

Golf and the Terrace Park Country Club

Summer is a great time to play golf and Terrace Park people have been playing it for well over a century. The story goes that in 1898 Will Irwin, whose estate covered the grounds where SemVilla is today, returned from Scotland very much enamored with the game of golf, and with a few golf clubs. After that he and friends started playing golf on the many vacant lots, which then existed between the houses in Terrace Park. Evidently greens were trimmed short enough for play by staking a cow there a few days before play. By 1900 a club was formed and incorporated in 1910. This was not the first golf club in the Cincinnati area but it did follow closely on the Cincinnati Golf Club, founded in 1895, "first golf club west of the Alleghenies". That club was dissolved in 1924 when it merged with the Cincinnati Country Club. Chief Justice William Howard Taft, whose father once owned property in what became Terrace Park, served as the first president of the Cincinnati Golf Club. Nicholas Longworth was also an early Cincinnati golfer.

Some of the friends Will Irwin introduced to the new game of golf were members of the well-known Lloyd family: Sam (311 Harvard) and Huber (303 Rugby) Lloyd. The Terrace Park Historical Society has a 1955 newspaper clipping of the Huber A. Lloyd house on Rugby (306) where it says the Terrace Park Country Club started. Evidently Mr. Lloyd moved to Terrace Park from Milford because Milford "had a law which prohibited the playing of games on Sunday". On his Terrace Park property Mr. Lloyd "built a tennis court and laid out a golf course. When Terrace Park passed a law prohibiting the playing of games on Sunday, too, Mr. Lloyd ran for Council and interested his friends in doing likewise. They won their point." The Startzman family was also involved in the early days of Terrace Park golf. Sam & Huber Lloyd were Lebanon area milk farmers while Dan Startzman was a glass dealer.

These two families were instrumental in getting a more organized club started. Land was purchased east of Miami Avenue, adjacent to the Little Miami River. There a clubhouse was built in 1915 on Hawthorne Avenue (now 1 Oxford Avenue). It was converted to a private residence in 1933 when it was no longer needed as a clubhouse. The original building had a large ballroom on the upper floor with a river stone fireplace and cathedral ceiling, and an open porch to the rear overlooking the Little Miami River. The lower level had a locker room. There were 6 golf holes, 5 clay tennis courts and an outdoor dance floor on 41 lots of the Pattison and Iuen subdivision, between 101 and 313 Miami Avenue. By 1927 with the increased interest in golf more land was acquired for 3 more holes, going across Red Bird Creek, between houses on Sycamore and behind the Worz/Achor home at 140 Wooster Pike (where Tencon is today). When the golf course moved across Red Bird Creek in 1928 Robert Achor was 8 years old. The #3 hole was parallel to the family's vegetable garden. He tells us that he used to retrieve golf balls and sell them back to the golfers. He got to know the names of several of them. There was a Mr. Ibold of the Ibold Cigar family in Cincinnati, Mr. Kruse who was Ferd Critchell Sr's father-in-law, and Cincinnati Enquirer theatre critic E. B. Radcliffe, as well as members of the Startzman and Lloyd families. At that time the grass was kept mowed "with one horse to draw a two-unit mower and one hand lawn mower to cut the bluegrass greens."

However, golf was becoming so popular that members really wanted more room for an 18-hole golf course, so they started looking for land across the river in Milford. In

1930 they acquired the Woodward Farm and soon moved the golf course across the river to its present location. The Woodward Farm was a portion of a land grant made by the U. S. Government in 1788 to Captain Bob Powell for service in the Revolutionary War. The old course in Terrace Park was sold to Henry Hodges. It's interesting what might have happened to that land. A recreational group was still active on the old grounds in 1940 and a petition to council was filed. The Village was to buy the land and "improve the same for park and recreational purposes". Bonds were to be issued to pay for the whole project. The funds were to provide for "a community building with an auditorium to provide facilities for bowling, badminton, ping pong, shuffle board, a boating pavilion on the river and a 90 foot swimming pool. There could be a few holes for golf and the tennis courts were the best anywhere. Architects submitted an elaborate plan for the electors." Obviously this never happened, probably because it was going to add too much in taxes to home owners, even though a great deal of the money was to come from the Federal Government.



306 Rugby Avenue in 1912



1 Oxford Avenue – Original Terrace Park Country Club – Clubhouse. Built 1915



Terrace Park Country Club, Milford OH, 2009