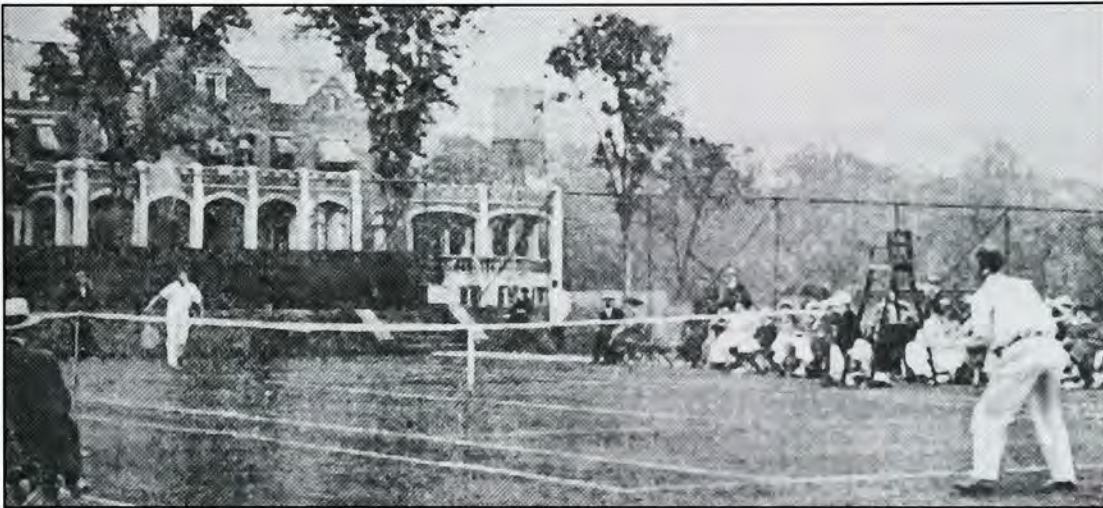


CHAPTER TWELVE—Racquet Sports

Designed by Tiffany & Co., the cup is solid silver. The original conditions of the event included a stipulation quite common in early tennis that, if you won the trophy three times, it was yours to keep. It was also true in golf; as we saw in the previous chapter, Gardiner White retired the H. T. Dickinson trophy when he won Nassau's golf invitational for the third time in 1934. Thus, the reader will also hear in this chapter of this or that player getting the first or second "leg" on retiring the Nassau Bowl.

The fields for many events in the tournament's history were glittering. The winners are even more impressive and include William J. Clothier, Robert L. Murray, R. Norris Williams II, William T. "Big Bill" Tilden II, John H. Doeg, Robert L. "Bobby" Riggs, Arthur Larsen, Tony Trabert, Roy Emerson and John Newcombe, to mention only the ten USTA singles champions among the 36 winners' names engraved on the Nassau Bowl.

The man who started the Club's tournament was Walter Pate, a Nassau member, and himself a tennis legend. Although Pate was a fine club player, his fame actually stems from being one of the most successful Davis Cup Captains in history, heading the U. S. teams from 1935 through 1939, and also in 1946.



Tournament tennis, as it looked around 1914.

The U. S. lost the Cup in 1935 and 1936 with the team of Don Budge, Gene Mako and Bitsy Grant. During this time, the great Fred Perry, Wimbledon champion from 1934 through 1936 was the anchor of the British team. In 1937, the U. S. team of Budge, Mako and Frank Parker won the cup with a 4-1 victory over Great Britain. In 1938, the singles strength of Budge and Riggs was too much for the Australians Adrian Quist and John Bromwich, the U. S. victori-

ous by 3-2. However, the Aussies got their revenge in 1939, beating the U. S. 3-2. After a hiatus in World War II, Davis Cup competition began again in 1946, and again Pate captained the U. S. team. In what turned out to be the start of the last era of U. S. domination of the game, the American team of Jack Kramer, Ted Schroeder, Gardner Mulloy and Frank Parker defeated Australia 5-0.

Putting the Nassau Bowl into competition in 1913, Pate was instrumental in attracting the cream of the tennis world to play at Nassau. However, despite its often stellar fields, no one ever managed to win the trophy outright. Pate used to joke that, whenever a player had won two singles titles at Nassau, he would send for "Big Bill" Tilden to end the man's run! However, while this would have been an excellent idea, it was just a joke, since in fact Tilden only played once at Nassau.

Besides hosting the Nassau Invitation from 1913 through 1941, and then for a few years in the 1950s and 1960s, in more recent times the Club also has hosted such events as Davis Cup Ties, an exhibition match between Davis Cup teams, Junior Davis Cup and Junior Girls Wightman Cup matches. On these, more in their place.

In this chapter, we will honor the Club's tennis champions, women and men. Their achievements are many and various. We will also discuss squash racquets and paddle tennis.

Nassau Invitation, 1913

The first Nassau Invitation, played Friday, September 5 through Sunday, September 7, attracted such stars as Harold H. Hackett, the Captain of the American Davis Cup team, who had won four National doubles championships from 1907 to 1910, Gustave F. Touchard, the Middle States champion and then twice, and later four times the National Indoor champion, Theodore R. Pell, three-time National Indoor champion, and Dean Mathey, the Princeton star and later the 1915 and 1916 National Clay Doubles champion.

Unfortunately, rain had stopped play the first day, and so on the second day some fast playing and doubling up several of the players in the early rounds were necessary. With the courts soggy and the balls heavy, this exhausted the players. It also may have affected the final,



because Touchard, who on Sunday had to play two three-set matches before the final, was "completely fagged out" and Mathey had practically no opposition, winning by 6-2, 6-2, 6-2.

Walter Pate competed in the event. He lost in the first round in the singles, and second round in the doubles. He continued to play in the Invitational for the next 10 years or so, but seldom advanced beyond the first round in either singles or doubles.

Nassau Invitation, 1914

The Nassau Invitation of 1914 was played July 1-July 5. For many years, the Club held the event on dates over the July 4th weekend.

The event that year was part of the Davis Cup trials, and attracted two former National champions: William J. Clothier, who won in 1906, then ranked number three, and William A. Larned, who won the U. S. singles title seven times from 1901 to 1911. Returning to Nassau was the defending champion, Dean Mathey, and Theodore Pell, ranked number five. Also in the field was Karl Behr, ranked number seven in 1912, and Walter Merrill Hall, ranked number 10 in 1911. (Note: All rankings are USTA national rankings unless otherwise indicated.)

In the final Clothier defeated Pell by 9-7, 6-1, 2-6, 6-0. It was a game of strategy. Clothier's drives were right on target, and he kept Pell running for the ball. Only in the third set was Clothier bested, when Pell won a baseline battle.

In the doubles, Pell and Behr defeated Clothier and George L. Wrenn, Jr., 10-8, 8-6, 6-4.



Left, William Clothier hits a forehand and above, William A. Larned in 1914

Nassau Invitation, 1915

In 1915, the dates of the Nassau Invitation were July 1-12. Returning to compete at the Club were the defending champion, William J. Clothier, then ranked number five, Karl H. Behr, then ranked number three, Theodore R. Pell ranked number five in 1913, Fred C. Inman, Alrick H. Man, Jr., the former Yale star, and Frederick C. Baggs, later a Nassau member.

Clothier was in terrific form in this event, and came through to the final, defeating Frederick M. Watrous, Cedric Major, J. J. Armstrong, Harvard, and Walter Merrill Hall. His opponent was Behr, whose victims were M. B. Verdi by default, C. L. Johnson, Jr., S. Howard Voshell, the southpaw Long Island champion, and Theodore R. Pell.

Behr played almost perfect tennis against Clothier, winning by 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4. Behr did not find his stroke until the second set, but then his forcing tactics compelled Clothier to come to the net. With Clothier out of position, Behr then passed him with deadly accurate passing shots to the sidelines.



WW I swelled its ranks with tennis stars, left to right: Lt. Col. Dwight Davis, Maj. R. D. Wrenn, Maj W. A. Larned, Capt. Watson Washburn, Capt. R. N. Williams II, Capt. D. S. Walters, Lt. Dean Mathey and Col. W. C. Johnson.

Nassau Invitation, 1916

In 1916, the Nassau Invitation was played July 1-4. In the field were Clothier and Mathey, both attempting to get a second leg on the Nassau Bowl, Karl Behr, the 1915 champion and then ranked number four, and R. Lindley Murray, described by the New York Times as "one of the most skillful of the California players."

In the final, Murray defeated Mathey, 6-2, 7-5, 10-8. A feature of the match was his service, "flashing across with bullet speed, the first ball usually finding the mark." When Mathey

CHAPTER TWELVE—Racquet Sports

Bean Ball?

Cam Maiden remembers an unusual incident that occurred on the Nassau courts "right after the Bill Tilden era, about in 1928."

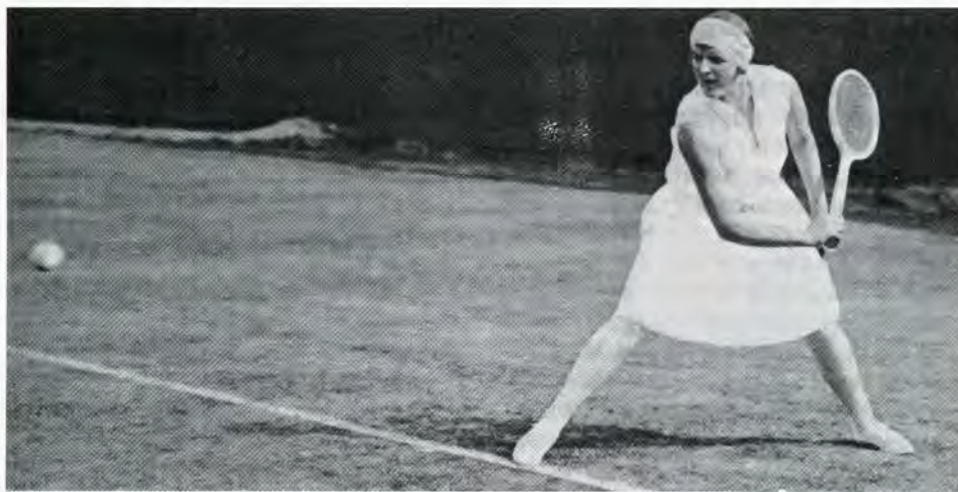
Along with the Nassau Bowl tournament that year, there were some exhibition matches. In one of them, Walter Pate was playing in a mixed double, partnered by Betty Nuthall, whom the press of the time described as the "first 'pin-up girl' of British tennis." They were playing against Helen Wills and Hunt T. Dickinson, many times Nassau champion during that era.

Anyway, on Nuthall's first serve of the match, Pate naturally was at the net, bent over at the waist, knees flexed, racket at the ready. The British girl went into her windup and hit a hard, flat canonball. Unfortunately, it not only failed to clear the net, it struck Pate squarely in the rear end!

A polite titter went up from the assembled socialites.

Four games later, Nuthall was serving again—and darned if she didn't do exactly the same thing! This time, there was a roar from the crowd, and Pate, always a good sport, just cracked up!

Lest the reader think that this Britisher could not have been much of a player, one should add that, in 1927, she lost in the final of the U. S. Open singles to Helen Wills, but won that title in 1930, the first non-American to do so. She also won the doubles with different partners in 1930, 1931 and 1933, and the mixed doubles with George M. Lott, Jr. in 1929 and 1931. Some hacker!



Betty Nuthall, first "pin-up" of British tennis.

champion).

In the doubles, Williams and Washburn defeated Mathey and Bernham Pell by 7 - 5, 4 - 6, 6 - 4, 6 - 1.

Nassau Invitation, 1924-1925 (Tilden - Chapin)

The 1924 singles finalists were S. Howard Voshell and Pat O'Hara Wood, the latter a member of the Australian Davis Cup team. In the fifth set Voshell gained the edge in a battle of services, and won the match by 6 - 3, 6 - 8, 0 - 6, 6 - 4.

In 1925, the Nassau Invitation took place June 30-July 4. For the first and only time, "Big Bill" Tilden entered. At that point, he had won the national singles title for the last five years, and was virtually unbeatable by lesser mortals. Also in the 48-man field was Dean Mathey and Walter Merrill Hall, both still looking for their second leg on the Nassau Bowl. S. Howard Voshell, the defending champion, Watson Washburn, Nassau's champion in 1920 and 1921, Wallace Johnson, then ranked third, Edward Chandler, intercollegiate champion, Zensho Shimizu, Takeiichi Harada, Fred Baggs and A. H. Chapin, Jr. a protege of Tilden's.

started to become effective at the net, Murray used the offensive lob most effectively to throw his opponent off stride.

In the doubles, Mathey and Throckmorton defeated Johnson and Armstrong by 7-9, 6-2, 6-3.

Nassau Invitation, 1919

After World War I, the Nassau Invitation resumed in 1919, the dates being June 30-July 8. In the field again was Theodore R. Pell, then ranked number 10, and Fred Baggs. Walter Merrill Hall, then rated number four, and R. Norris Williams II, rated number one in 1916, were also contestants.

Coming through to the final were Hall and Pell. Hall's victims included Dr. William Rosenbaum and Henry S. Parker; Pell's, Charles Chambers and Hoffman Nickerson.

The *New York Times* reported that Hall completely outclassed Pell, winning in straight sets, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2.

Nassau Invitation, 1920-1921

The 1920 finals resulted in a Watson M. Washburn victory over Harold Throckmorton. In 1921, Washburn became the first player to gain a second leg on the Nassau Bowl as he was again the singles victor.

Washburn won the doubles in both years with the same partner, Mathey. In 1920, they defeated Throckmorton and Ichiya Kumagae, 6-2, 3-6, 4-6, 10-8, 6-4; in 1921, Richards and Hall by 7-5, 13-11, 7-5. Richards and Hall by 7-5, 13-11, 7-5.

Nassau Invitation, 1922-1923

In 1922, there were two big upsets in the third round. Watson M. Washburn, winner of the last two Nassau Bowl events, and looking for one more victory to make the trophy his own, was beaten by Clarence Pell. Hall also went out in the third round.

Coming through to the final were R. Norris Williams, II, the National champion in 1914 and 1916, "gaining a crushing victory" over Francis T. Hunter by 6 - 1, 6 - 1, 6 - 1.

In the doubles, Williams, with his Davis Cup partner, Washburn, defeated Fred C. Anderson and Frank T. Anderson by 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

In 1923, Williams again won the singles, defeating Dean Mathey., (1913 Nassau

Tilden Trivia

William T. "Big Bill" Tilden III was famed for his awesome power. In his prime, his backhand was as devastating as his forehand. Despite the small wooden rackets and gut strings of the era, his serve in his heyday was once clocked crossing the net at 124 miles an hour—a speed only exceeded today by the strongest servers, and they have the benefit of modern, much higher power rackets. Tilden now shares a record with several others for serving four consecutive aces in a game.

The "Achilles heel" of many big men is that they're slow on their feet. Not "Big Bill." Though standing well over six feet, he could run the 100 yards in "evens," i. e., in 10 seconds flat! Only world-class sprinters are faster than that.

Tilden was also unique in that he didn't become dominant on the world scene until he was 27. Although he was first ranked America's Number One in 1915, he couldn't win big matches because of a feeble backhand—a weak chop. After twice losing in the final of the U. S. singles, in 1918 and 1919, Tilden retired to Providence and spent a year working on his backhand until it was as good as his forehand. From then on, no one could touch him—he was ranked number one from 1920 until he turned pro in 1930.



"Big Bill" Tilden.

The singles finalists were Tilden and Chapin.

In the final, Chapin found that Tilden's friendship ended on the tennis court. "Big Bill" crushed Chapin, 6-4, 6-0, 6-0. As the *New York Times* put it, "Tilden drove him (Chapin) unmercifully from one side of the net to the other and then from

the base line to the net until it seemed the Massachusetts youth would cripple himself in his pursuit of the elusive sphere."

In the doubles, Johnson and Hall defeated Shimizu and Harada by 2-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

Tilden's singles win at Nassau was the start of a record. In the Nassau event and the next event, at Agawam Hunt (Providence), Tilden won 57 games in a row, and 63 games out of 64 in this streak. His remarkable run began in the final match at Nassau, when he was 3-4 in the first set against Chapin and did not lose another game. He had previously won two love sets from Harada. At the Agawam tournament, Tilden won his first three matches without the loss of a game. He then won the first set from Carl Fischer at love, making his 57th.

Nassau Invitgation, 1926-1935

The details of these Invitational tournaments, as with the entire history of Nassau tennis events over the years will be covered in an addendum booklet still to be finalized. The winners are listed at the end of this chapter.

Nassau Invitation, 1936 (Riggs – Mattman)

In the Nassau Invitation of 1936, played June 30-July 4, there were several new faces along with several players who had often appeared at Nassau. Among the new faces, young Robert (later known as "Bobby") Riggs of Los Angeles, the national clay court and junior champion, was undoubtedly the most striking. The *New York Times* observed that "the appearance of the 18-year-old Californian, his first on grass, was awaited with interest, for he has been heralded as the most gifted youngster following in the footsteps of Donald Budge."

Other new faces of interest were Wayne Sabin of Los Angeles, holder of the clay court doubles championship with Riggs, Charles Mattman of Forest Hills, who later became a Nassau member and William J. Clothier Jr. Returning to Nassau were Watson Washburn, the former Davis Cup player, Gregory Mangin, national indoor champion, Frank Bowden and Manuel Alonzo.

In the final, Riggs was meeting an experienced Mangin with "blasting weapons calculated to put him under exacting pressure." Also, after losing in three Nassau finals, Mangin was determined not to fail a fourth time. However, by the middle of the second set, Riggs had con-

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vinced everyone present that he was equal to the task.

Pulling out the first set after Mangin had twice broken his service, Riggs “turned the play into a rout in the second.” In the third set, Riggs slackened his attack and lost as Mangin “tore around like a whirlwind” and made “spectacular drop volleys and passing shots.” However, in the last set, Riggs “attacked mercilessly, laying down a barrage of drives to the corners.” He won by 9-7, 6-2, 5-7, 6-3.

Riggs also carried off the doubles honors. Playing with Sabin, he defeated Mangin and J. Gilbert Hall in the final, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

Nassau Invitation, 1937-1938

The Nassau Invitation of 1937 was played June 30-July 4. The finalists were Gilbert Hunt of Washington D.C. and Frank Bowden of New York. Hunt started tentatively, then switched tactics by relying on fast serves and quick follow-up to the net. He went on to win 2-6, 6-4, 6-1, 1-6, 6-4.

The doubles were won by Bennett/Newton over Hunt/Harman.

In 1938, the Nassau Invitation's dates were July 1-4. Among the top players vying for the Nassau Bowl were Gilbert Hunt, the defender, and Frank Bowden, the previous year's runner-up, J. Gilbert Hall, Frank Kovacs and the members of the Canadian Davis Cup team, headed by Robert Murray, the top-ranking Canadian player. The finalists were Hunt and Hall. Hunt defeated Ross Wilson, Merritt Cutler and Bowden. Hall defeated Philip Moore, Douglas Cameron and Kovacs. Hunt won by 6-4, 6-4, 8-6, gaining his second leg on the Nassau Bowl.

Note: There were no doubles events at Nassau from 1938 through 1954, although in 1952 and 1954 there were exhibition matches.

Nassau Invitation, 1939

The 1939 Nassau Invitation was played July 1-4. Gilbert Hunt, ranked number nine, was back, trying for his third win, which would retire the Nassau Bowl. Also in the field were Wayne Sabin, the indoor national champion and top seed.

Hunt was eliminated in the semifinals by Sutter, who earlier had defeated Wood and J. Gilbert Hall. The other finalist was Sabin whose victims had been Chauncey D. Steele, Jr., J. Norman Anderson and Frank Bowden.

The final was a battle royal under a blazing sun that lasted two and half hours. For a while it looked as though young Sutter would win. After pulling out the first set, and ahead 3-1 in the third, fatigue set in and he was a step short on his volleys and drives. Sabin took the set and won by 6-8, 6-4, 7-5, 6-4. He went on to be ranked number five for 1939.

Nassau Invitation, 1940

In 1940, the Nassau Invitation was played July 4-7. In the field were Elwood Cooke, ranked number six and a finalist at Wimbledon the year before, losing to Riggs, Sidney Wood, 1931 Wimbledon champion, Joe Hunt, then at the U. S. Naval Academy and a member of the 1939 Davis Cup team, Frank Kovacs and Jack Kramer, who were to be ranked number three and six at the end of the year, and Ted Schroeder, national junior champion. Gilbert Hunt, then ranked number nine, returned, but Wayne Sabin did not defend his title.

Coming through to the final were Cooke and Kovacs. Cooke defeated Hunt T. Dickinson, Nassau, Edward Amerk, William Gillespie and Hal Surface. Kovacs eliminated E. C. Oelsner, Jr., Robert Harman, Gilbert Hunt and Joe Hunt.

A large gallery, attracted by reports of the immense power of the 20-year-old Kovacs, witnessed a hard fought contest. For the first two sets, Kovacs pounded Cooke unmercifully. Then Cooke rallied, winning the next two sets. Just before the end of the fifth set, it looked bad for an obviously weary Kovacs. Cooke had taken a 40-0 lead on Kovacs's service, and Kovacs only extricated himself through some of his fast, flat serves. In the next game, Cooke's forehand unaccountably collapsed and Kovacs won by 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 4-6, 6-4.

Nassau Invitation, 1941 (Seixas-Segura)

In 1941, the Nassau Invitation was played July 3-6. Returning to Nassau was Joe Hunt, intercollegiate champion, ranked number four, and top seed. The number two seed was Gilbert Hunt, with two legs on the Nassau Bowl. The other seeds were Sidney Wood and the Ecuadorian star, Francisco “Pancho” Segura, later National Clay (1944) and indoor (1946) champion. The 1939 Nassau winner Wayne Sabin and Vic Seixas, then 18 years old, and later a National (1954)



Wayne Sabin, winner and Ernest Sutter, finalist in the Nassau Country Club Challenge Bowl in 1939. At right is Charles Mattman in 1939 or 1940 in the Pacific Southwest Championships, still a member of Nassau.



and Wimbledon (1953) champion, also was in the field.

The *New York Times* reported that rain prevented all but one match being played on July 3, and would have prevented play on July 4 if the Nassau Committee had not "drafted" some indoor courts in the area, with "dirt and linoleum surfaces."

The finalists were Wood and Sabin. Wood had beaten August Ganzenmuller, Jr., (Nassau), Chauncey D. Steele, Frank Bowden and Joe Hunt. Sabin took out Frank Smith, R. J. Kerdasha, Gilbert Hunt and Segura.

In the final, to the surprise of the huge gallery, Sabin took the first set in just 15 minutes. In the second set, Wood's "listlessness" left him and for an hour, the men fought "tooth and nail, and for the most part it was superb tennis." Both "rifled their services, were deadly overhead, and volleyed with deft, delicate strokes." But no matter how hard Woods fought, Sabin was so resourceful, he was not to be denied, winning by 6-0, 13-11, 6-3.

1942-1951

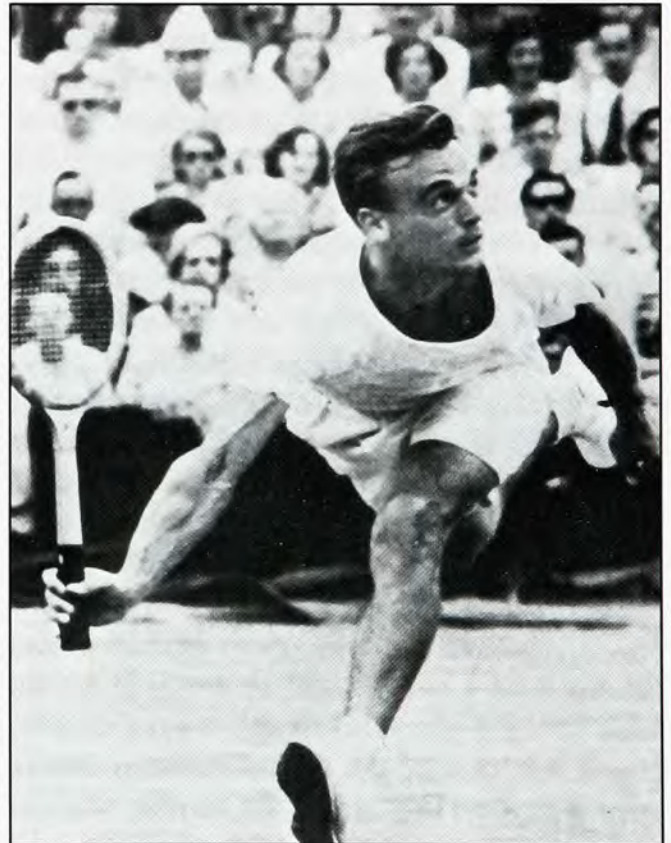
From 1942 through 1951, the Invitational was not played. During this time the only important event played at the Club was the 1943 Eastern Invitation Grass Court Championship for Girls, held August 16-20.

It was not until March, 1946, that the Club's Directors stated that they favored reviving the Invitation Tennis Tournament if the Tennis Committee thought it could be done "without too great expense." In October of that year, they "empowered the Tennis Committee, with the aid of Mr. Pate, to reinstitute the annual invitation tennis tournament for the July Fourth weekend."

However, in May, 1947, the Chairmen of the Tennis Committee reported that it would be "impossible to hold the Club's event over the July Fourth weekend this year as all the first string players would be in England or out West and no other appropriate date could be obtained."

In May, 1948, the Club's Directors "authorized Edgar T. Appleby, Tennis Chairman, in conjunction with Mr. Walter Pate, to hold the Nassau Country Club Invitation Tennis Tournament August 29 to September 5, inclusive, provided no undue expenses be incurred by the Club." They also authorized an admission charge if they thought this would be advantageous.

Discussion of this continued through June of 1948, and in July, the Board authorized



Vic Seixas reaches for a forehand.

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holding the tournament on the above dates. However, in the end, nothing came of it at that time.

It was not until 1952 that the Tournament was revived. The dates were from August 25 through August 29.

Nassau Invitation, 1952 (Revival)

The Tuesday, August 26th, edition of the *New York Times* welcomed the revival of the Nassau Invitational in these words: "On the beautiful turf of the Nassau Country Club, one of the most attractive of all lawn tennis tournaments was revived today and competition was renewed for one of the oldest and most prized trophies in the game."

In the 38-man field were "ranking players of the older generation and a host of rising youngsters." The *Times* singled out Arthur Larsen, national champion in 1950 and then ranked number three, Gardner Mulloy, ranked number eight the previous year, Hamilton Richardson, then ranked number eight, and Donald McNeill, of Long Island, the national title holder in 1940, for special mention. Players from England, Belgium, Japan, Denmark and Chile were also competing.

Coming through to the final were Larsen and Mulloy.

Larsen needed only 30 minutes to defeat Mulloy in the final by 6-2, 6-3. Larsen played "steady tennis," while the 38-year-old Mulloy "failed to hit with authority at any time" and made innumerable unforced errors.

Following the singles final, Mulloy and Frank Guernsey teamed in an exhibition doubles match. They defeated Larsen and Fred Kovsieski 7-5, 3-6, 6-3.

Nassau Invitation, 1953 (Trabert)

In 1953, the Nassau Invitation was played August 24-29. The *New York Times* described the field as "strong." It included Arthur Larsen, 1950 National champion, and Herb Flam, runner-up, ranked number three and five respectively, Tony Trabert, ranked number three in 1951 and number one in 1953, Gardner Mulloy, ranked number one, and Hamilton Richardson, intercollegiate champion and ranked number seven. Also in the field were Kurl Nielsen of Denmark, runner-up that year to Vic Seixas at Wimbledon and many top foreign players.

Coming through to the final was Trabert; his opponent was the surprise of the tournament, 20-year-old Bob Perry of Los Angeles, who defeated Charlie Materson, Gene Garrett, and, most impressive, Mulloy and Richardson.

Because both players were scheduled for competition in the nationals that started that day, the final was reduced to the best of three sets. Both players "displayed good first services, with three of every four finding their mark . . . both had speed afoot, good depth on their ground strokes and amazing angle with their volleys." The difference was Trabert's experience, and he kept Perry on the run and made few mistakes. Trabert won by 6-3, 6-4.

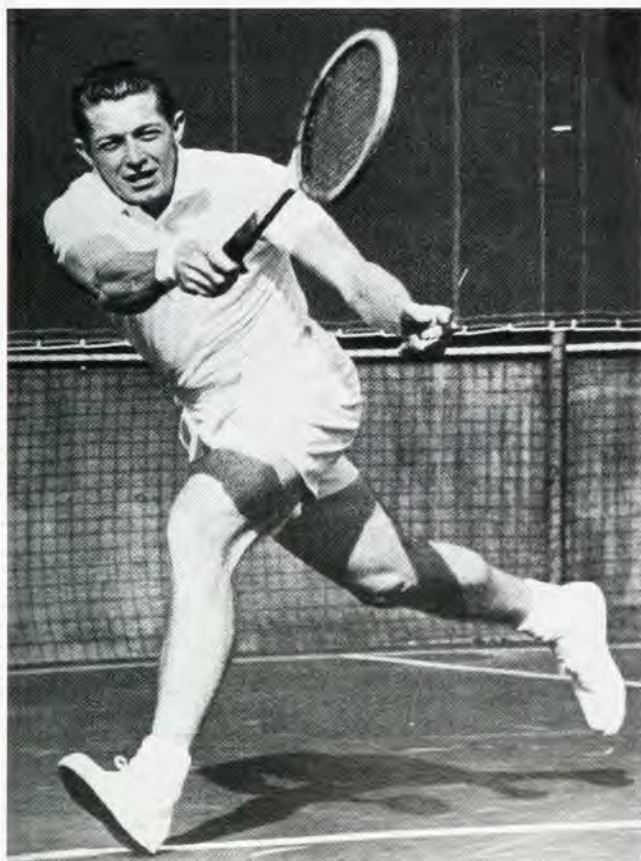
Nassau Invitation, 1954

The 32-man field of the 1957 Nassau Invitation, held August 23-28, was headed by the defending champion, and also national champion, Tony Trabert. Also in the field were Bob Perry, the runner-up at Nassau in the previous year, Herb Flam, 1950 national clay court champion in 1950 and ranked number five in 1952 and Tim Coss, Eastern intercollegiate champion. From abroad came Australians Roy Emerson and Ashley Cooper, then both 17 years old, Roger Becker, England, and Luis Ayala, Chile.

The finalists were Trabert and Tom Brown Jr. Trabert defeated Coss, Sam Giammalva, Ayala and Flam. Brown beat Edward Dalley, Allen Morris, William Quillian and Perry, "displaying the best and fastest tennis," the *New York Times* said, that had been seen in the tournament up to that point. Brown, a 32-year lawyer, had reached the national final in 1946, losing to Jack Kramer.

In the final, Trabert played some of the best tennis he had produced since winning the nationals in the previous year and defeated Brown by 6-3, 6-3.

Afterward, Trabert and Brown teamed to beat the University of Washington doubles team of William Quillian and Donald Flye, 12-10, in a one-set exhibition.



Tony Trabert

1955 and 1956 (Cancelled)

The Nassau Invitational was not played in 1955 and 1956. Financial losses on the tournament in recently held events were one consideration. Moreover, in December, 1954, the Tennis Chairman reported that he was having difficulties scheduling the tournament because of "changes in the tournament schedule."

In February of the next year, the Board had reached no decision on the dates for the event. However, it was agreed "that the cup (the Nassau Bowl) would be continued in perpetuity, a suitable replica given the winner and his name inscribed on the permanent cup."

In the meanwhile, the Club hosted the Davis Cup Semi-Final Tie on August 5-7, 1955. Afterwards, Edgar T. Appleby called it "one of the finest events the Club ever held."

In December, 1955, the Tennis Chairman reported that the only dates the USTA had offered for the Club's event had been the week before the National at Forest Hills, and the time "didn't lend itself to a successful tournament." Not too many ranking players would compete in another event just before the U. S. Open.

Negotiations continued, and in the interim another interesting event was held at the Club. On August 30, 1956, there was an exhibition match here between the English and French Davis Cup teams. The members of the English team were Roger Becker, Billy Knight and Michael Davies. Benny Berthet, Paul Remy, Robert Haillet and Pierre Darmon made up the French team.

Nassau Invitation, 1957 (Revived)

In 1957, the *New York Times* reported that the Nassau Invitation was "revived after a lapse of two years." The dates were July 9-15. Returning to Nassau was Herb Flam, national clay court champion, then ranked number two. The entries also included Edward Moylan, ranked number four, Gilbert Shea, ranked number nine, Chris Crawford, national junior champion, veterans William Talbert, then the Davis Cup team captain, but earlier a top 10 player throughout the 1940s, Sidney Wood, Jr., 1931 Wimbledon champion, and Richard Savitt, the Wimbledon and Australian champion in 1951.

The finalists were Flam, who beat Wood, Crawford and Don Fontana, a Canadian Davis Cupper, and Savitt, who defeated Warren Gingras, Talbert and Gilbert Shea.

In the final, the "mighty hitting" of Savitts faced off against the "guile and craft" of Flam, who "mixed floaters that amounted almost to lobs with occasional forcing drives" and refused to give his opponent "the speed on which he thrives." Savitts "did not relish this soft-ball diet" and by the third set, he "was ragged in control." Flam won by 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

In the doubles, Flam and Savitt defeated Mike Green and John Cranston, 6-2, 6-2, 3-6, 5-7, 6-4.

1958 to 1962 (Into Abeyance)

From 1958 to 1962, the Invitational again went into abeyance. Getting suitable dates was still a problem. As before, other tennis events came to the Club in the interim.

On August 8 and 9, 1958, the Club hosted Junior Davis Cup International Team matches. On August 24-27, 1959, the Junior Girls Wightman Cup matches were played at Nassau. On Tuesday, July 28, 1959, the U. S. Davis Cup team practices on Nassau's courts. In addition, on August 31-September 3, 1959, the Seniors' Eastern championship came to the Club.

In 1960, the Club granted Junior Wightman Cup players use of the Club's courts during the week before the National Championship matches, held then in late August at Forest Hills. Then, in 1961, there was a very successful exhibition in August during the week before the Nationals featuring top U. S. and foreign stars.

Tennis Then and Now

One year after I left college, in 1941, I played the tennis circuit for a season before going into my father's business. I got to where I was ranked around 27th in the country. Today, people think that the players didn't practice much back then. Not true! We worked four or five hours a day. This is much of what separated us from merely social players. The other big difference was tournament play. If you don't play tournaments, you can't play. It's the only way to become match tough.

I've often been asked what the equipment was like in those days. They strung our wood frame rackets tight, and they were beautiful weapons, no question about that. It's true that rain would ruin them, but we all carried 10 to 15 rackets onto the court so that was not a problem. Of course, we got the rackets for free! The balls they used on grass were very fast and had very small nap.

However, the big difference today lies in the modern rackets. With their metal or graphite frames, they flex far more than wood, and you get much more power with them. It's a completely different ball game.—August Ganzenmuller, Nassau Club Champion, 1951, 1953

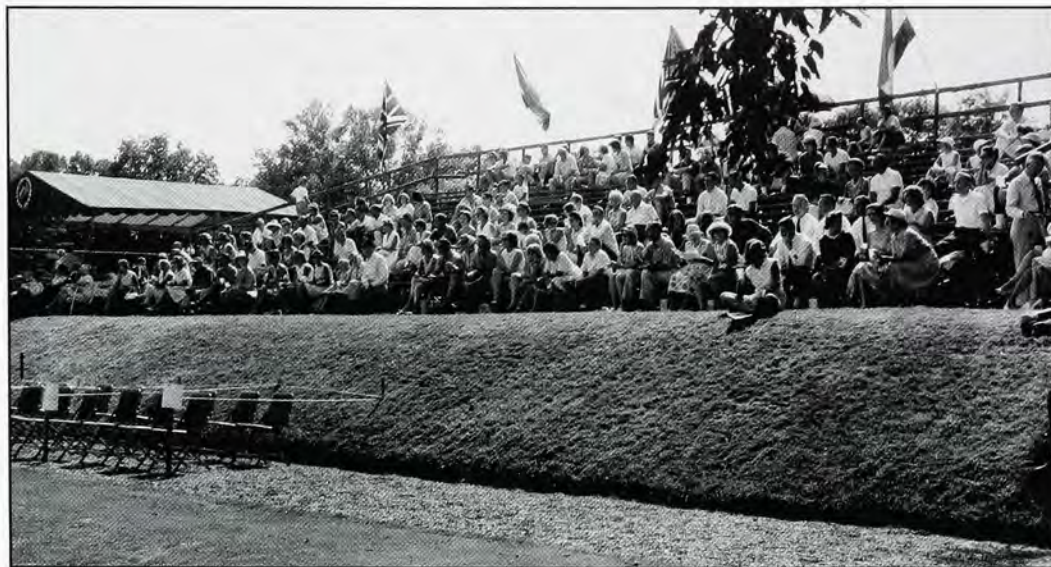
CHAPTER TWELVE—Racquet Sports

In 1963, after a five-year hiatus, the Club's invitational made a comeback. What made the difference was that the USTA offered the Club the August 7-11 dates given up by the Meadow Club, Southampton, which dropped its 74-year tournament in a dispute with the USTA

over the five per cent sanction fee the USTA then took off the gross receipts.

As Sheridan Snyder, tournament chairman, said at the time, "In the past, we had difficulty getting top players. We held our tournament a week before the Nationals (late August). That was the only date we could get, and we had trouble at the gate because of the lack of top players." As mentioned earlier, few ranking players would compete in another event just before the Nationals.

"We intend to keep this event," added Snyder. "It's being held between prime circuit dates (between prestige events at Orange, New Jersey, and Newport, Rhode Island) so I'm



Part of the gallery during the 1963 Invitational.

sure we'll be drawing the top players."

Nassau Invitation, 1963

In the Nassau Invitation of 1963 the finalists were Taylor and Scott. Taylor had defeated Premjit Lall, India, Pasarell, Alexander Wood, South Africa, and Fred Drilling. Scott beat George Seewagen, Jim Beste, Reed and Fox.

In the final, Taylor's inconsistent service cost him the match—he committed a total of 13 double-faults. Scott took an early lead when Taylor had five doubles in his first two service games and Scott won the set to love in just 14 minutes. Scott held to win by 6-0, 6-2, 8-6.

In the doubles, Taylor and his Davis Cup teammate Bobby Wilson defeated William Bond and Tom Edlefsen, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

Nassau Invitation, 1964

(Ashe-McKinley)

In 1964, the Nassau Invitation was played August 5-8. The seeded players, in order, were Chuck McKinley, 1963 Wimbledon champion and then ranked number one, Mike Sangster, Britain's number one player, Nassau defending champion Gene Scott, ranked number four, Marty Riessen, ranked number five, Arthur Ashe, Jr.,

who had won the Eastern Grass Court title the previous week and was to be ranked number three in the following year, Premjit Lall, David Reed and Jim McManus.

On his way to the final, the 6' 1" 190-pound Sangster eliminated Mike Belkin, Jim Beste, Ashe and Scott. His opponent was the stocky 5' 8" McKinley, who had bested Herb FitzGibbon, Jim Parker, Clark Graebner, who became a top-10 ranked player the next year, and Shiv Misra of India.

In the final, a gallery of 1,500 saw McKinley attack with speed and accuracy, to win in 68 minutes. He never let up, his fast flat and spin services baffling, his drive razor-sharp, and his volleys delicate or jolting. McKinley won by 6-3, 8-6, 6-4.

In the doubles, Riessen and Graebner, then the second ranked doubles team, defeated Lall and Misra, 4-6, 13-11, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

Nassau Invitation, 1965

In 1965, the Nassau Invitation was played August 2-8. Heading the seeded list was Roy



Don Budge, Walter L. Pate, Ellsworth Vines in 1963.

Emerson the Australian champion, the 1961 and 1964 national champion and 1964 and 1965 Wimbledon champion. Also seeded were Chuck McKinley, the defending champion at Nassau and ranked number two; Charles Pasarell and Tom Edlefsen, ranked number 10 in 1963; Gene Scott, the winner in 1963, a member of the 1964 U. S. Davis Cup Team and ranked number five, Roger Taylor of the British Davis Cup squad, Edward "Butch" Newman, Captain of the U. S. Junior Davis Cup team, and Stan Smith, national junior champion.

Coming through to the final were Emerson and McKinley. Emerson defeated William F. Talbert, Loyo Mayo of Mexico, Frank Tutvian, and Cliff Buchholz. McKinley eliminated Vincente Zarazua of Mexico, Smith, Taylor, and Scott.

In the final, the *New York Times* reported, "a crowd of nearly 3,000" overflowed the lawns of the Club." Emerson won by 6-4, 11-9, 7-5.

In the doubles, Emerson and McKinley were defeated by Pasarell and Edlefsen, 4-6, 10-8, 6-3.



The Davis Cup at Nassau. On the right is Neil Fraser and Ken Roswell with the Mexican Davis Cup team.

Nassau Invitation, 1966 (Roche-Scott)

The 1966 Nassau Invitation, held August 1-6, featured Australia's Tony Roche, the 1965 Wimbledon doubles champion and 1966 French singles champion, seeded first, Chuck McKinley, Ray Ruffells of Australia and 18-year-old Ray Moore of South Africa. Gene Scott, Nassau champion in 1963, was also in the field.

McKinley was beaten in the third round. In the final were Scott and Moore. Scott defeated Frank Tutvin, George "Butch" Seewagen, Jr. and John Pickens. Moore took out Turner Howard, Froehling and Roche.

An overflow crowd watched Scott gain his second victory at Nassau in just under two hours. Overwhelmed by Moore in the first set in 18 minutes, Scott then raised his game, completely reversing Moore's early superiority in service and return of service. Scott won by 0-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

There was an exhibition match between Karen Krantzcke and Kerry Melville, both of Australia, before the doubles final. In the latter match, Smith and Froehling beat Moore and Peter Van Lingen, South Africa, 6-2, 6-4. Army Second Lieutenant Arthur Ashe, ranked number two, had played with McKinley in the doubles; they lost in the semi-finals to the South Africans.

Nassau Invitation, 1967 (Ashe - Newcombe)

The Nassau Invitation of 1967, played August 17-21, attracted a stellar field. Among the entries were Arthur Ashe, ranked number one; Australians John Newcombe, then the Wimbledon champion, and Tony Roche, returning to Nassau for the second time; Chuck McKinley who doubled in brass as one of the event's officials and as a competitor, upsetting Ashe; Gene Scott, the defending champion; Hamilton Richardson, ranked number one in 1956 and 1958 and still number six in 1965; Bobby Lutz, who broke into the top 10 in the following year, and Charles Pasarell, 1966 Intercollegiate champion.

Coming through to the final were Newcombe and Roche. Newcombe retired Lutz, Scott and Pasarell. Roche took care of Joaquin Loyo-Mayor of Mexico, Torben Ulrich and McKinley.

The 132-minute final was played in what the *New York Times* described as a "casually competitive atmosphere." Newcombe and Roche had played against each other some 20 times in the previous five years and were fast friends. They delighted the 1,500 spectators with a "running commentary." Roche once "castigated himself" with "Aw, you blighter" and, when Newcombe hit a volley off the wood for a winner, Roche remarked, "That's sweet!" But, when Roche trailed, 15-30, on his serve in the 21st game of the fourth set, "levity vanished." Newcombe netted a service return to make it 30-30, but on the next point Roche missed a backhand volley. On game point, Newcombe "drilled" a forehand service return which Roche whiffed as the ball skidded through low. Newcombe then held his serve for the match, winning by 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 12-10.

CHAPTER TWELVE—Racquet Sports

In the doubles, Newcombe and Roche defeated Lutz and Smith, 7-5, 9-7.

In addition to having his name inscribed on the Nassau Bowl, Newcombe also received a maroon jacket. As the *Times* reported, "The letter is symbolic of the new 16-man format that the chairman, Sheridan G. Snyder, hopes will emerge as a 'Masters tournament of tennis.' At the Masters golf tournament, the winner receives a green jacket."



Above: Gene Scott making a return in the 1965 Nassau Bowl tournament. Below right: Chuck McKinley serves.

Nassau "Nationals"

Here are some of the achievements at the national level of Nassau members over the years.

Walter L. Pate (Nassau member) and Samuel Hardy won the U.S. Men's Seniors' Doubles in 1924 and 1925. Fred C. Baggs (Nassau member), with Dr. William Rosenbaum, won the doubles of the same event in 1927, 1929, 1931, 1934 and 1938. He also won the 1931 U.S. Men's Seniors' Singles title.

Charles T. Mattmann won the U. S. Indoor Junior doubles in 1934 with Gilbert A. Hunt and in 1936 with Peter Lauck. With Charles E. Olewine, Mattman won the NCAA Doubles title in 1941.

Frank D. Guernsey was the NCAA champion in 1938 and 1939, and was the runner-up, with Donald McNeill, in 1946 U. S. Doubles.

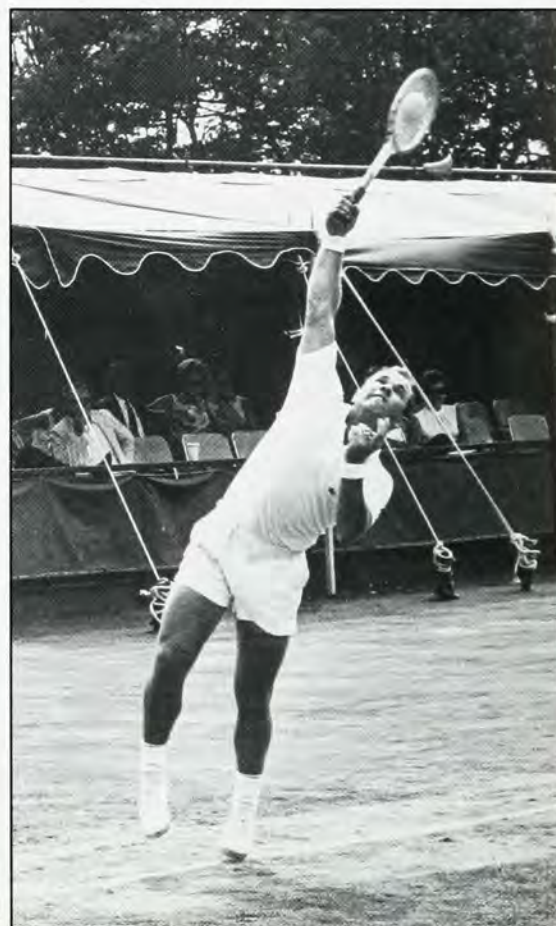
Charles "Chuck" McKinley won the Wimbledon singles title in 1963. He was runner-up to Rod Laver in 1961. He won the U. S. doubles title in 1961, 1963 and 1964. He won the Nassau Bowl in 1964.

McKinley—A Step Short!

In an early match one year for the Nassau Bowl, Chuck McKinley was playing, and, after a couple of games, he said, "Jeez, I can't get up to the net today." Players of his caliber know that normally it only took him so many steps to get to the net, but on this occasion he continually was coming up a step short.

Finally, McKinley said, "Let's stop and measure here." On doing so, they found that, on McKinley's side of the net, the base line was three feet too long, while it was three feet too short on the other side!

Ralph Panetta reveals the inside story. "In those days, they marked the lines on the grass with lime, using one of those old liner machines. At the time, the Nassau groundsman responsible for this task was called Derek. Now he was a man who liked his drink. Whether in his cups or not, his lines were always beautifully straight, but where he placed them sometimes left a little to be desired!"



Alas, it was not to be. In June 27, 1968, the Directors announced that "the Nassau Bowl will not be held this year." There is no further mention of the Nassau Bowl in the Club's minutes. By 1973 the conversion of the Club's grass courts to Har-Tru had begun. It was the end of an era.

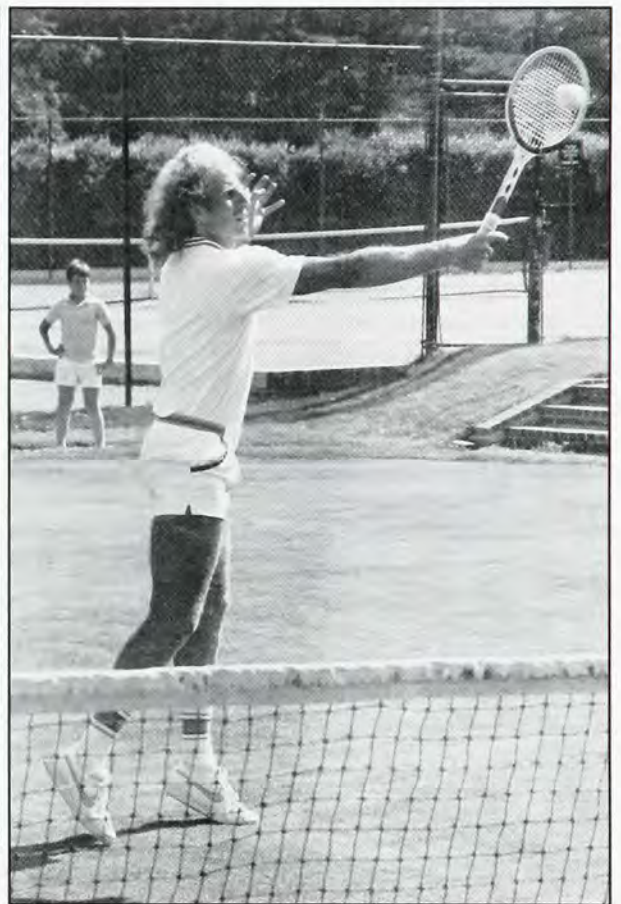
Modern Day Special Events

In June, 1981, Nassau Country Club was fortunate to host an exhibition tennis match between Vitas Gerulaitis and Tim Mangan and Tony Graham and Tom Thompson. Mangan was Nassau's tennis pro at the time, Graham a promising newcomer to the pro circuit, and Thompson another teaching pro.

Gerulaitis, then 26 years old, had worked at the Club all week to get his game in shape for Wimbledon, taking lessons from Harry Hopman and Thompson. When the exhibition was over, Tom DiBartolomeo, Chairman of the Tennis Committee, presented Gerulaitis and Graham with small replicas of the great 100-pound sterling silver Nassau Bowl. Champagne flowed and the Club's Chef had whipped up a cake inscribed "Good Luck At Wimbledon."

Also worth mentioning are two outstanding events on the Nassau Tennis calendar: The Nassau Country Club Junior Classic Tournament and the Tennis Pro-Am.

The Junior Classic, played from 1988 to the present, has produced the top junior on Long Island in the Boy's and Girl's Singles and Doubles categories. The Pro-Am, played from 1987 to the present, is an event that to which Nassau Country Club tennis players look forward every year. In this event, the members team with a top pro from the East in a Round Robin event.



Left, Evelyn Maier, six-time women's champion.

Vitas Gerulaitis at Nassau in 1981.

Tennis Successes

During this time there also have been significant achievements by Nassau members. Christopher Simko won the Brady Cup, a grass court tournament for Juniors on the East Coast, three times, in 1980, 1981 and 1982. The Club's Men's team were the champions of the North Shore Tennis League in 1993. The Club's juniors were the champions of the North Shore Tennis League from 1979-1985, a run that included a 60-match winning streak, and were champions again from 1987-1990 and in 1992.

Many of the Club's champions have set enviable records for excellence and longevity. Hunt T. Dickinson won the Nassau championship eight times (1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1938). There also are two seven-time winners in the Club's records: Richard Rule (1982, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1993) and Sheridan Snyder (1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961).

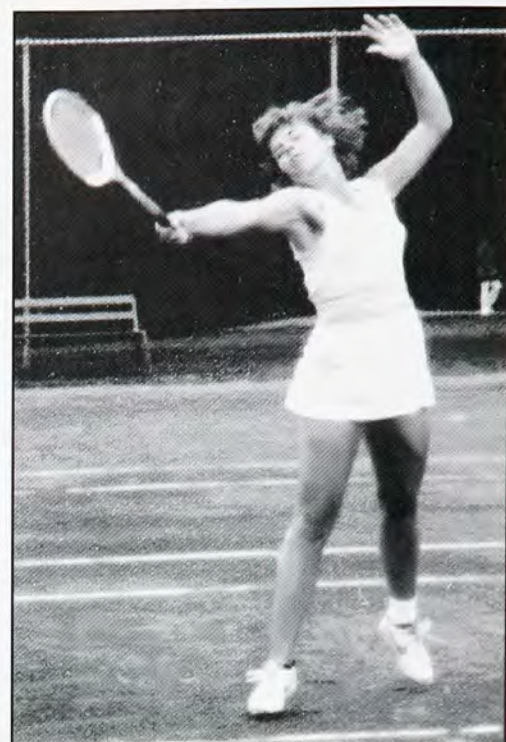
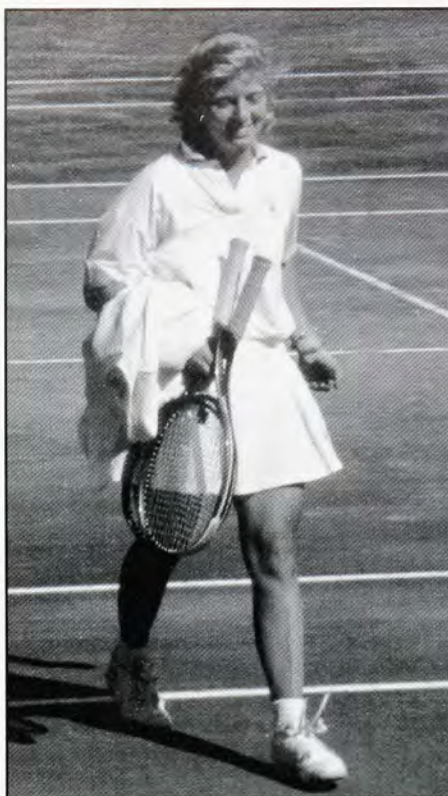
Five-time winners have been: W. L. Pate (1911, 1912, 1913, 1922, 1923) and Richard A. Razzetti (1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966). Paul Ganzenmuller won four times (1970, 1971, 1972, 1973).

The story is similar among Nassau's women champions. Mrs. L. William Maier III won six times (1972, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978), Miss Kristin Fullam won five times (1979, 1980, 1985, 1993, 1994), and Miss Nicole Salerno won four times (1986, 1989, 1990, 1991).

CHAPTER TWELVE—Racquet Sports



Right, Nicole Salerno, a four-time Nassau champion and above, Christopher Simko, three-time Brady Cup winner.



Kristin Fullam won both tennis and squash championships.



Above, Ray Widelski, left, and J. Khan gave a squash exhibition at Nassau in 1972. Above right, 12-time Nassau Squash champion Bob Reeve, left, with Harry Geidel.



Squash Rackets

From 1930 until 1974, the Club held the Luckenbach Tournament, hosting the top players in the Metropolitan area for singles and doubles competition.

In 1972, there was a squash exhibition at the Club featuring the well known champions Ray Widelski and J. Khan.

From 1988 to 1989, the Club held the Nassau Country Club Squash Invitational, hosting the top singles players in the Met area. The winner in 1988 was Richard Rule, in 1989, Don Fraser, both Nassau members.

In the Challenge Cup between The Creek and Nassau, held from 1990 until the present, Nassau has ein 1990, 1991, and 1992; The Creek in 1994 and 1995.

In squash, as in tennis, the Club's champions have enjoyed incredible runs of success. H. Robert Reeve won the championship 12 times (1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1970) while E. C. Oelsner, Jr. was a seven-time winner (1938, 1939, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1947, 1948).

There were two five-time winners: Richard Rule (1984, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992), and Neil Pirozzi (1982, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987). There were also two four-time winners: Hunt T. Dickinson (1926, 1929, 1930, 1936), and James F. Nick, Jr. (1961, 1972, 1975, 1977).

In 1993, Miss Kristin Fullam was invited by the men to compete with them in the Nassau Squash Rackets championship. She won, and since she also won the women's tennis championship in that year, she achieved a "double" unique in Nassau racquets history.

Paddle Tennis

Nassau Country Club was one of the participating clubs in hosting the 1992 National Platform Tennis Championships. Nassau had the special honor of hosting the National's Dinner-Dance, which attracted over 350 players, from all over the country, to the Club.

In 1990, John McMillan, Tim Mangan, Bobo Mangan-Delaney and Tonia Dillon provided "All In The Family" entertainment and good paddle during a mixed doubles platform tennis exhibition.

Both Nassau's Men's and Women's teams have distinguished themselves in Long Island Paddle League play. The Men have been A champions 1994-1995, B champions 1989-1990, and C champions 1993-1994. There are four teams in the Men's League. The Women have been Flight 1 champions 1993-1995 and Flight 5 champions 1991-1992. There are five teams in the Women's League.

Summary of scores from 1926 to 1935

1926	
Singles	Lewis N. White over Watson Washburn, 6-1, 6-0, 7-5.
Doubles	Lewis N. White and Louis Thalheimer over Walter Merrill Hall and Wallace F. Johnson 2-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.
1927	
Singles	Wallace F. Johnson over Manuel Alonzo, 7-5, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.
Doubles	Lewis N. White and Louis Thalheimer over Fred C. Anderson and Edward W. Feibleman 6-3, 7-5, 6-3.
1928	
Singles	John Van Ryn over Dr. George King, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.
Doubles	Alan Herrington and Ralph McElvernner over J. Gilbert Hall and Edward W. Feibleman 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.
1929	
Singles	John Doeg over Gregory Mangin, 12-10, 6-2, 6-2.
Doubles	Alan Herrington and Ralph McElvernner over J. Gilbert Hall and Edward W. Feibleman 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.
1930	
Singles	Francis T. Hunter over Eddie Jacaobs 2-6, 10-8, 6-4, 6-4.
Doubles	Eddie Jacobs and C. Aophonse Smith over S. Howard Voshell and Elmer Griffin 7-5, 7-5, 6-4.
1931	
Singles	Junior Cohen over Edward W. Feibleman 2-6, 10-8, 6-4, 6-4.
Doubles	Eddie Jacobs and Junior Cohen over Ned Herndon and Lieutenant R. M. Watt 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.
1932	
Singles	Dr. Eugene McCauliff over Jack Tidball 6-4, 11-9, 6-4.
Doubles	Jack Tidball and Elbert Lewis over James Van Alen and William Laurens Van Allen 6-3, 6-2, 7-5
1933	
Singles	Manuel Alonzo over Martin Buxby 6-2, 2-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.
Doubles	Martin Buxby and Burt Wettens over Dr. Eugene McCauliff and Edward H. Burns 6-4, 10-12, 6-4..
1934	
Singles	R. Berkley Bell over Gregory S. Mangin 4-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-0.
Doubles	R. Berkley Ball and Gregory Mangin over Clifford and Edward Sotter 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.
1935	
Singles	R. Berkley Bell over Gregory S. Mangin 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.
Doubles	R. Berkley Bell and Gregory S. Mangin over S. Ellsworth Davenport III and E. C. Oelsner Jr., 6-3, 6-4, 6-0.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN—Club Staff

Nassau has been fortunate in its choice of key staff members and many have served the Club faithfully for many years.

Among the Club's golf professionals, Jim Maiden served for a little over 40 years and Ed Scott, 15 years.

Current professional Harold Kolb has been at Nassau since 1963.

Among Nassau's greenkeepers and course superintendents, John Youmans stayed 33 years and Dennis Greene, 40 years. Charlie Brett served 14 years, but earlier put in 18 years as a caddie and golf course worker for a total of 32 years.

Among the Club's managers, Les Murray served over 26 years. Chef Marcus Crowder served for 30 years. In racquet sports, Harry Geidel served 38 years. Sam Pierce, Mens Locker Room, served 42 years.

Who is Nassau's champion in the longevity department? It's Ralph Panetta, Nassau's clubmaker, who started his career at the Club in 1934 and has stayed to this day.

In The Pro Shop

From a column entitled "Down Memory Lane," written by William L. McDougall and published in a July, 1940 issue of the *Glen Cove Echo*, we learn that the first golf professional at the Queens County Club was an Englishman, C. A. W. Fox. McDougall added: "The theme song of Fox while he was giving a lesson was 'Keep your eye on the ball and follow it through.'" At that time, back in 1895,



there were no native pros. They were all Scottish or English imports.

Fox evidently rated high among professionals of the day. In his classic book *Fifty Years Of American Golf*, H. B. Martin devotes a whole chapter to these pioneers who came to teach Americans how to play the Royal and Ancient game. Among the 50 or so expatriate pros he talks about, you will find C. A. W. Fox.

McDougall also mentioned that Tom Warrender succeeded Fox at Queens County, and described Warrender as "a splendid golfer and a perfect host at the 19th hole."

While Fox went on to take a post in or near Huntingdon, Warrender later became the pro at Knollwood Country Club near White Plains. Warrender evidently had left Queens County by July of 1896, because in that month, when he played in the second U. S. Open at Shinnecock Hills, the records already list his club affiliation as Knollwood. Warrender finished in 28th place.

From then until 1900, we don't know who served Queens County and Nassau as club professional. However, *Harper's Official Golf Guide* of 1900 lists the "instructor" (i. e., the professional) at Nassau as being W. E. Stoddart. In the following year, W. C. Clark took over as is shown by the records for the 1901 U. S. Open, played at the Myopia Hunt Club in South Hamilton, Mass. W. C. Clark, Nassau, finished in a tie for 22nd.

Charlie Brett has more on Clark. "In the early 1950s, I used to go to a tavern called Strappel's by Glen Cove station. Fred Strappel, who caddied at Nassau in the early 1900s, was the owner and he told me that Clark rented rooms there."

Alex Smith came to Nassau after the 1901 U. S. Open, and remained until 1908, when he went to the Wykagyl Country Club. Meanwhile, in 1901 Jim Maiden, then 20 years old, had come to this country to work as assistant to Smith at Nassau. In 1904, Maiden went to Ohio to serve as professional at the Youngstown Country Club. In 1906, he went to the Inverness Club, Toledo, Ohio. In 1907, he became the pro at the East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta. In the following year, Maiden returned to Nassau, replacing Smith.

There's no doubt that Maiden was an excellent golfer. Before he left his native land, he had been runner-up in the Scottish Amateur in 1901. Then, as mentioned earlier, he tied for third in the 1906 U. S. Open and was second in another major of those days, the Western Open, in 1905. In addition, he won the Ohio State Open in 1906.

Maiden's local successes also show he could play. In 1910, he won the third Eastern PGA Championship (EPGA), played at the Salisbury Golf Links at Garden City. Alex Smith had won the previous two titles, both at medal play. However, Alex disliked the change in the format of the event that year, to match play, and did not compete. Maiden qualified easily, then defeated Gil Nicholls 1 up, John Hobens 3 and 1 and Tom Anderson, Jr. by 5 and 4. In the final, Maiden shot a 71, only one off the course record. That year, he finished fourth in the Met Open.

The EPGA was an excellent win for Maiden. Nichols was a formidable golfer, who finished in the top 20 in the U. S. Open almost every year from 1899 to 1914. He twice finished second. During the same period, Hobens twice tied for fourth, and had five other top 10 finishes while Anderson had three top 10 finishes.

In 1913, Maiden and Bill Hicks won the pro-am before the Met Open held at Salisbury, Garden City. The pair had a better ball score of 68. Maiden had a 70 on his own ball, which would have been good enough to tie the next best team score. The strong field included Johnny McDermott and Fred McCleod as well as Alex and Mac Smith. That year Maiden finished fifth in the Met Open.

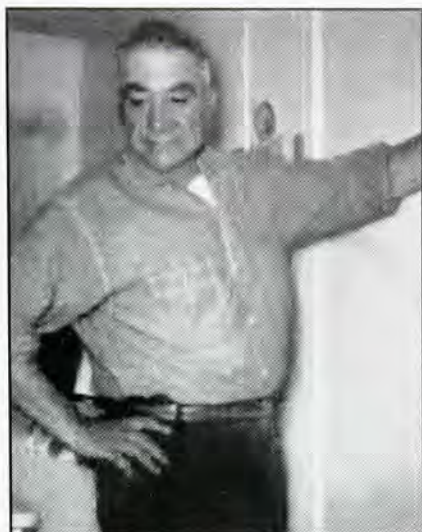
On December 21, 1914, Maiden won an unusual competition just for looking good! That winter, Maiden was one of the instructors at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel's golf school in New York City. At the opening of the Hotel Astor's school, Maiden "outshone a score of his brother professionals as far as golfing form was concerned." Each pro played 10 shots, two each with a drive, brassey, cleek, mid-iron and mashie. The four judges, who included top amateurs Jerry Travers and Fred Herreshoff, gave Maiden the first prize, a gold medal. They said, that, unofficially, Herb Strong, who later was to redesign Nassau's golf course, was second.

Maiden's game lasted well. In 1924, he won the Long Island Open Championship, played at the St. Albans Golf Club. He was then 43 years old. At that age, golf experts did not expect Maiden to survive the rigors of a 72-hole event. He opened with a brilliant three-under par 68, but slipped to a 78 in what the newspapers described as "the intense heat." He then recov-



*Alex Smith executes a sand shot.
He came to Nassau in 1901.*

CHAPTER THIRTEEN—Club Staff



Emilio Belifore cared for the grounds, being particularly involved with the tennis courts when they were grass covered. He arrived at Nassau in 1911 when the clubhouse was brand-new and stayed 41 years.

ered with rounds of 70 and 74. His total of 290 won by two strokes.

Maiden was one of the key professionals who helped found the PGA of America. He was a member of the seven-man organizing committee that set up the PGA of America in 1916 and was among the PGA's first slate of officers, serving as vice-president. Later that year he became the vice-president of the PGA's Metropolitan section.

Maiden was a fine teacher. One of his more famous pupils was Barbara Hutton. This was around 1928. Charlie Brett remembers her as just a "little kid" then and adds, "Her family, who owned Woolworth's, had an estate at Westbury in those days." Up to the 1917 season, Maiden charged \$1 for a lesson. At that time, Nassau's Governors suggested that Maiden now charge \$2 a lesson, "the Club to receive 50 cents."

Club records show that the last contract Maiden signed with the Club was for the year ending March 1, 1947. According to Brett, Maiden stayed on for a couple of years as the teaching professional of the Club. In 1949, the Club gave Maiden an honorarium of \$750 "in recognition of Mr. James Maiden's many years of service to the Club." Maiden was made an honorary member of Nassau in 1951. He died in 1958 at age 77.

Early in 1949, Edward Scott, formerly pro at Huntington Country Club, came to Nassau. Like Maiden, Scott was a Scotsman. A quiet, genial man, he had a distinct Scottish burr. He was born in Glasgow and came to this country in 1930. For the next six years, he was the assistant professional and playing pro at Century Country Club, Purchase, New York. Then, for two years he was with the White Plains Recreation Department where he set up a group teaching program. In 1938, he became the professional at Huntington. When World War II curtailed golf activity, Ed joined the U. S. Treasury Department War Bond Office as Assistant Director of Information.

Scott served Nassau for 15 years. He lived with his wife "Doll" at their home in Cold Spring Harbor. Ed's secret love was fishing, which occupied much of his spare time.

In 1964, Nassau's Gordon Stott and Ed won the LIGA Amateur-Professional Best-Ball Championship at Woodmere with a 67. In September of that year, Scott retired from Nassau at the age of 62. He was a victim of Alzheimer's Disease. The Board elected him to membership and accepted his resignation with regret. It offered the job of head professional to Harold Kolb, who had been the assistant pro at Nassau since 1963.

Kolb was born and raised in Bayside, New York. In his youth he caddied at the old Bayside Links, which no longer exists. He also learned how to play golf there and was a member of the Bayside High School golf team. He attended Auburn University, graduating in 1958 with a degree in industrial design. After a two-year stint in the Army, during which he served in Germany, he began his career in golf as the pro at a summer resort at South Fallsberg, NY. He married his wife Fran in 1961.

Kolb's introduction to the game was unusual, to say the least. "I caddied at Bayside from 1949 to 1951, before I went to college," he says. "One the best bags I had then belonged to Frank Costello, a Mafia boss. The usual caddie fee was \$1.25 a round. He paid \$25 a round!"

Kolb has a fine game. In 1976, he won the professional part of the Beefeater Tournament in Bermuda, a 54 hole event, with a seven-under-par 203. In the sectional qualifying for the 1980 U. S. Open, he was low scorer with 142. He has qualified eight times for the PGA Club Professional Championship, and made the cut three times. He has qualified for two PGA Senior Championships in Florida as well as the 1986 U. S. Senior Open at Scioto, Ohio. He also has played twice in what is now called the Northville Long Island Classic, an event on the Senior PGA Tour, at Meadow Brook.

It should also be noted that Mike Diffley, former assistant pro at Nassau in 1983, won the Ike Championship in the previous year as an amateur. As the head professional at Pelham, he won the Met Open of 1991.

Ralph Pannetta, Nassau's clubmaker, was born in Cinquefrondi, in southern Italy, and came here with his family in 1922. "I was 13 years old when I started caddying at the Club in 1934. I caddied until I was 19, when I went to work for Jim Maiden in the pro shop as a club clean-



Ralph Panetta and Harold Kolb share a part of Nassau's history.

er. In those days, most golf clubs still had hickory shafts. We had to buff irons on an emery wheel every day. Otherwise, they'd rust. We applied linseed oil to the shafts and the heads of woods. This preserved them and gave them a shine."

At that time, says Panetta, few members had more than eight clubs. A typical bag contained a driver, brassie (2-wood) and a spoon (3-wood), a mid-iron (long iron), mashie (5-iron), mashie niblick (7-iron), niblick (9-iron) and putter.

Panetta learned the art of clubmaking from Maiden. "We used to refinish members' clubs in the winter. If a wooden shaft was cracked, we wouldn't replace it right away, as money was scarce then. First, we'd try strengthening it with whipping, as Joe Merkle did to Calamity Jane.

"On one of my early days with Jim, he was trying to teach me how to make the knot that keeps the whipping on a club. We went at it for the longest time. Finally, he says, 'Goddammit, boy, you're thick.' To this day, if Harold wants to tease me, he'll put on a thick Scots accent and say, 'Goddammit, boy, you're thick!'

"Since Harold came to the Club, we've gone into custom clubmaking, buying the components, then fitting members for clubs that best suit them. We've been doing this for the last 18 years or so."

Among Nassau's caddies, Ralph Famaghletti served the Club for 50 years. It honored him at the ABC dinner in March, 1979.

Racquet Sports

The first mention of a tennis professional in Club records came in April of 1912, when the Board authorized the Tennis Committee's budget of "\$1,000, including the hire of the professional at \$60 a month for the Summer months."

However, the first time the name of a pro appears is in a Tennis Committee notice for the following year, which states: "Commencing May 1st, Jas. Bevan will be at the Club prepared to give lessons on either the Board or Clay courts, furnish tennis supplies, and make repairs." James Bevan returned as pro in 1914 (when the Tennis Committee's Tennis Schedule mentions that the charge for lessons was one dollar an hour) and in 1915.

According to Charlie Brett, the next pro was Phil Moore, and then came James J. Mullins in 1919, and H. McNeal in 1920.

Harry Geidel became Nassau's tennis and squash pro in 1923, and he retired 38 years later. Geidel also was skeet range pro. On his retirement on January 11, 1962, the Board extended all privileges of the Club to Geidel for life and gave him the sum of \$12,000. He died in 1974.

After Geidel, Ed Moylan took over as pro. Moylan was formerly a top tennis amateur—ranked fifth in the USTA rankings in 1955 and fourth in 1956—and was a very successful teaching professional. He went on to a teaching career at Cornell University.

In 1964, Nick Bollettieri, then 32 years old, succeeded Moylan. Even then, he was well known for his work with children and developing top-ranking players. He now runs the famed Bollettieri Tennis Academy in Bradenton, Florida. Two of his most famous pupils have been Andre Agassi and Monica Seles.

Bollettieri left after one season. Gene Garrett, who also stayed only one year replaced Bollettieri in 1965. At the end of the year, the Club hired Frank Ianicelli, who was well known as a top tennis and squash instructor. Ianicelli served until 1969 when William Sturgess took over.

In 1970, Ray Widelski became racquets pro. He achieved a squash ranking among the top five in the U. S. for five consecutive years and was also known as one of the finest tennis players in the Eastern region. Widelski stayed until Stephen Peel, a top ranked player in the East, replaced him in 1977.

Harrison Knight followed Peel in 1979. Harrison was one of the area's top tennis instructors and went on to direct the racquets program at the Creek Club.

Two years later, Tim Mangan took over. Tim had served as assistant to Knight for two years before becoming director of racquet sports. Mangan was a USPTA and USTA ranked player in four different divisions and is a USPTA certified tennis instructor. As one of Long Island's



Nick Bollettieri came to Nassau in 1964.

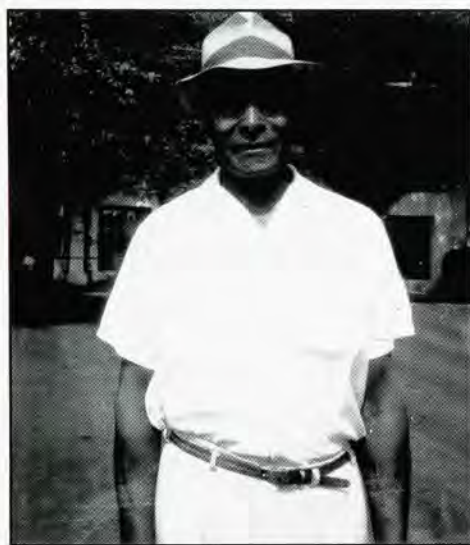


Harry Geidel at his retirement celebration in 1962.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN—Club Staff



Tim Mangan, Nassau's current tennis pro.



Dennis Green, Greenkeeper from 1939 to 1964.

top Platform Tennis players, Mangan and his partner, John McMillan, have been champions 10 years running. Mangan has been ranked nationally in the top 16 seven times. Mangan also runs Nassau's squash program. He is one of the area's top squash instructors and a USSRA certified teaching professional.

On The Course

The earliest information we have on the men responsible for maintaining Nassau's courses is an item in the 1900 *Harpers Official Golf Guide*. This lists the Greenkeeper (the original title of golf course superintendents) as J. J. McCleary. The Club's minutes of 1906 also mention "McCleary, former Greenkeeper."

In 1902, John H. "Jack" Youmans took over. Youmans had been chief engineer at the Crystal Spring Ice Company in Glen Cove before coming to Nassau. He stayed 33 years, retiring in 1935. Hugh McGill succeeded Youmans as Greenkeeper. He served until 1939.

Meanwhile, in 1924, Dennis Green had come to Nassau as foreman of the grounds crew. When McGill left, the Club offered Green the job as Greenkeeper. We should mention that Green was an African-American, and that he managed to do the job most effectively despite his inability to read or write. According to Charlie Brett, who knew Green well, Green got help from the salesmen, and later the Club's minutes record that professional Ed Scott was to help Green in preparing golf course figures. "Green was a big, very strong man," adds Brett. "He could move a building."

Green continued as Greenkeeper until his health failed in August, 1964. He died in the following January.

The new Greenkeeper was Leonard S. "Lenny" Mailloux who stayed through 1968. Charlie Brett took over as superintendent in the following year, although he was, of course, no stranger to the Club. He remembers his first day at Nassau as though it were yesterday.

"The date," he says, "was May 20, 1922, when I was 10 years old. I caddied for Dr. Sam McCullough for nine holes, for 40 cents. Then I caddied for Dr. Eugene Kimball for another 40 cents. So, I had a big day!"

"I continued caddying until 1935. I was a pretty good golfer in those days. One time that year I shot 32 for nine holes at Women's National, now Glen Head. In another match I was one over par for 36 holes at Nassau. In those days, getting distance was not a problem, since there was no fairway irrigation system and in the summer the ground was hard."

"I then got a job on the course maintenance crew at Nassau, cutting fairways, raking traps, and cutting and watering greens. In those days, we only worked nine months, then were laid off. We worked nine hours a day for \$3.50. In the winters of 1938 and 1939 I studied agronomy under Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson, at Massachusetts State College."

In 1940, Brett went to work for Republic Aviation. In 1942, he went with the Air Force as a civilian in aircraft maintenance at Mitchell Field, but later that year enlisted in the Navy, serving in the aircraft carrier *USS Cowpens*, the first carrier into Tokyo Bay.

After the War, Brett went back to Mitchell Field working in aircraft maintenance until the Field closed in 1961. Brett then returned to golf, serving Brookville Country Club as superintendent and Mill River as construction supervisor before returning to Nassau as superintendent in 1969. He retired in 1983.

After Brett, the new superintendent was J. "Gerry" Kunkel, who stayed until 1986, resigning late in that year. Lyman Lambert succeeded Kunkel in January of 1987, and remains Nassau's superintendent.

In The Clubhouse

The first mention of a club manager in Nassau's records is a gentleman called Harry L. Hedger. The minutes list him as Secretary pro-tem for the Annual Meeting in April, 1906. However, his title was "Superintendent," rather than "Manager." The former title eventually died



President Simonte, second from right, and Charlie Brett, right, with members of the ground crew.

out. In February, 1928, the minutes show that a "Mr. Mott was appointed manager of the Club."

The next mention of a manager is of Charles H. Falk in December of 1942. In April of 1944, Falk "was superseded by Mr. Brederhoft."

Brederhoft evidently stayed with Nassau until a little before May 21, 1946, when the Club appointed a Committee "to hire a manager for the Club." In all probability, the Club hired Miss Ethel M. Jacobus as Manager soon thereafter, because we find that on January 22, 1948, the Board instructed the Secretary "to express to Miss Ethel M. Jacobus, Manager, the appreciation of the Board for the way she has, and is, running the Club."

On February 20, 1949, the Club appointed Mr. Arthur E. Church as Manager. However, in August, the Board began a search "to engage a new Manager." In September of that year, the Club engaged Mr. Lester Murray as Club Manager.

Although Club Managers had attended some Board meetings in the past, with Murray's coming, this became the norm rather than the exception. The Board soon showed appreciation for Murray's efforts. In February of 1950, his financial report for January received "the thanks of the Board for his splendid management." Murray stayed at Nassau some 26 and a half years, retiring on March 1, 1976. In contrast, club managers have come and gone more frequently in recent years.

William A. Szili replaced Murray. In June, 1976, the Club appointed Arthur V. Schmitt as General Manager. In December of 1978, the Club hired Wolfgang Haffner, who previously had been manager of the Huntingdon Club. In February, 1982, Hans Juenemann took over as general manager. In February, 1985, David Scott replaced Juenemann, whom the Club honored at the ABC Dinner; he received a plaque for his outstanding performance while at Nassau. Scott resigned in September of 1986. His successor was Alex Levchuck. In June, 1988, Ronald E. Siever became manager. John J. Roberts replaced Siever in May, 1990. The Club's current general manager is Francis X. Keefe, Jr., who came to Nassau in June of 1991.

In the Club's kitchen, Chef Marcus Crowder served the Club for 30 years, retiring in March of 1941. Despite the difficult times the Club was experiencing, it gave Crowder a lifetime pension in recognition of his outstanding service.

In the Mens Locker Room, Samuel R. Pierce compiled a fine record. According to an article in the *Brooklyn Eagle* of August 29, 1916, Pierce, an African-American from Virginia, had come direct from that state to Nassau as a youngster in 1899. The article gave him lavish praise, dubbing him the "King of Valets."

In those days, Pierce offered a complete service. If a member turned up for golf or tennis with three guests who were without sports clothes or equipment, Pierce could "send them on their way as well prepared as if they were at their own clubs." He could rent or sell them the necessary "sporting togs" and carried "many hundreds of dollars worth" of clothes. He could handle anything from "a shoe string to a dress suit."

So good was Pierce at anticipating members' wants and needs that many wealthy men offered him "tempting amounts" to become their personal valet, but he always refused, staying at Nassau until April, 1942. He died in December, 1943. In recognition of his service, and as a gesture of goodwill to his widow, the Club paid off the \$2,500 mortgage on his house at 34 Cottage Road, Glen Cove.

The Board meeting of January 29, 1981, is also relevant. It said in part, "The Board advised that Mr. Samuel R. Pierce, Jr., who had recently been appointed to the cabinet post of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, was a former caddie at Nassau . . . Mr. Pierce's



Lyman Lambert came to Nassau in 1987 as Golf Course greens superintendent.

A Letter from Jane Walter

The album in this envelope is what I have left. Jimmy Tingley kept the pictures from this album which were of the clubhouse.

Harry Hedger was my grandfather and Shirley MacCrates. He took the boat to Cuba every winter, I was told, to buy fine wines and liquors for the club.

At this time the family lived on Franklin Avenue in Glen Cove and the children were given ice cream at the kitchen door. Shirley doesn't seem to know any more than I do.

Jane Walter



Samuel R. Pierce from a photo in the August, 1916, Brooklyn Eagle.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN—Club Staff

father was a former employee of the Club. A letter of congratulation forwarded to Mr. Pierce.”

One should note two other outstanding records of service to Nassau. In April, 1965, Martha Black retired as Senior Waitress after 23 years of service. In September, 1989, Ladies Locker Room Attendant Elizabeth Abbandandolo retired after 44 years service.

Nassau Lore

As might be expected, Ralph Pannetta and Charlie Brett have many happy memories and stories about Nassau and its members. Here are just a few.

When Pannetta first started caddying at Nassau in 1934, the older caddies had an initiation rite for the luckless “new boys.” They would toss the youngsters bodily into the pond by the eighth hole! “Often, these kids were 10 or even younger when they started caddying,” says Pannetta. “I was about 13 when I got dunked.”

Back in those days, he says, “If we got a quarter tip, that was great. Fifty cents was unbelievable.” J. P. Morgan was not so generous. “He tipped just a dime.” Morgan was “just a fair golfer, about a 15 handicap.” Pannetta also recalls that the sons of R. J. Reynolds were Nassau members in the late 1930s.

Then there was Fred Baggs, a Nassau member in the 1930s through the 1960s. Baggs played with a complete set of woods, his only iron clubs being his sand wedge and putter. Pannetta also remembers John S. Martin, a one-armed player of the late 1930s, 1940s and early 1950s. “He was a great athlete. He played right-handed to a 12 handicap with just his right arm.”

One of Pannetta’s favorite stories is about William L. Hicks, whose six Club championships spanned 25 years. “We used to call him ‘Wild Bill,’ because he had a temper that was out of this world. One day back in the late 1930s, he was playing the eighth hole, and knocked his ball into the pond. He became so enraged that he tossed his club in after it, and then his bag. Only a quick pair of heels prevented his caddie from joining them!”

Charlie Brett remembers carrying for John Butler Coles Tappan, the creator of the Nassau bet. Tappan also devised his own way of rewarding caddies. “He used to play for 10 or 15 cents a hole,” says Brett. “When he won, I got half. When he lost, I got *nothing!*” “This would certainly keep you on your toes! Tappan gave Brett his first golf club, an Alex Smith mashie.

If someone were to ask what ingredients make up Nassau today, the recipe would include the following: A classic course, now being made stronger than ever; fine competition over the years, including two major amateur championships and the Club's own golf invitational, now happily to be resumed; worthy champions in every sport played at the Club, dedicated members and an outstanding staff. We have reviewed these ingredients in the preceding pages. However, if someone, in an attempt to reproduce a great country club, were to try to duplicate this recipe, they would soon find that it needed what chefs and other fine cooks call some "corrections."

In this chapter, we'll review these essential "extras." They are: A relaxed, enjoyable sports program and social life and a forward looking leadership.

At Nassau, it's difficult to separate much of the Club's social life from the outstanding sports programs in golf, racquet sports and swimming. In many cases, the former flows out of the latter. However, the major holidays by themselves do, of course, provide individual types of social gatherings. We will discuss both types of event and also the traditions that have become associated with certain events, traditions that make Nassau unique.

In the course of this book, we have paid tribute to the devoted and dedicated members, who have brought the Club happily and healthily to these modern times. However, here we feel it's important to give well deserved pats on the back to the members who have con-



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tinued this work to the present day. Without such members, no club can survive long.

Lastly, we would like to briefly address the challenges that the future will inevitably bring to Nassau as well as other country clubs. One cannot, of course, foretell the future, but the Club's officers already are anticipating these problems and planning how to meet them.

Sports and Social Calendar

Nassau's social life starts up each year in April, as another golf season gets under way. There are four elements to the program: Gentlemen's Golf, Ladies' 18-hole Golf, Ladies' 9-hole Golf, and Mixed events. Here, examples of typical sports events were mostly drawn from the 1995 schedule.

Usually, the first event on the Men's schedule is the ABC Tournament. On the night before there is a Stag dinner that gets the men geared up for the next morning's Shotgun start, and also gives them an opportunity for a little informal wagering on the results, buying teams and so on.

The format for the first Ladies' events, both 18 and 9 Holvers is a morning Shotgun, too. Both groups have an opening luncheon—usually, the 18 Holvers schedule theirs after their opening tournament, the 9 Holvers on the day before their first event.

Also, by the middle of April, the Club's tennis courts open for play.

In 1995, Easter Sunday fell in mid-April, and every year this is a big event at the Club. It begins at 12 noon, and there's food available continuously from then until 7 p. m. At about 2 p. m., the Easter Bunny and a Bunny Helper arrive on the scene, and out on the Great Lawn there's an egg roll event and also an egg hunt, where the kids can redeem the eggs for prizes. From mid-afternoon on, the Club often engages a pianist to play in the Great Hall.

Early in May, the men begin qualifying for the President's Cup, an individual event where members qualify with handicaps for 16-player flights. As with other Club match play events, the first two rounds of match play followed, on the Saturday and Sunday of the next weekend, and the third round and final on the Saturday and Sunday of the weekend after that. During this month the men also hold their first Member-Guest called the Beef Steak, which starts with a luncheon, then an afternoon Shotgun start, followed by dinner—no prizes for guessing the main dish!

During May, the 18 Holvers and 9 Holvers begin their weekly play, which is on Thursday and Wednesday mornings, respectively. In 1995, the 18 Holver program included stroke play and high/low events, Harold Kolb day, where the women play against an 18-hole score established by Nassau's professional, and qualifying for the Acorn Tournament. Meanwhile 9 Holvers enjoyed such tournaments as an All Irons event, a Calloway and a Best Ball.

One should also mention that, like the Senior PGA Tour, Nassau has established a program for Super Seniors. They play once a month on the first Wednesday. They kick off their program with a luncheon and a Mini-Shotgun event.

In mid-month comes Mother's Day, a very well attended event at the Club—usually some 500 people attend the two sittings for dinner. Later in May, the tennis program gets under way with the Men's and Women's 35+ Singles Championship and Women's Team Tennis. At that time, Nassau also holds its traditional Memorial Day Dinner Dance, a semi-formal event which draws some 200 to 300 members. During the weekend, there also will be a barbecue out on the Great Lawn and games for the youngsters.

Even though the golf and tennis programs have already started, it seems that many members view the Memorial Day weekend as the start of summer sports, perhaps because this weekend also marks the opening of the pool. Usually, there is either a Member-Member or Member-Guest on this weekend.

Besides strictly intra-Nassau golf, there also is inter-club play, particularly with the Ladies, and during the last few years, the Nassau Women's, Women's Met and Women's Long Island Golf Associations all have received permission to hold events at the Club.

Late in July comes The Lobster, one of Nassau's oldest and also largest Men's Member-Guest events. Typically, there are two Shotguns, morning and afternoon, and as many as 300 players on the course. The Manager, Mr. Keefe, brings in huge lobster vats and has them set on the bricks and filled with water. Then the cooks place the lobsters, wrapped in seaweed and other coverings for the best flavor, above the vats, light the fires, and gently steam the lobsters to mouth-watering perfection.

Usually, the Summer Dance will also take place late in the month. This is one the larg-

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A couple of more noteworthy flamboyant events. Top left and right are the Belles, Beaux and Bobby Sox events in 1991. Below is the Gatsby Gala in 1992.

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At top left is the ladies 18 holer luncheon; Standing from left to right are Jill Russo, Ginny McAuley, Lee Calamari, Paty McLaughlan, Mary Ann McAdams; seated left to right are Jane Walter, Vera McBride, and Jean Puleio. At top right and lower left are the annual husband/wife golf dinner and tournament. At right are the board of directors, past presidents and staff.

er social events of the year, and attracts from 250 to 300 persons. Sometimes there is a theme, sometimes not. One year, it was a "Gatsby," with the ladies in "flapper" dresses and adorned with long beads, and the men wearing their old double-breasted suits, wide ties and Fedora hats. Some of the men even painted on moustaches and sideburns, and would have looked right at home at the St. Valentine's Day Massacre; about all that would have been needed to complete the picture were a few violin cases or Thompson sub-machine guns ("Tommy Guns")! This past year, as a contrast, there was no theme—just a regular summer dance.

In August, the Men's Golf program includes their Parent/Child event as well as a Member-Member, which is a two-day affair, with an awards cocktail party to follow. Both the 18 Holvers and 9 Holvers hold their Club Championships. In tennis, it's when the Mixed Doubles and Men's and Women's Singles Championships are played.

There are two major mixed golf events during the month of August. Early in the month, the ladies invite their male partners to take part in the traditional Sadie Hawkins event, a Pinehurst with an afternoon Shotgun start, and prize giving at a cookout in the evening. Later in the month, there's the Husband and Wife Championship.

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors also takes place during the month of August. The Directors invite as many of Nassau's past Presidents as are free to return for a few fun-filled days at the Club. There's a full day of golf, followed by a private dinner in the upstairs dining room. Everyone sits at one large table. It's a night of camaraderie, a night of telling tales of how it was, in some instances, 30 and 40 years ago. There are guests, too. A good example would be Charlie Brett, the superintendent for many years, who always has a good story or two to tell.

Throughout the summer, the manager makes every effort to "tie" differing events occurring on the same day. For example, there might be twilight tennis tied with a pool party for the youngsters that might also be tied with a 9 Holver event. By putting three such events together, you create a fun day and at the end of the day, a nice party. That's Nassau.

Continuing with the calendar, at the end of the month, qualifying starts for the Men's Golf Championship, which concludes over the Labor Day weekend.

In recent years, the finals of the Championship have provided terrific entertainment. In 1994, for example, the gallery could view the spectacle of an associate member (limited to age 36), Victor Ghini, playing against the then reigning Club Senior Champion, Foster Nichols. Youth was served on that occasion, but it was quite a match, going to the 33rd hole.

The Labor Day weekend is the culmination of the season not only for golfers, but nearly all the other sports enjoyed at the Club. Labor Day is Sports Award Day at Nassau—the only exception is Tennis, whose Awards Day occurs a little later, at the U. S. Open Tennis Tournament and Dinner Dance.

The Labor Day weekend is a fabulous party. The Great Lawn is a beehive of activity,



Adhering to a long tradition as can be seen in earlier chapters, and not to be outdone by former members, these groups showed off their finery at a function in the 1950's. The only thing missing is the coach and four.

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Top and bottom are the annual Board of Governors tournament and dinner, and at the right are the club and pool all decked out for an evening's events.





Above is the great lawn set up for an event, at the bottom left is the President's Ball with the past presidents and their wives, and at right are the past presidents in 1993.

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Nassau is proud of its children's and youth programs. At top is a day at the pool, bottom left is the paddle tennis program and bottom right is the traditional Easter Bunny being admired by all. At the top right is one of the many activities held for the children throughout the year. Nassau offers extensive tennis and golf programs that will afford young people a life time of exercise, activity and enjoyment.

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Ladies 9 Holers

Unfortunately, we don't know exactly when the Nassau Country Club Women's 9 Hole Golf Group was founded. It certainly is over 40 years old—Helen Boyd joined in 1954, and still plays. In those days, she tells us, the group was so large that play on Wednesdays had to go off the first and 10th tees. Many thought the Couples' Parties on summer Saturdays were so much fun that no one wanted to leave the 9 Hole group to join the 18 Hole group!

Most new members start in golf with the 9 Holers as an introduction to our very challenging golf course. Our season runs for 26 weeks. Wednesday play varies with such events as an "All Irons" tournament, partner's best ball, scrambles with the 18 Holers, a member guest day, and so on.

There are three "Couples" events each summer. These are usually theme events. For example, we might have trivia questions posted on each hole, or use a broom instead of a putter on the green and so on. Each season's play, it seems, is more inventive than the last!

Our recent membership rosters have been between 60 and 80 women. The MGA gives members an unofficial local handicap. —*Marilyn Keenan*

with hundreds of people conversing, socializing and generally having a good time. For the youngsters, there are swimming games and some fun races. At the prize giving, you'll see a five-year old getting his first trophy for golf, and next to him is his seven-year sister getting her first cup for tennis, and next to them are two young swimmers receiving their awards. Then the adults get their turn, the A, the B, the C and the Champions. It's a heart warming occasion and a winner's day all the way.

In mid-September, there is another very popular social occasion, the President's Ball. This is more of a formal event than the summer parties. Many of the ladies come in evening dresses and many men in black tie, but, if anything it's just a trifle more relaxed and informal than a true Cotillion night. It's an opportunity for the incoming President to thank the outgoing President for his efforts on behalf of the Club.

In line with the relaxed atmosphere at this time, the Club now finds time for another Mixed Member-Member. This is very much a fun event which keeps everyone in the game. For example, this past year the format changed three times in the course of the round: A best ball of the four on the first six holes, followed by a scramble for the next six holes, and finishing with the better ball of the men and the better ball of the women counting on the final six holes. Afterwards, there's a themed buffet.

As of this writing, Nassau's golfers were looking forward to the end of September, which will be a very special time. This is because, after a long hiatus, the Club is reviving its most historic and important golf event, the Nassau Invitational. The qualifying round was planned for Friday, September 22, with match play the next day, and the semi-finals and final on Sunday, September 24.

Early in October, the coming of fall and winter is signalled by the posting of the paddle and squash schedule. Also early in the month comes Nassau's Calamity Jane Member-Guest event. It's two days of golf, and all the matches are over nine holes, three on the first day, two on the second. The event concludes with a themed buffet. Another traditional Nassau golf event, later in the month, is the Whitney Bowl, a match play vs. par event, named, of course, after

Ladies 18 Holers

The Nassau Country Club Women's Golf Association (NCCWGA) was formed before 1900, although there are no club records to that effect. We do know that the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association was founded in 1899 and their records indicate that the NCCWGA joined the "Met" in 1900 and has been a member ever since.

The stated purpose of the NCCWGA was: 1. To promote comradeship and friendly competition with other golfers, and 2. To improve the caliber of golf played by its members.

To that end, the association holds various tournaments during the golf season. The highlights of these are 1. The Nassau Bowl; 2. The Acorn Tournament (a partnership event); 3. The Nassau Challenge, and 4. The Club Championship.

The NCCWGA is also responsible for two mixed tournaments: The Sadie Hawkins Day, and the Guys and Dolls. Both events feature mixed member team competition followed by festive, informal dinners.

There are four major competitive women's golf groups to which many of our association members belong. These groups are:

- *The Women's Metropolitan Golf Association;
- *The Cross County Women's Golf Association;
- *The Women's Long Island Golf Association, and
- *The Nassau Women's Golf Association.

The original purposes for forming a women's golf association at Nassau Country Club have, we believe, been achieved. We have made many friendships, we have friendly, albeit sincere competition and we all strive constantly to improve our personal degree of skill in the great game of golf!

—*June Woods*

Howard F. Whitney, the famed Nassau member who appeared earlier in these pages.

Socially, at this point, the Club is gearing down a little bit, but still the members do enjoy the Oktoberfest. This is a one-evening event with a Bavarian theme. There's bratwurst and sauerbraten and other Teutonic delicacies, washed down with steins of imported dark beer. Typically, a musician in lederhosen will come around the tables, playing an accordion, or there will be other appropriate music.

In mid-month, both 9 Holers and 18 Holers hold their closing events and luncheons. And here it would be appropriate to pay tribute to both these groups, which bring so much enjoyable social life to the club.

The 9 Holers may not always have been taken seriously as golfers, but many regard them as the real personality, the life and soul, if you will, of the Club. They're always trying to inspire good times, always trying to come up with a fun theme. This is not to minimize in any way the contribution that the 18 Holers or the Men's Golfers make. But the 9 Holers are the ones who are apt to say, "Let's have a cocktail party around the pool," "Let's go out to the Great Lawn and dance," or "Let's come up with a silly (but fun) way to play golf." They would be the group, for example, that would put on a nine-hole event in the evening using golf balls that glow in the dark, and organize a party and dance afterwards.

Many of the themes the 18 Holers come up with are great, too. This past year, the 18 Holers started up with a "birdie" luncheon, and of course each table had to have a bird cage in the middle, and as background, recordings of bird song. Their closing luncheon was equally memorable—they hung "Gone Fishing" signs and pictures of a boat, fish and fishing rods all over the Ladies Locker Room.

October is also when the Club hold its "Turkey Shoot" golf events, an opportunity for all to win a fabulous 16-pound bird. In 1995, the 9 Holers had their Turkey Shoot early in the month, while the Men's Turkey Shoot was held on the Saturday and the Mixed Turkey Shoot on the Sunday of the last weekend of the month.

When one comes to November, one naturally thinks of Thanksgiving, of course, but last year the Club reinstituted earlier in the month an event that was traditional for many years some time ago, but was discontinued—a Las Vegas night. The 1994 Las Vegas night was a great evening, and included fun at the roulette and blackjack tables as well as great prizes and dancing. Best of all, it raised several thousand dollars for several local charities. Some members with out-of-state second homes even went so far as to offer a week at these homes as a prize to be raffled off.

Thanksgiving is another big day at the Club. As on Mother's Day, there are two sitings for dinner, at 1 and 4 p. m. Usually, as many as 500 people are served. If you have a family to feed, you can call the Club ahead of time and order a turkey, which will be served to you at your table. Then, either you can carve it, or you can let the Chef carve it, your option. What's left on the bird you can take home, of course. The Club always will put on some little event for the kids—such as raffling off an oversize chocolate turkey or giving a prize for guessing the number of jelly beans in a jar.

Soon after Thanksgiving, the Club begins decorating the clubhouse for Christmas and has all the decorations up by the first weekend in December. Typically, there will be a dozen Christmas trees at various points, spread from the front door through the main level of the building, and down to the grill room below. Usually, the Entertainment Committee will get together a group of people to do the job, and via the medium of the *Nassau News* it also will invite any of the members to come by and help out, and enjoy the Christmas music as well as a little wine and cheese.

Maiden, Maiden & Maiden

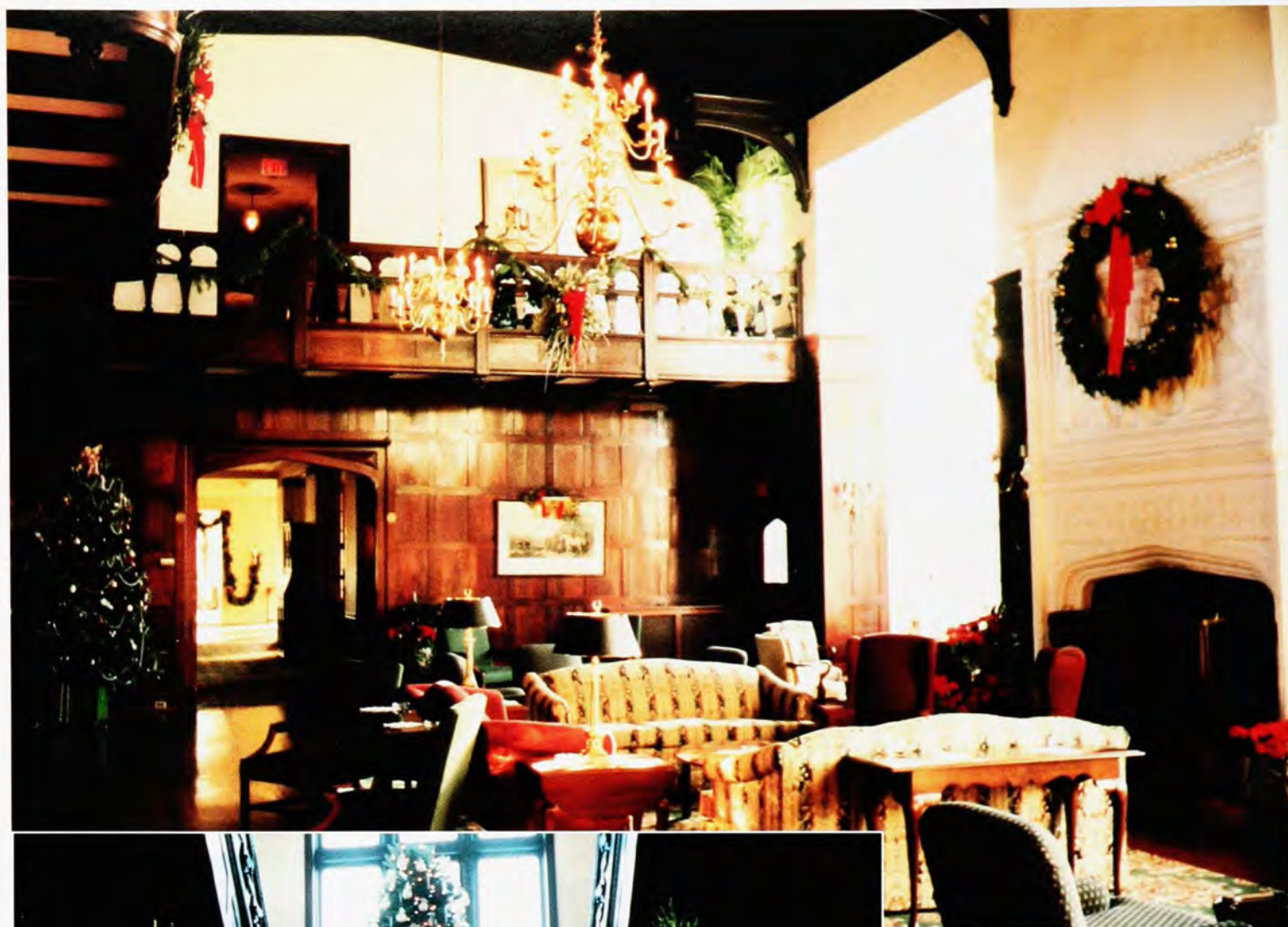
The phoenix was fabled to renew itself through fire. A country club renews itself through new members. On April 1, 1995, a very special name appeared on the list of new members of the Club: James C. Maiden, Jr.

Maiden is, of course, Cam Maiden's son, and the grandson of Nassau's long time professional of the same name. A happy occasion, indeed.

Nassau members prominent in the governing bodies of golf:

Presidents of the United States Golf Association:
Howard F. Whitney, 1921
Findlay Douglas, 1929-1930
Presidents of the Metropolitan Golf Association
Percy Chubb, 1901-1902
John Butler Coles Tappan, 1916-1917
Findlay S. Douglas, 1922-1923
Presidents of the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association
Mrs. Charles Lewis Tiffany, 1908-1909
Mrs. Mark Kessenich, 1957-1958
Secretary of the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association
Ruth Underhill, 1899
President of the U. S. Seniors Golf Association
Findlay S. Douglas, 1937
Presidents of the Long Island Golf Association
Gardiner W. White, 1928-1929
J. Ebb Weir, 1934-1936
George Baird 1955-1956
Gordon Stott, 1961-1962
Secretary of the Long Island Golf Association
John N. Stearns, Jr., 1922-1923

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The Great Hall is the center of activities at the Christmas season. One can see the foresight of the leaders of Nassau in constructing a clubhouse that has served elegantly and well for 86 years.

ship and second, the efforts of an ever changing group, those who have stepped forward and become committee members, directors and officers. A third, element, the achievements of a dedicated staff, we chronicled in an earlier chapter.

Even though committee members as a group are perhaps the least recognized during the passing of the years, nonetheless the daily activities of the Club's life would all but cease with-

The Club's big social event is the Christmas Cotillion, usually held on the Saturday night of the second weekend in December. This is a formal, black tie affair. The Club engages a large band for the occasion and uses the entire downstairs portion of the clubhouse for cocktails, and the entire upstairs for dinner and dancing. Some 300 members dine and dance the night away. As at any large affair, favors are important—this year there will be a special Centennial ornament, as of this writing still under wraps.

Finishing the year is a traditional New Year's Eve Party. And so another year at Nassau comes to an end.

Nassau's Finest

One of the key elements that has made Nassau what it is today are, first, the support of its general member-



Six past presidents from 1962 to 1971 are from front left to right Bill Mudge, Jim Nick, Frank Sorg, Bob Reeve, Perry Hudson, and Gordon Stott.

out their ingenuity and dedication.

We have noted directors and officers during the Club's founding years. We have recognized outstanding performances during subsequent interim years. Yet, there are names on past Boards still very active. From A—Z, they include such stalwarts as Alchermes, Burns, Burkhardt, Brennan, Calio, Carney, Colasante, Culkin, D'Addario, De Luca, Di Bartolomeo, Eder, Eichorn, Glaws, Gregory, Hamber, Haslinger, Hudson, Isacson, Kirkham, Matousek, Mattman, Meyers, McGee, Neilson, Pace, Piasio, Pickett, Pirozzi, Rice, Ritter, Santoro, Schaffner, Stanco, Stanton, Trani, Walsh, Wenz and Ziegler.

Some living past presidents that we have not mentioned so far but who rendered exceptional service include Bob Reeve, Perry Hudson, Jr., Frank Sorg, Jr., Bill Mudge, Jim Nick, George Catallo, Bob Steilen, Joe Rizzo, Chester Viale, John Sbordone and Lee Woodard.

In addition one must recount briefly the deeds of:

Victor Simonte, who led the Club during the years 1981-1984;

Thomas Mullens, and before him, Paul Tong, who were discreet masters at chairing the Grievance Committee;

Foster Nichols, who fine tuned the golf course operation in so many positive ways, also introducing long range planning for equipment and course maintenance;

Fred Rieger, for his leadership of the Golf Committee for so many years;

Owen McBride, Club Counsel, always available, always thorough;

Jack Burns, Nancy Sbordone and Dick Eichorn, invaluable as members of the Membership Committee during the challenging 1980s and early 1990s;

Daniel Coleman, Chairman of the House Committee in the early 1990s during the Club's long range rehabilitation and redecorating program, and

Presidents Robert Van der Waag, Raymond Auwarter and Edward McAdams, who stepped up to the plate to return Nassau Country Club to its rightful position of being "The Place To Be", from 1990 up to the beginning of the Centennial Year, 1996.

The very special thanks of the Club go out to you, one and all, past and present.

Women Members Of Nassau

A thorough search of the Club's records in 1992 provides an outline history of women memberships at Nassau in all categories. Tabulated below are the various categories for the periods indicated. In every case known, except two, the request of women seeking membership has been honored.

29 Regular (1899-1992), beginning with Miss Ethel Pearsall, 1899, up to Susan L. Blatz, 1991.

4 Honorary (1915-1992), last elected, 1985.

8 Associates (1916-1992), last elected, 1992.

29 Juniors (1916-1992), last elected, 1992.

5 Tennis (1960-1984), last elected, 1984.

6 House (1960-1992), last elected, 1988.

3 Non-Resident (1949-1980), last elected, 1985.

31 Special Women (1914-1992), last elected, 1963.

41 this category is confused by lack of reliable "paper trail" other than confirmed letters of resignation.

Period began with Mrs. Levi P. Weir (1912) to Doris Dixon (1991).

In each case known, the invitation to membership was approved directly for election of the individual herself.

Owen B. McBride (Club Attorney)

Twenty-two years of Club service (1974 - 1996). Noteworthy matters on which the legal aspects were handled included new membership classifications, issuance of redeemable Bonds, recodification of the Club's By-laws, the first since the original By-Laws were written. He continues to be a reliable attendee at Board Meetings, where his counsel is always available.

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From left, Presidents Raymond Auwarter, Robert Van der Waag, and Edward McAdams.



The Present and the Future

Anyone who has been involved in a position of leadership at the Club realizes that the coming years will not be easy ones. The responsibilities of the Club's leaders are far greater today than they were even a generation ago. Before the late 1960s, being a Club officer was a lot more fun than it is now. In those days, the role of the Club's management was to assemble, train and monitor a staff; use that staff to serve the members with quality and courtesy, and in a financially responsible way. The role of the Club's officers was simply to oversee the operation and ensure that the staff carried out policy.

The problem today is that a Club officer never knows if or when the Club will have a problem with any of the following: The Internal Revenue Service, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Wage and Hour Division, the Environmental Protection Agency, the local tax assessor, an employee who objects to suggestive jokes, or even someone outside the Club who doesn't understand why he can't be a member, or a politician or social activist who is on a mission to make the world politically correct and decides to start with a private club such as Nassau.

One of the ways in which the Club's leaders cope with such potential problems is to talk through a "What If"

scenario. Whenever a serious club problem surfaces, no matter where—Los Angeles, California, or Red Cloud, Nebraska, Houston, Texas, or Norwalk, Connecticut—Nassau's officers ask themselves the question: What if that happened here at the Club?

In this way, they can formulate possible strategies and other ways of coping with such problems before the problems ever occur here.

Whatever the future may bring, Nassau's present state now seems happily secure. Despite problems of past years, Nassau survived, and, thanks to the necessary steps taken by the Club's officers to upgrade and modernize the clubhouse and other operations, it is in fine position to advance confidently into the 21st century. It will continue to be "The Place To Be" for the next hundred years.

Some Personal Reflections

My first reaction on being asked to provide some material for use in Nassau's Centennial History book was "Impossible!" I never was any kind of athlete, and Roland and I didn't keep a scrap book or take pictures. What could I contribute?

Then I realized how different things are today compared to 1946, the year that Roland joined Nassau Country Club. At that time, the main attraction of the Club for him were the fabled grass tennis courts.

The times were hopeful. World War II had ended and Long Island was filling with new homes.

At Nassau, the Club took great care to include the young people as we called them then, rather than teenagers, in all social activities, as well as in sports. To that end, I served as the Chairman of a dance for the children of members as well as their friends.

Everything about the function was quite formal, including the invitations. I remember that the boys and girls enjoyed the evening very much, as did the discreetly secluded chaperones!

To decorate for the dance, a knowledgeable member rummaged through the "attic" and found lovely treasures. The boys and girls gathered pine cones and helped embellish the beautiful hall.

When Ronny was old enough, we enrolled him in dancing classes at the Club. Every Friday evening, Miss Stephanie conducted "The Cotillion"! The girls and boys learned to go through a receiving line, and to use proper etiquette in ballroom dancing. Miss Stephanie wore a long black dress and long white kid gloves. She was elegant and commanded respect. The children had great fun teasing one another! After several years, Nassau started a 9 Hole group. I joined, though I had been discouraged when, after several lessons, Mr. Maiden, the golf professional, said, "Next week, I think you'll be good enough to go out one hole and come back."

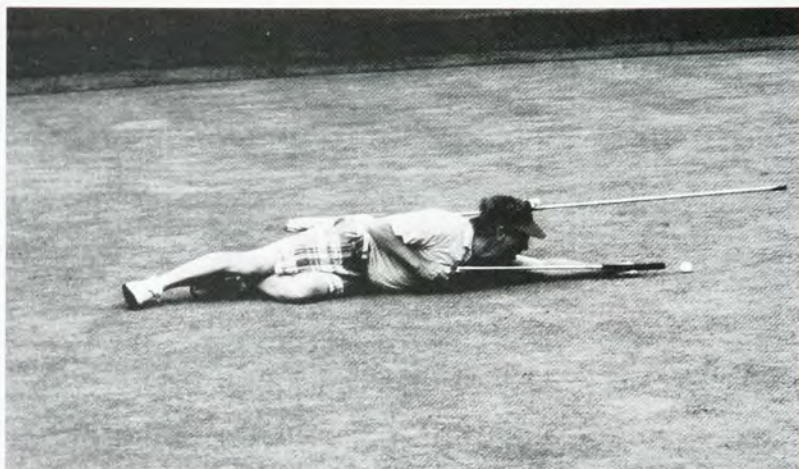
I later learned that, coming from Mr. Maiden, that was a compliment!

I made second low net, Class C, 9 Holvers. How low can you get?! But I won some beautiful prizes, many of them silver.

In 1993, Dianne and Ronny celebrated 25 years of marriage. I gave them a gift, not silver. For the silver gift, I used an oversized salad fork and spoon. It was beautifully engraved: "NCC—1968." Their year. —Grace Crowe

NASSAU COUNTRY CLUB – Then and Now

The more things change... although the house and the course have evolved, and the dress code has changed, the activities seem quite similar in appearance. Here are some of the scenes through the years. At the bottom left, one of the gentlemen is William W. Pell, while at the bottom right in the center stands Perry Pate.



PAST PRESIDENTS

1898/04 Harvey Murdock	1945/46 Walter L. Pate	1970/72 James F. Nick, Jr.
1904/06 George E. Fahys	1946/48 W.A. Forrester, Jr.	1972/74 George C. Catallo, Jr.
1906/08 Henry F. Noyes	1948/49 William A. Patty	1974/76 Frank M. Campbell
1908/18 Herbert L. Pratt	1949/52 Edgar T. Appleby	1976/77 Robert Steilen
1918/20 Howard Maxwell	1952/54 Robert C. Dunne	1977/78 Joseph N. Rizzo
1920/23 Howard Whitney	1954/56 Macrae Sykes	1978/79 Chester W. Viale
1923/24 Richard Dwight	1956/58 Edgar T. Appleby	1979/81 James H. Fletcher
1924/25 Henry C. Martin	1958/61 H. Robert Reeve	1981/84 Victor J. Simonte, Jr.
1925/34 Henry M. Crane	1961/62 John F. Hagerty	1984/86 John T. Sbordone, Jr.
1934/39 Hunt T. Dickinson	1962/65 Perry Hudson, Jr.	1986/88 Lee E. Woodard
1939/41 Leon Abbett	1965/67 Francis J. Sorg, Jr.	1988/90 Robert F. Van der Waag
1941 /42 Warren Brewster	1967/69 William S. Mudge	1990/93 Raymond G. Auwarter
1942/45 Skeffington Norton	1969/70 Gordon Stott	1993/95 Edward F. McAdams

NASSAU'S GOLF AND RACQUET SPORTS RECORDS

MEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

1899 H. L. Pratt	1931 Gardiner W. White	1963 Caro Yamaoka
1900 C. O. Gates	1932 James A. Hewlett	1964 James F. Tingley
1901 H. F. Whitney	1933 Gardiner W. White	1965 George A. Gennity
1902 H. R. Townsend	1934 Gardiner W. White	1966 James F. Tingley
1903 H. F. Whitney	1935 Kenneth H. Sheldon	1967 Perry E. Hudson, III
1904 F. S. Douglas	1936 Kenneth H. Sheldon	1968 Robert V. Cox
1905 F. S. Douglas	1937 Robert A. Burdick	1969 George A. Gennity
1906 F. C. Jennings	1938 Sumner H. Waters	1970 Mark F. Kessenich
1907 W. L. Hicks	1939 Kenneth H. Shedlon	1971 Michael O. Mattwell
1908 F. S. Douglas	1940 Kenneth H. Sheldon	1972 James F. Tingley
1909 H. F. Whitney	1941 Arthur Atkinson, Jr.	1973 George A. Gennity
1910 W. L. Hicks	1942 Kenneth H. Sheldon	1974 James C. Stalarow
1911 W. L. Hicks	1943 Watts Gunn	1975 James C. Stalarow
1912 C. A. Dunning	1944 Leon Abbott	1976 James F. Tingley
1913 W.L. Hicks	1945 Fremont C. Peck, Jr.	1977 Perry E. Hudson, III
1914 J. N. Stearns, Jr.	1946 Fremont C. Peck, Jr.	1978 Perry E. Hudson, III
1915 H. W. Maxwell, Jr.	1947 Fremont C. Peck, Jr.	1979 James F. Tingley
1916 C. A. Dunning	1948 Robert C. Townsend	1980 Perry E. Hudson, III
1917 C. A. Dunning	1949 C. Raymond Peterson	1981 Perry E. Hudson, III
1919 Gardiner W. White	1950 Andrew F. Peck	1982 John J. Calio
1920 Gardiner W. White	1951 Thomas F. Scholl	1983 Stephen Alchermes
1921 J. N. Stearns, Jr.	1952 Richard W. Fales	1984 Anthony Trombino
1922 Gardiner W. White	1953 Robert B. Kiersky	1985 Philip Rusnack
1923 Gardiner W. White	1954 Richard W. Fales	1986 Anthony Trombino
1924 W. L. Hicks	1955 Gordon Stott	1987 Philip Rusnack
1925 E. M. Barnes	1956 Gordon Stott	1988 Gene Kurihara
1926 Palmer Black	1957 Richard W. Fales	1989 Gene Kurihara
1927 W. L. Hopkins	1958 Gordon Stott	1990 Ronald H. Furman
1928 R. M. B. Potter	1959 George A. Gennity	1991 Gene Kurihara
1929 R. M. B. Potter	1960 Richard W. Fales	1992 Gene Kurihara
1930 Robert A. Burdick	1961 Robert B. Kiersky	1993 Jeffrey Pirozzi
	1962 Caro Yamaoka	1994 Victor Ghini

WOMEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

1920 Mrs. J.E. Davis	1945 Mrs. Alfred King	1970 Mrs. Karl G. Clement
1921 Mrs. I. Richards, Jr.	1946 Mrs. Francis Weld	1971 Mrs. Karl G. Clement
1922 Mrs. N.K. Toerge	1947 Mrs. Francis Weld	1972 Mrs. George Holzkamp
1923 Mrs. N.K. Toerge	1948 Mrs. Carl H. Sayre	1973 Mrs. Karl G. Clement
1924 Miss M. Ottley	1949 Mrs. James Garfield	1974 Mrs. George Holzkamp
1925 Mrs. C.D. Smithers	1950 Mrs. Karl G. Clement	1975 Mrs. V. DeP. Larkin
1926 Miss M. Ottley	1951 Mrs. Karl G. Clement	1976 Mrs. Karl G. Clement
1927 Mrs. V.D. Crisp	1952 Mrs. James Garfield	1977 Mrs. George Holzkamp
1928 Miss C.M. Whitney	1953 Mrs. Karl G. Clement	1978 Mrs. V. DeP. Larkin
1929 Mrs. James McMillen	1954 Miss Constance Miller	1979 Mrs. Sarah Vuillet
1930 Miss Marion Ball	1955 Mrs. E.W.B. Fairchild	1980 Mrs. V. DeP. Larkin
1931 Miss Marion Ball	1956 Mrs. G.H. Steinemann	1981 Mrs. Sarah Vuillet
1932 Miss M. Macwell	1957 Mrs. G.H. Steinemann	1982 Mrs. James Nick
1933 Miss Rosanna Hicks	1958 Mrs. William Mudge	1983 Mrs. Sarah Vuillet
1934 Miss Rosanna Hicks	1959 Mrs. V. DeP. Larkin	1984 Mrs. Vincent Simone
1935 Mrs. John J. Meenan	1960 Mrs. Richard W. Fales	1985 Mrs. Vincent Simone
1936 Mrs. H.T. Edwards	1961 Mrs. V. DeP. Larkin	1986 Mrs. Sarah Vuillet
1937 Mrs. James McMillen	1962 Mrs. V. DeP. Larkin	1987 Mrs. Vincent Simone
1938 Mrs. F.K. Thayer, Jr.	1963 Mrs. Karl G. Clement	1988 Mrs. Vincent Sillione
1939 Mrs. John J. Meenan	1964 Mrs. V. DeP. Larkin	1989 Mrs. Vincent Sillione
1940 Mrs. John J. Meenan	1965 Mrs. V. DeP. Larkin	1990 Mrs. Vincent Simone
1941 Mrs. A.K. Atkinson	1966 Mrs. Karl G. Clement	1991 Mrs. Vincent Sillione
1942 Mrs. A.K. Atkinson	1967 Mrs. V. DeP. Larkin	1992 Mrs. Vincent Simone
1943 Mrs. John J. Meenan	1968 Mrs. George Holzkamp	1993 Mrs. Vincent Sillione
1944 Mrs. John J. Meenan	1969 Mrs. V. DeP. Larkin	1994 Mrs. Marge Suozzi

MEN'S TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

1904 R. T. Goodell	1927 Hunt T. Dickinson	1952 Frank D. Guernsey	1974 Lawrence Daily
1905 H. W. Warner	1928 H. C. Brunie	1953 August Ganzemuller	1975 Brian Connelley
1906 H. W. Warner	1929 Cedric A. Major	1954 Sheridan Snyder	1976 Brian Connelley
1907 H. W. Warner	1930 Cedric A. Major	1955 Sheridan Snyder	1977 Thomas Bentien
1908 W. A.W. Stewart	1931 Henry C. Brunie	1956 Sheridan Snyder	1978 Thomas Lynch
1909 B. N. Such	1932 Cedric A. Major	1957 Sheridan Snyder	1979 John Burrus
1910 W. A. W. Stewart	1933 Hunt T. Dickinson	1958 Sheridan Snyder	1980 John Bugalla
1911 W. L. Pate	1934 Hunt T. Dickinson	1959 Sheridan Snyder	1981 Thomas DiBartolomeo
1912 W.L. Pate	1935 Hunt T. Dickinson	1960 Harry E. Pagel, Jr.	1982 Richard Rule
1913 W.L. Pate	1936 E. T Herndon	1961 Sheridan Snyder	1983 Richard Rule
1914 F. D. Doubleday	1937 E. T. Herndon	1962 Richard A. Razzetti	1984 Richard Rule
1915 H. C. Martin	1938 Hunt T. Dickinson	1963 Richard A. Razzetti	1985 Chris Simko
1916 H. C. Martin	1939 Dr. E. H. McCauliff	1964 Richard A. Razzetti	1986 Richard Rule
1919 H. C. Martin	1940 E.C. Oelsner, Jr.	1965 Richard A. Razzetti	1987 Richard Rule
1920 Herbert Vail	1941 Earle C. Backe	1966 Richard A. Razzetti	1988 Richard Rule
1921 Herbert Vail	1942 Cedric A. Major	1967 Alan E. Davidson	1989 Chris Simko
1922 W. L. Pate	1943 E. C. Oelsner, Jr.	1968 Robert M. Barker	1990 Chris Simko
1923 W. L. Pate	1947 Roger Young	1969 Robert M. Barker	1991 Chris Simko
1924 Hunt T. Dickinson	1948 Roger Young	1970 Paul Ganzenmuller	1992 Chris Simko
1925 Hunt T. Dickinson	1949 David R. Grace	1971 Paul Ganzenmuller	1993 Richard Rule
1926 Hunt T. Dickinson	1950 Charles T. Mattmann	1972 Paul Ganzenmuller	1994 Dennis Kearney
	1951 August Ganzenmuller	1973 Paul Ganzenmuller	

WOMEN'S TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

1968 Mrs. Virginia Mailman	1975 Mrs. L.W. Maier, III	1982 Miss Keri Maier	1989 Miss Nicole Salerno
1969 Mrs. Charles Willis	1976 Mrs. L.W. Maier, III	1983 Miss Kerri Maier	1990 Miss Nicole Salerno
1970 Mrs. Foster Nichols	1977 Mrs. L.W. Maier, III	1984 Miss Keri Maier	1991 Miss Nicole Salerno
1971 Mrs. Peter L. Pace	1978 Mrs. L.W. Maier, III	1985 Miss Kristin Fullam	1992 Mrs. Kathy Ruffolo
1972 Mrs. L.W. Maier, III	1979 Miss Kristin Fullam	1986 Miss Nicole Salerno	1993 Miss Kristin Fullam
1973 Miss Alana Lawrence	1980 Miss Kristin Fullam	1987 Mrs. Cathy Vasko	1994 Miss Kristin Fullam
1974 Mrs. L.W. Maier, III	1981 Miss Laurie Simonte	1988 Mrs. Cathy Vasko	

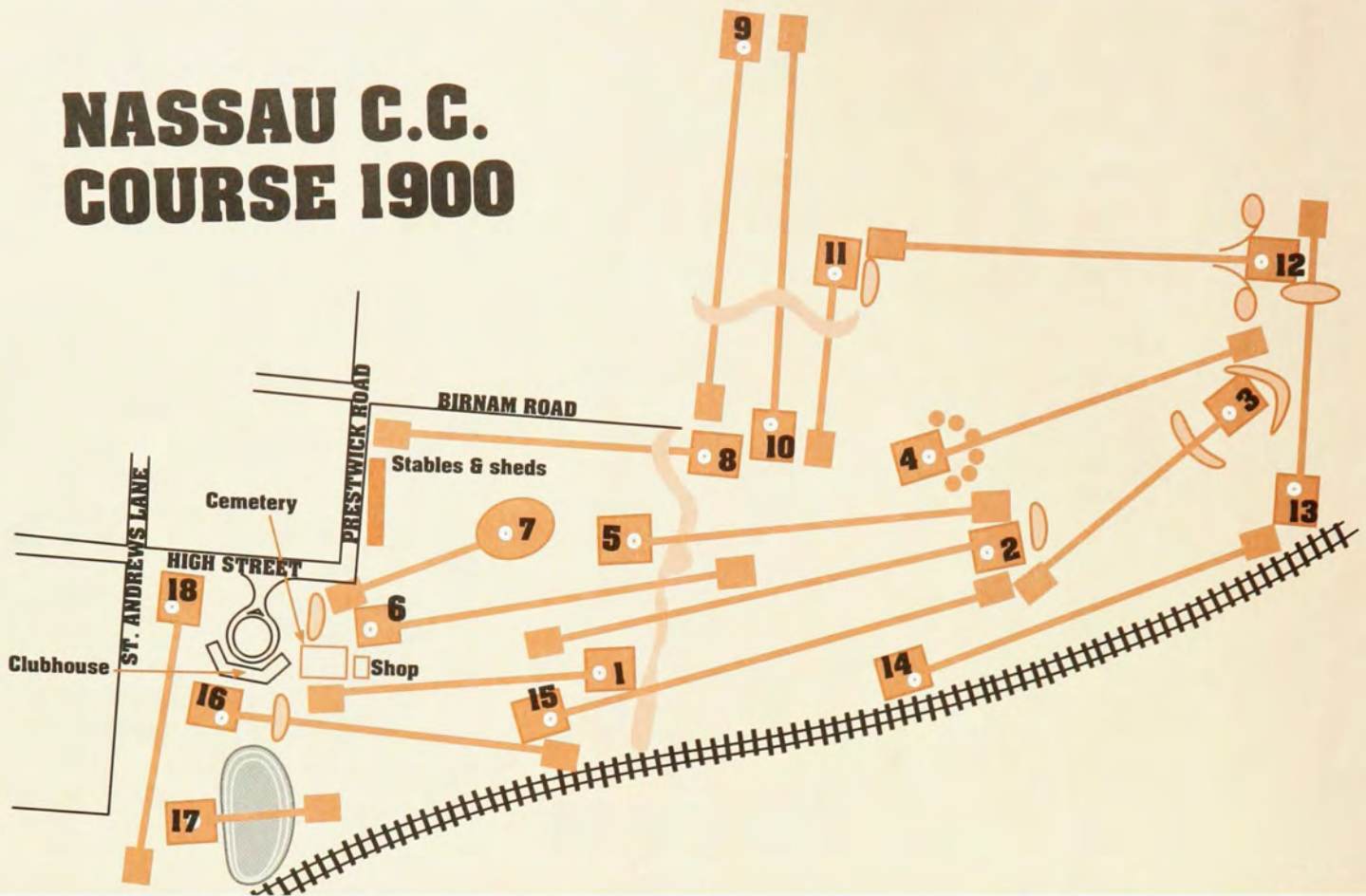
SQUASH RACQUETS CHAMPIONSHIP

1925 Henry C. Martin	1940 Trumball Richard	1958 H. Robert Reeve	1981 Paco Calleja
1926 Hunt T. Dickinson	1941 E.C. Oelsner, Jr.	1959 H. Robert Reeve	1982 Neil Pirozzi
1927 Van H. Cartmell	1942 E.C. Oelsner, Jr.	1960 Joseph J. Haggerty	1983 Neil Pirozzi
1928 Van H. Cartmell	1943 E.C. Oelsner, Jr.	1961 James F. Nick, Jr.	1984 Richard Rule
1929 Hunt T. Dickinson	1947 E.C. Oelsner, Jr.	1963 Harry F. Pagel, Jr.	1985 Neil Pirozzi
1930 Hunt T. Dickinson	1948 E.C. Oelsner, Jr.	1970 H. Robert Reeve	1986 Neil Pirozzi
1931 Eliot D. Pratt	1949 H. Robert Reeve	1971 John W. Shepard	1987 Neil Pirozzi
1932 Eliot D. Pratt	1950 H. Robert Reeve	1972 Jame F. Nick, Jr.	1988 Richard Rule
1933 Eugene L. Maxwell	1951 H. Robert Reeve	1973 James F. Keresey	1989 Richard Rule
1934 Eugene L. Maxwell	1952 H. Robert Reeve	1974 James F. Keresey	1990 Richard Rule
1935 Charles J. Hardy, Jr.	1953 H. Robert Reeve	1975 James F. Nick, Jr.	1991 Douglas Schneider
1936 Hunt T. Dickinson	1954 H. Robert Reeve	1976 John Gary Crimi	1992 Richard Rule
1937 E. Coe Kerr, Jr.	1955 H. Robert Reeve	1977 James F. Nick, Jr.	1993 Kristin Fullam
1938 E.C. Oelsner, Jr.	1956 H. Robert Reeve	1979 Pablo Pick	1994 James McLain
1939 E.C. Oelsner, Jr.	1957 H. Robert Reeve	1980 Paco Calleja	

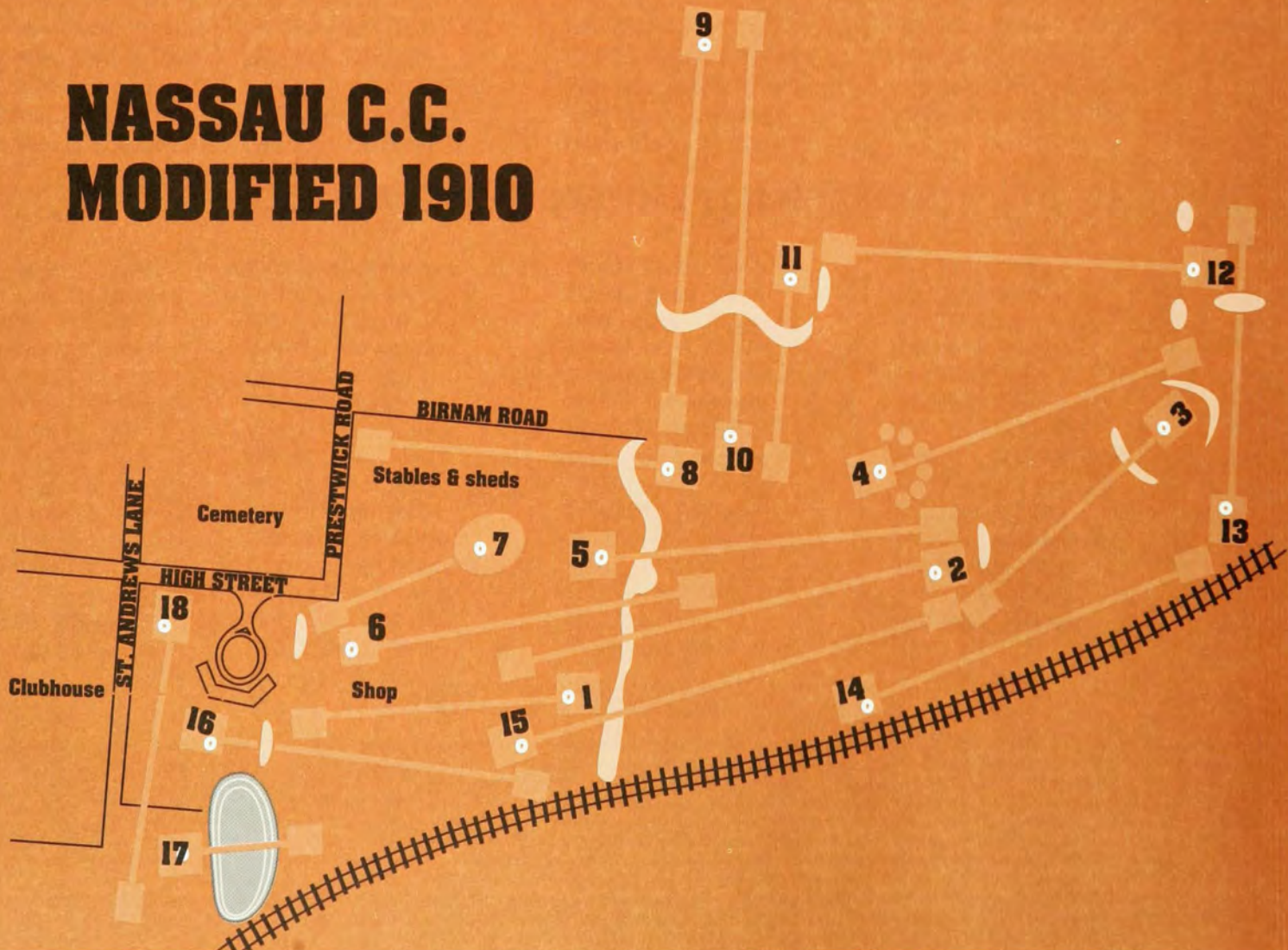
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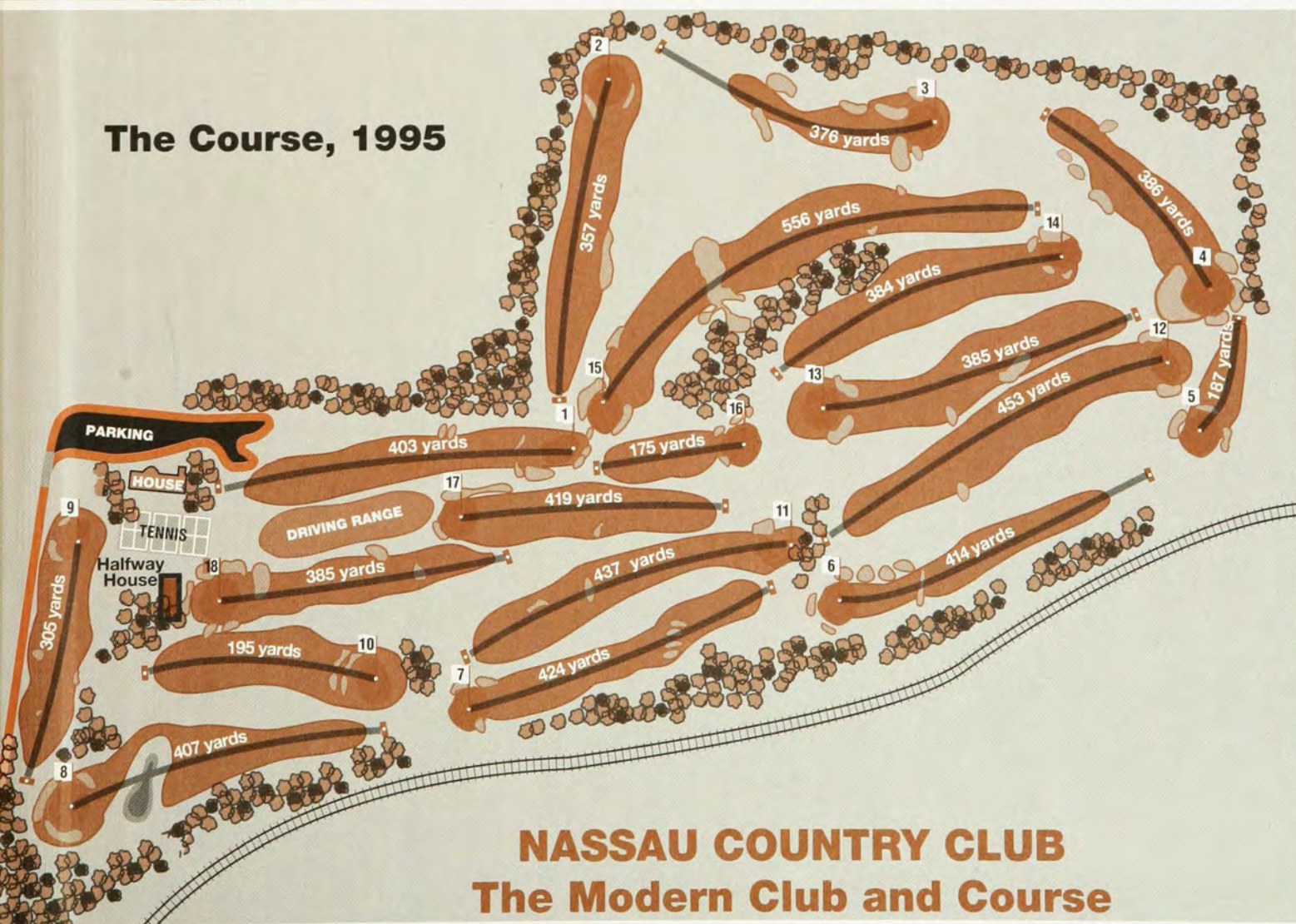
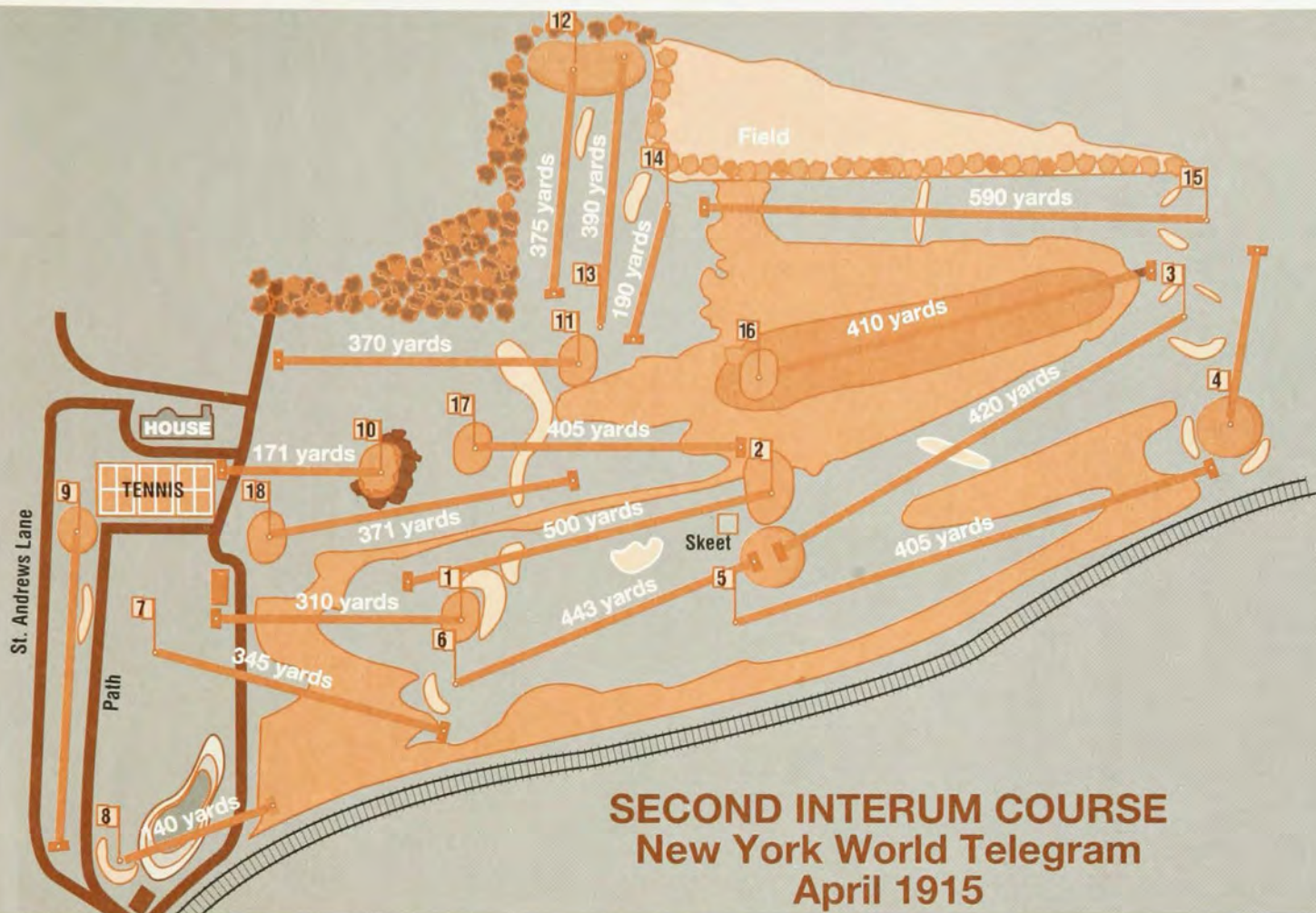
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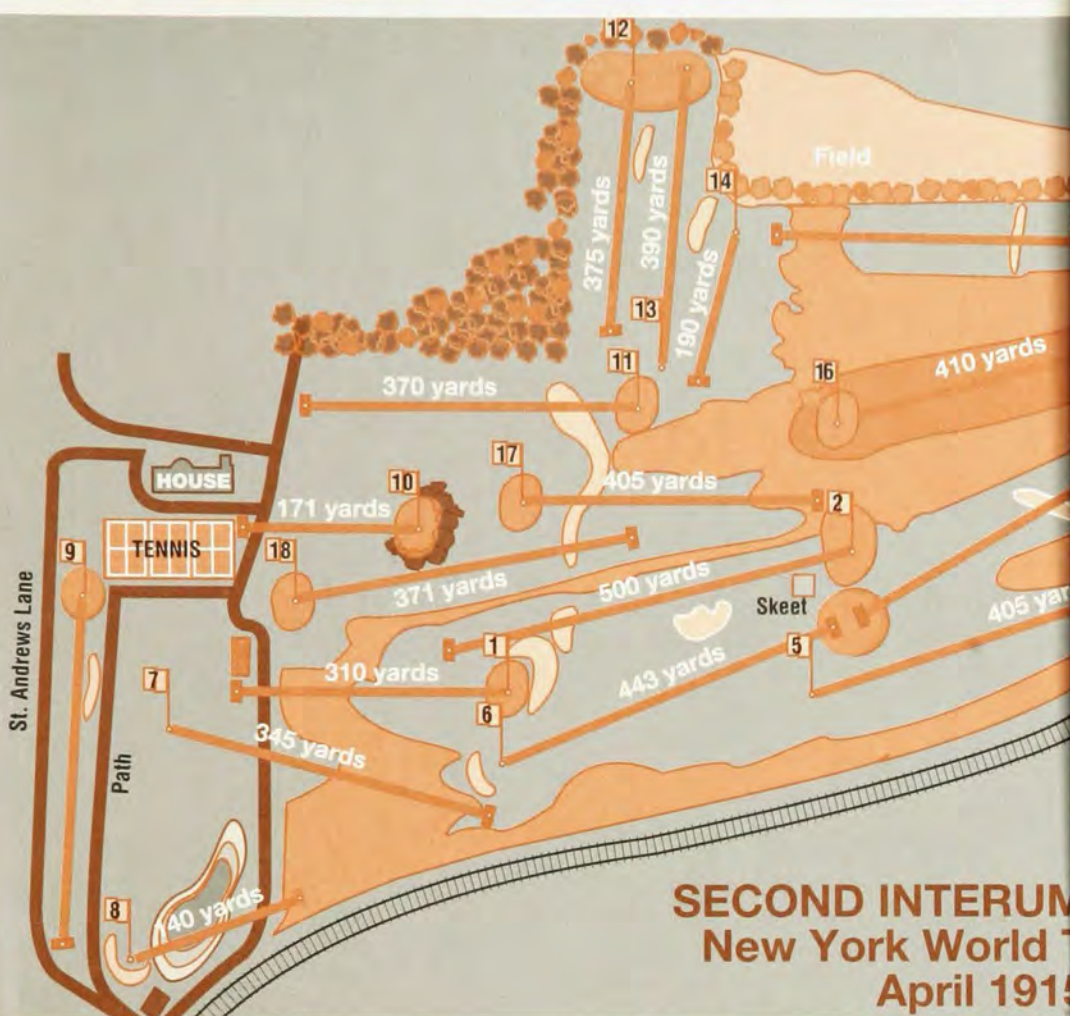
NASSAU C.C. COURSE 1900



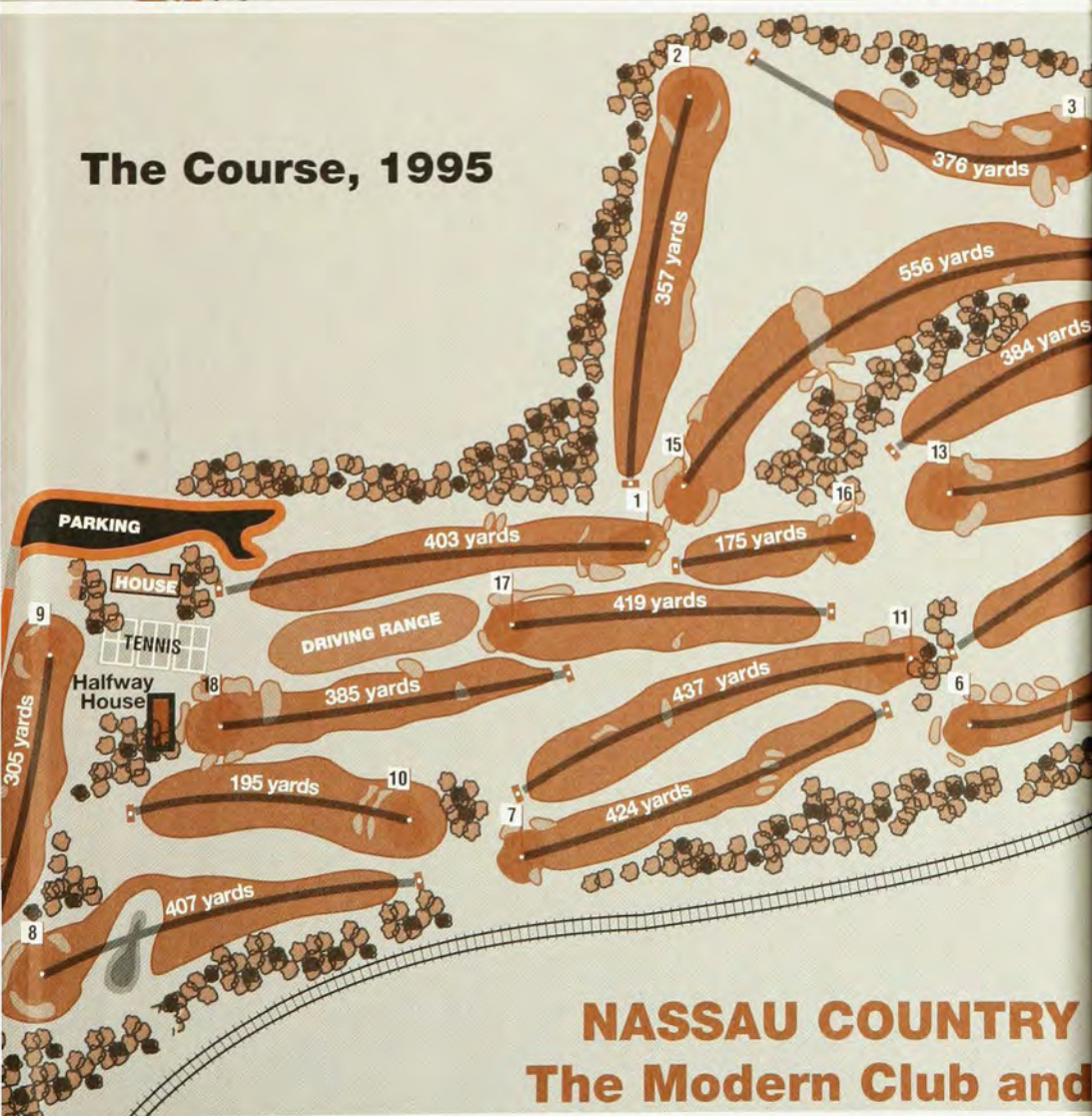
NASSAU C.C. MODIFIED 1910







The Course, 1995



Desmond Tolhurst, right, a contributing editor to *Golf Magazine*, is the author of two club histories, *Golf At Merion*, and *St. Andrew's Golf Club, The Birthplace of American Golf*. He also has co-authored several instruction books, including *Johnny Miller's Golf For Juniors* and *Golf Begins at 50*, with Gary Player, for seniors. Tolhurst is a law graduate from Cambridge University, England. He and his wife Patricia live in Bronxville, New York.

John Barban organized an advertising and publishing design firm, Consultants in Design, in 1981. He has been the art director of *Par Golf Magazine*, for Peterson publishing, *Golf Magazine*, for The Times Mirror Group, and *Science Digest Magazine* for The Hearst Corporation. He was corporate creative director for McGraw-Hill. Barban was born in Ontario, Canada, educated in the United States, and graduated from Monmouth University in New Jersey with a BFA. John and his wife Arlene reside next to the eighth hole in Shadow Lake Village near Red Bank, New Jersey.

OUR CLUB

Air: Heidelberg

SOLO:

Better than riches of worldly wealth is a club that's always jolly—
Beaming with happiness, hope and wealth, and warmed by a cheering wine,
But as good as the hours we give to thought are the times we give to folly;
So come, let us clink, but first let us drink a toast to the club while we dine.

REFRAIN:

Here's to the club which we all love; here's to the flag she flies;
Here's to our home, the best on earth; here's to her smiling skies;
Here's to our president, brave and good, true as the stars above;
Here's to the committee that built the club. Here's to the club we love.

CHORUS:

Oh! Nassau Club, dear Nassau Club, thy sons will e'er adore,
Thy golden haze of bygone days will last forevermore.
Old Nassau Club, dear Nassau Club, from every year to year,
The thought of you, so good, so true, will fill our hearts with cheer.
The thought of you, so good, so true, will fill our hearts with cheer.

