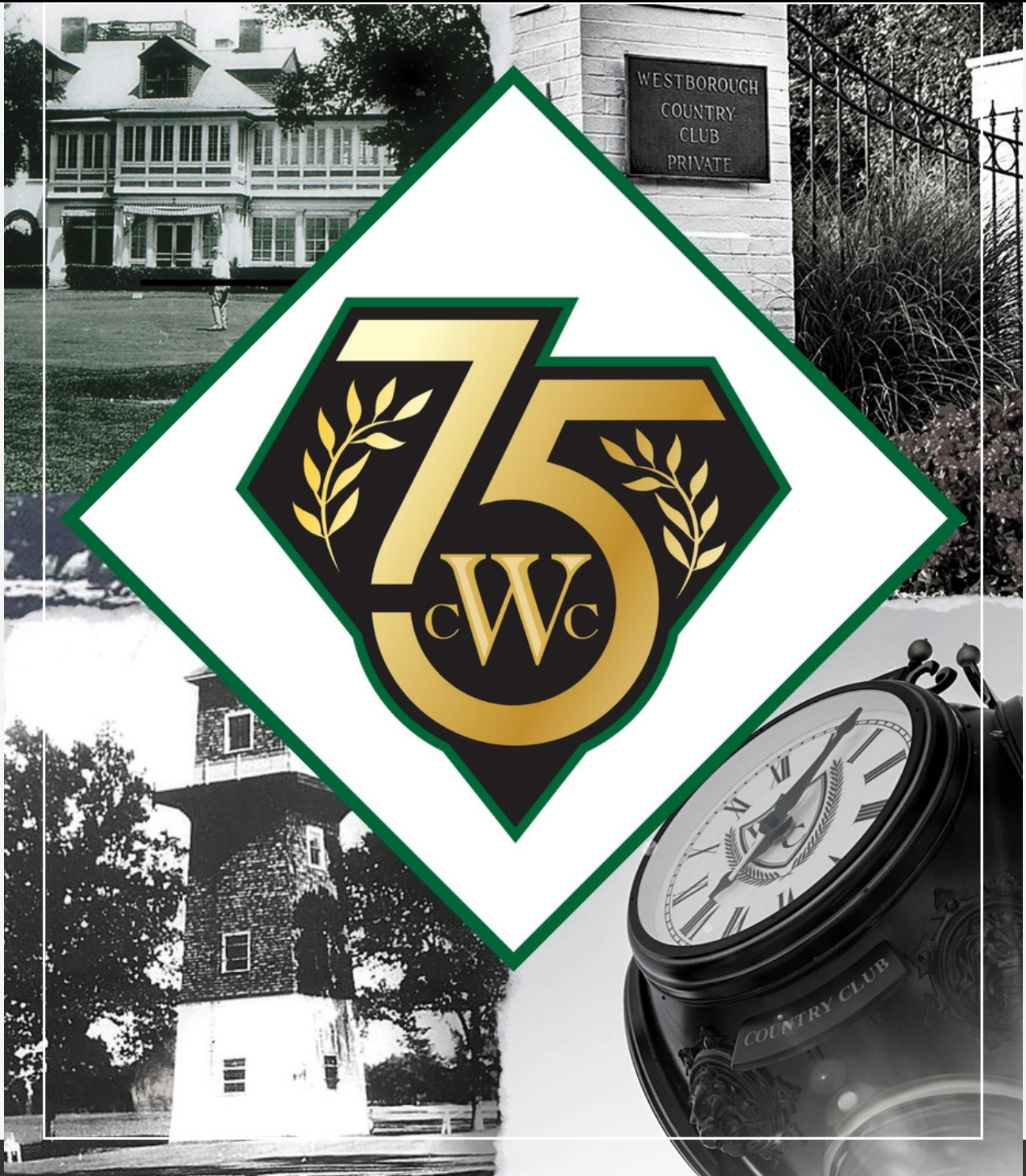


A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

WESTBOROUGH'S RICH & RESILIENT HISTORY



VOL. 1 WHAT'S PAST IS PROLOGUE



March 31, 2023

Dear Fellow Westborough Members, Families, and Friends:

Welcome to the first installment in our e-publication *A Diamond in the Rough: Westborough's Rich & Resilient History*, which commemorates our Club's Diamond Jubilee. During this 75th anniversary year, we will publish monthly segments detailing Westborough's rich "country club" heritage, which dates to 1907, and our property's fascinating legacy that goes all the way back to its initial land grant in 1824. This publication is being brought to you by our Club's newly established Heritage Committee, which has been charged with the ongoing collection, cataloging, preservation, and promotion of our Club's history. Keep an eye out for more information from the Committee about its activities and archives.

My family was privileged to join Westborough 25 years ago, just as the Club was celebrating its 50th anniversary. Like any new member, I was proud to join the Club and hugely interested in its history. I recall at the time hearing stories of how our Club was established, with mentions of a prominent and polarizing figure in our golfing community named Walter Pfeffer, tales of Westwood Country Club preceding us at our location, a clubhouse mansion that succumbed to fire (not the only clubhouse fire I might add), a fellow member named Holtgrieve who not only captured countless amateur titles but also played on three winning Walker Cup teams and captained two more, a young Wake Forest golfer named Arnold Palmer who roamed our course, dominant swimming and diving teams, the formation of a robust tennis program, dining and dancing under the stars, and being "this" close to apartments, homes, and businesses occupying our property. Now, as we celebrate our 75th anniversary, we will present the whole story, essentially our Club's "family tree," along with some fun oddities and anecdotes (like horse shows, rampant jackrabbits, and even a three-legged alligator in our lake!).

In our first installment, we set the stage for our Club's formation in November 1948 by rewinding the clock over a century to the beginning of our journey. Following installments will proceed in roughly decade-long segments. We hope that you will enjoy our presentation of the Club's history as much as we are enjoying researching and publishing it.

See you at the Club!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ted'.

Ted Zimmermann
Club Historian

Foreword

Country clubs and their memberships carry unique histories and distinct personalities based on their members, their founding principles, and the traditions that have carried them to present day. But what about this young, family-friendly Glendale club? The one with the relaxed, neighborhood feel and tradition of being just *slightly* untraditional? How does our history contribute to who we are today, and how does it tell the story of where we're headed?

As employees of Westborough, we take great joy in our service to this one-of-a-kind membership, and as members, we hope and expect that you feel it too — the sense of belonging, hospitality, and community that creates our culture. You can see it on the tee box, on a Friday night in Bendelow's, and on our kids' faces as they experience summer days that they'll cherish forever. This community is special, and it most certainly didn't get like that overnight.

When we were tasked with piecing together 75-years (and then some) of history and artifacts, we had no idea how truly remarkable those years had been. The research has been astounding (and sometimes overwhelming) as layer by layer, we uncover more of our past. Westborough has struggled, suffered, burned (quite literally), and been on the brink of extinction. Yet simultaneously, the club has been the center of great attention, tenaciously rebuilt, and forged forward with the unmatched spirit and camaraderie that we're still enjoying to this day. We hope these findings and documentation will foster even more pride in this great community. We're part of something special, and you are too.

This project is the culmination of six decades of Chatterboxes, thousands of newspaper articles, and countless hours on Canva designing a first draft, a second, then another, and another. The experience has been incredibly rewarding and valuable. We cherish the opportunity to share our discoveries with you.

And how exciting that there's even more to come! New editions will hit your inbox each month, a stunning diamond jubilee gala will put an exclamation on the year, and now, with the help of Mr. Capek, Mr. Zimmermann, and the newly formed Heritage Committee, we're actively pursuing and preserving our club's most valuable memorabilia and memories. We are thrilled to dive into the wonderful year that's to come and know that many more will follow.

It all starts here. To both our members and staff, then and now, we thank you for your dedication to "the crown jewel of St. Louis." Welcome to 75 years, WCC.



Jim Capek
General Manager



Hannah Rowland
Communications Manager



Rachel Barr
Membership & Marketing Director

TIMELINE

THROUGH THE EARLY YEARS

1907-1928

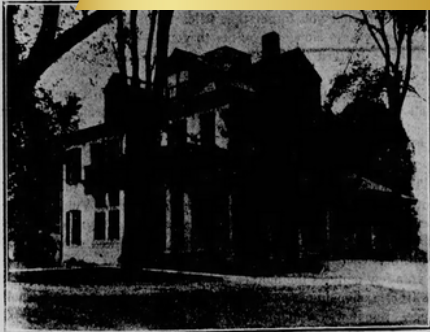
Feb. 13, 1908

The newly chartered Westwood Country Club, initially organized on September 16, 1907, decides to lease the George Myers estate of Glendale on Berry Road as the Club's first location.

July 5, 1908

Westwood Country Club opens with a gala party.

The original Westwood Clubhouse



THE WESTWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
Glendale

The Modern View, April 6, 1917

May 23, 1910

All 18 holes of Westwood's course, designed by renowned course architect Tom Bendelow, are completed. A formal opening is held on June 4th, and the course is labeled one of the most difficult in St. Louis.

Tom Bendelow,
"The Johnny Appleseed of Golf"



Aug. 18, 1917

Westwood Charter Member and original Club President, David Sommers, purchases the Myers estate that was under lease to Westwood.

Dec. 18, 1919

Westwood and its 250 members announce the purchase of the property from Sommers.

Westwood Course and Clubhouse Are Kept With Meticulous Care

Dec. 1, 1926

After experiencing great success in their early years, Westwood's members vote to sell its clubhouse and 18-hole course and pursue another location better suited to its long-term needs.

April 1927

Westwood lists its "90 acre" Glendale property for sale and acquires 249 acres at Ballas and Conway roads for its new location.

WESTWOOD COUNTRY CLUB ACQUIRES SITE

Purchases 249 Acres Abutting Ballas and Conway Roads.

Oct. 1927

A syndicate of investors led by local golf legend Walter Pfeffer acquires an option on the Westwood clubhouse and course for a reported \$2,500 per acre or approximately \$250,000.

Walter Pfeffer
(and his greyhound)



1928

In December 1927, the Pfeffer consortium announces the purchase of the property for \$300,000 and that a new club will be operated at the Westwood site named Westborough Country Club, with a planned opening of July 1, 1928. And thus our story began...

WESTBOROUGH
COUNTRY CLUB

INTRODUCTION

The records of the Missouri Secretary of State show that "Westborough Country Club," a benevolent corporation, was formed on November 13, 1948. But, wait...there already was a Westborough Country Club in 1948.

What happened, and why?

On October 23, 1948, members of Westborough Country Club finalized the purchase of the Club site for \$325,000. The members would buy \$500 shares in the Club (some buying more than one share) in order to fund the purchase. This followed a meeting earlier that month where a majority of the Club's 150 members voted to purchase the Club from a real estate investment firm that had previously sought rezoning of the property by the City of Oakland to permit commercial development. This deal ended a three-year controversy that had brewed between the real estate investment firm and both leaders and citizens of Oakland, Glendale, and Webster Groves over development plans that ranged from apartments, subdivided homes, and even supermarkets.

Glendale, Webster
Join Protest Over
Apartment Project

INVESTMENT FIRM

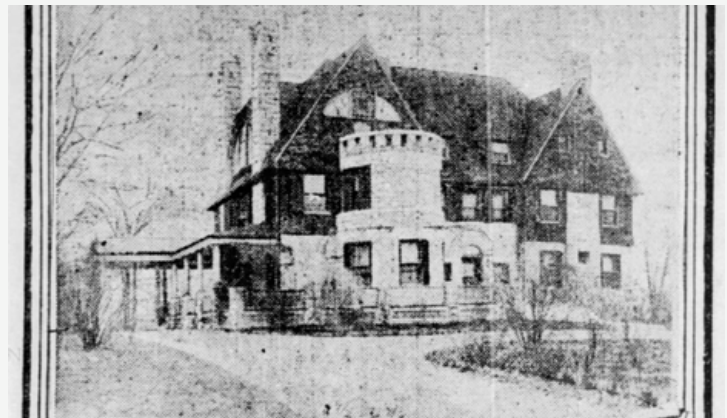
VS

OAKLAND, GLENDALE, &
WEBSTER GROVES

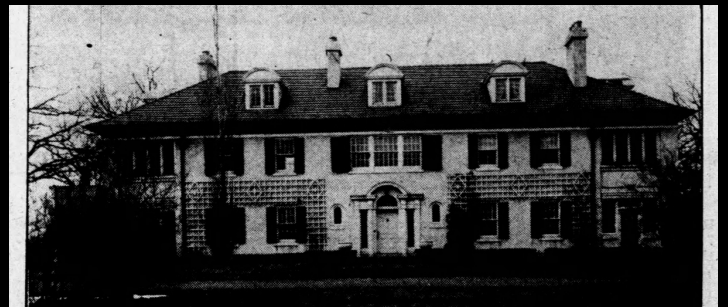


Article from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat on October 24, 1948

In order to appreciate the importance of this transaction, not just to the Westborough members, but to the surrounding cities and to the local golf, tennis, and swimming communities in the greater St. Louis area, one must know the history of those who preceded in ownership and operation of Westborough's historic property.



J. R. Curlee's original mansion, known as "Stancote," was situated on property between Sappington Road and our golf course's western border, stretching from the Missouri Pacific tracks, north to the current 15th hole.



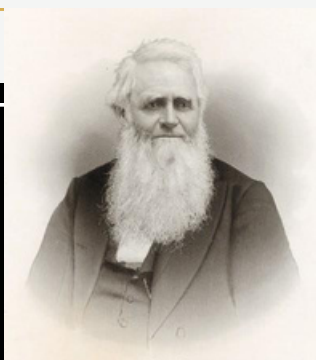
Stancote was destroyed by fire in 1912 and replaced by Curlee with a mansion that still exists today.



Article from the Post-Dispatch on October 1, 1948

PAST IS PROLOGUE (1824-1927)

During the late 1800s – early 1900s, the city of St. Louis was bustling with industry and was the fourth-largest city in the country by population. Affluent St. Louisans sought refuge from the busy city lifestyle by looking west for leisure and vacation property. A key factor when selecting such property was rail access, and the Missouri Pacific Railroad (originally the Pacific and now Union Pacific) provided just that. In fact, prominent St. Louisan and President of the Pacific Railroad, Hudson Erastus Bridge, owned a large country estate in a quaint area southwest of St. Louis called “Glendale.” The original private owner of this property was William Higgins, who acquired it in May 1824 when President James Monroe issued him a land patent for 157.82 acres. Over time, Bridge purchased neighboring property to bring his estate to 187 acres and added a lake just to the west of his main residence.



HUDSON ERASTUS BRIDGE
(1810-1875)

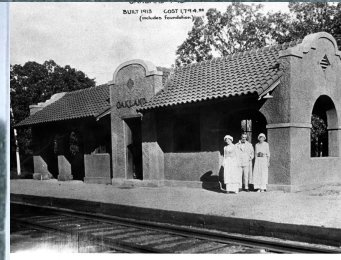
Industrialist whose business ventures included plow and iron manufacturing, which led him to start the Empire Stove Works (later the massive Bridge & Beach Manufacturing Company on the St. Louis riverfront). He was generous in his civic contributions, was an original incorporator and trustee of Washington University and the Mary Institute, and was a director and twice president of the Mercantile Library Association. He was deeply committed to the flourishing railroad industry and, as President of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, attempted the first trans-continental railroad. Unfortunately, his effort was thwarted when the inaugural run on November 1, 1855 was cut short by a bridge collapse in Gasconade County, Missouri that claimed the life of Henry P. Chouteau, a member of St. Louis' first family. The Mo-Pac did not attempt another trans-continental run.



Top: Berry Road looking north from Mo-Pac tracks. Bridge/Myers estate on the left



Left: Glendale Station (SE corner of Berry & the Mo-Pac tracks looking northeast)



Right : Oakland Station (SW corner of Sappington and the Mo-Pac tracks looking southeast)

The core of that residence is believed by some historians to date to Thomas Berry, the namesake of Berry Road, who purchased the property in 1833.

In July 1889, Bridge's widow sold the 104-acres of the estate north of the Missouri-Pacific tracks, including the beautiful mansion, for \$35,000 to multi-millionaire George S. Myers of Liggett & Myers tobacco fame. That parcel, known as Glendale Place, is where Westborough is located. Myers found the property ideal for his leisure purposes and, in 1891, he remodeled the grounds at a cost of over \$60,000. Myers' improved estate had a fenced deer park (for enjoyment, not hunting),

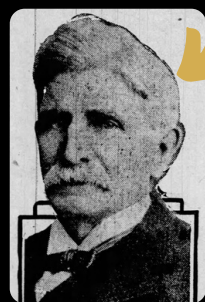
kennels, and a lake for fishing and swimming. He conveyed the southwestern 12 acres of the property to his daughter, along with a 30-room palatial mansion (called Stancote) built at a cost of \$100,000 as a wedding present. In December 1912, a fire ravaged Stancote and its then-owner, John R. Curlee, vowed to rebuild it. The new mansion he built is still in existence today. It is interesting to note that Curlee's property is mentioned by name in both the original 18-hole course layout (page 9) and on early scorecards in ground rules designating out-of-bounds (page 12).

Works of the Bridge & Beach Manufacturing Company, St. Louis



Recognize this? >>>

Hudson Bridge
Oakland Property
1878 Plat Map

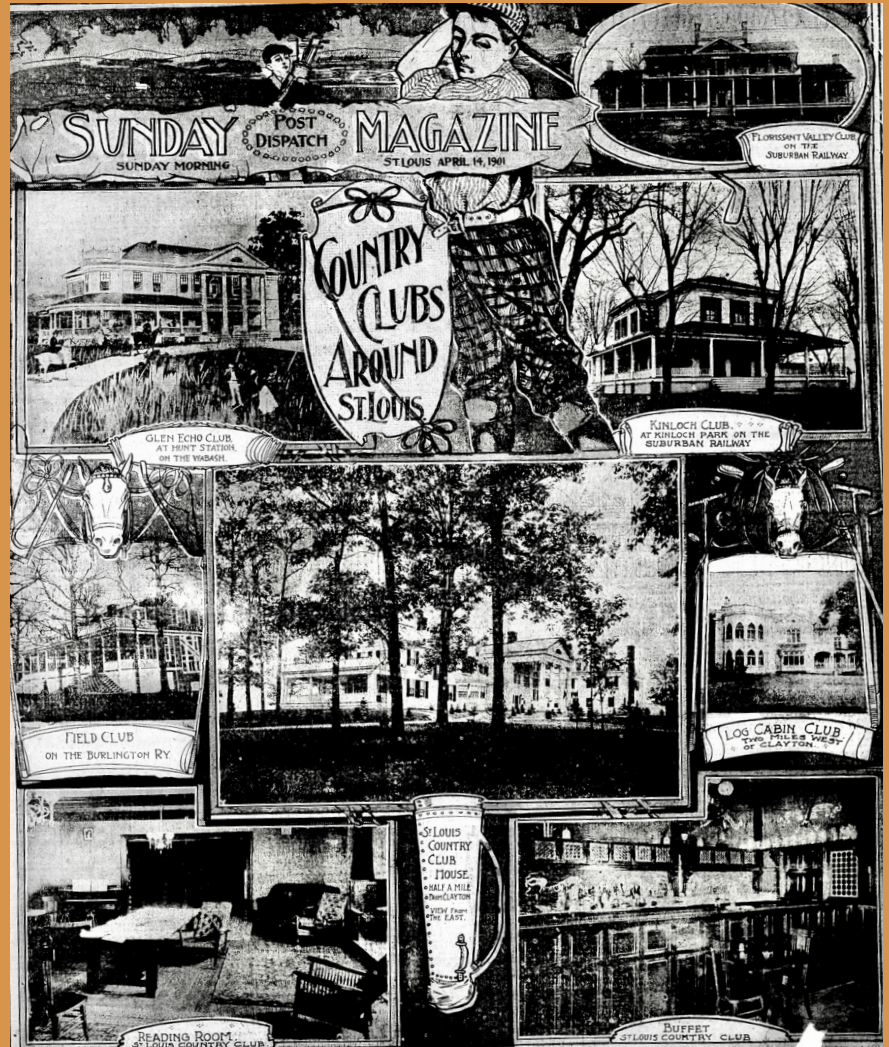


George S. Myers

THE INTRODUCTION OF WESTWOOD

During this same time period, the English-Scottish sport of "golf" was rapidly increasing in popularity in the St. Louis area, especially with those more affluent. Although there were not yet any public courses in St. Louis (Forest Park would have the first public course in 1912), the interest in golf had fueled the creation of several private country clubs. In the spring of 1902, the St. Louis Golf Association was formed with five charter member clubs: St. Louis Country Club, the Old Field, Glen Echo Country Club, Normandie Golf Club, and the St. Louis Amateur Athletic Association (or Triple A). By 1907, there were eight private clubs in the area, most with property adjacent to railroad lines. However, all were formed by non-Jewish members. It was at this time that a group of prominent leaders in the Jewish community of St. Louis envisioned creating a club of their own.

One of the key organizers of this initiative was David Sommers, an investment banker who was active in both the Jewish and secular communities and is credited with building the St. Louis Theater on Grand Ave., which is now Powell Hall. How and why these men decided to start their own club was described in the old St. Louis Star on December 16, 1924:



An article showcasing the six country clubs that existed around St. Louis in 1901.

Back in 1907, Sommers, with five of his friends, were on a camping trip in Michigan when they were invited to play golf. It was Sommers' first game, and he became so infatuated with the game that he and his friends immediately sponsored the idea of starting a golf club in St. Louis.



David Sommers

WESTWOOD COUNTRY CLUB TAKES GEO. MYERS' PLACE

ESTATE CONTAINS HANDSOME
RESIDENCE EASILY CON-
VERTIBLE INTO CLUB-
HOUSE.

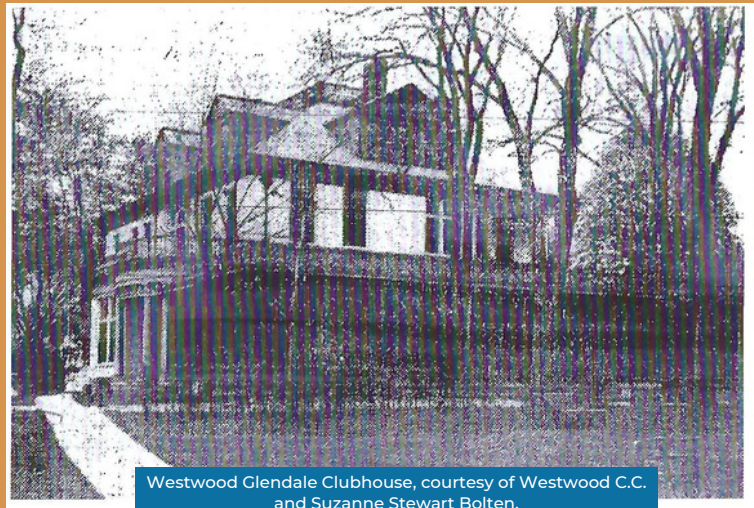
The Westwood Country Club will execute a twenty-five year lease on the old George Myers place, near Webster Groves in St. Louis County. This decision was practically reached at a meeting of the Executive Board of the club, held in the Columbian Club last night. Mr. Myers resides in California, and the trouble of doing business at long distance has delayed matters somewhat, but of the numerous sites offered the Myers place was most in favor at last night's meeting. The estate contains ninety-five acres and contains a handsome residence of twenty rooms that can easily be converted into a clubhouse. The terms of the lease are not made known. The club expects to begin to improve the property at once, and will have it ready for occupancy before the golf season opens.

Among the sites considered was the M. B. O'Reilly country place on Olive Street rock road, containing 100 acres and a fourteen-room residence. The Myers place was chosen largely because of the facilities offered for reaching it. It is on the Manchester avenue car line, is tapped by two steam roads and is easy of access by carriage. The president of the Westwood, which was recently organized, is Dave Sommers, and Charles Rice is secretary.

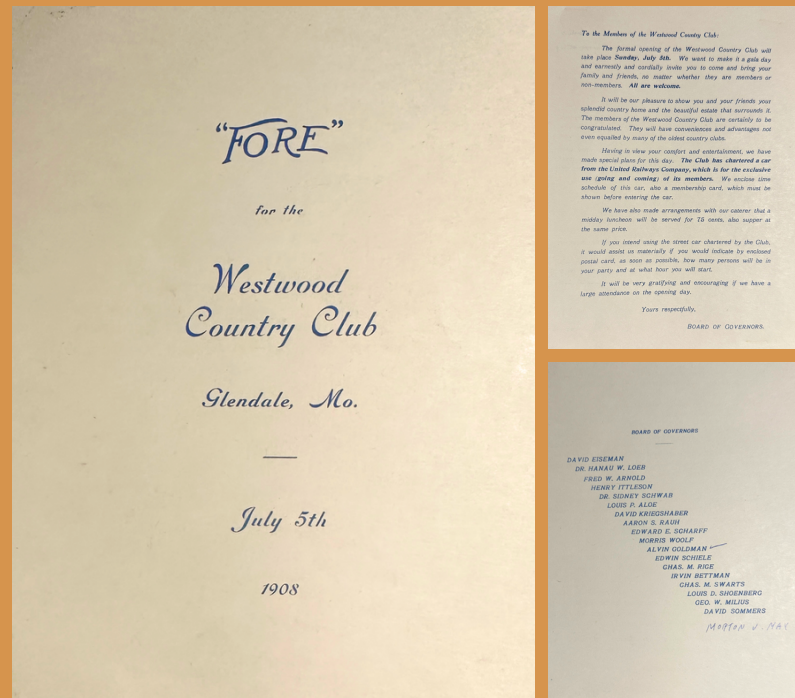
Left: St. Louis Jewish Community Archives, Knettel Collection
Right: Announcement of Westwood taking over the George Myers Estate

ST. LOUIS STAR - DECEMBER 16, 1924

By early 1908, they had formed Westwood Country Club with David Sommers as its first President, but they needed to find property. They were initially interested in several tracts and considered taking an option on the J. B. C. Lucas property in Normandy - 100 acres adjoining the west boundary of Normandie Golf Club (now the Lake Charles Park Cemetery). Another property under consideration was also 100 acres - the M. B. O'Reilly country estate on "Olive Street rock road" (Olive Station Road at the time) that had a 14-room residence (located on the northwest and southwest corners of the present-day intersection of N. Spoede Rd. and Olive Blvd.). Ultimately, Westwood chose the George Myers estate in Glendale, largely due to the rail access to reach the property. The land was on the Manchester Avenue car line, was accessible by two "steam roads" (the Missouri Pacific [with its Glendale and Oakland Stations] and the Frisco), and by carriage. They took a 25-year lease on the property and spent \$25,000 in improvements. They converted the Myers/Bridge residence to a clubhouse, the deer park into golf links, and the lake was to be preserved for boating, "bathing" (swimming), and fishing after being deepened and having the sand bottom preserved. Plans were in place to add tennis courts and a baseball diamond. The clubhouse would eventually have men's and women's locker rooms, a men's dormitory, and areas to socialize including dining, a sun parlor, cardroom, lounge, and a pavilion for dancing.

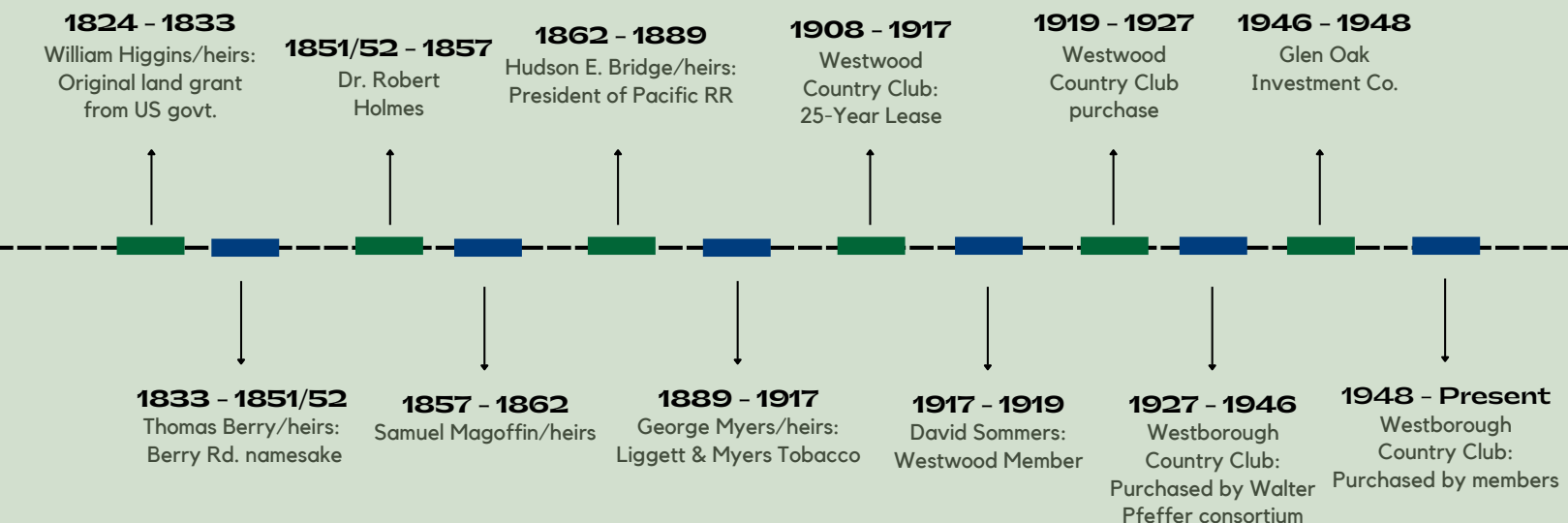


Westwood Glendale Clubhouse, courtesy of Westwood C.C. and Suzanne Stewart Bolten.

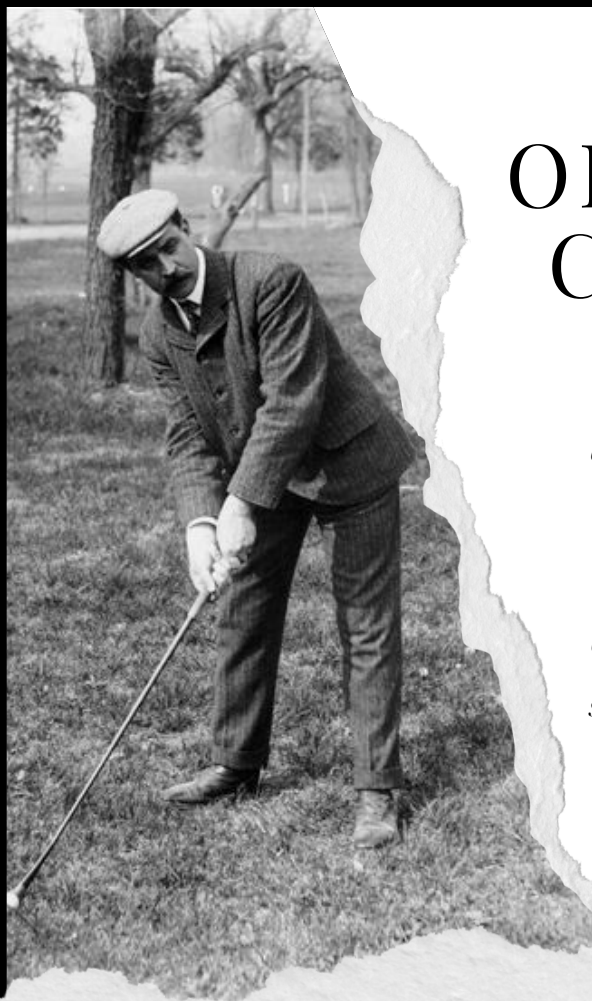


The Westwood Opening Invitation from its Board of Governors announcing the Club's formal opening.

Timeline - Property Ownership



Tom Bendelow was retained to lay out the course. Who was Tom Bendelow, you might ask (other than being the namesake of our Club's fine bar/restaurant)? According to preeminent current-day golf architect Andy Staples, "There's an argument to be made that Tom Bendelow had as much of an impact in bringing golfers of all abilities to the game of golf as any golf architect in history." Bendelow is often referred to as the "Johnny Appleseed of American Golf." He was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1868 and, during his career, is attributed with designing over 600 courses, some saying as many as 800. His designs included all three courses at Medinah Country Club, the first championship course at the French Lick Resort, and the south course at Olympia Fields Country Club. Many of the courses were in the Midwest as he lived and operated his business from Chicago as Director of Golf Course Development with A. G. Spalding. He even started an indoor golf school in the basement of Spalding's Chicago offices to give lessons during winter months. In terms of his ties to St. Louis, Bendelow designed a nine-hole course at Algonquin in 1903 and was an official for the golf competition at the 1904 Olympics at Glen Echo Country Club.

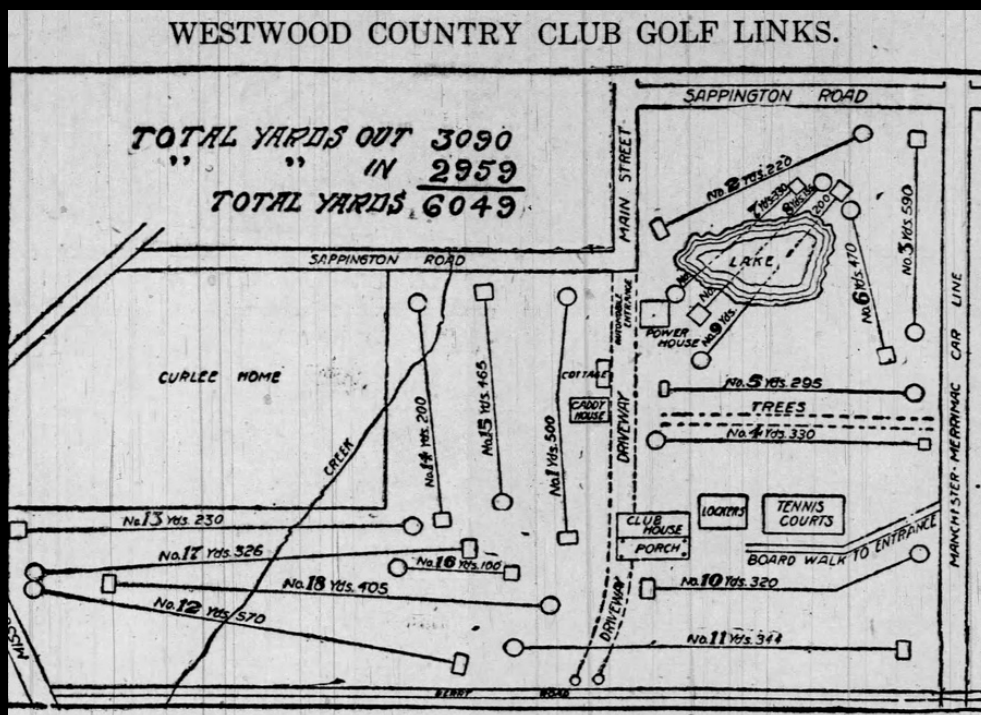


THE ORIGINAL COURSE

"I may state that I have laid out for the Westwood Country Club a course approximating a little over 6,000 yards, over beautifully rolling ground, liberally interspersed with natural hazards in the form of ravines, a winding creek, and a natural lake... it will take the very best skill that one can command to negotiate holes in anything like a bogey."

TOM BENDELOW
1908

Bendelow arrived at Westwood on April 15, 1908, with plans to complete a nine-hole course in 60 days to permit the members to begin playing that season, with the remaining nine holes expected to be completed over the winter. Because Bendelow was a course designer, not necessarily a builder, he selected Robert Foulis to build the Westwood course. Foulis had worked with Bendelow previously in building Algonquin, and also built Glen Echo and Normandie. Bendelow said that the property was sufficient for a course of over 6,000 yards and that it would be one of the "prettiest and sportiest golf courses in the country when completed." The front nine would have 4 three-shot holes, 2 two-shot holes, 1 full shot hole, 1 iron shot hole, and 1 mashie shot hole. The back nine would have 1 four-shot hole, 2 three-shot holes, 4 two-shot holes, 1 full drive hole, and 1 mashie pitch hole. His initial drawing of the course comprised only eight holes, all on the south side of the entrance road, with plans for holes 9-18 to be on the northwest corner of the property.



1910 Course Layout

Ultimately, however, those plans were a bit ambitious as the full 18 holes were not ready until May 23, 1910, with a formal opening on June 4, 1910. When finished, the full 18-hole course had a very different layout than first designed.

Bendelow described the finished course as "one of the most difficult around St. Louis, but one that would encourage those who play good golf." He made mention of several specific holes:

3

No. 3 – the **hardest** hole: At 590 yards with the electric train line on the left. This is the present-day No. 5 with the tee box back towards the corner of Lockwood and Sappington and the green where the current No. 8 green is located.

7

No. 7 – the **prettiest** hole: Required a 180-yard drive to the foot of the lake, then a "loft of over 90 yards" to the green, behind which was the then-famous pumphouse that provided irrigation to the course. It was said that, at the time, no other course in St. Louis had a body of water as wide as the lake on this hole.

This hole was very likely laid out near, but not identical to, the layout of present-day No. 2, probably having its tee box closer to the location of present-day No. 3 green.

14

No. 14 – another **hard** hole: 200 yards with a winding creek, out of bounds on two sides, and a triangular-shaped green, saying it was "unlike any hole on any city course." That hole is present-day No. 15, but its tee box was about 30 yards further back, sitting behind the back-left bunker of present-day No. 14 green.

"THE 'SPORTIEST' LINKS IN THE CITY"

One of the more **intriguing** holes at the time was No. 16, a short 100-yard hole with a mound in front of the green, bunkers on the sides, and tall grasses behind. The next time you play today's No. 17, stand on the back tees nearest No. 16 green and look at the left side of the 17th fairway just before the creek. That is where the green was for this short but challenging hole. The No. 17 tee box (1910 version) was next to present-day No. 14 green where the sod farm is now located, affording a drivable par 4 straight up the hill.

While no definitive visual records (e.g., aerial photos) from this era have yet been found, newspaper reporting from Westwood's early years suggests that changes to the layout of the course were made rather quickly. For example, by 1912, it was reported that holes 3, 4, and 7 all crossed the lake, while the original 1910 layout had those three holes being 7, 8, and 9. Nevertheless, the course was still regarded as "the 'sportiest' links in the city," and "over-supplied with natural and mental hazards. A life-size lake, a creek, innumerable clumps of trees and oodles of tall grass [that] permit of anything but perfect golfing."

Water Hazards Threaten To Mar Medal Scores in City Golf Event Today

A Long Lake and a Winding Creek Among the Hazards That Beset the Golfer at the New Westwood Club's Course.

The Modern View
25th Ann. Deluxe Ed., 1925



The original course featured a "windmill" behind today's No. 2 green that served as the pumphouse. It was a working windmill before the electric pumps were installed.

LAKE HOLE FOOLS PLAYERS.

Many of Them Owe Downfall in Qualifying Round at Westwood to This Fact.

Carl Peipho of the Triple A Club easily led the 112 golfers who turned in cards in the qualifying round of the eleventh annual tournament of the St. Louis Golf Association, which opened at the Westwood Country Club yesterday as well as about twenty others whose scores were so poor that the owners could not be induced to continue in the event. The A.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat - June 13, 1912



WESTWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

1910 Clubhouse



Chick Evans Smashes All Golf Records at Westwood *Disagrees With Vardon*

Chicago Star, Whom English Expert Rated First Among American Players, Believes That U. S. Amateurs Are as Good as England's Best.

WESTWOOD THRIVES IN GLENDALE

Westwood was host to several prominent golfers and athletes in its early years, undoubtedly thanks to the connections and relationships of its club leaders and members. In 1912, Warren K. Wood, a member of the Western Golf Association team that took gold at the 1904 Olympics, and Chick Evans, who, in 1916, became the first amateur to win both the U.S. Open and U.S. Amateur in one year, played at Westwood. Evans later broke the Westwood course record in June 1914. The Western Golf Association's Evans Scholarship is named in his honor. Also in 1914, world champion pitcher Christy Mathewson played 36 holes at Westwood, saying that he always visited Westwood when he came to St. Louis.

Golf continued to grow in the St. Louis area, and by 1916, several public courses had emerged along with more private clubs. It was at this time that the St. Louis District Golf Association was established with these charter members: Algonquin, Bellerive, Bogey Club, Kirkwood, Log Cabin, Midland Valley, Normandie, Ridgedale, St. Louis, Sunset "Hill," Triple A, and Westwood.

FUN FACT

Glendale became a "city" in 1916 after having been incorporated as a village in 1912. The principal reason it became a city was the need of a sewer system as "[t]he drainage from a colony of 40 families has been through the golf links of the Westwood Country Club, which detracted from the pleasures of golfing."



Top Left: Drawing courtesy of Westwood C.C. and Suzanne Stewart Bolten

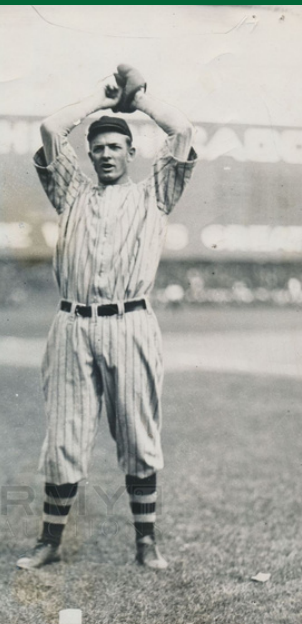
Top Right: Post-Dispatch headline from June 14, 1914

Mathewson Plays Golf at Westwood Club

Christy Mathewson, the world's champion pitcher, played thirty-six holes of golf at the Westwood Country Club yesterday. Mathewson does not play Sunday baseball. So while his team was winning in eleven innings at Robison Field, "Mat" was slamming the golf ball about the leafy shades of Westwood with Alfred Frang, C. A. Stix and others.

Mathewson is some golfer. Taking part in a four-ball foursome with A. P. Lyon, Lew Rosen and Leslie Leiber, he came in one under bogey for eighteen holes in the afternoon. He did the first seventeen holes in bogey in the morning, but fell down on No. 18, taking an eight to a four hole.

Mathewson's immense driving was greatly admired by a large gallery. He hits a tremendous ball, high, and a mile long, off the tee. His iron shots are something terrific. He drove No. 4 green (189 yards), No. 7 (190 yards), and No.



Sinking of Stymied Putt and Hole-in-One Feature Encounter

Stirring Scene Is Staged As Champion Makes Difficult Shot on 36th Green—Drives Into Lake Fatal to Sunset Star.

BY TED DREWES.
Of The Star's Sport Staff.

St. Louis has had champions in many sports, but it is doubtful if there ever was one here who more clearly demonstrated the championship spirit than did Jim Manion while winning the Missouri State title from Clarence Wolff, 1 up in 38 holes, in the greatest golf match ever staged in this vicinity, at the Westwood Club yesterday. Manion fought an uphill battle but played gamely throughout the encounter and eventually won the victory after a courageous finish, to gain permanent possession of the state challenge trophy, which he had previously won twice.

Left: St. Louis Globe-Democrat article from May 25, 1914.

1912 Photo of Mathewson - Wikimedia

Right: Article on the "greatest golf match ever staged" from the St. Louis Star and Times on June 19, 1926

In August 1917, David Sommers did something for which all Westborough members should be grateful – he bought the Myers estate that was under lease to Westwood. He also committed to Westwood that, at such time as they may desire to purchase the property from him, they could do so at the price he paid. Although he claimed to have made the purchase for “investment purposes,” it’s fair to say that he mitigated the risk of the Myers family selling the property to a buyer who desired to subdivide or commercially develop the tract, a risk that the owners and members of Westborough, and the citizens of Oakland, Glendale, and Webster Groves, would squarely face in the 1940s.

In December 1919, Westwood and its 250 members did indeed purchase its property from David Sommers. While the purchase price was not made public, it was widely reported to be \$150,000. Just prior to the purchase, a large “dance porch” (120' x 50') was added to the clubhouse, with plans for a swimming pool, along with new bunkers and an “extension of the 18-hole golf course,” although no specifics of such planned extension have been found.

By 1920, tension had grown between North and South Glendale, leading voters in the area south of Lockwood to incorporate the Village of Oakland. Also in 1920 (June), the St. Louis District Golf Association’s championship tournament was held at Westwood, where Dick Bockenkamp became the youngest champion in the young Association’s history. By that time, the course layout had largely evolved to what Westborough members play today, except for one par 3 on the front and another on the back. No. 4 on the 1920 layout was a 198-yard par 3 with its tee box at the very corner of the property at Sappington and Argonne, the site of today’s Kirkwood Early Childhood Center, and its green at the corner of Lockwood and Sappington where the Monaco Park pavilion is now located. The present-day No. 4 did not exist. On the back, present-day par 3 No. 12 did not exist, but the 100-yard No. 16 still did. Interestingly, the 1920 version of No. 2 is the same as today, although then it was a 351-yard par 4 with its tee box extending westward (from today’s “white” tees) to be next to the old No. 4 tee box.

ST. LOUIS—WESTWOOD COUNTRY CLUB OF ST. LOUIS
(Webster Groves).
Estd. 1907. Holes—18. Length—6,015 yds. Grass greens. Pres., Alexander Loeb; V. Pres., Morris Werthan; Sec., Theodore R. Samuels, Berry Road and Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, Mo.; Treas., Albert I. Stix; Chmn. Greens Com., Louis Rosen; Professional—Arthur Smith. Eleven miles from city, reached by two railways and two street car lines. Sunday playing is permitted. Visitors' charges—\$1.00 per day. Caddies available, 30c. per hour.

Top: Description from the American Annual Golf Guide and Year Book, 1921

Right: Post-Dispatch article from Jan. 4, 1920

WESTWOOD COUNTRY CLUB BUYS 100 ACRES

Property Owned by David Sommers, and Has Been Under Lease by Club.

The Westwood Country Club has purchased the ground occupied by it, consisting of 100 acres on the south side of Lockwood avenue, extending from Berry road westward to Sappington road.

The property was owned by David Sommers and held by the Westwood Country Club under a 25-year lease, 14 years of which had elapsed.

The transaction was promoted by J. I. Epstein. The club was prompted to make the purchase by the prospect of a big uplift in prices of land attractively situated in this part of St. Louis County.

WESTWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
GLENDALE, MO.

GROUND RULES.

Hole No. 1—After a ball has been driven across the Lake on Hole No. 2, if on approaching the Green, it rolls into the Lake, it must be played from the edge of the Green where the ball rolled off, having dropped in the hazard, with a penalty of one stroke. After driving a ball into the Lake, it must be dropped at point of entrance, and not tied up, under the penalty of losing the hole in match play or penalty of two strokes in medal play.

OUT OF BOUNDS.

Ball driven on street car right of way.

Ball driven on Tennis Courts.

Hole No. 1—Stable yard, Automobile stand.

Hole No. 2—A ball driven into or beyond the Automobile Road. Posts on this hole indicate out of bounds line.

Hole No. 4—Sappington Road.

Hole No. 11—Berry Road. Ball driven on Auto Road from Tee (only) may be lifted without penalty.

Hole No. 12—Missouri Pacific Railroad right of way.

Hole No. 13—Curlee property.

Hole No. 14—Curlee property and Sappington Road.

Hole No. 17—Curlee property.

Players Are Requested to Replace Divots.

RULES.

Rule 1. The spirit of SPORTSMANSHIP should prevail at all times.

Rule 4. On Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, Associate and Special members must start at Tee No. 1 and are not permitted to play golf between the hours of 1:00 p. m. and 1:15 p. m. on Saturdays and 9:00 a. m. and 1:00 p. m. on Sundays and holidays.

Rule 5. Associate, Special and Junior members must at all times permit Regular and Intermediate members to play through, except on Ladies Day. The status of a set of players is that of the player of lowest membership grade in the set.

A ball played from outside the limits of the teeing grounds, or played by a player when his opponent should have had the honor, may be at once recalled by the opposing side and may be re-tee'd without penalty.

Play Behind the Discs.—Replace the Tee. Level Footprints in Bunkers.

REPLACE TURF									
DATE _____									
HOLE	YDS.	PAR.					OUT	IN	SCORE
1	508	5					5	4	
2	351	4					5	6	
3	336	4					4	8	
4	198	3					4	18	
5	581	5					6	2	
6	298	4					4	10	
7	205	3					4	16	
8	294	4					4	14	
9	331	4					4	12	
OUT	3102	36					40	OUT	
10	331	4					4	9	
11	355	4					4	7	
12	579	5					6	1	
13	230	4					4	15	
14	192	3					4	11	
15	443	5					5	3	
16	103	3					3	17	
17	266	4					4	13	
18	407	4					5	5	
IN	2906	36					39	IN	
Total	6008	72					79	Total	
HANDICAPS									
NET									
SCORER									

Westwood Glendale SCORECARD

Westwood 1926 BY-LAWS

W

W

Westwood Country Club

OF SAINT LOUIS

Lockwood Avenue and Berry Road

Saint Louis County, Mo.

POST OFFICE: WEBSTER GROVES, MO.

1926

W

W

British Golf Stars, Who Are Guests of St. Louis



Left: St. Louis Star feature from September 20, 1922

Right: (L-R) Johnny Manion, Gene Sarazen, Dave Sutherland, & Johnny Farrell at Westwood 1927

Stars Who Played in Golf Exhibition



Throughout the 1920s, Westwood thrived, both in terms of financial success and notoriety. Westwood's members continued to bring some of the world's most prominent golfers to its sporting course. In September 1921, Jesse Guilford, the national amateur champion, teamed up with Francis Ouimet, U.S. Open champion and world-renowned golf ambassador, in a match with top St. Louis golfers Clarence Wolff and Dick Bockenamp. The St. Louis duo bested their celebrated opponents in front of 500 spectators. The match was arranged by Louis Rosen, who had hosted Guilford during a national tournament. Rosen, like David Sommers, was a key leader of Westwood and, in later years, would lead the effort of moving Westwood to its current location at Ballas and Conway Roads. In September 1922, one of the most accomplished foursomes to play golf in St. Louis descended upon the Westwood links, and the result was a new course record of 66 scored by Abe Mitchell, breaking Chick Evans record of 68. Mitchell, an English professional golfer with eight top-10 finishes in British Open play, was joined in his foursome by Walter

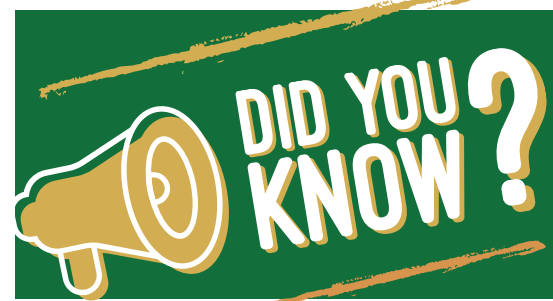
Hagan, the British Open champ, Joe Kirkwood, an Australian professional golfer with major tournament experience, and George Duncan, a Scottish professional golfer with 22 career wins including the British Open. When the four arrived in St. Louis the morning of the match they "were met at Union Station by a reception committee and immediately conveyed to Westwood."

By 1923, all aspects of the Westwood club were revered among the local country club community.

A thorough review reported in February 1923 in the St. Louis Star described why the club had become so treasured:

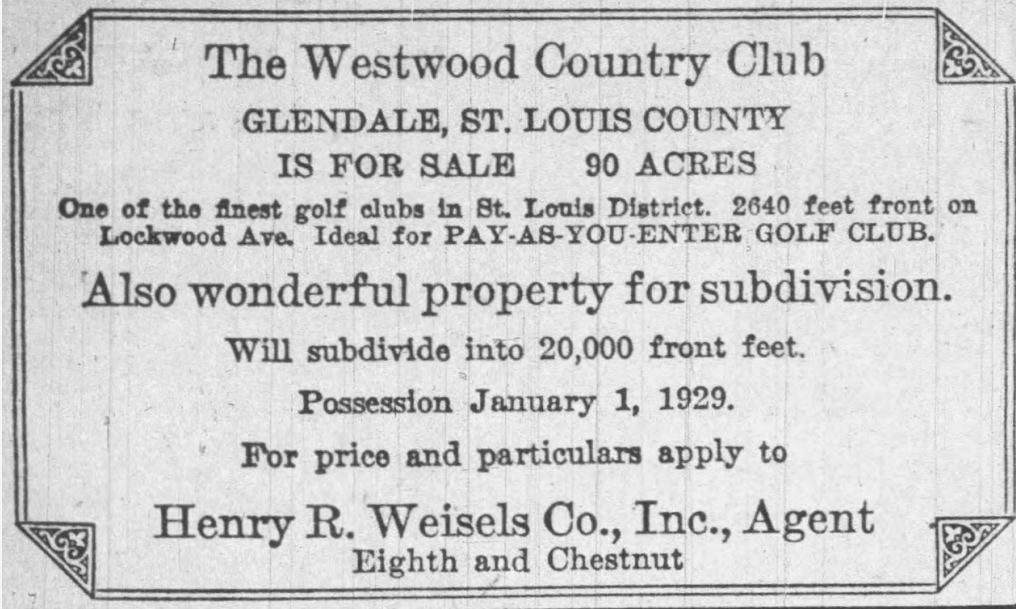
“Efficiency with a maximum of comfort prevails in the cleverly constructed clubhouse. Even the “rough” — and the incautious player will find plenty of hazards — looks as though it had been dry-cleaned just before you play. Westwood, through the care taken of course and home, has become one of the golf show places of the St. Louis section...If there is any country club in this section where a guest is made to feel thoroughly at home, it is Westwood. The attaches of the club take every opportunity to make a visit enjoyable. Once on the course, a true golfer could not do otherwise than revel in the problems of the game offered by the eighteen holes. Somehow, the impression prevails that the course must have been taken in the night before, carefully polished up and set out again just for your delectation.”

The pristine condition of the Westwood course was due to the efforts of John P. Westgreen, who joined Westwood as greenskeeper in 1912 and stayed through the eventual sale of the course to Westborough, ultimately retiring from Westborough in 1936. Westgreen had come from the Des Moines Golf & Country Club where he had been that club's first employee.



Over the next few years, Westwood continued to hold important local tournaments and host golfing legends. One of the most prominent examples was the match in November of 1927 where Gene Sarazen and Johnny Farrell defeated Westwood pro David Sutherland and local golf legend Johnny Manion, who would become Westborough's pro in 1943. However, during the 1920's, some of Westwood's membership began to question whether the existing location could service their long-term needs. The area was changing and becoming more populated, and clearly the property was landlocked.

In December 1926, Westwood decided to buy another location to be able to expand. In February 1927, they purchased 290 acres near Ballas and Olive, and in April 1927 listed its Glendale property for sale. In October 1927, a "syndicate" purchased an option on Westwood's Glendale property with the intention to "spend about \$100,000 on improvements" including a large swimming pool and tennis courts. The price was understood to be \$2,500/acre, or \$250,000 for the 100-acre site that included



Article from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat on April 3, 1927

the 18-hole golf course and clubhouse. It was also reported that the property "for some time has been considered ripe for subdivision by real estate dealers." Then in December 1927, the syndicate purchased the property for \$300,000. They were headed by local golf luminary Walter L. Pfeffer, an Algonquin member who was vice-president of the St. Louis District Golf Association, a member of the board of the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association, a member of the advisory board of the U.S. Golf Association, and had been recently

nominated to be a director of the Western Golf Association. The new name of the club was Westborough Country Club and its members would pay fees of \$30 per year and \$1 per day on weekdays (weekend fees were not yet determined). Pfeffer said that the Westborough structure was not unique, and "assert[ed] that there are nearly 50 golf courses operating in Chicago at present under this system."



Our "perfectly polished" fairways were originally mowed with true "horsepower." Horse hooves were clad in leather to avoid turf damage!

Before describing the emergence of Westborough in 1928, it is important to understand how the transaction unfolded and how Pfeffer's consortium came to be able to make this historic purchase, which, for Westborough members then and now, saved our Club. As would later be reported in November 1929 in *The Modern View*, which was "an illustrated English-language weekly

which chronicled the Reform, community and its members (including the charitable and educational establishments)," the Westborough syndicate was organized at the initiative of a group of well-known Jewish men whose efforts helped the new Westborough quickly prosper, with Westborough's membership ranks filling and profits exceeding expectations.

HELLO
MY NAME IS

Westborough

Why the name Westborough?

While it's still somewhat a mystery, according to a letter from Pfeffer's grandson, Walter L. Pfeffer II, the name was selected by Pfeffer's wife, Margaret.

These men helped build up that membership and helped finance the arrangement.

For their efforts we are grateful.

Now, on to February 1928...



Acknowledgements

We wish special thanks to these individuals and institutions who helped guide us in our research and provided wonderful images to help us tell our story and make it more enjoyable for you, our readers.

Suzanne Stewart Bolten, renowned City of Oakland (MO) historian, member of the Oakland Historic Preservation Commission, and author of *Oakland, A History of the People & Their Homes*. Her wonderful book is the single source of truth on Oakland history and, as such, to the history of our Club's property up to and through its use and acquisition by Westwood. Not only did she provide wonderful photos of the property and surrounding areas but she kindly proofread this installment to help ensure our historical accuracy. She is indeed a treasure.

Diane Everman, Archivist, St. Louis Jewish Community Archives and St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum. The work that Diane does to preserve and share the rich history of the Jewish community in our town is remarkable. The images she and the Archives/Museum provided from *The Modern View* truly enhanced this publication.

Westwood Country Club and its General Manager, **Andy Cullinane**. With great respect we, again, thank Westwood for its development and wonderful stewardship of what is now our Club's property and for sharing items from its archives for us to, in turn, share with you.

John Capers, III, Historian at Merion Golf Club. John was the inspiration and guiding hand behind the creation of our Club's Heritage Committee and generously gives countless hours of his valuable time to Clubs across the country as they embark on their archival journeys.

Stacy Schiff, USGA Librarian. Stacy and her colleagues at the USGA Archives enthusiastically helped us on short notice with copies of scorecards and bylaws from almost a century ago, which added important historical context to our story.



MIDSUMMER PHOTOGRAPHS OF COUNTRY CLUB HOUSES NEAR ST. LOUIS



VOLUME 2: COMING APRIL 28TH

BECOMING WESTBOROUGH

While it may not be today's high resolution photography, this wonderful 1922 collage from the *Globe-Democrat* gives us a rare look at St. Louis-area clubhouses from that time.

Have photos, memorabilia, or memories to share? We need your help in documenting Westborough's great history!
Email heritage@westboroughcc.com.

