

HISTORY

1924 - 1978



History Preface

by George Collier



HISTORY RICHMOND COUNTRY CLUB

PREFACE

The purpose of this prelude is to furnish a comprehensive background to the history of the land upon which the Richmond Country Club was founded. The club is located upon lots 226, 227 and 232 on the map of San Pablo and vicinity; Contra Costa County, California. The area was once known as Rancho San Pablo and the "land grant" property of Francisco Maria Castro.

Francisco Castro, age twenty five, came to California from the State of Sinaloa, Mexico shortly before 1800. In that year he became alcalde of San Francisco. He served thirteen years in the army and gained the rank of corporal before he retired. When he died in 1831, he left his widow, Gabriela Berryessa, seven sons and four daughters. One of his daughters, Martina, married Juan Bautista Alvarado, governor of California from 1836 to 1842.

Castro had taken possession of a large tract of land on the east shore of San Francisco Bay in 1814. The land was called "Las Cuchigunes" after the tribe of Indians who lived there. The Cuchigunes were part of the family of Penutian Indians known to the Spaniards as the "Costanos" (the people of the coast). A.L. Kroeber describes their territory as lying between the upper Suisun Bay to Point Sur and bounded on the east by the interior chain of the Coast Range. Though signs of these Indians have been found in the near vicinity of the Richmond Country Club, as yet there have been no reports of any remains found on the club property.

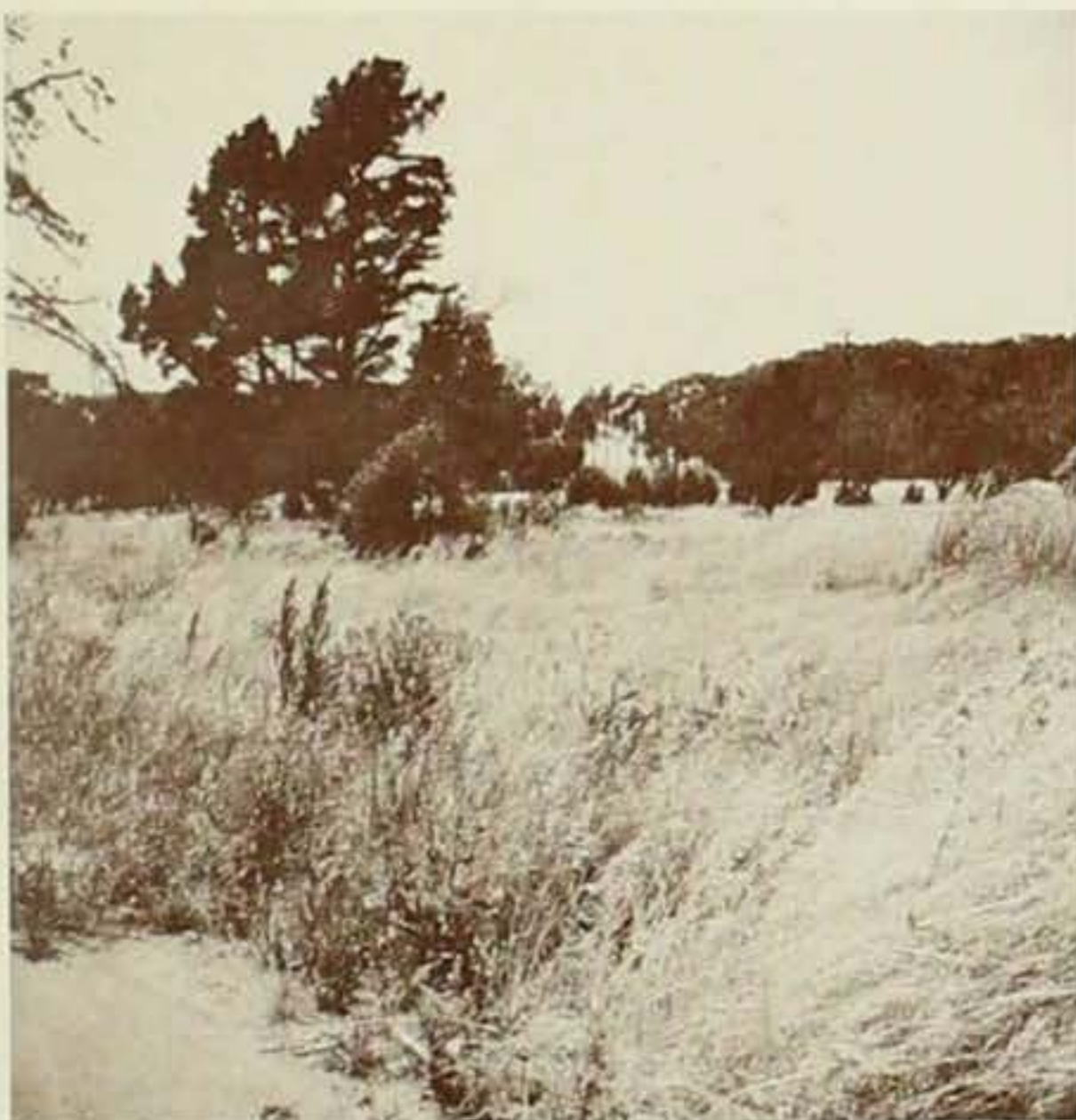
Francisco Castro built a home on the land with the help of the Indians. He planted fruit trees and a vineyard, built a mill and sowed wheat, corn, beans and melons, the standard fare of the Spanish frontier. They were said to have owned about six hundred head of cattle and five hundred horses. When Francisco asked Governor Pablo Vicente de Sola for title to the land in 1817, he learned that the padres at Mission San Francisco de Assis (Dolores) claimed it so he had to wait until the padres relinquished their claim.

Francisco renewed his request for title in 1823 by presenting a petition to Governor Antonio Luis Arguello for a tract of land extending to a little over 13,600 acres. He died before the title was issued and in June, 1834, his son Joaquin Isidro Castro renewed the petition and the title was issued by Governor Jose Figueroa. A year later, Joaquin asked the governor for additional land and the extent of the Rancho finally increased to about 17,900 acres.

The will left by Francisco divided the Rancho in such a way that his wife received an undivided one-half of the estate and the remainder was divided among his children in undivided shares. At the insistence of Gabriela, her son-in-law, Governor Juan Bautista Alvarado, drew up a plan for partitioning the Rancho in 1850. But, he had included Rancho El Sobrante which had been granted to Juan Jose and Victor Castro as their separate property. The two brothers objected to the inclusion of their property and the partition failed.

The war between Mexico and the United States was ended in 1848 by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo which ceded all of Alto California, along with other territories to the United States. The United States was immediately faced with the problem of settling the Mexican land claims throughout the territories acquired. The claimants of the land grants were required to present their claims to a Board of Land Commissioners who were to determine the validity of the claims. This opened a wide field of operations for lawyers, honest or otherwise.

Joaquin Isidro Castro, as executor of his father's estate, presented his claim to title in the name of the heirs of Francisco Maria Castro on October 9, 1852. The decree of confirmation was issued April 17, 1855. This decision was appealed to the U.S. District Court and the decision on appeal was issued February 24, 1858. A survey of the Rancho was ordered and the District Court issued the final decree of title August 17, 1864. The United States patent was not issued until January 31, 1873.



In the meantime, as early as December, 1851, the heirs of Francisco Castro began quarreling over the division of the Rancho. Martina Castro and Juan B. Alvarado, her husband, were accused of acts to defraud her brothers and sisters out of the major portion of the Rancho. Lawyers defending the several members of the family agreed to accept undivided interests in the Rancho in lieu of money for their fees. Other parts of the Rancho were sold to pay taxes and other debts. By 1854, the claimed ownerships were so many and so confused that Joseph Emeric, one of the claimants, brought suit in the District Court of the Fifteenth Judicial District in San Francisco entitled "Joseph Emeric vs Juan B. Alvarado, et al", in order to settle the claims and partition the Rancho. The "et als" numbered nearly two hundred and the suit was to run consecutively with the suit for confirmation of title and to continue for forty years with an ever changing cast of principals. The final decree of partition assigned deeds of title to one hundred and forty individuals and corporations. Among these were Safety Nitro Powder Company (lot 227 — 397.55 acres), George and William J. Schmidt (lot 229 — 52.53 acres), Michael Kearney (lot 321 — 56.08 acres) and Charles Mayne (lot 226 — 137.16 acres and lot 232 — 201.77 acres).

Safety Nitro Powder Company sold their lands to Giant Powder Company who acquired the other lots by 1925. Giant sold all of their lands to Atlas Powder Company June 26, 1934, and they, in turn, sold to Bethlehem Steel Corporation July 3, 1964. Bethlehem built a galvanizing and fabricating plant on about 900 acres by 1971 and was planning a full scale steel plant on the remainder of the property but competition from foreign markets forced them to change their plans. Bethlehem sold portions of lots 226, 227 and 232 (about 200 acres) to Richmond Golf and Country Club July 17, 1974.

This preface presents the history of the land now occupied by our Club. The stories in the following chapters will trace our Club's history from its beginning as the Carquinez Golf Club January 8, 1925, through the difficult growth and development years to our present proprietary Richmond Country Club.

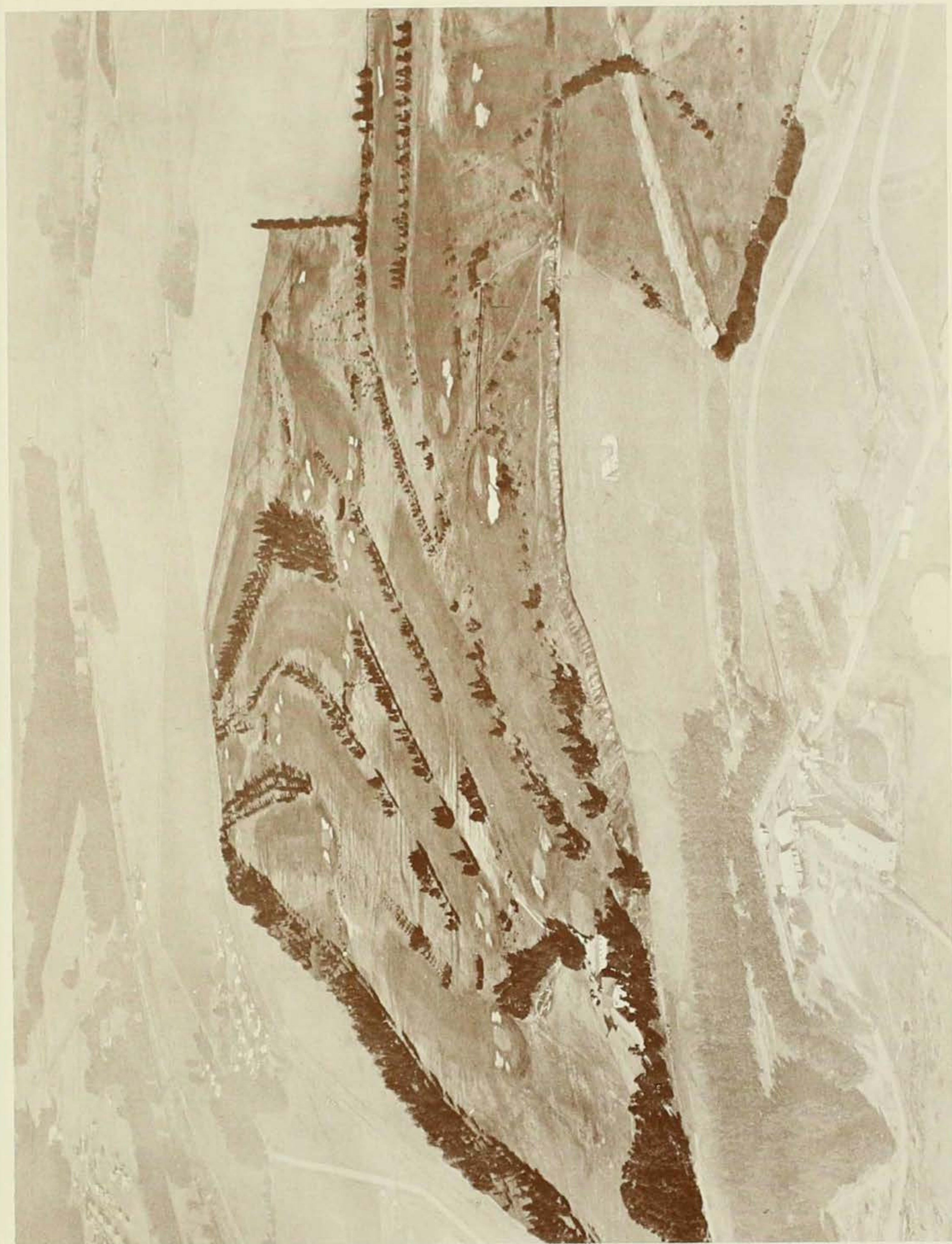
GEORGE C. COLLIER

Note: George C. Collier, who wrote this preface has spent about twenty years researching the history of Contra Costa County as it appears in the archives of the County, the State of California and such Federal documents as may be found in Bancroft Library and the Archives of the United States. He is a member of Contra Costa Historical Society, Moraga Historical Society, San Pablo Historical Society and El Cerrito Historical Society.

Chapter I
From The Beginning

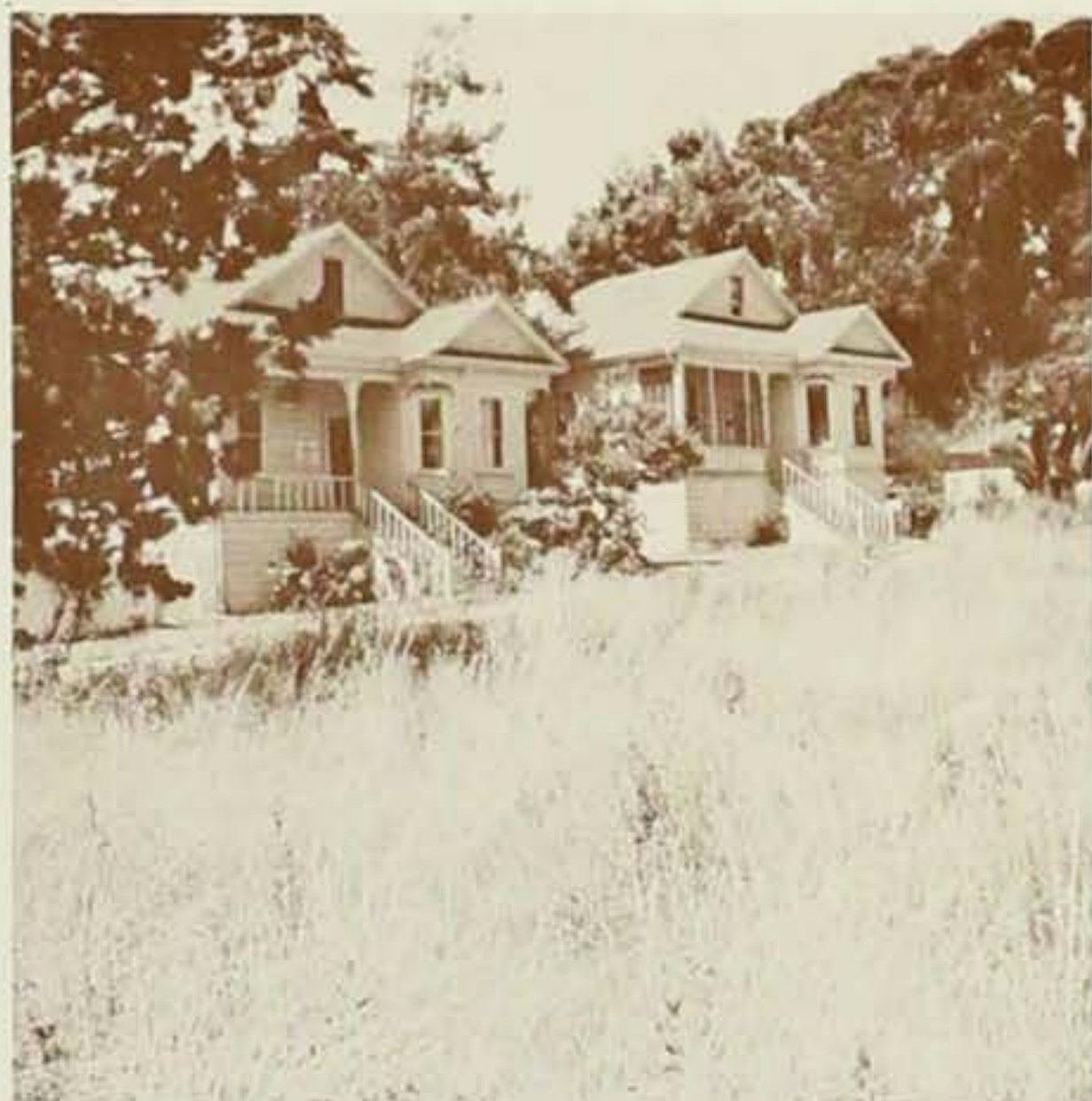
(1924 - 1930)

by Audrey Apple



FROM THE BEGINNING (1924 - 1930)

For the beginning of the story-book history of the Richmond Country Club, we must go back to October 15, 1924 when a group of prominent Richmond business and professional men happily watched the start of construction of the Carquinez Golf Club. These founders, all frustrated golfers, had decided Richmond needed an eighteen hole golf course and had proceeded to start one "under the direction of Joe Novak just north of Richmond near the Bay on the road to Giant". Giant was a little village with twenty or thirty homes. "If you want to see something that looks like what we had here, go up to Hercules 'little' town back of the Railway station."



"The little town"



"Original 'three can' course"

Perhaps Arthur Alstrom, Ernie Durand, Dr. U.S. Abbott, Al Hill, Dr. Blake, Frank Mero and others were tired of playing the rough, three-hole makeshift golf course located near the little village of Giant. If one looks across the fence north of number 12 green at Richmond today and beyond the railway tracks into the rough, rolling fields, the scene — with the addition of three "coffee cans" for cups on the smoothest areas visible — would be very close to the original 1924 "play" course our Club founders and village people used in those early days.

The founders had brains, energy and even some money. They also had plenty of land to work with (270 acres). Giant Powder Company was anxious to lease land for the course to establish a green safety belt around their dangerous plants. There was

only one thing lacking — water! Although the long rolling hills and beautiful Bay views made the site a perfect one for a golf club, “the resulting course was an odd looking course when the first divot diggers started dubbing their way around the hard, brown fairways.” “In the first place, you couldn’t dig divots, at least not in the summertime — because the course was devoid of water,” “The adobe got so hard it was like playing on pavement.” “And, in the second place — also because of lack of water — the course had rolled and oiled cottonseed hull greens.” Carquinez was definitely not a putter’s paradise; especially if one dropped a cigarette on the green as they could easily catch fire. Several old timers are still around to tell of losing a ball on the greens, when too wet. Among their many disadvantages, they could be raked to create an advantage and a strong wind would sometimes blow the cottonseed hulls away. Strange as it may seem, this type of putting surface was patented, and the club had to pay \$250 a year for the privilege of using them.

Old time members say that the fairways were not watered at all and “that when the ball washers had been filled, there was not a drop left for the fairways which were watered only when Nature took it into her head to rain and only then.” “In summer and fall a hefty drive would roll on and on forever — that is if it didn’t fall down a crack.”



“First” Pro shop and office



Original clubhouse with war time garden

A broad deep gully stretched across both the fourth and second fairways. Many unplayable lies resulted from this canyon. In the twenties the course would force an entirely different game from the one we play now but even under these trying circumstances plenty of eager golfers were around; the club numbered nearly three hundred by 1927. It was then that the first Carquinez clubhouse was built. “The Pro shop and office was a building less than 10’ wide and 20’ long.” It was a good beginning!

Even before Frank Mero, with an old fashioned willow twig indicator, started searching for a likely spot for a well — “to find water and transform the course into one with grass greens and watered fairways” — enthusiastic golfers made Carquinez Golf Club an active club. One of these eager, enthusiastic Carquinez Golf Club members, Tommy Herbert, is still “counted” at Richmond. Tommy is the granddaddy of club members having joined back in 1929 when he was the Fleet Sales Manager of Ford Motor Company and later a Ford dealer in Hayward. While in Hayward he used to fly a plane to the course, landing on number

nine. “When I joined in March 17, 1929 the front nine was on the other side. Number three was where number seven is today.” “Number 15 fairway today had the first grass planted on it. When our first Pro, Pep Elmstead, was here, the first fairway was the ninth; then after you played the seventh it was round the fence to play in the fields. Ed Sawyer changed all this.” “But, IT WAS A GOOD BEGINNING,” said Tommy as he, along with other interested old time members, helped reconstruct the history of Richmond Country Club in those formative years. “Yes, a real good beginning!”

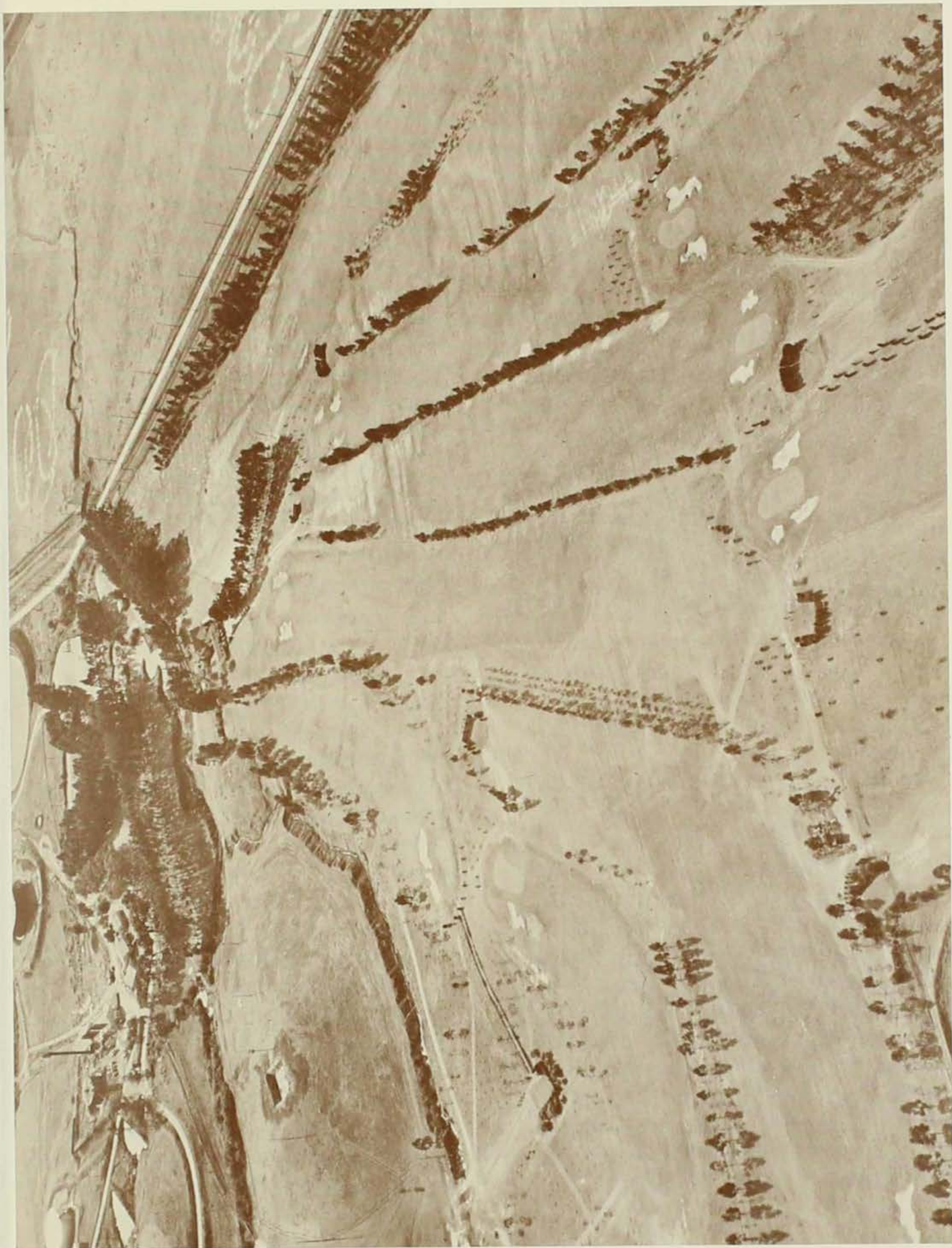


No. 9 used as landing field

Chapter II
The Terrific “Trying” Thirties

(1930 - 1940)

by Audrey Apple



THE TERRIFIC "TRYING" THIRTIES (1930 - 1940 History)

It took courage to tackle the building of a course in the early thirties but Richmond Golf Club always did possess men with foresight. Ed Sawyer was hired as Pro-Manager of the Carquinez Golf Club in 1931 and he and member, Frank Mero, were largely responsible for the construction of the course. When some members began agitating for a "watered" course, Frank Mero and his brother, Chet, began searching for water with willow twigs. Chet's willow twig started twisting and turning at a spot a half mile down Giant Road. Water was found there and the lot purchased.

In spite of the well, water remained a tremendous headache. Even though it produced a respectable amount of water, it was sometimes hard to get it onto the course where it was needed. Pumps failed, water lines broke, heavy summer winds made distribution of water a complicated problem.

Troubles mounted. No sooner was work on the course begun than the depression hit, leaving the club with a debt of over \$46,000 (the original cost of the new course). This seemed like all the money in the world.

But, in spite of machinery failure, the depression and low membership, by 1932 the course had grass greens with watered turf around them. Atlas Powder (who purchased the land in 1934) aided the club in every way possible: loaned equipment, manpower, and even went so far as to plant 5,000 eucalyptus trees to serve as windbreaks. When the Club was unable to pay the lease bill, Pop From, Manager of Atlas, wrote it off.



J. Ernest Durand, secretary-treasurer for many years, helps in tree planting program

In 1938 a planting program got under way, with groups appointed to work on each tee. Some of the trees and shrubs they put out still survive to this day.

Through the following lean years the debt climbed steadily to \$65,000. Interest on the club's debt kept mounting faster as income dropped.

Finally, even with the help of Atlas and the generosity of several of the prominent members of the club, the situation was a desperate one. Membership had dropped to 113, gross income to \$20,000 and complete collapse was expected at any moment. The manager, Ed Sawyer was handicapped and his attention had to be focused on the acres that could survive. Sufficient attention was given to save the greens and approaches, which were well designed.

More members would have been a great help in increasing income, but the condition of the course was certainly no inducement to join. Water shortages and lack of equipment meant that little could be done for the course other than keep the greens and approaches covered with living turf. "The paid up membership sank to a couple dozen and the debt burden appeared overwhelming". War clouds were gathering and a desperate Club Professional, Ed Sawyer, committed suicide; partly because the club's accumulated problems appeared so unsolvable and weighed so heavily on his unselfish shoulders. (He had spent \$35,000 of his own funds to promote the success of the Carquinez Golf Club.)

But the fact that the local handful of golf enthusiasts at Richmond didn't give up is a mark of their tenacity. "While a half a dozen bigger and swankier clubs around this area were folding because of the accumulated hardships brought on by the depression and war" — the Richmond group went into action instead.

Late in 1938, the vacant job of Pro-Manager was offered to Pat Markovich, then assistant professional at the San Francisco Golf Club. Pat took over and since that time, the club climbed slowly at first, then more and more rapidly, to a healthy, respected position as one of the "best" private clubs in the area.

The wise 23 Carquinez Club members who appointed Pat knew what they were doing when they hired this dynamic man. When Pat came to Carquinez Club he was getting \$375/month base pay at the San Francisco Golf course, the highest paid assistant. He had done the buying, teaching, worked as golf course Superintendent at the San Francisco course. "Carquinez" had hired a well trained Manager.



Pat opens first shop

One of his first steps was to change the name from "Carquinez Golf Club" to "Richmond Golf Club", as part of a program to focus attention on the actual location of the course and to attract golfers from the adjoining Bay Area towns. Immediate success followed his program; the Richmond City Tournament which had a first year entry of 38 in 1938, found more than 300 trying to qualify in 1941.



Ken Venturi, a "regular" at Richmond City Open

And so, with the war clouds hanging overhead, the stage was set with Pat Markovich as Pro-Manager facing what looked like top-heavy odds; a nearly bankrupt club with a debt of \$65,000; a very small membership of 113; water still a problem; the course was not all that could be desired — more attention was needed on fairways and greens. Markovich, with characteristic initiative and self application, concentrated his first efforts on doing a good job at Richmond. Today, all agree he did more than that!

And so on to the "FABULOUS FORTIES".



1939 Clubhouse and Pro shop



Clubhouse with men's locker room addition



Bay view from ninth green — 1939



Chapter III

Memories of Those Early Days

**"Quotes" from
taped interviews
By Audrey Apple**



"MEMORIES" OF THOSE EARLY DAYS

It's sad that time and space permit recording only a few memories of a very small number of members who have participated in the history of Richmond Country Club. Perhaps these stories exchanged at a recent luncheon party at the Club for some "old time" members will jog a reader's recall of other tales that help to illustrate our colorful past. Perhaps nostalgia with pride will return to Richmond. Perhaps these stories will furnish new members with a better understanding of the efforts made over the years that have made the success and constant growth of Richmond possible.

And so to their "memories". . .

"I'll go way back! When we came out here in 1926 Giant Powder Company owned all this property. Because of explosions they didn't do anything with this "buffer" land. They were the ones who built the original building. In those days we had oiled cotton-seed greens, no grass — just big clumps we sometimes teed our balls on — The ground was so hard and the wind blew a gale. But, we all came out and 'dubbed' around. We had such good times! After everyone played an 18 hole game, we had two ball four-somes, then go out to dinner together." "I remember buying a share of stock for \$25.00; family dues were \$5.00 a month." "A group of us would play the 19th for a little while, then each would take a putter or an iron and play the whiskey route — #1 to #6 — then through #9 — or, sometimes we'd each take a certain club and go on a "Rabbit Hunt". We would walk down the fairway together and when your turn came you might even use a brassie putting."

VI BATES PETERSON (JONES)



Remember the early days

"I can tell lots of good stories about those early days. I became a member in 1932 but played before that." "There used to be a person by the name of Polly in the kitchen — the one who made those wonderful pies — and mint juleps —." "In those days, it was during prohibition, we didn't have any liquor. Frank Gordon and I would buy a five gallon tin of alcohol. Frank would take it to Standard Oil, distill it and make 9 gallons. Then we would go to Elmer Conn's and buy Bourbon and Gin flavors — and then make "bourbon" and "gin". Polly would come into the men's locker room (we did all our drinking in the locker room) and serve us a 'set-up'."

JOE LAVEZZI

"You're right! And, the women would go in the men's locker room and boy, was it fun!"

IRENE GAILLARD (MARCOS)

"Do you remember who was always in there? I was about 30 then and I thought she was ancient — a Mrs. Blake — oh, yes, Barbara Blake." "She used to go in the men's locker room to play the slot machines and some poor unsuspecting man would come out of the shower and here she'd be and she'd say, 'Oh, don't pay any attention to me,' as she continued pulling the levers on the machines."

IRMA BEAMAN

"Another person who used to spend many hours at the slot machine was Miriam Grimm's father, Ira Quigley — None of us ever won! — They had them all fixed. But, that's where some of the money came from to build the bigger clubhouse and improve the course."

IRENE GAILLARD (MARCOS)

"I started the *first* Women's Association in 1932 with a meeting of 12 women at my home. We could only play on week-ends as most of us worked during the week. Irene Gaillard was a mere youngster of 18. Irene had her first game with me when she joined the Club in 1929. We both remember the cottonseed greens and bare fairways."

VI BATES (JONES)

"I will always cherish the memory of dear friends and the many, many 'good times' during the thirty-eight years Al and I were members of the Richmond Country Club. I remember — having a coffee royal while waiting for breakfast to be served — After the golf game enjoying a mint julep which had been made the night before and frosted to perfection. — Playing the slot machines and the golf ball machine — Topping a golf ball and watching it roll 150 and 200 yards down the fairway and feeling real lucky if the golf ball didn't disappear down a crack on the bare fairways." — "But, ah! Those were the days."

LYNETTE GARNJOST

"We even made some money with a tournament between Al Furrer and myself. We sold tickets for \$1.00 each and the club members who bought the tickets went around with us. Al said to me, 'Vi, please, please let me win because the men said if I lose, I'll have to go in the ladies' room and take a shower!'" "No matter what I did I couldn't do wrong."

VI BATES (JONES)

"Don't you remember 'Carquinez Arbor Day', the beautification program sponsored by the Ladies' Association?" "It captured the interest of the entire membership in 1938, and later was continued." "Tees were assigned to various ladies of the club and a committee of three men appointed to assist on each tee." "Irene Gaillard had No. 9; Vi Bates, the first tee; Joe Lavezzi worked for Irma Beaman on No. 16." "Financing the program was fun, for parties and special tournaments were held." "One party — to buy fertilizer — netted \$127.00."

JOE LAVEZZI
IRMA BEAMAN
DOROTHY UNTHANK

"That story reminds me of one. When we came here we had the small, little building; the women had a tiny, little locker room, seemed about 5 by 7, in the back of the kitchen. We had to come up the front steps and walk all the way through to get into 'our' little room. They did have one shower in there. We finally got so tired of that long walk to the first tee that we had 'one' of those 'special' parties, raised \$65.00, hired a carpenter to cut a door and build steps so the women could go right down to the first tee."

IRMA BEAMAN



Women's Association "\$60 steps" to "First" tee

"Ed Sawyer, our pro, used to watch everyone as they teed off and would always come out to correct my mistakes. I got more free lessons that way."

IRMA BEAMAN

"Ed was a wonderful, happy, good-natured man — always wanted to help everyone with their golf game, but he had problems — one day — it was a terrible tragedy — he was ill and worried and went up on the hill and shot himself."

IRMA BEAMAN

"Ed Sawyer, and Frank Mero perhaps — were more responsible than anyone in building the new course about 1931 — putting in grass greens and green fairways — about 1934 — Ed gave \$35,000 of his own money to develop the course and club. He was the Professional here between six and eight years. (Pep Elmstead was the first Pro but he was here for only a short time.)"

JOE LAVEZZI

"During the depression years one of the biggest problems was nonpayment of dues. Doc Jones owed six months dues; the Board wrote him a 'nice' letter saying, 'We are going to delete you if you don't pay your dues.'" "Doc Jones wrote a 'nice' letter back saying, 'When my patients start paying me, I'll start paying dues.'"

TOMMY HERBERT

"When Ed Sawyer passed away the Club advertised for a Pro and received 32 applications with names like Sam Snead, Ben Hogan, Demerit on the list." "They picked Pat Markovich who was then an assistant Pro at San Francisco Club." "You never heard so many people down 'the character' because they had all those name pros; they wanted to pick one of them. But, they got Pat for \$125 a month in 1939 and HE TURNED OUT MARVELOUS!" "If it hadn't been for Pat we wouldn't have a Richmond Country Club today." "We would *never* have built the swimming pool, developed the course, built the clubhouse and pro shop, held the "OPEN" Tournaments that brought Richmond fame, etc., etc." "If he were still here, we'd have the tennis courts and the second 'Golden Gate Park' he dreamt about." "Pat Markovich has got a sixth sense about promotion of a Club."

IRENE GAILLARD (MARCOS)
TOMMY HERBERT
LYNETTE GARNJUST
DOROTHY UNTHANK

"During the war, with gas rationing there were very few members — about 39. I never had so much fun in my life. They stationed the army over here by the Standard Oil tanks. The 'boy soldiers' would come in for their only rest and rehabilitation. The members and staff had a great time entertaining them. We all learned the 'Jersey Bounce', a song that was popular at that time. Shipyard workers were barracked in the clubhouse. Bunkers covered our present driving range; there was a big reservoir on top of the hill and detectors were put down inside of this."

IRENE GAILLARD (MARCOS)

"I remember the two 'young' boys playing in the finals of the Richmond City Championship Tournament who after playing 18 holes came into the clubhouse for a snack and were told, 'Pearl Harbor has been bombed'. It was December 7, 1941. Everyone was just stunned." "Those two boys had to go out and play another 18 holes. No one was interested in that game."

IRMA BEAMAN

"Pat Markovich, the Professional at Richmond from 1939 to 1962, did more for Richmond Golf Club than all the rest."

TOMMY HERBERT

"If it hadn't been for Pat, there wouldn't be a golf course today."

LYNETTE GARNJOST



Al Furrer selling winning golf ball to Eileen McDonough for \$100,000 worth of Bonds

"Always the operator, Pat Markovich saw a Nursery ad in the paper advertising 100 cedar trees on sale for \$110. He asked a member to buy them and keep them for transplanting. After they reached 27 inches I drove around the course putting the cans where Pat wanted the trees to go; he got gardeners from Atlas Powder Company to dig the holes and plant those trees."

IRMA BEAMAN

"Pat was also responsible for getting rolls of turf from the World's Fair; for the building of our green tees, greens and fairways" (but that's a story for another chapter); "for organizing war help — entertaining the soldiers; holding bond rallies" — "many remember Al Furrer raffling a golf ball to Pat McDonough's daughter for \$100,000." "We sold \$138,000 Bonds that year." "Richmond Country Club was made famous all over the country."

TOMMY HERBERT

And so the memories roll on and on — just like "Ed Fanning's 'Hole-In-One' on number seven on a day in the '40's when he muffed his shot; threw the golf club further than he hit the ball — yet the ball rolled on and on into the hole". — let's roll on; there remains much to tell of the history of Richmond Country Club.

Chapter IV
Fabulous Forties

(1940 - 1950)

by Audrey Apple



FABULOUS FORTIES

(1940 - 1950)

"Fabulous" is the adjective that could apply to many of the happenings during the forties and also to the man named Pro-Manager in 1939, Pat Markovich. Members of the Richmond Golf Club were to be forever grateful for Pat's know-how and initiative in directing the Club through troubled financial times, keeping a golf club alive during the hard war years, putting Richmond on the map by bringing four PGA Opens to Richmond, developing the course and building a new clubhouse.

Too much credit cannot be given to Pat Markovich who took the helm of a sinking ship while clouds of war and bankruptcy hovered over Richmond and brought it safely to shore.

In 1941 Richmond Golf Club's finances hit their lowest point and the Directors were entertaining the idea of filing bankruptcy. An executive of a San Francisco Bank was appointed to head a committee to try to find a solution. No results. Later a C.P.A. representing a large chain of department stores formed a new study group; they also confessed failure. Pat asked for thirty days to work out an alternative solution to bankruptcy and presented his plan to the Board. They admitted it had merit but were unwilling to subscribe the money necessary. Pat's second try for support was more successful and he was able to get nine persons to put up \$1,000 each; he himself did the same. Then all the club's creditors were approached with an offer to settle the debts 10 cents on the dollar, as opposed to the almost 100% loss they would have had if RGC was forced into bankruptcy. Each accepted. The balance of the money was used for much needed improvements in the clubhouse and locker room.

The financial problems were then shifted to the ten men who guaranteed the payments of the lease and the operation of the club. This group, known as "The Sponsors", included: Frank Mero, Dr. L.H. Fraser, Jack Rafter, Dr. J.M. Boomer, Bill Willett, Joe Lavezzi, Al Furrer, Peter Adams, Tommy Herbert and Pat Markovich. Had their plan not been put into effect Richmond Golf Club would have closed before the war. These ten men are named to Richmond's "Special Honor Roll".

When the war created handicaps, Pat was forced to take over three more shares so during that trying time he and six other members carried the whole load of the golf club.

Another example of Pat Markovich's initiative would be the unique way he helped to improve the condition of the course at low cost. In 1940 when the World's Fair closed Pat was able to buy thousands of feet of sod at 10 cents a foot, with no limit on depth of cut. All our present tees, sections around most of the greens and large areas of our best fairways were once part of Treasure Island. Other lucky, alert buys were the sod from an old "Driving Range" located on San Pablo Avenue in Albany, and most of the sod from lawns of houses where Richmond Civic Center now stands. It is a safe bet that 50% of our grass was hauled in.

Restrictions during the war on food and gasoline soon reduced the membership to 37 diehards. *The Sponsors* were again called upon to help pay the operating costs.

During this time the locker room was converted into a dormitory for industrial war workers. This brought in a little income to help the Club through a trying period. Other income came from an army camp adjoining the grounds. A camp housing close to fifty skilled servicemen was located along the southern end of the present driving range. The range was tunneled and fortified. During the course of the war we had five different units of boys. In every case the clubhouse was their second home and the golf course their playing ground. Everyone became very well acquainted and many sad moments were experienced when orders to ship out were received. Richmond had five groups and five farewell parties. Through the mail, members were able to keep in contact with "our" boys. Entertaining the soldier boys, selling war bonds was part of the war effort and part of the history of Richmond Golf Club.

During this decade many changes were made to make the game more pleasant and the course easier to maintain. During the war, the original nines were reversed so the clubhouse attendant could also collect green fees. In 1948 the 18th hole was lengthened by 125 yards and water fountains using EBMUD's water were placed in five locations. A new second green was built, to eliminate the blind second shot which formerly confronted golfers. In 1947 the Board approved a budget of \$20,000 to improve watering. New transit pipe from pump to course, a new well and a new pump ate up this fund. The following year, traveling sprinklers at a cost of \$3,300 helped greatly.



Recent members seldom realize that a broad deep gulley stretched across both the second and fourth fairways. This natural hazard has only been filled in recent years, with a sixteen inch drain pipe to carry the runoff. Old timers remember the many unplayable lies that used to result from this canyon.

The biggest factor in putting Richmond Golf Club on the Bay Area's and the Nation's golf map has been THE TOURNAMENTS staged here. Richmond was almost unknown even in the Bay Area when the first amateur tournament, the RICHMOND CITY, was started in 1938. Changing the name from Carquinez Golf Club brought us many miles nearer to San Francisco and Oakland in people's minds and the succeeding years saw the entry rise from 72 players in 1938 to 300. Pat Markovich's wide acquaintance and the cooperation of the golfing writers drew most of the top-notch golfers to the Richmond City Tournament. By 1946 the field had to be cut and in 1947 limited to medal play. Only players with handicaps of 3 or under were allowed to play in 1955.



Aldo Galleti (left), two time winner Richmond City tournament, congratulates new winner

But, popular as the Richmond City became, Richmond Golf Club had to stage PGA OPEN TOURNAMENTS before any national publicity came our way. Once again it was Pat Markovich's constant attention to all matters which made possible the really phenomenal development and improvement at Richmond Golf Club that was also responsible for bringing a tournament of the importance of the PGA Open to our club.

RICHMOND PGA OPENS, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948

It was the custom for PGA Winter Circuit to start with the Open in Florida in November and then to barnstorm across the country to the Coast. After years of dickering, the tournament officials were persuaded to start on the Coast in 1945. Portland was the starting place with a \$14,000 Bond Prize Open which was won by Sammy Snead. The next dates announced were for San Francisco December 1-4 and Oakland December 7-10. The next two weekends on the schedule were open. The day the announcement was made, Pat sent a wire to Bureau Manager Fred Corcoran requesting the December 14-17 date for Richmond. Though this date wasn't too promising following the Oakland-San Francisco events, the Club decided the national publicity would offset any risk. Time was so short that there was no opportunity to ask for help from the entire membership.

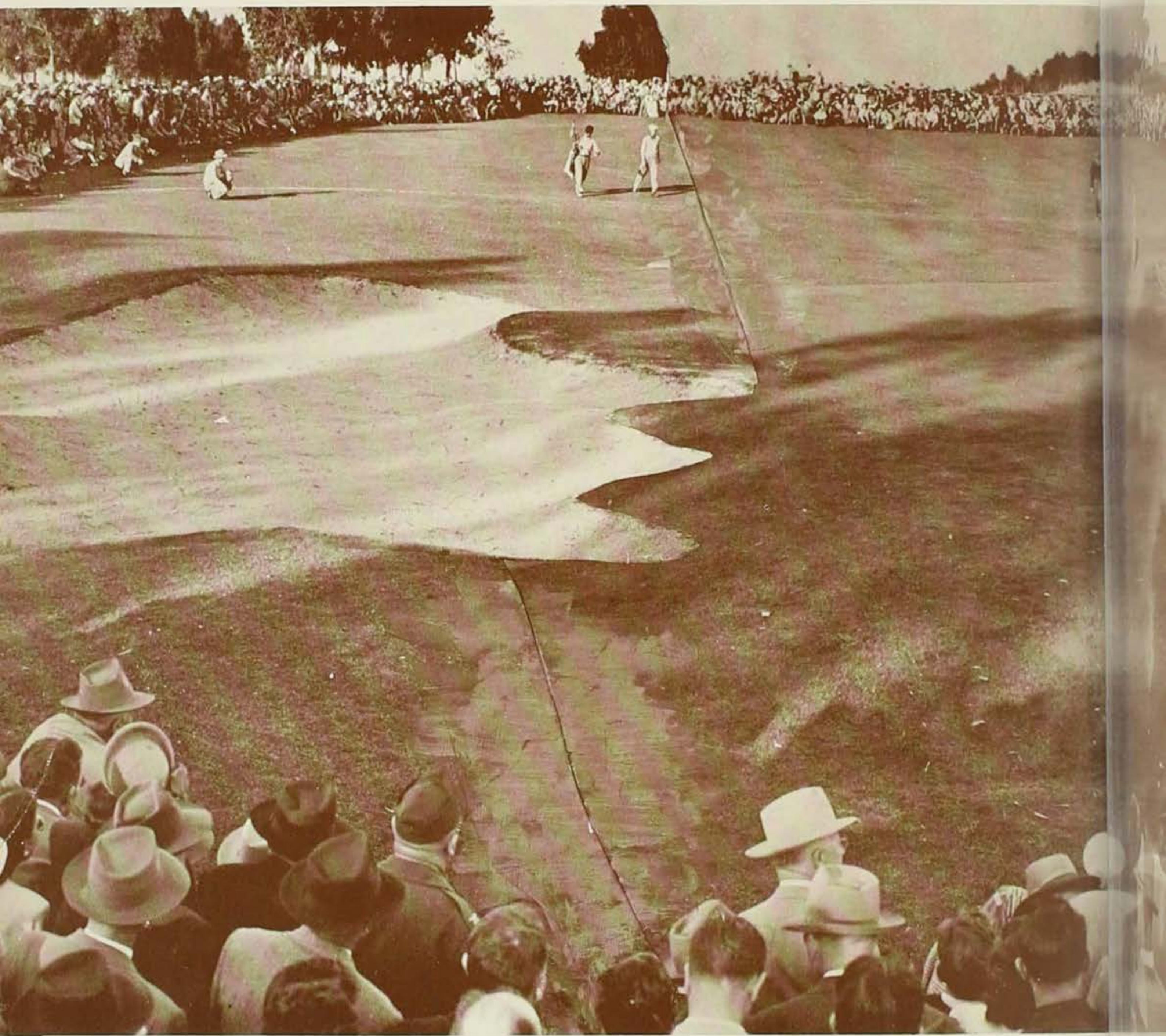
Our Club Sponsors quickly subscribed \$3200. A few other members stepped in with the balance and eleven days from the start thirty sponsors had guaranteed \$6750 and the first RGC Open was cinched. The PGA Open is an event of national importance and the publicity that came from the well-managed tournaments brought permanent recognition to the Richmond Golf Club.

All the top-notch pros in the game, Sam Snead, Bob Hamilton, PGA champion; Ed Dudley, President of the PGA; Byron Nelson, Harold McSpaden, Craig Wood and a host of others were on hand to try their skill over the RGC course.

Four PGA Opens have focused golfing interest on Richmond. Many still remember Snead's win in 1945, with the winning ball auctioned to the person purchasing the largest amount of war bonds. A sum of \$100,000 was bid by Pat McDonough. The total sold exceeded \$150,000. War bonds were also the awards for the event.

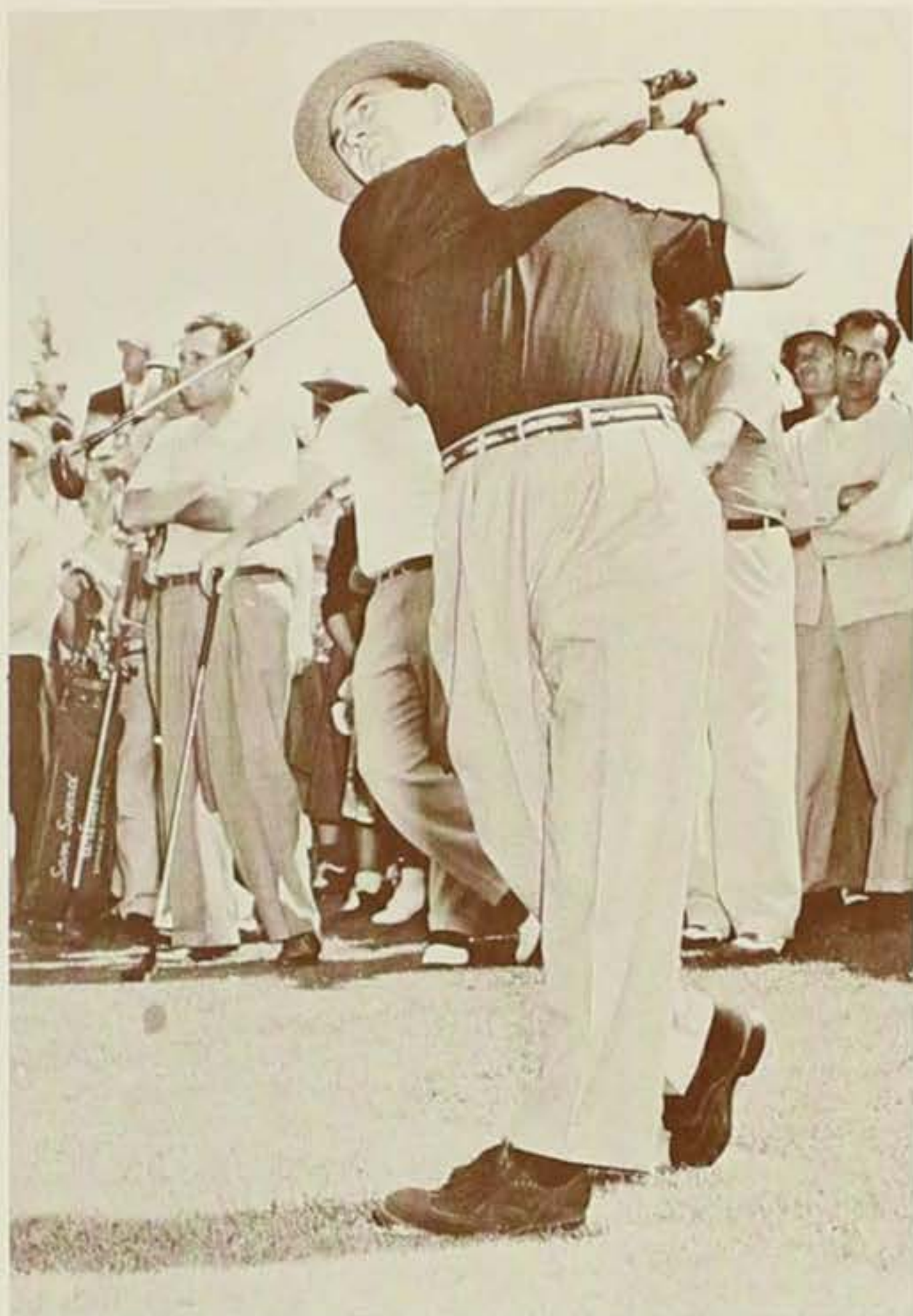


PGA OPEN scene





3RD RICHMOND OPEN
GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP
January 1948



Sam Snead — 1st "OPEN" winner

Sam Snead proved to be a very popular winner in 1945.

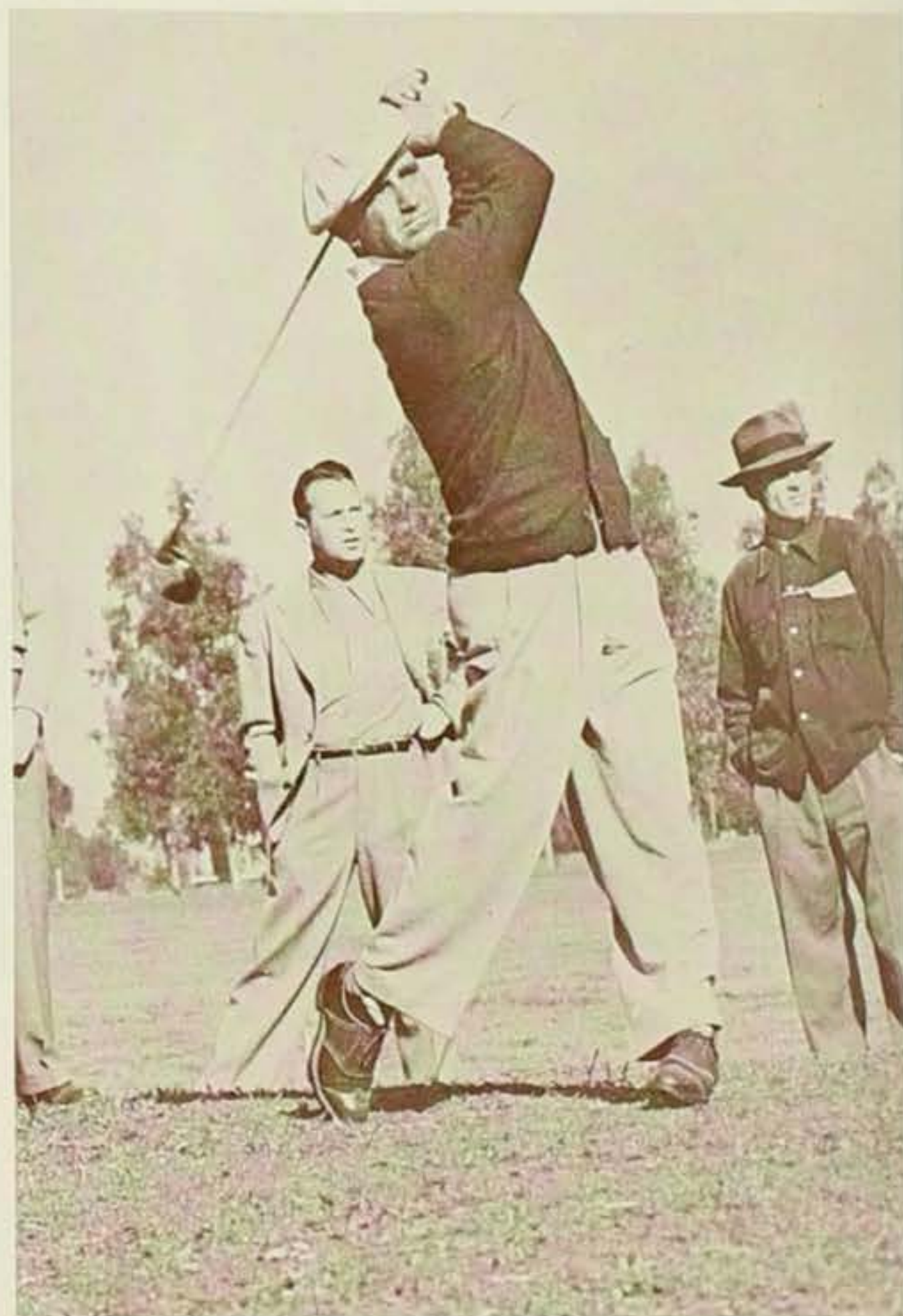
Scores:

Sam Snead	283
Harold McSpaden	284
Byron Nelson	284
Sam Byrd	285
Ray Mangrum	287
John Revolta	287
Jim Ferrier	288

The enthusiasm shown by the Richmond business and professional people encouraged scheduling another Open at Richmond to follow the San Francisco Open. Oakland, in the meantime, decided that after nine years of losing money, they had had enough.

Our second event drew a field so large that a pre-qualifying round was necessary. Galleries were also increased and excitement was at a high pitch. The winner Tony Penna, wasn't decided until the last hole. The cash awards and prizes increased from the previous year. The excitement did not center around the winner as much as the three men who were in second position. Results:

Tony Penna	69-65-73-73 — 280
Sam Byrd	70-72-73-66 — 281
Ben Hogan	73-70-70-68 — 281
Mark Fry	74-67-70-70 — 281
Charles Congdon	72-72-72-68 — 282
Jimmy Hines	69-69-71-74 — 283
E.J. Harrison	71-68-73-72 — 284
Sam Snead	73-74-73-69 — 284



Tony Penna — 2nd OPEN winner



PGA OPEN puts 'Richmond on the Map'



Even HOPE had to "get in on the act" at Richmond

National Clipping Service was again contacted and again we can refer to our scrapbook, to judge the prestige that Richmond Golf Club was enjoying throughout the nation and world. Letters from members in the service were being received from Japan, Australia, Greenland, Alaska and the European countries. Richmond Chamber of Commerce on sponsoring the event showed a profit of \$125.



George Schoux, winner 3rd PGA OPEN receives check from Pat Markovich

The THIRD RICHMOND PGA OPEN in 1947 offered \$10,000 prize money. This was considered the going purse and the boys thought twice before passing up the event. Now, we were the only Open in the Bay Area. San Francisco had found that thirteen straight years with nothing but a loss was just too much. Richmond lost the first year, but managed to be in the black the second. This year the gallery was large and we had a profit close to \$5,000. The system of promoting, through sponsorship, proved very successful.

Scores:

George Schoux	66-66-65-71 — 268
Jim DeMaret	67-66-69-67 — 269
Chick Harbert	69-66-70-69 — 270
Ben Hogan	66-67-68-70 — 270
Lloyd Mangrum	64-67-70-70 — 270
Jim Ferrier	69-69-68-67 — 273
Ed Furgol	67-71-69-67 — 274
Ted Kroll	67-69-70-70 — 276

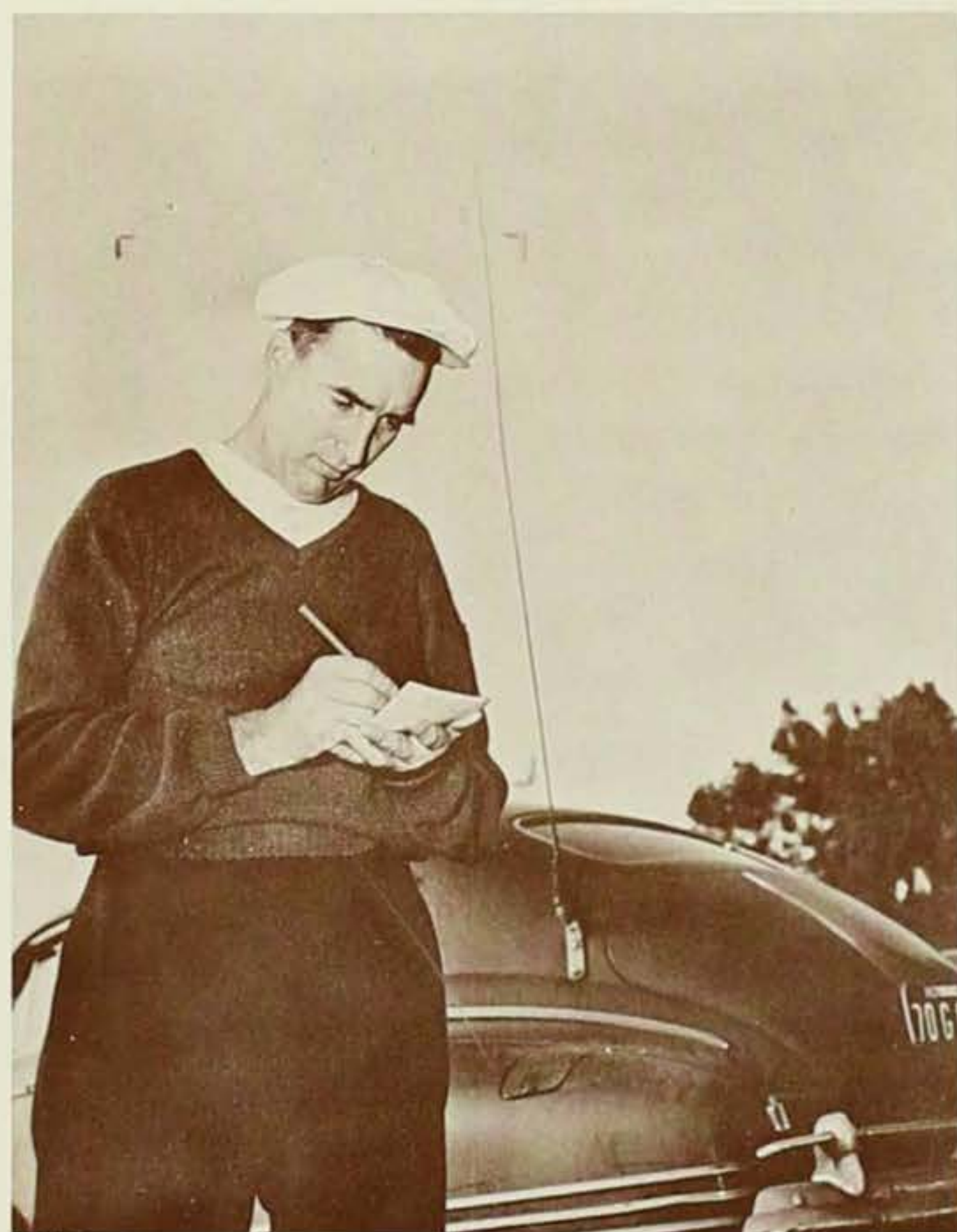
THE FOURTH OPEN was the largest. The special attraction was the golf clinic put on by the Professionals. Prize money was \$11,500 and the gallery set all records for Northern California. Profit exceeded \$5,000 the money being placed in a "special golf fund" with the Chamber of Commerce and dedicated for the promotion of tournaments or golf in general.

Scores:

E.J. Harrison	273
Jim DeMaret	275
Ed Fargol	277
C. Harper	278
Doug Ford	279
Sammy Snead	279
Bobby Locke	279
George Schoux	280
Lloyd Mangrum	281
C. Middlecroft	283



"Open" Car Jam



E.J. Harrison, winner 4th PGA OPEN
Dutch's Birdie gave him the title



Clubhouse continues to improve

Naturally all this publicity, coupled with the end of the war, made our list of members soon grow; with yearly income mounting every year. In late 1949 the clubhouse was enlarged and revamped at a cost of \$110,000 — giving us a new ladies' locker room, the Terrace Room, a completely remodeled and modern kitchen, an equipment shop, new pro shop. These many improvements were largely out of current income despite the severe blow dealt all clubs with the outlawing of slot machines.

And so, 369 golfing members at Richmond faced the Fifties and what looked like a rosy future.

Chapter V
Fair Sex on the Fairways

by Irene Marcos



FAIR SEX ON THE FAIRWAYS (Women's Association History)

In 1932 a small group of women met at Viola Peterson's home, drew up Bylaws and the first Women's Association at Richmond began. Most of the ladies were school teachers who couldn't play during the week so all major tournaments were played on week-ends. Even then, as now, Carquinez Club's enthusiastic fair sex were responsible for much of the success of the developing golf club — supporting and directing tournaments, "still remembered social events", fund raising affairs, work parties to plant shrubs and trees to beautify the Richmond course.

Then came the bombing of Pearl Harbor and World War II, gas and food rationing, women taking war jobs. Membership at Richmond dwindled to an all time low of 39 and the Women's Association as such was discontinued from 1942 to 1947. A committee of three, Elizabeth Bosen, Jean Philbrick and Irma Beaman, were appointed to handle women's games.

After World War II energetic Pro Pat Markovich persuaded capable Irene Gaillard Marcos to organize the second Ladies' Association. Seven women who in the early 1940's made Carquinez Club the strongest organization in the Bay Area were elected to office. Bylaws were revised at a fancy installation party at President Irene Gaillard's home and plans made that resulted in 25 new members almost overnight. Mrs. Delia Roeder, Vice President; Mrs. Irma Beaman, Tournament Captain and Mrs. Eleanor Osborn, Entertainment Chairman helped set the groundwork for the healthy active Women's Association of 175 members today.

Part of this history can be related in Irene's own quotes — "As we were low in funds, in May 1948, we had a card party to raise money" — "In March 1949 Pat Markovich arranged for me and Mrs. Clifford Anglim to go on "Women's Magazine of the Air", a weekly radio show." "Our purpose was to interest women in playing golf — to enable them to better discuss their husbands' 'great' and 'shank' shots more sympathetically." "Our Ladies' membership grew; we started two ball foursome mixed tournaments. What fun we had! Remember, we were a very close, happy family and worked together to improve our club." "When the PGA tournaments, 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948 and the Ladies' Professional Opens in 1951 and 1955 were held at Richmond, we were very busy members." "I witnessed Patty Berg's sensational record score of 64 from the 1st to the 18th. She was phenomenal, and Babe Zaharias was something special." — "Pat Markovich was also responsible for our Women's Association joining the Northern California Women's Golf Association. We were not considered a private club but Pat finally convinced them that we were semi-private and eligible."

In 1978 there are 175 members of the RCCWA enjoying their weekly Tuesday sweeps on "Ladies' Day" and also actively supporting NCGA — attending open days at Northern private clubs; participating in major NCGA tournaments and Interclub team play with both East Bay and North Bay Clubs. One of our members, Lu Wolff, was elected a Director of Northern.

Richmond has always been able to boast of women players with low handicaps. Several have bid for National honors in western women's open Golf Tournaments and have participated in National Amateur Golf Championships. Among them are Carol Bowman and former members Dorothy Stamp and Barbara Williams.



Dorothy Stamp and Carol Bowman at National Women's Amateur at St. Paul Minnesota



Winners in mixed team tournament compare trophies. Elsie, Phil Goettel; Louise and Art Pangrazio (runner-up); Lucille Wardell, Ray Kasson, Rose and Condi Ojeda (winners)



Pausing for refreshments on new Patio

Besides participating in outside tournaments, Richmond women enjoy participation in an excellent Club tournament schedule which includes: Special tournament dates such as Championship 72 Hole Medal; President's Cup 54 Hole Medal; Team Championship Match Play; Six Card Eclectic; Two Day Women's Invitational; a 36 Hole Mixed Team Championship; two Mixed Invitationals and Dinner Dances and approximately 10 T and S Mixed Sunday tournaments. As Irene Gaillard Marcos (founder of our present organization) says, "We at RCC should be very proud — we have one of the "BEST" Ladies' groups in the Bay Area, and it's getting better all the time."



Committee for Fourth Annual Invitational Golf



1978 Women's Captain, Ollie Clovich, planning "week-enders" tournaments



LINDA BOWMAN — following in Mother's footsteps with a 5 handicap has already won many amateur competitions and is recognized as one of the top women golfers in California.

IN THE WINNERS CIRCLE

"CHARMERS" ALL

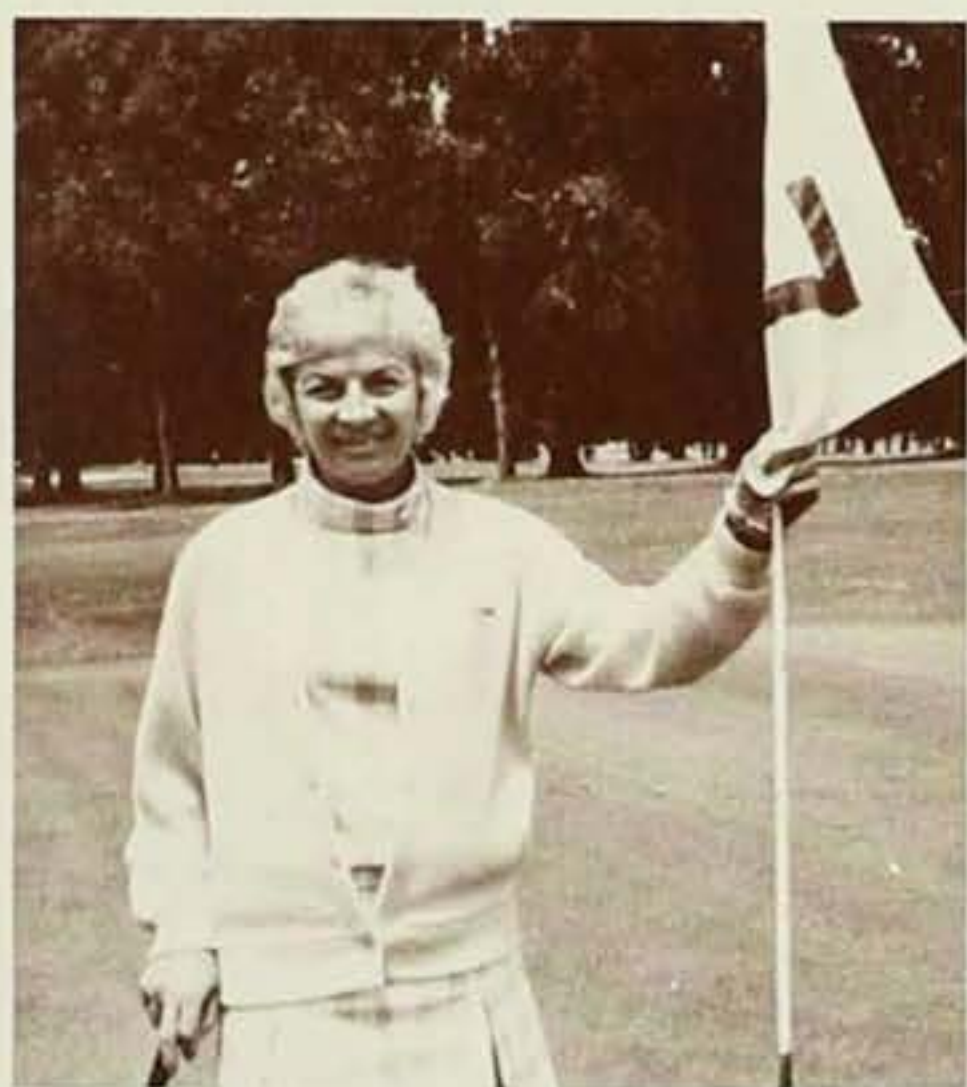
The low net winner each month on "Charm Day" play off at year's end for permanent possession of a jewel trophy. Winners of this lovely locket include these "CHARMERS".



The Board of Directors furnished new blue, crested sweaters for Richmond's winning team members for inter club East Bay Team competition.



Van Bozeny, runner up and Sally Kantor, '77 winner (left); Ollie Clovich, former charm winner (right).



Among Emily Collison's many wins — Team Champion '77; President's Cup '76



Former charm winners: Barbara Barkley (left); Eddie Reginato, runner-up and Ruth Salet, winner.



"A winning smile" from former Captain, Marge Ehle (left); President's Cup "winner smiles" from runner-up, Lu Ponsi and Audrey Apple, winner '75.



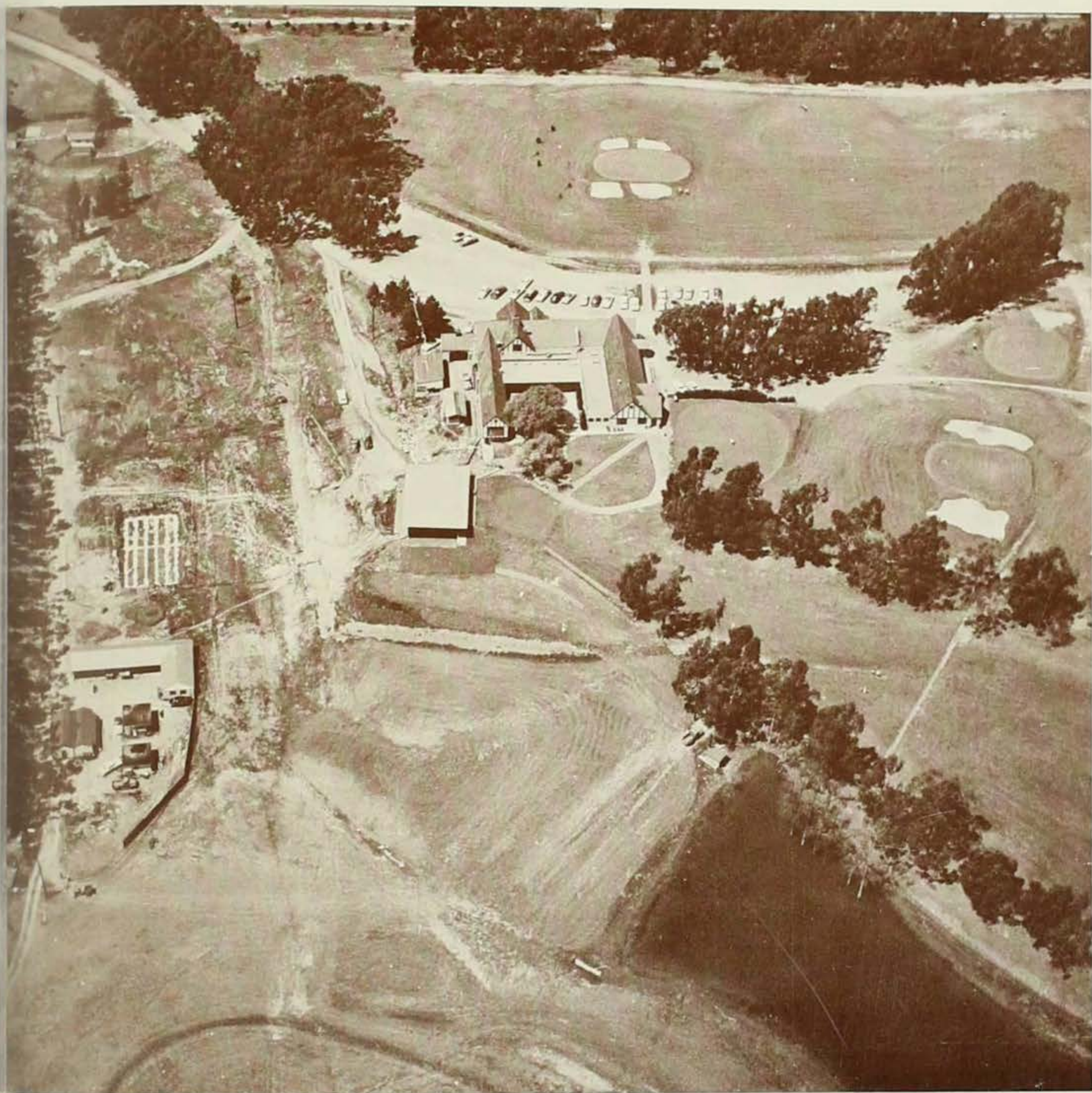
Gloria Giorgi and Alva Fried often in the winner's circle.

Chapter VI

“Fifties” Fill Fairways

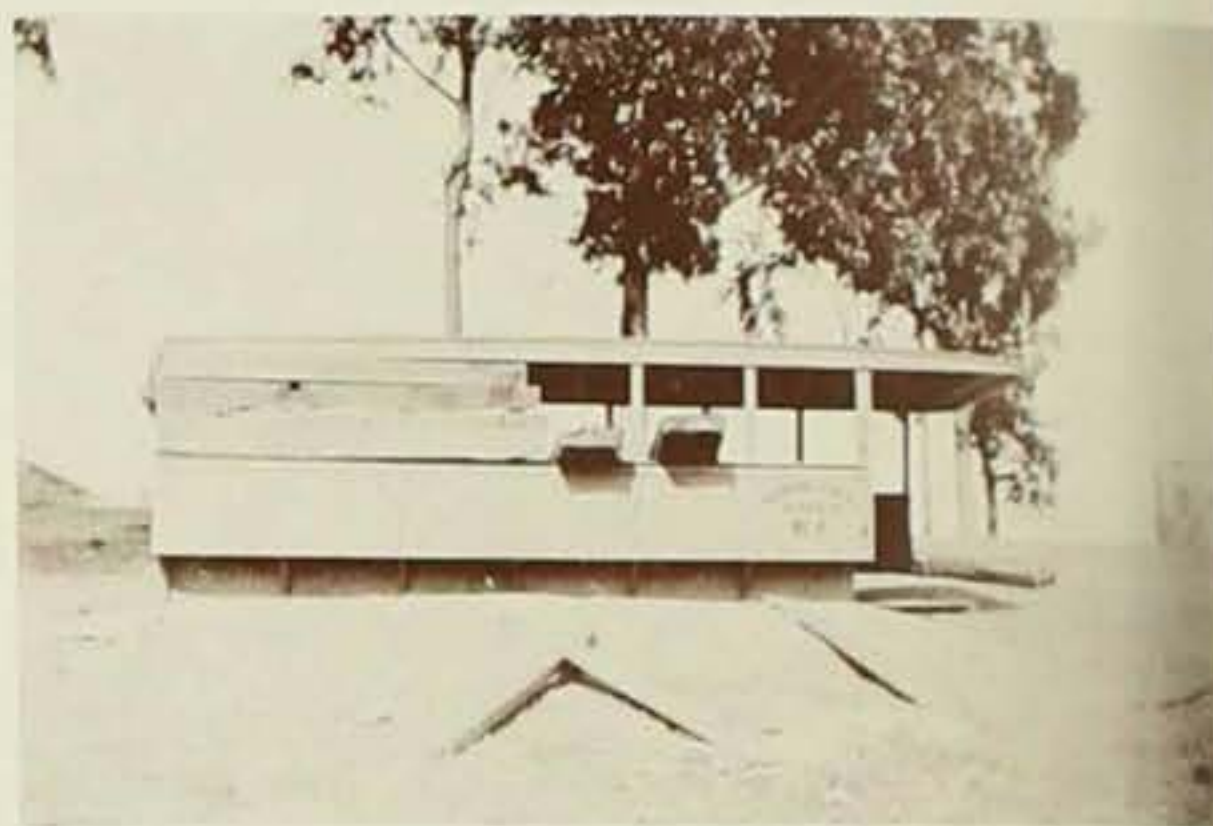
(1950 - 1960)

by Audrey Apple



"FIFTIES" FILL FAIRWAYS (1950 - 1960 History)

The decade 1950 to 1960 ended in the fulfillment of Pat Markovich's dream. Development and capital improvements had been continuous since he took over the nearly bankrupt Club. With its wonderful golf course, "one of the most beautiful and playable in the Bay area"; fine, greatly expanded clubhouse and pro-shop; swimming pool and play area; extensive landscaping and parking facilities; full membership and good financial position — Richmond Golf Club stood as a monument of his achievements. It had been hard work; taken planning, vision, leadership, courage. The membership had benefited and enjoyed Pat's monument and would continue to enjoy it in the promising future years at the Richmond Golf Club.



Body of bus was used for golf shop



New Pro Shop 1954



"Our" Clubhouse in early 50's

Early in the fifties the fairways at Richmond "were filled" when Richmond pioneered a new venture and courageously held the *Women's Professional Open*. Once again Richmond was the scene of a widely publicized OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT. But, this time Pat Markovich was offering golf fans the professional talents of the "sweet swingers" with none other than 'Babe' Didrikson Zaharias, the queen of women's golfdome competing in a field of the best women Pros in the game: Patty Berg, Louise Suggs, Marlene and Alice Bauer, Peggy Kirk, Betsy Rawls, Marilyn Smith, Betty Jamison.



Preparing for first PGA WOMEN'S OPEN at Richmond — Langfeld, Watson, Markovich, Fanning

As predicted, Babe won the first RICHMOND LADIES' OPEN and proved that the fair sex was no longer the weaker sex. Her driving and all around play had the men whispering. In humble ways they pointed to where the Babe drove and how she used an eight iron for her second shot to the long par fours.

Scores:

Babe Zaharias	76-73-75 — 224	\$750
Louise Suggs	75-74-76 — 225	\$500
Patty Berg	77-77-77 — 231	\$300
Marlene Bauer	76-78-81 — 235	\$250
Betsy Rawls	78-80-79 — 237	\$183
Betty Jamieson	81-79-77 — 237	\$183

A profit of \$805 was shared by two charities, Live Oak Branch of Children's Hospital and the American Women's Voluntary Service.

In the SECOND WOMEN'S OPEN a world record score was set by Patty Berg (1952) and Richmond Golf Club received worldwide publicity. Playing from the men's tees, Patty shot an 8 under men's par 64.

Scores:

Patty Berg	64-74-72 — 210
Betty Jamison	72-69-73 — 214
Peggy Kirk	74-74-74 — 222
Marlene Bauer	71-78-73 — 222
Babe Zaharias	76-72-77 — 225
Beverly Hanson	73-76-77 — 226
Betsy Rawls	73-76-77 — 226



Patty Berg sets COURSE RECORD of "64" to win PGA OPEN

Once again in October 1955 Richmond was honored to host this event of national scope, the THIRD LADIES' PGA OPEN. Everyone figured this would be the best time of year. It was another beautifully played and controlled event, but it did not draw a gallery and was a financial failure. One of the highlights of this OPEN was our own Carol Bowman's five under men's par 67 in the Pro-Amateur.

Scores:

Betty Jamison	220
Mary Lena Faulk	221
Betsy Rawls	223
Beverly Hanson	224
Louise Suggs	226
Joyce Ziske	227
Fay Crocker	228
Patty Berg	229

It was the practice at RGC, since 1944, to have an outstanding golf event each year; promoting golfing interests and receiving newspaper coverage and publicity for Richmond. Besides the LADIES' OPENS in the fifties the "*fairways were filled*" at exhibition matches. Sam Snead and E.J. Harrison played a benefit match for a former Asst. Pro at Richmond, Bill Shaver. This netted over \$3000 for his widowed mother. Byron Nelson played in an exhibition match and gave a golf clinic on another date. Patty Berg and Betsy Rawls and Paul Hahn with his trick shots all appeared in exhibitions at Richmond in the 1950's.

THE RICHMOND CITY CHAMPIONSHIP was a feature attraction at the beautiful Richmond Course for many, many years. The names of the winners listed in this partial list below clearly show the calibre of golfers attracted to this yearly event. Although Bob Rosberg never won the event, he was always a consistent performer.

WINNERS:

1938 Vern Valerro
1939 Aldo Galletti
1940 Einar Hanson
1941 Eddie Fry
1942 Aldo Galletti
1943 Henry Suico
1944 Ralph Hall
1945 Ralph Hall
1946 Tal Smith
1947 Bob Sylvestri
1948 Tal Smith
1949 Ken Venturi
1950 Ken Venturi
1951 Tal Smith
1952 Ken Venturi
1953 Maurice Small
1954 Tal Smith
1955 Dave Scotty McBeth

PRO AMATEURS, for men and women have been on the regular calendar.

The reorganization and revision of the By-laws in October 1953 when CHARTER MEMBERS RELINQUISHED EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS was a highlight of the fifties. Henceforth, all members would be classed as "regular members" and each would have the same rights, privileges and responsibilities. The Charter members, in relinquishing their exclusive rights to operate the Golf Club, showed a generous spirit and true interest in the future welfare of the Richmond Golf Club as a PRIVATE CLUB rather than a semi-public — "the degree of exclusiveness contingent upon the desire of the membership and its ability to support its desire."

Over 500 "filled the fairways" at Richmond in 1953 and 1954. The course was filled to overflowing and a membership of 600 would have been possible. The improvements and conditions of the course attracted many golfers and profits of \$25,206 in 1954 made money again available for improvements. To answer the many complaints of the course being overcrowded, the Board of Directors limited the membership to 475. Although the turnover was larger than expected, the membership held and remained stable through the FABULOUS FIFTIES and through the SIXTIES — "Fabulous" — is still the best adjective — to describe Richmond and many associated with the Club who brought fame, fortune and recognition to the Richmond Golf Club during the 1950's and later.

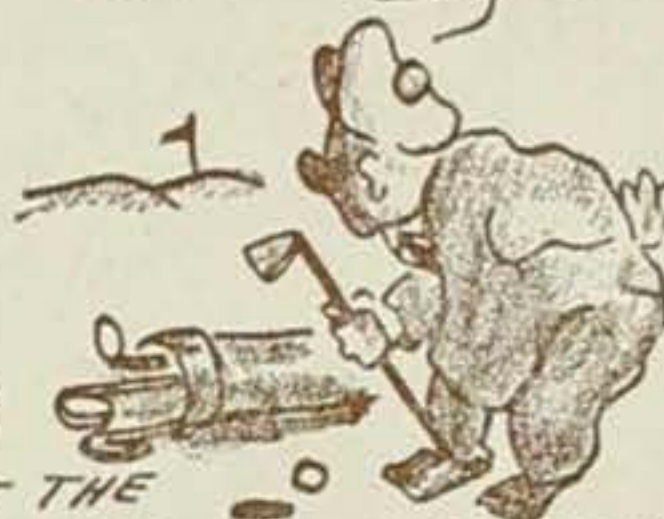
*RICHMOND GOLF CLUB'S HARD
WORKING PRO.*

**LOCAL
STARTS**

HE IS THE MAN
RESPONSIBLE FOR
PUTTING RICHMOND ON
THE BIG TIME GOLF CIRCUIT WITH
THE ANNUAL \$10,000 RICHMOND
OPEN TOURNAMENT.

HE'S THE NEW PRESIDENT
OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
PROFESSIONAL GOLF ASSOCIATION.

WHERE DID THAT CADDY GO?



LEARNED HIS
GOLF AS A
CADDY AT THE
SAN FRANCISCO GOLF AND COUNTRY
CLUB IN INGLESIDE... LATER
BECAME ASSISTANT PRO AT THE
SAME CLUB BEFORE COMING TO
RICHMOND.

**PAT
MARKOVICH**

HIS AMBITION TO
BRING THE WORLD'S
MOST IMPORTANT GOLF
TOURNAMENT, THE UNITED
STATES OPEN, TO RICHMOND
IS NEARING REALIZATION.
RICHMOND HAS BEEN PROMISED
THE TOURNAMENT FOR ABOUT
1950.

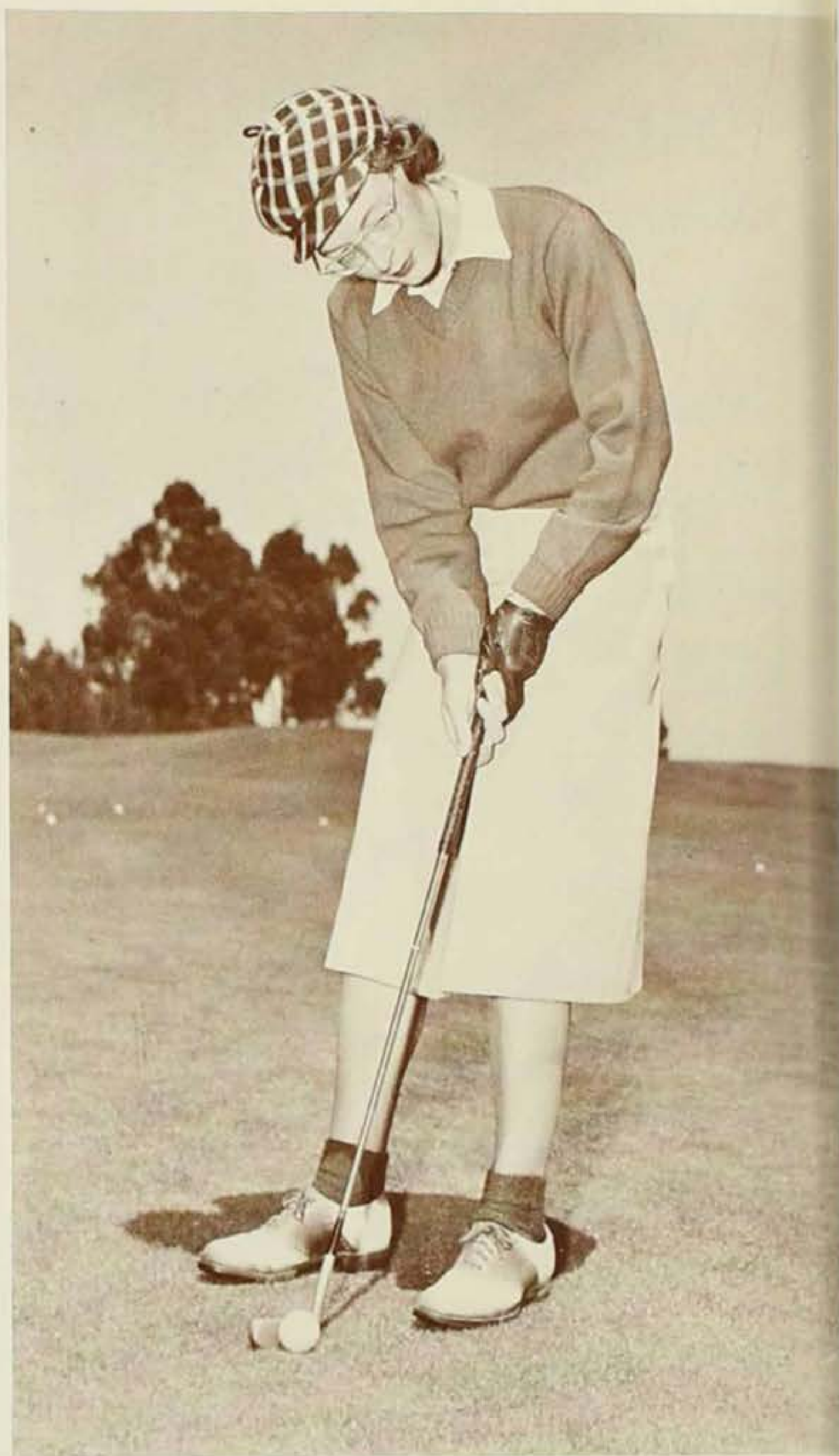
BOB GARCIA

NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW
IT, BUT SINCE PAT CAME TO
RICHMOND HE HAS TURNED
DOWN SEVERAL BETTER-
PAYING JOBS FROM VERY
SWANKY GOLF CLUBS.

Newspaper "Feature" honors Pat Markovich

FEATURED MEMBERS of the FIFTIES included:

PAT MARKOVICH, our Professional and General Manager who was nominated for National Professional Golfer of the Year. Among the reasons listed in the newspapers — 1. His long and successful labor with Junior groups, high school, college and industrial golf teams and programs. 2. Pat had brought the finest touring Pros, men and women to Richmond for Open Tournaments — stimulating interest in the game. 3. He had saved one golf club from inevitable bankruptcy, developed a second golf club from 9 holes into a full 18 hole course, conceived and constructed a third club. 4. Had served as PGA Northern California President twice and was a director for seven terms. 5. Had won the 1953 Northern California PGA Tournament with 12 under par for 72 holes. This was a small portion of the story of the man for whom golf was both a profession and hobby and deserved to be named National Professional Golfer of the Year.



Carol Bowman — Winner Trans-Mississippi 1952

CAROL BOWMAN is another member who has brought national recognition to RGC. Among her many accomplishments as a golfer — she was front page news all over the nation as winner of the 1952 Trans-Mississippi. This tournament, nationwide in scope, established Carol as a contender of national importance.

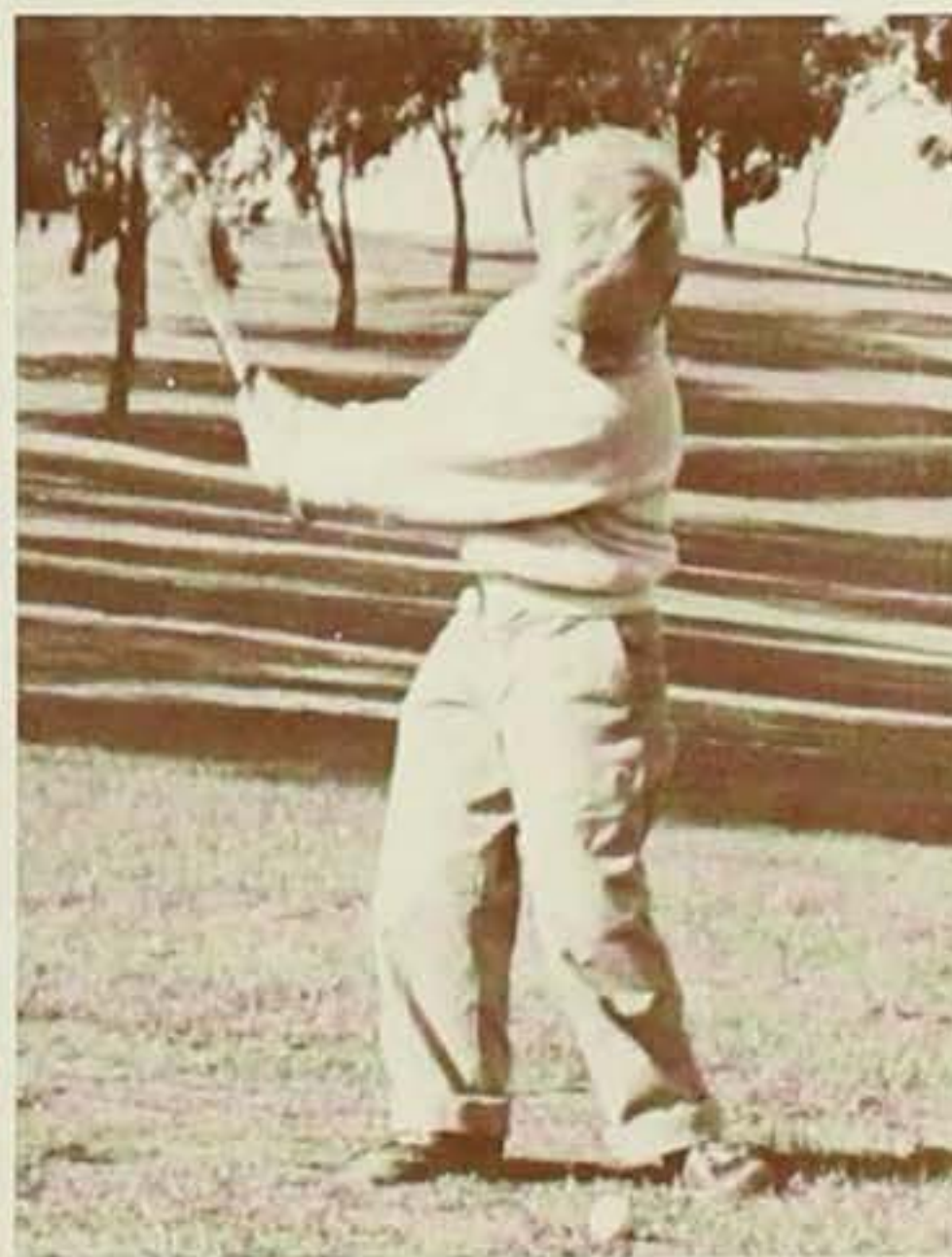
BARBARA WILLIAMS, talented Richmond member, won the State Amateur Championship among many other of her achievements.



Barbara Williams earns smile of approval from Pat

Our own PAUL WILCOX made Herb Graffis' "Golfing", a national magazine with circulations running into the thousands. A mere lad of seven and no bigger than a minute, Paul had his swing compared to that of Sam Snead. THE NATURAL was the theme of the picture story and quite a lesson in the offering — parts of that copy are reprinted here for a FREE lesson.

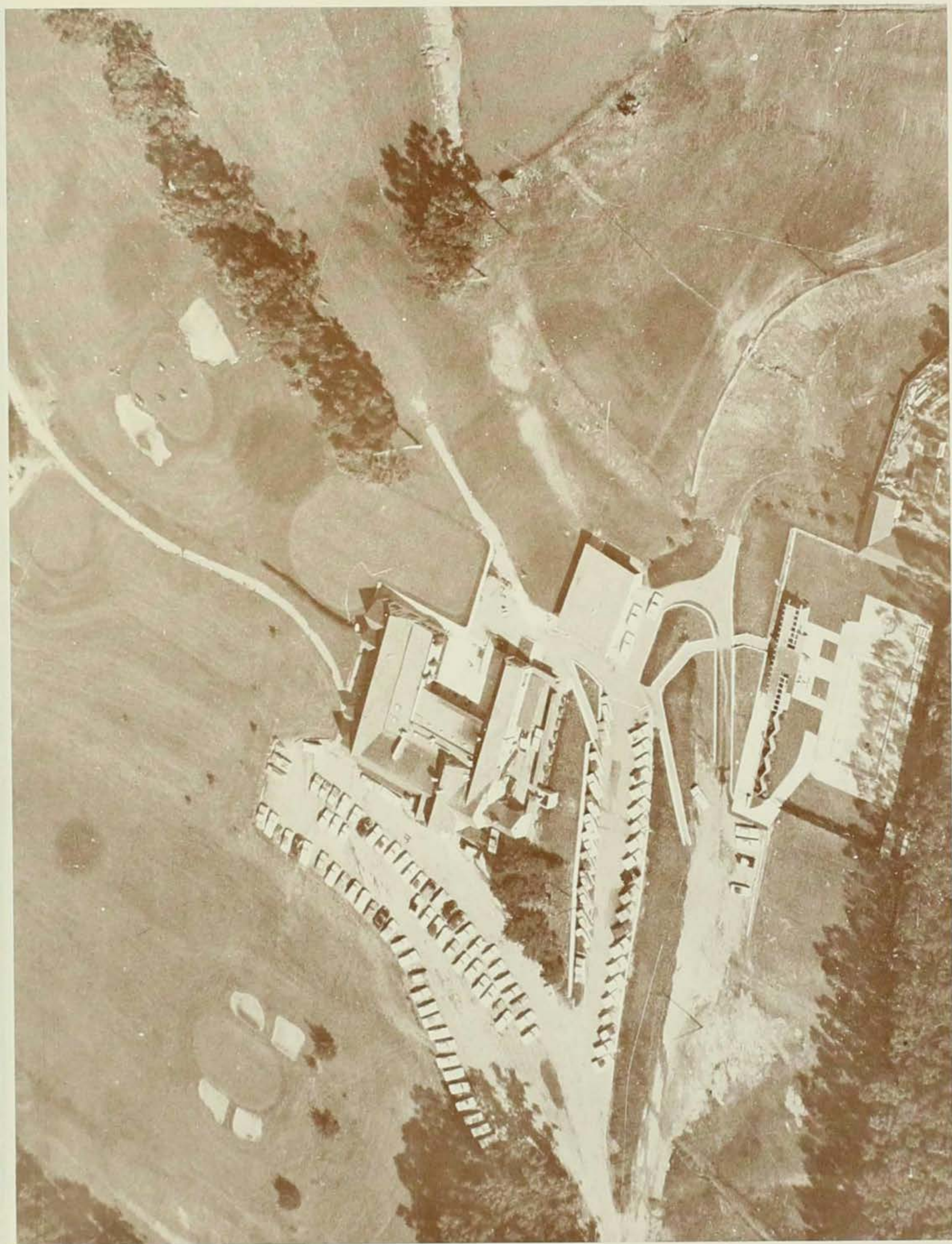
"NATURAL GOLFERS" — Snead · age 39, Wilcox · age 7



Chapter VII
“Life” Looks at the Sixties

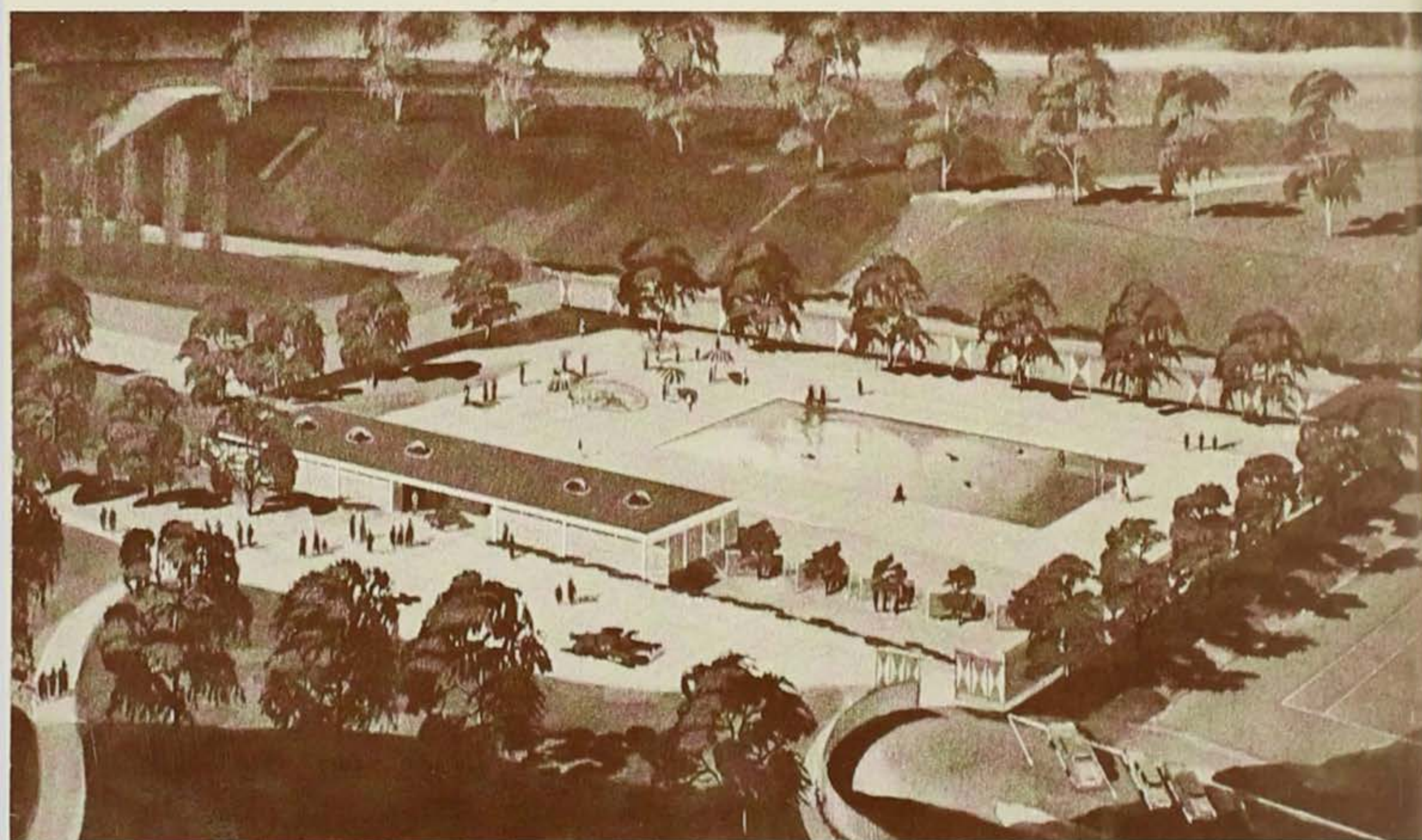
(1960 - 1970)

Contributed by Members



"LIFE" LOOKS AT THE SIXTIES (1960 - 1970)

Pictures tell it all. It is often said that one picture is worth 10,000 words so the history of the Richmond Golf Course in the sixties will be told with a "Life" magazine format. Other chapters have depended on the memory of older members and the remarkable, carefully documented stories or historic record of "THE APPROACH", our monthly Club Bulletin, started in 1934 by KEN MATTHIESEN. These pictures tell their own story of this decade of achievement. The strong foundations of work done in the previous two and a half decades are also in evidence as the growth of Richmond Golf Club is given pictorially.



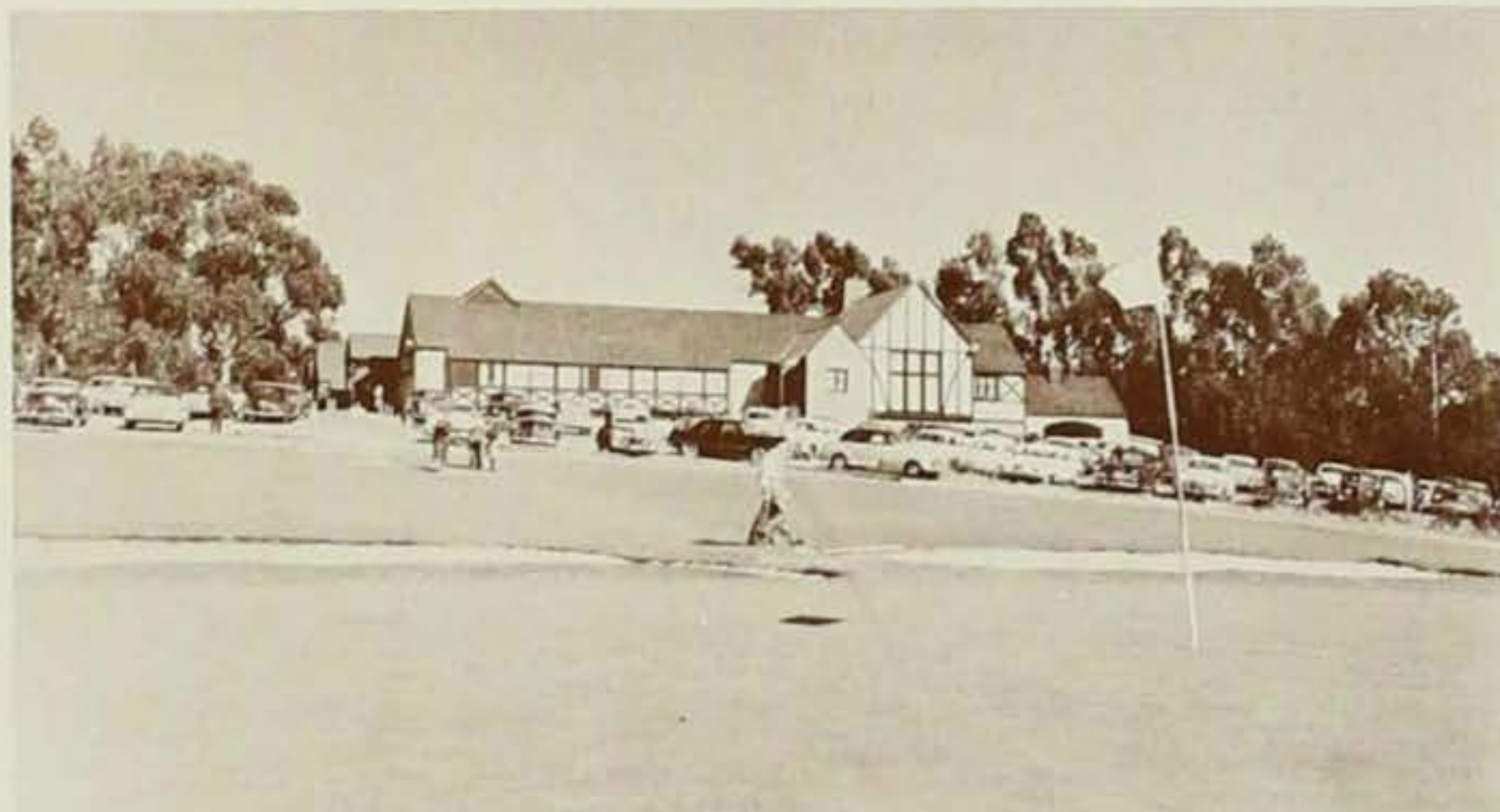
Olympic size pool enjoyed by all ages in the 60's



Pro Pat Markovich with assistants: Joe Reboli, Don Smallen, Bill Shaver.



Water faucets and sheds —
good addition in 60's

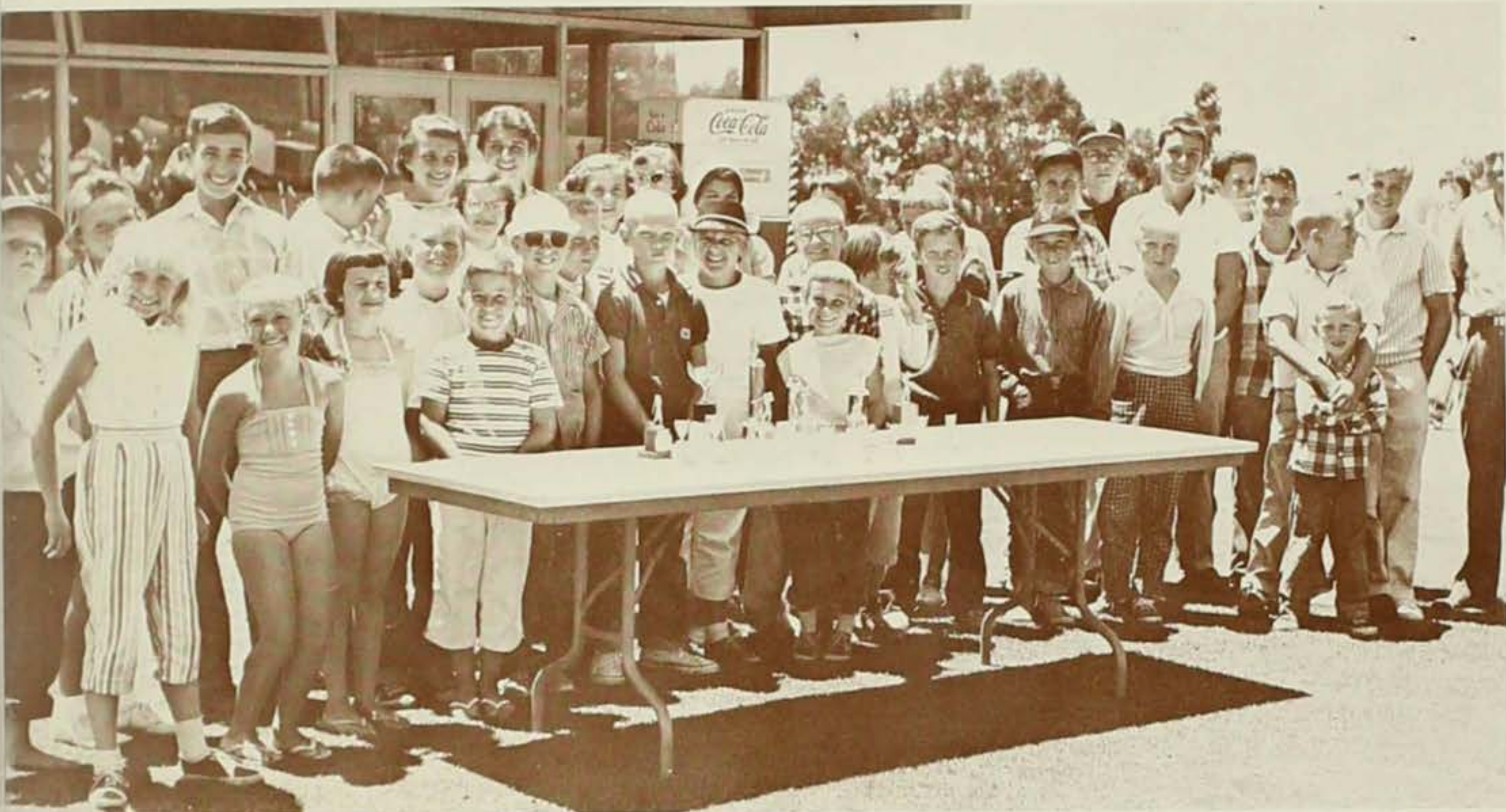


New Pitching green

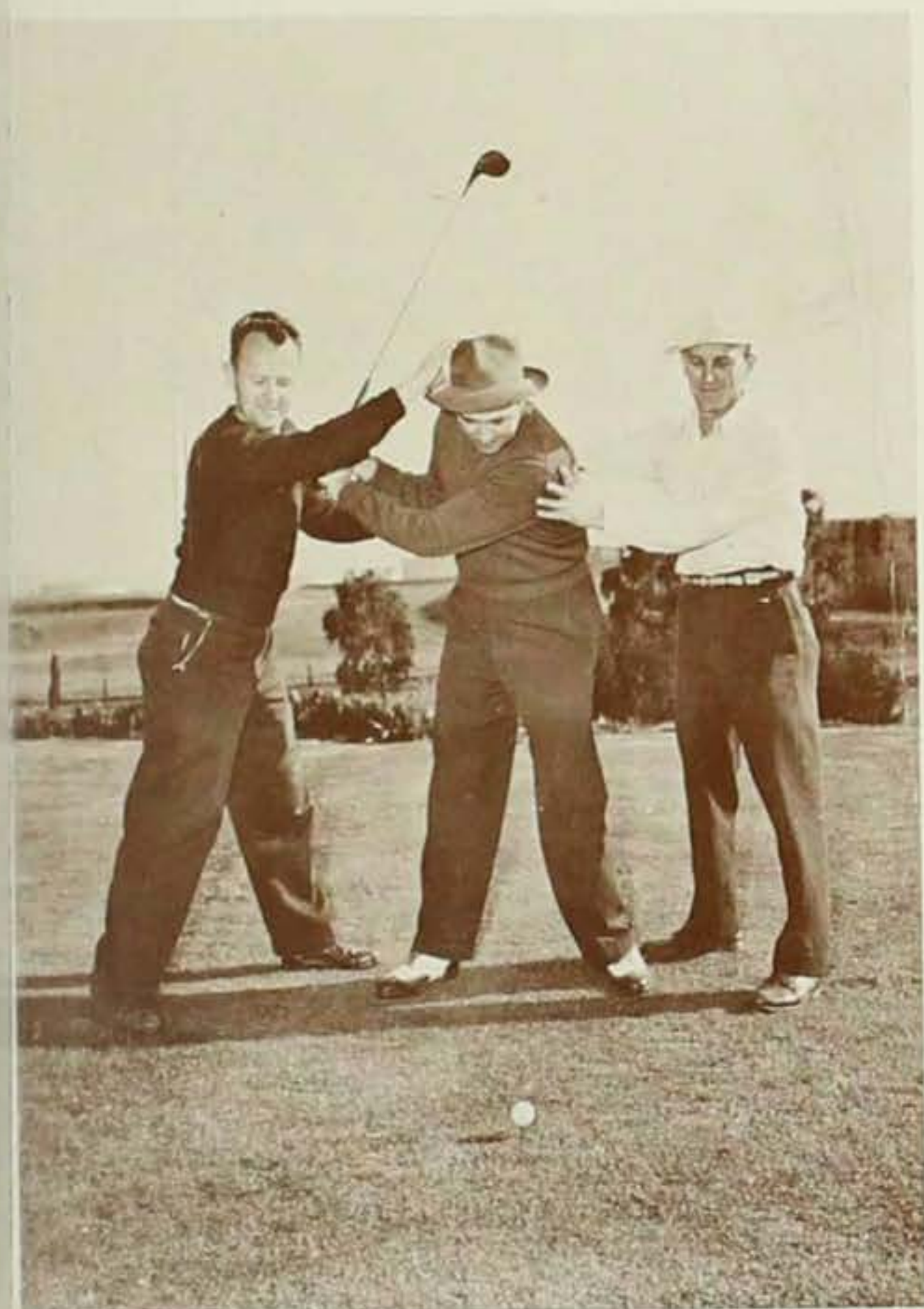


2nd Annual Richmond Golf and Country Club
Pro-Member Tourney — 1961

Tom Benassi, Pro Pat Markovich, 'Reno' Coppi enter second annual Richmond Golf and C.C. Pro-Member Tournament



JUNIOR fun at Richmond



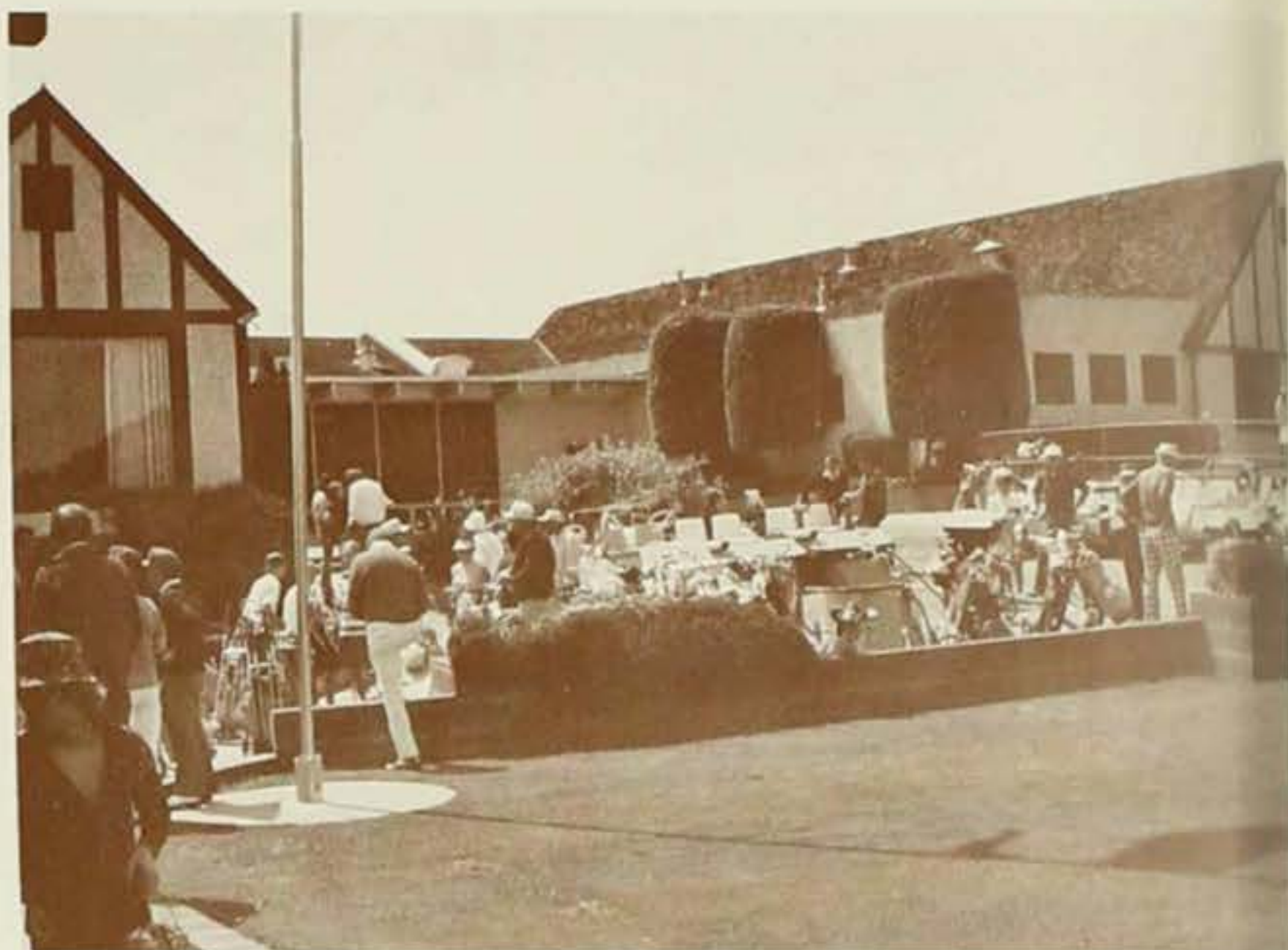
Helpful hints? ?



Adrian and Ruth Salet, Scotty and Bob Hibbard



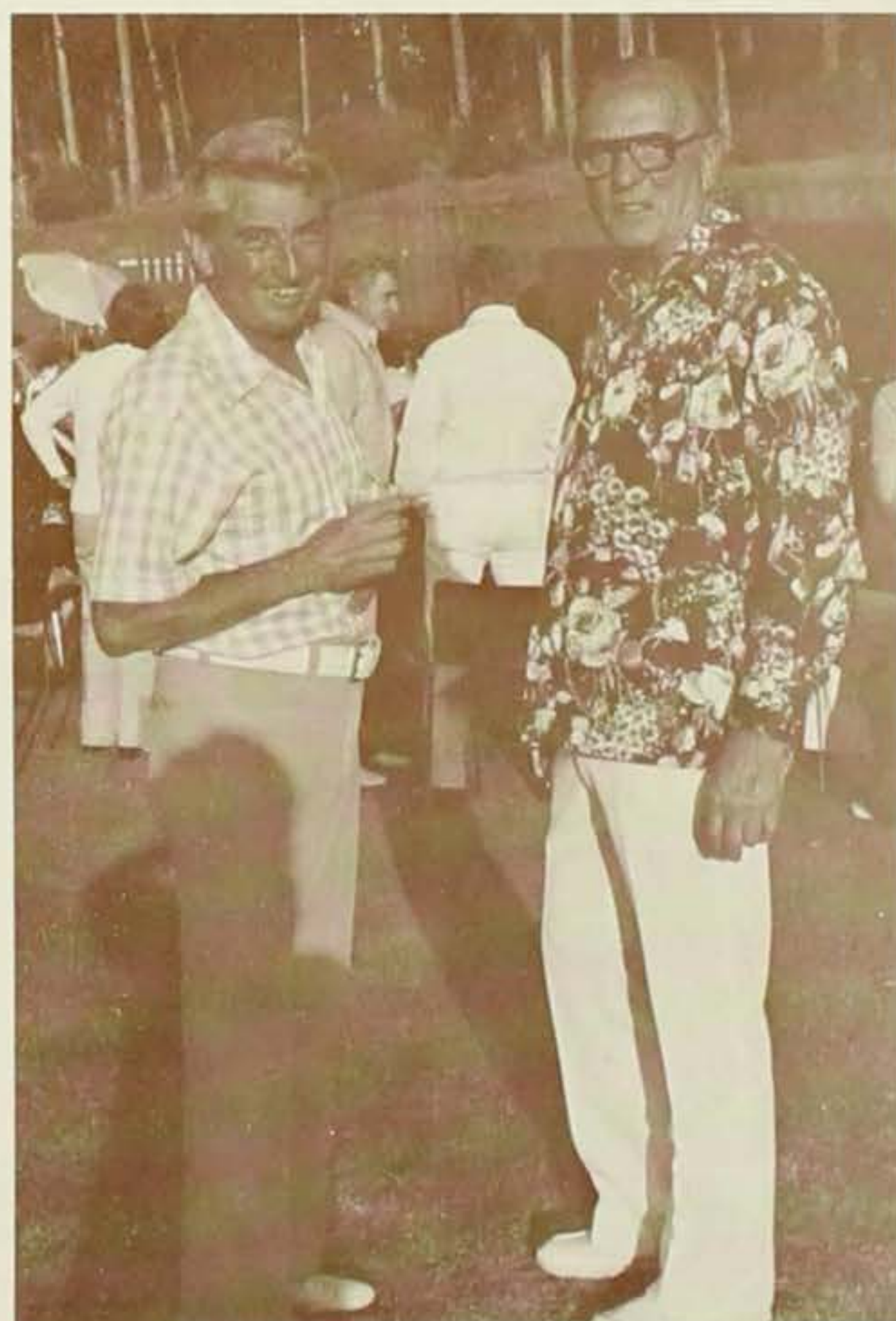
"Practice makes perfect"



Week-end scene in 60's



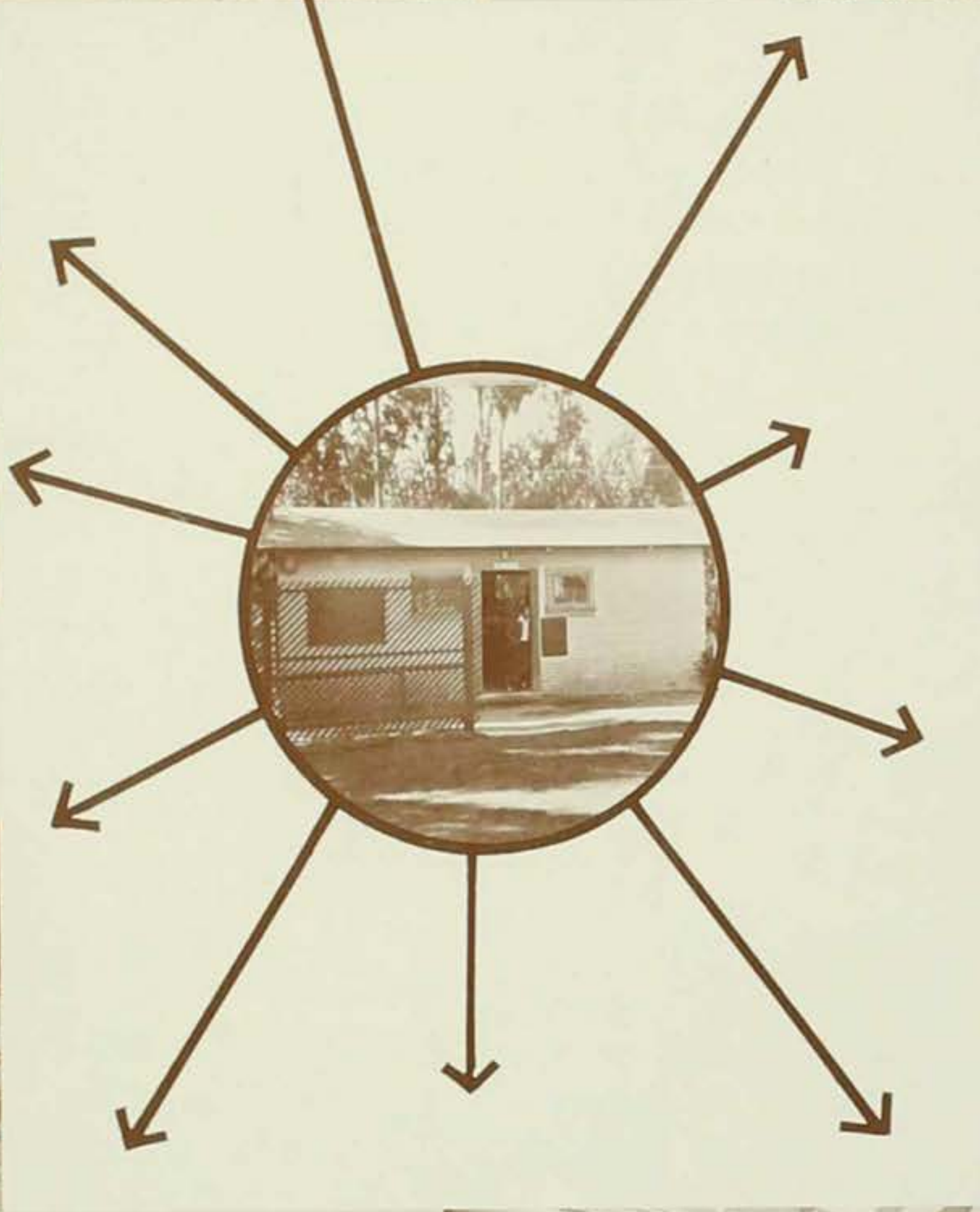
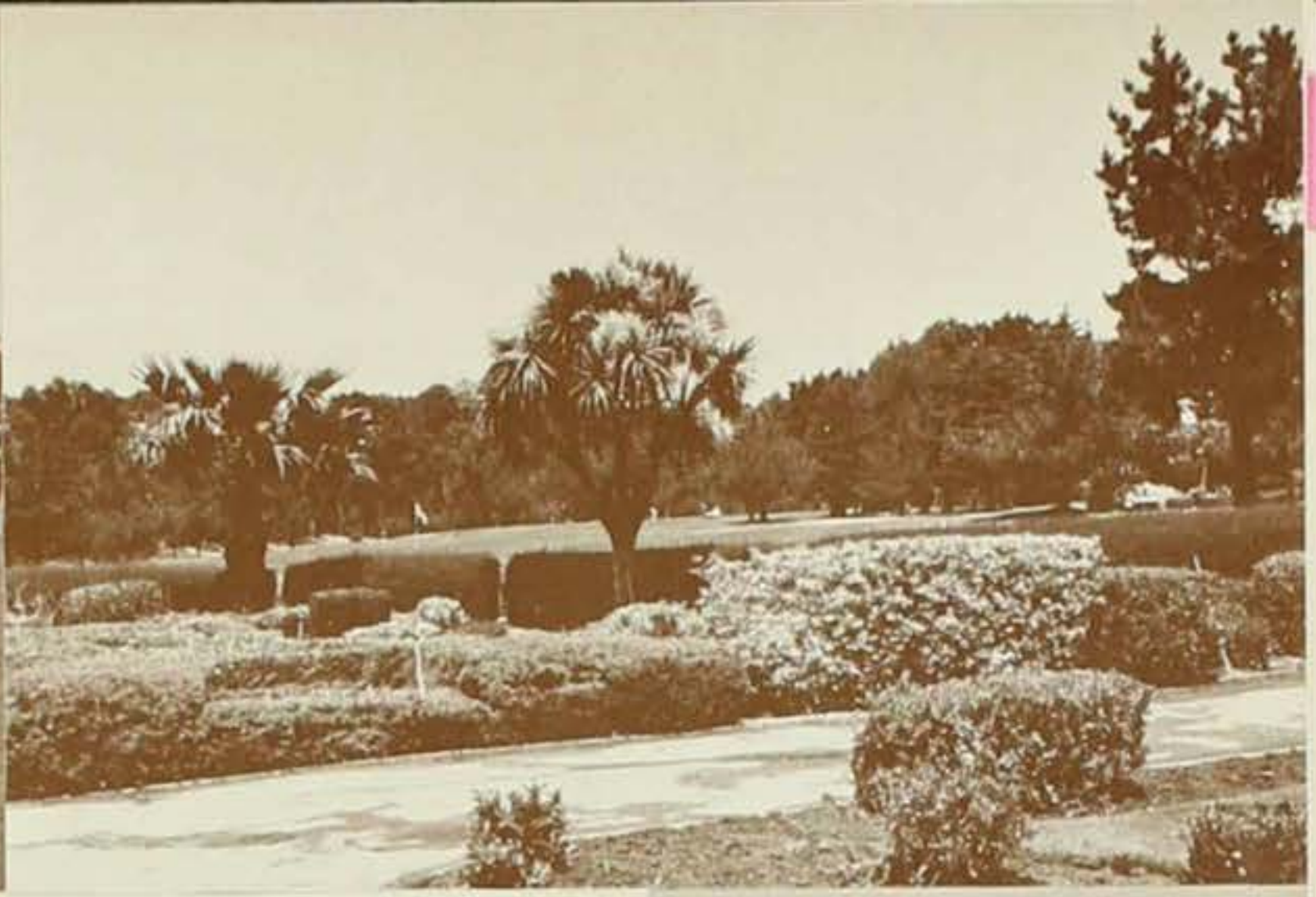
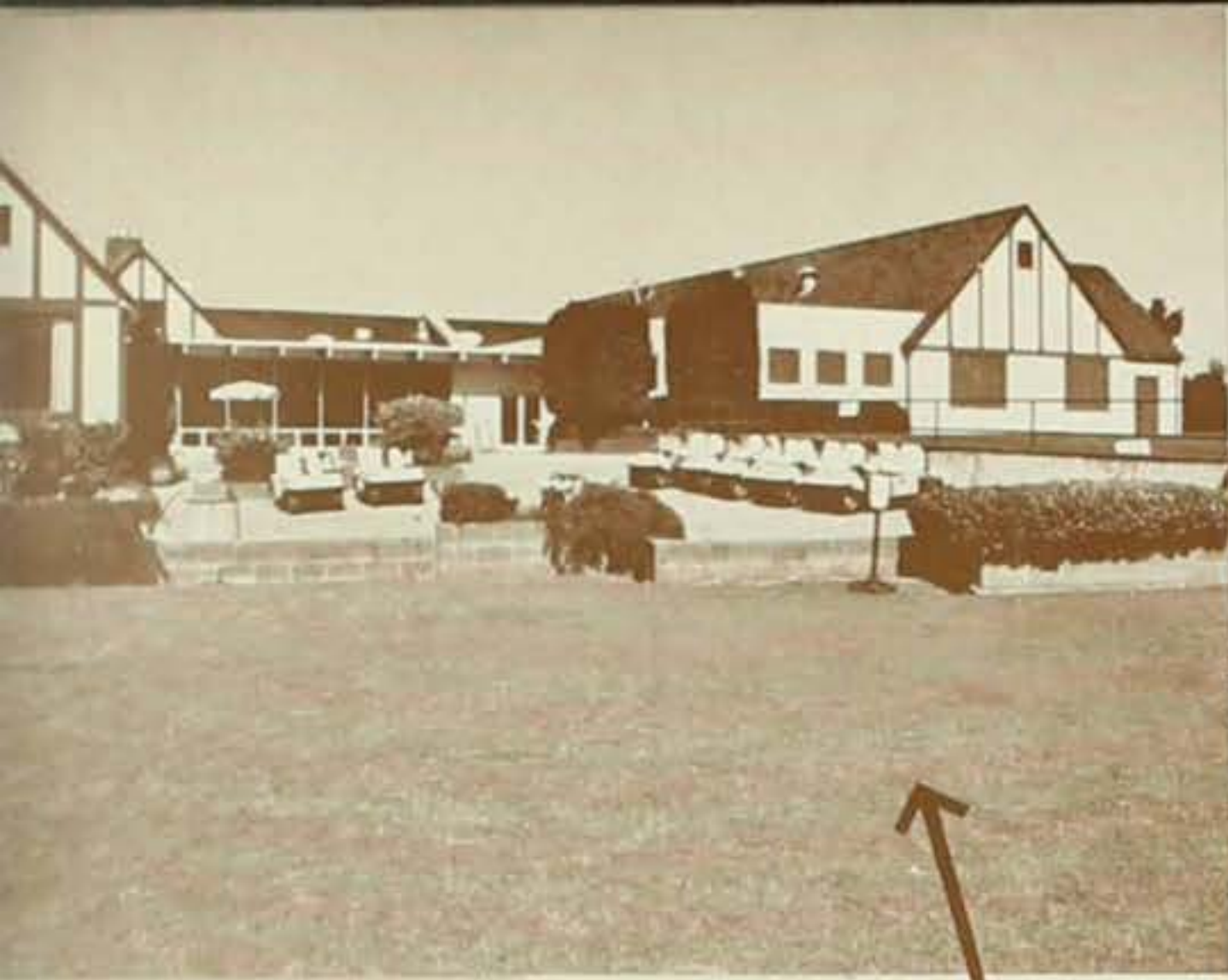
Daughters "fashion show" treat, DAD'S DAY at the pool 1969



Ade Salet greeting new Manager, Buz Dyer — 1969

Chapter VIII
We Made It In The '70s
(1970 - 1978 and Future)

by Buz Dyer & Al Cortese

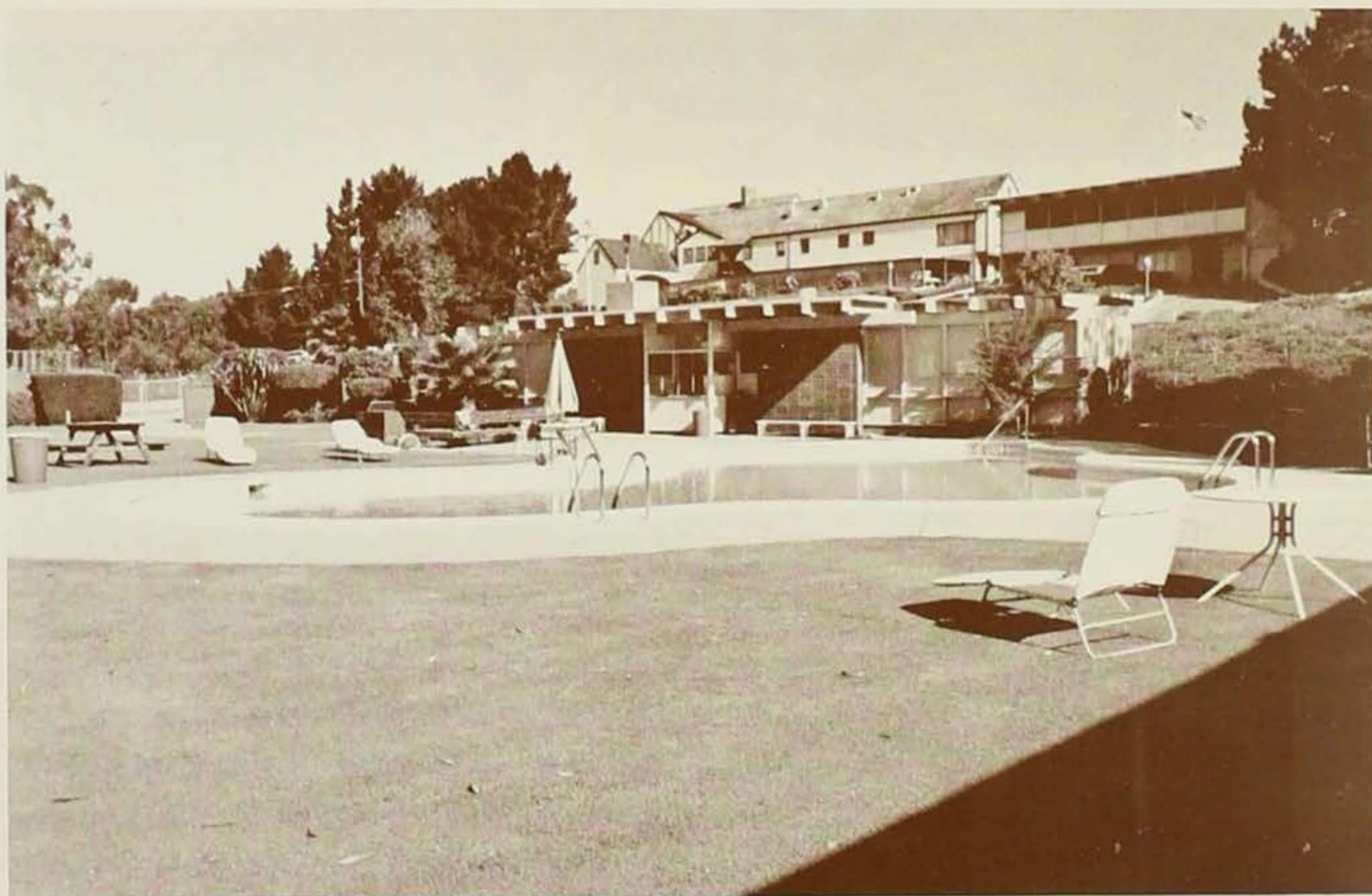


"WE MADE IT" IN THE "70's"

The early 1970's saw several changes made in the physical operation of the club. Under the direction of Bill Mulgrew as President, Al Cortese as Finance Chairman, Dr. Jack Ehle as Clubhouse Chairman and assisted by Board members Ernie Navellier, Al DaValle, Jerry Helmuth and Al Furrer, the office was moved to the clubhouse which left additional room to enlarge the golf shop. The Golf Professional for many years, Joe Reboli, retired and Wes Ward was selected as the new Professional. New golf carts were purchased by the club thereby bringing in additional revenue.

A redemption fund was developed whereby a portion of the dues established a fund from which members who wished to resign were reimbursed a stipulated amount. This idea was unique in the golf club industry and assisted in stabilizing the membership which remained at 425 for several years.

A meeting was held with Mr. Sherm Crary, Treasurer of Bethlehem Steel Corporation and a new lease was negotiated which included an amortization clause for any lease-hold improvements made on the property. Under this program the property was enclosed with a cyclone fence; the old swimming pool, which was severely damaged during a flood season, was replaced; several improvements were made to the clubhouse and a driving range was established.



New swimming pool and barbecue facilities



"Getting ready" for M.O.D. Tournament — Driving range popular

A special arrangement with Dick Knapp was negotiated and Knapp Excavators moved the dirt from the hill to fill in an area for the driving range. Knapp received dirt for his earth fill contracts and other considerations in exchange for furnishing improvements to the property.

At the same time, he raised the dam level on the pond to impound a larger quantity of rain water. Since then through the years Dick Knapp has provided equipment and manpower for several improvements to the property which would have otherwise cost thousands of dollars.

THEN CAME THE BOMBSHELL...

In 1973 Bethlehem Steel Corporation announced that they were selling the golf course and all its improvements to a group of Japanese businessmen who were interested in buying golf courses throughout the state. At an emergency meeting of the members a proposal was outlined for the purchase of the property by the membership. The plan included the individual investment by each for a proprietary membership in the amount of \$3,000.00. It was believed that one million dollars could be raised by this method; a loan could be procured from the Mechanics Bank for a half-million dollars which would purchase the facility. The purchase plan was presented to Mr. George Hurd of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation.

From the beginning of negotiations, Mr. Hurd was responsive and sympathetic to the desires of the membership and expressed an opinion many times that the Bethlehem Corporation would rather sell the facility to the members than to an outside group. The membership responded to the challenge and 320 Charter Members invested \$3,000.00 each to purchase the club.



President Al DaValle presenting Membership certificate to Tom Herbert, oldest and long time member (1929) and wife Jeanette



Al Cortese with Mayor Mori

Then came some unlooked for assistance due to a strong relationship that had developed with the Sister City of Shimada, Japan and the City of Richmond. The idea was first proposed by Al Cortese to Masaya Mori, a mayor of Shimada for many years, also an avid golfer. Mayor Mori's business required a couple of trips to the United States each year. Under this plan 60 residents of Shimada and members of the Shizuoka Country Club there would invest \$180,000.00 for the purchase of 60 Associate Equity memberships with limited golfing privileges.

So, after many months of extensive negotiations with the membership and with Bethlehem Steel Corporation; arranging the necessary financing, the purchase was finally consummated on July 17, 1974 — a truly remarkable feat. The generous gesture by Bethlehem in deferring payment of \$102,000.00 over a three year period was a bonus.

All members of the Board of Directors who labored mightily for the purchase were: President Al DaValle, Al Cortese, Al Wolff, George Roberts, Ade Salet, Dale Griffin and Lynn Lawson.

THE FUTURE ? ? ?

Since the purchase of the property by the members, the Hilltop Shopping Center has become a reality. This center, which will be the largest facility of its kind when completed, has improved the value of properties in the area.

Likewise, our own property has continued to increase in value. One of the men responsible is Bill Wade. Bill, our maintenance superintendant for the last 30 years, and his men have done a magnificent job in maintaining our lovely property. During the "great drought" of '77, with strict water rationing at the time, Bill and crew labored many hours to maintain our greens and tees.



Bill Wade and Buz check out new Cushman truck

Acknowledging the *historic water problems* at Richmond over the years, the present 1978 Board of Directors is working with the San Pablo Sanitary District hoping to obtain effluent water to irrigate the course. If such facilities are installed, our never-ending battle with Mother Nature and



BURNING THE MORTGAGE — Tom Seeburger of Bethlehem Steel, Mrs. Seeburger; George Roberts, President RCC; Board members Al Cortese participate in "third" anniversary party ceremony.

the drought will be over once and for all. The Board has also started a program for the gradual removal of water-seeking Eucalyptus trees and replacing them with ornamental and deciduous trees.

During the past three years, to add to the Club's continuing improvement, the Board of Directors and Al Wolff and his committee endeavored to develop a tennis program. Plans were drawn, studies made but due to several drawbacks the program was postponed. It has just recently been reactivated.

Another cause for celebration was the final payment to Bethlehem Steel Corporation of the deferred loan granted by them at the time of the purchase. On July 23, 1977 a note-burning ceremony was held at the Anniversary Ball. Officiating for Bethlehem was T.A. Seeburger. All Directors of the Board of Richmond Country Club and 120 members and their wives witnessed the event. It was such an enjoyable evening that the Board decided to have the Anniversary Ball as an annual affair.



Members enjoying Anniversary Ball — Former Board President Al DaValle and wife, Catherine; 1978 Board President, Jim Werson, and wife, Elspeth; Director Chuck Apple and wife, Audrey.



Board Directors Judge Wilson Locke (left) and Nino Petroni (right) discussing growth of RCC since its purchase with Bob and Pat Blair (Chaired the Anniversary fete)

Someday, not too far in the future, the land adjacent to No. 4 and other fairways owned by Chevron USA may be developed into residential complexes as would the acreage contiguous to Nos. 8 and 12 fairways, land still owned by the Bethlehem Steel Corporation. The hill above the driving range as well as areas adjacent to the pond might subsequently develop into ideal locations for condominiums.

The wheels of progress sometimes appear to turn very slowly. After years of discussions, the routing for the Northwest By-Pass is close to being adopted. This route would connect the Richmond-San Rafael bridge with Inter-State 80 and would pass close to our club boundaries. A possible entry could be made.

The present Board along with Al Cortese, whom the Board appointed as Land Development Chairman, are working with the City of Richmond and Chevron Land Development and other property holders to establish a possible new entrance to the Club from the proposed Northwest By-Pass.

News Clipping

NORTH RICHMOND BY-PASS HIGHWAY STEPS ARE TAKEN

The first step towards the construction of the projected North Richmond by-pass road was taken when the city sent condemnation notices to property owners along the right of way.

It is anticipated that construction on both the city and county portions of the road will get under way during the approaching summer. The county portion involves the building of a bridge across Wildcat Creek and is being coordinated with the anticipated Army Corps of Engineers flood control work.

Eventually the road will swing to the east near Parchester Village and continue to Interstate 80. The city is presently discussing with Caltrans proposals for an interchange at the freeway.

Reprinted from article in publication, dated June 1978, published by the Chamber of Commerce Richmond, California.



1978 Board of Directors: Standing, Al Cannon, Wilson Locke, George Roberts, Chuck Apple. Seated, John Mirante, President, Jim Werson, Nino Petroni.

The adjacent recent news clipping dated June 1978 confirms this positive step. Tennis courts, an enlargement of the recreational area and the development of future home sites and condominiums at Richmond Country Club could then become a definite possibility.

The future of the Richmond Country Club and its properties depend on the continuous maintenance and improvement of the course as well as the buildings. Our future also depends on maintaining a full, active membership; especially members like the ones we have — those who enjoy the game, their club and their friends. A few (in typical "FUN" poses) are presented here. . .



Only one out of this foursome — Dale O'Laughlin, didn't make a hole-in-one in 1977. The lucky ones: Carol Wisgerhof, Bill Mackenzie, Tom Burke



Lloyd Bogue and guest flash typical winner smiles, with Pro Wes Ward, at RCC Men's Invitational



John Mirante Jerry Helmuth



'Chow line' and 'horseplay' at Pool barbecue party





Paul Erb Gil Ashcom



Director, Al Cannon, and wife Esther "check out the greens"



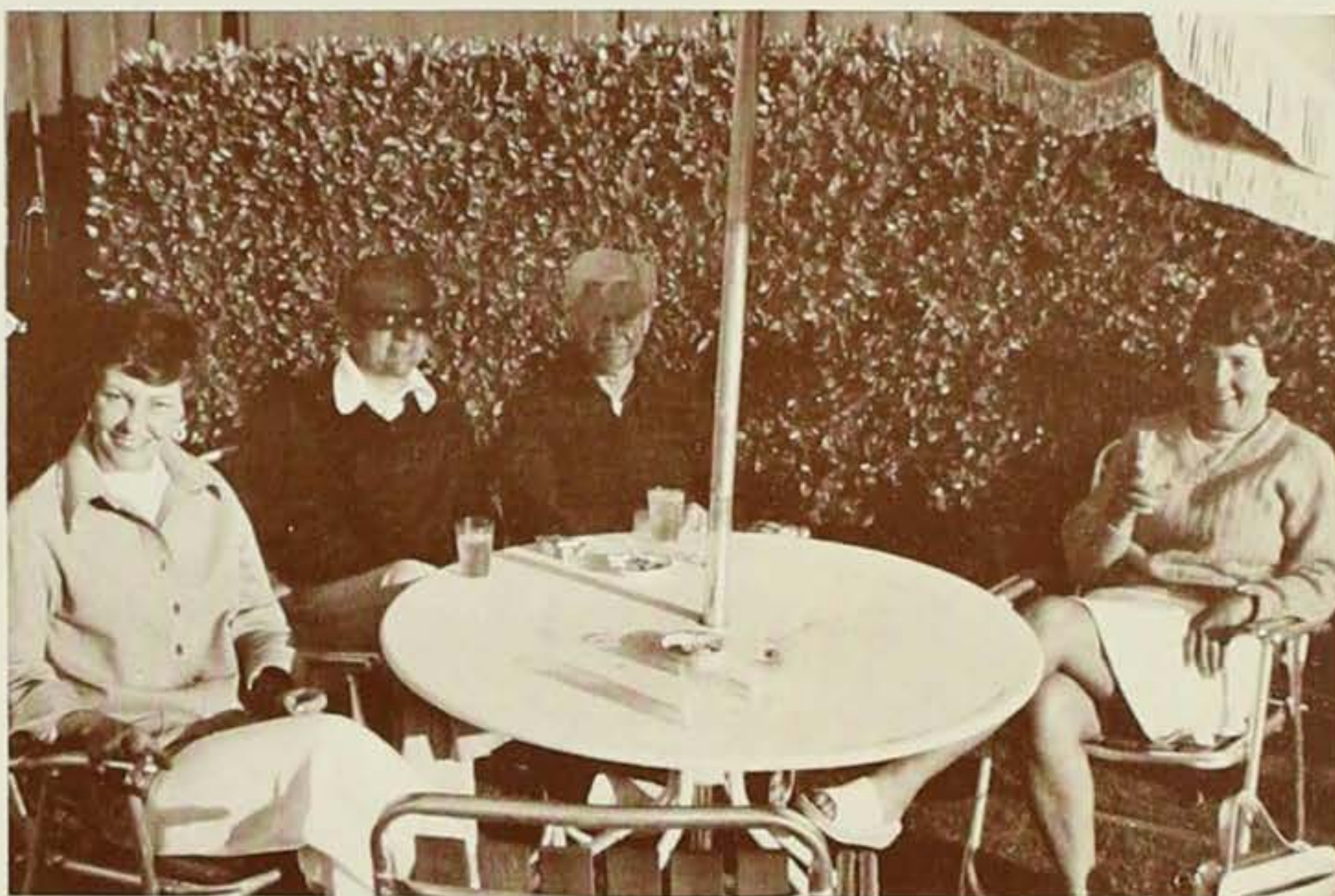
George and Eileen Roberts, Chuck and Mary Allen



Tom Benassi (second from left) celebrates 33 years as a member by making a hole-in-one on No. 16. Foursome included Condi Ojeda, Tony Pangrazio, Al Langer.



Happiness is — Cliff and Lu Ponsi after a "good" game



Ethel Bradison, Kurt Mairam, Al Bradison, Julie Mairam



Bill Tom and Heinz Frank,
"Italians" vs 'the world'



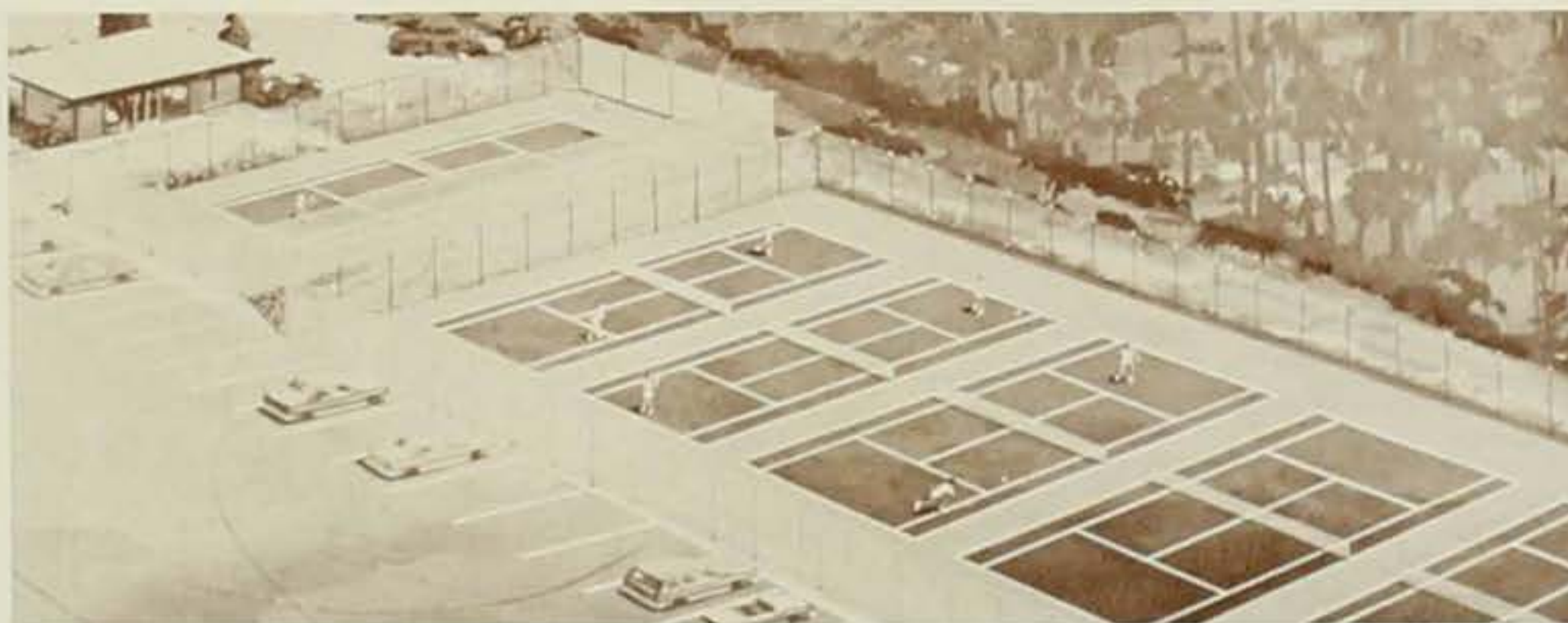
SUNDAY

"The future of our Club is bright", to quote President Jim Werson. "We have come a long way... Who would have dreamed that we would have been the owners of this beautiful Club with its fine improvements?"

DREAMS ARE MADE TO BE FULFILLED... SO, LET'S... DREAM...



Condominiums overlook driving range at Richmond Country Club



Tennis Courts and facilities - dreams do come true.

Chapter IX

“Facts, Figures and ‘Fun’ ”

Chapter IX. Table of Contents:

Time Capsule: Membership dues and fee records
Honor rolls Presidents Board of Directors
 Women's Association Presidents and Captains
 Professionals, Pro-Managers, General Managers
 Editors of "The Approach"
Men's Invitationals
Club Tournament Champions
Promotional Activity Records at Richmond Country Club
 Summary
 Children's Christmas Party
 March of Dimes Tournaments
 Professionals/ and Members/ Promotions
 Richmond Country Club Film Debut
 Good Will Tree Planting

By

Members:

Audrey Apple
Helen Baum
Miriam Grimm
Bob Hibbard
Rose Ojeda

Pro:

Wes Ward

General Mgr.: Buz Dyer

Office Staff: Charlene Gonsalves
Peggy Garrison



TIME CAPSULE

MEMBERSHIP, DUES AND FEES RECORD

The membership record of Richmond Country Club is incomplete prior to 1935, but it is safe to estimate that there was an average of less than 100 members throughout the 30's. The first figure in our records is for April 1935:

1935			1945		
No record	\$5.50 Monthly dues, Family membership; No initiation fee		117 members	Disappointing number, Irene Crabtree on radio seeking publicity for new members; <i>Second Open</i> held	
1936 - 1938			1946		
No record	Same		410 members	Membership zoomed; talk of building a new clubhouse	
1939			1947		
113 members	\$5.50 Monthly dues (including excise tax); Family membership		452 members	Single memberships now \$7.50, Family \$10.00; Starting times put into practice because of heavy play; Third PGA Open held	
1940			1948		
168 members	Richmond City Tournament had over 300 entries; Outside tournaments finding their way to Richmond		402 members	Clubhouse plans completed; final PGA Open held.	
1941			1949		
125 members	Start of war had an effect on membership		369 members	Clubhouse enlarged - \$100,000.00; Northern California Open held - no public support	
1942			1950		
59 members	Single membership dues \$5.50, Family membership dues \$7.50		311 members	Country in mild recession; Slot machines ruled out for good; Outside tournaments encouraged.	
1943			1951		
37 members	Gas rationing; Food rationing; War		294 members	Korean War; Raise in dues due to loss of slot machines; Charter \$8.50, Single \$10.00, Family \$12.50	
1944			1952		
37 members	End of war; Victory parties; First Open; Single membership dues increased to \$6.00 per month; No increase in family membership dues		401 members	Membership jump unexpected	
			1953		
			500 members	<i>Reorganization</i> ; Working on improvements. Single dues \$12.50, Family \$15.00, Initiation fee \$75.00	
			1954		
			520 members	Membership closed - course crowded, improvement and condition of course attracted golfers; Single dues \$15.00, Family \$18.00	

1955		1969	
433 members	Mira Vista became a private club; Dues stabilized until 1959	425 members	Same
1956		1970	
475 members	200 Social members (\$50 fee, \$36 yearly dues), no guests on weekends - too full, waiting list for Social members	386 members	Dues \$40.00. Locker \$2.50, Membership Drive \$400.00 to join
1957		1971	
No record	Same	385 members	Dues \$45.00
1958		1972	
475 members	New super highways brought club closer to big cities	385 members	Dues \$52.50 incl. shoe care and locker
1959		1973	
460 members	Dues \$25.00/month; San Rafael bridge opened	385 members	Initiation fee \$600.00, Dues \$55.00 incl shoe care and locker fees
1960		1974	
No record	Initiation fee \$150.00, Transfer fee \$150.00, Dues \$25.00, Locker fee \$1.50	385 members	First part of the year dues the same; Bought club from Bethlehem in July; \$3,000.00 Equity Initiation fee, Dues still \$55.00, \$450.00 Non-Equity Initiation fee, Dues \$65.00
1961		1975	
No record	Same	375 members	293 Equity members, 82 Non-Equity
1962		1976	
431 members	20% of membership from Richmond, Most from Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco, Marin County	413 members	Membership Drive - 305 Equity, 108 Non-Equity, Dues \$60.00 & \$70.00
1963		1977	
450 members	Same dues	409 members	345 Equity, 64 Non-Equity, Dues \$68.00 - \$78.00; Limit players to foursome on course; Active membership limited to 400.
1964		1978	
450 members	Same dues	406 members	Dues \$78.00 - \$88.00, 372 Equity, 8 Corporate B, 26 Non-Equity, 110 Social, 112 Inactive Equity and Associate Equity, (Includes 60 Shimada), Big membership drive to reach 400 <i>full equity</i> .
1965			
450 members	Initiation fee \$300.00, Transfer fee \$200.00, Dues same		
1966			
450 members	Initiation fee \$400.00, Transfer fee \$350.00, Dues same, Locker \$2.50		
1967			
450 members	Initiation fee increased to \$750		
1968			
450 members	Cost of transfer up from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00		

COMPILED BY:
PEGGY AND CHARLENE (OFFICE STAFF)

RICHMOND COUNTRY CLUB WE RECOGNIZE HONOR ROLLS

Each year has brought some improvement and steady progress in the growth and development of the Richmond Country Club. This success is partially due to the interest and hard work of the following men and women who served as Presidents of the Board of Directors at Richmond or as President and Captains of the Women's Association at Richmond. Recognition is hereby given to these men and women who guided our Club's operations.

COMPILED BY A.D. APPLE

AS PRESIDENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1924 - 1930	Dr. U.S. Abbott
1931	Arthur Alstrom
1932 - 1934	Frank Mero
1935 - 1937	Jim Norton
1938	Joe Miller
1939 - 1940	W.M. Porter
1941	George McAllister
1942	Frank Mero
1943	Bill Waters
1944	Barney Dolan
1945	Al Norman
1946	Al Furrer
1947	Jack Rafter
1948	Tommy Herbert
1949	Ed Fanning
1950	Dave Grant
1951	Joe Lavezzi
1952	Bill Lovell
1953 - 1960	Sam Grundeman
1961 - 1962	Don Garman
1963 - 1969	Andrew Steen
1970	W.J. Mulgrew
1971	Al Cortese
1972	Dr. Jack Ehle
1973	Ernie Navellier
1974	Al Cortese
1975	Al DaValle
1976	Al Wolff
1977	George Roberts
1978	Jim Werson

AS PRESIDENT OR CAPTAIN RCCWA

1932 - 1933	Viola Bates Peterson Jones
1934	Marion Gross
1935 - 1936	Elizabeth Bosen
1937	Neat Furrer
1938	Irma Beaman
1939	Olive Matthiesen
1940	Lynette Means
1941	Carla Woodfin
1942 - 1947	Women's Association Discontinued Committee of three in charge WA; Elizabeth Bosen, Jean Philbrick, Irma Beaman
1948 - 1949	Irene Gaillard Crabtree Marcos
1950	Blanche Keith
1951	Marie Brown
1952	Orlena Marvin
1953	Lois Booth
1954	Jean Blame
1955	Lynette Garnjost
1956	Margaret Greenfield
1957	June Wade
1958	Blanche Keith
1959	Betty Eldridge
1960	Margaret Greenfield
1961	Anita Farmer
1962 - 1963	Louise Pangrazio
1964	Eleanor Gruenhagen
1965	Anita Mulgrew
1966 - 1967	Jean Pinador
1968 - 1969	Lucille Wolff
1970 - 1971	Kathleen Drake
1972	Eve Navellier
1973 - 1974	Van Bozeny
1975	Marge Ehle
1976	Julie Mairam
1977	Lucille Ponsi
1978	Ollie Clovich

*Organized first Women's Association

**Organized present Women's Association

There is always a small group of dedicated men and women who have served and contributed more than others toward the success, growth and development of an organization. Richmond Country Club honors and names to "OUR SPECIAL HONOR ROLL" these Professionals, Pro-Managers and Members who have served so well.

GOLF PROFESSIONALS, PRO-MANAGERS, MANAGERS RCC

1925 - 1931	Pep Elmstead, Professional
1931 - 1938	Ed Sawyer, Pro- Manager
1939 - 1961	Pat Markovich, Pro- Manager
1961 - 1970	Joe Reboli, Professional
1970	Bob Smith, Professional
June 1970 -	Wes Ward, Professional
1970 -	Buz Dyer, General Manager

EDITORS OF "THE APPROACH"

1934 - Jan. 1947	Ken Matthiesen, Editor and originator
Feb. 1947 - April, 1948	Lloyd N. Mason, Editor
May 1948 - Aug. 1950	Elton Brombacher, Editor
Sept. 1950 - 1971	Bob Jardine, Editor
1971 - 1972	Ade Salet, Publicity Chairman
1972 - 1974	Lynn Lawson, Publicity Chairman
1974	George Roberts, Publicity Chairman
1974 - present	Buz Dyer, Editor

MEN'S INVITATIONAL

BY BOB HIBBARD

While on the Board of Directors in 1961 I suggested we should have a Men's Invitational. At that time the Board felt we couldn't get enough members to participate and that it would cost too much to play in a two-day tournament. It was suggested I handle the event, but to be careful what to charge. The first annual Invitational cost \$25.00 per team, which included everything. In the 17 years of the Invitational we have always had a full field.

My committee the first eight years consisted of: Frank Cappiello, Co-Chairman, Rick Navarro, Bob Musselman, Jeanette Musselman, Dorothy Langer, Eve Navellier, Miriam Grimm, Betty Eldridge, Louise Pangrazio, Diane Townsend and Adeline Benassi.



Perpetual committee members for 8 years —



Men's Invitational winner "line-up"

In 1961 and continuing for 10 years red jackets with RG & CC crests on the pockets were awarded to the winning member and his guest at the awards dinner. These were worn at club functions throughout the year. The Tournament committee now has matching outfits. Prizes were awarded after the dinner and we normally had a comedian to help with the festivities. Four years in a row we had Joe Orenco, the former Big League baseball player do the honors. He used to MC many shows and tournaments throughout the country and was always popular at Richmond. Members of the press were invited to cocktails and the awards dinner and coverage was excellent with photographs of the winners in the Richmond Independent, and results in the Oakland Tribune and San Francisco Chronicle.

In 1964, '65 and '66 we had a men's stag night after the practice round prior to the tournament. This consisted of a hosted cocktail party and dinner for the member and guest contestants and was very popular, but increased the entry fee. Until recent years we had a car for a hole-in-one prize on the 11th hole. We did this by taking out an insurance policy with Lloyds of London, however the car was never awarded.



Ade Salet, Chairman Bob Hibbard and guests post their score at Men's Invitational

Since the first Invitational to the present this tournament has been the highlight of the year at RCC. More guests from different clubs, both local and from other states, visit our club for this event to enjoy our hospitality and they all go away saying that "ours" is one of the best run tournaments attended each year.

The tournament chairmen for the last 10 years:

1969 Bob Hibbard	1974 Lynn Lawson
1970 Al DaValle	1975 Al DaValle
1971 Al DaValle	1976 Nino Petroni
1972 Al DaValle	1977 Nino Petroni
1973 Ade Salet	1978 John Mirante



Bob Hibbard and Pro Joe Reboli — ready to announce winners Men's Invitational

RICHMOND COUNTRY CLUB ANNUAL INVITATIONAL WINNERS

1961 Bill Young - Mel Robinson
1962 Rich Sparks - K Kashatus
1963 D. Fracchia - J. Zwingle
1964 Bob Hibbard - Frank Gatto, Jr.
1965 Richard Baldwin - Robert Andrus
1966 Dave Bent - Robert Orr
1967 Bob Hibbard - Frank Gatto, Jr.
1968 Frank Sorba - Dean Geredes
1969 Mack Hammett - Al Dias
1970 Richard Baldwin - Robert Andrus
1971 Mack Hammett - Sy Zell
1972 Mack Hammett - Sy Zell
1973 Packy Hughes - Ed Molkenbuhr
1974 Lloyd Bogue - G.R. Manion
1975 Jack Grasso - Dennis Grasso
1976 George Roberts - Robert Lesser
1977 Bob Grimm - Al Markstein

CLUB TOURNAMENT RECORDS

BY WES WARD

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The club championship was started in 1935 when the club was the Carquinez Golf Club.

It was played as a Match Play Tournament until recent years when it became a 72 Hole Medal Play.

Many of the early champs are still members of the RCC, such as Art Pangrazio (1939), Curt Dawson (1953), and Condi Ojeda (1953).

Charles Cox, Joel Spinola, and Wes Ward were classmates in high school, Charles won the championship a record six times, Joel Spinola became a touring professional and I became the golf professional here at RCC.



CLUB CHAMPION 1977
Tracy Sergeant

THE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1935 Vern Gilstrap	1957 Condi Ojeda
1936 Lou Gaillard	1958 Oscar Thompson
1937 Steve Pedrotti	1959 Curt Dawson
1938 Lou Gaillard	1960 Don Garman
1939 Art Pangrazio	1961 Curt Dawson
1940 Lou Gaillard	1962 Gene Brown
1941 Bill Riccard	1963 Charles Cox
1942 Art Pangrazio	1964 Charles Cox
1943 Art Pangrazio	1965 Charles Condon
1944 Howard Welch	1966 Charles Cox
1945 Howard Welch	1967 Charles Cox
1946 Bob Kicherer	1968 Bill Wade
1947 Guido Bianconi	1969 Jerry Helmuth
1948 Bob Kicherer	1970 Charles Cox
1949 Lou Logoteta	1971 Charles Cox
1950 Bert Schoux	1972 Curt Dawson
1951 Bob Kicherer	1973 Howard Tait
1952 Bob Kicherer	1974 George Rea
1953 Curt Dawson	1975 Jerry Helmuth
1954 Joel Spinola	1976 John Percival
1955 Bob Snelling, Jr.	1977 Tracy Sergeant
1956 Joe Malnar	



Art Pangrazio, 3 time winner, left and Charlie Cox, Club Champion winner 6 times, right, congratulate 1977 Champion, Tracy Sergeant

DIRECTOR'S CUP

The Directors Cup was started when the club was formed as the Carquinez Club. It was named after the Board of Directors.

This tournament was created as a Handicap Event after the club established a Handicap System for all the male members.

THE DIRECTOR'S CUP WINNERS

1939 Dale Davis	1959 William Dillon
1940 Al Norman	1960 Bob Hibbard
1941 Al Nicolletti	1961 Angelo Reginator
1942 Dick Pryde	1962 Carl Sapia
1943 A.A. Bauer	1963 Jack Robinson
1944 Wm. Raynor	1964 Al Jaffe
1945 Barnye Dolan	1965 Jack Minassian
1946 Harry Tezzi	1966 Bob Hibbard
1947 Elio Protti	1967 Bob Hibbard
1948 Curt Dawson	1968 Elmer Swiden
1949 Lee Blank	1969 Howard Tait
1950 Bob Trouton	1970 Bob Decker
1951 Curt Dawson	1971 Ade Salet
1952 Al Nordin	1972 Frank Spendorio
1953 Oscar Thompson	1973 George Ingham
1954 Bob Hatcher	1974 Tim Bales
1955 Curt Dawson	1975 Bob Mirante
1956 Ray Horan	1976 Dale Griffin
1957 L.M. Duckworth	1977 Sal Noriega
1958 Frank Morlan	1978 Keith Sowl



Keith Sowl '78 receiving award
from Tournament
Chairman and Director John Mirante



Sal Noriega '77

Bob Mirante '75



Dale Griffin '76

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

The team championship was the last of our major tournaments to get started. It has turned out to be one of the most popular events still in existence.

It is the only tournament that gives the low handicapper and the higher handicappers a chance to play as partners.

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

- 1949 Russ Smith - Condi Ojeda
- 1950 Bob Holladay - Art Miller
- 1951 Ed. Valentino - A. Aspesi
- 1952 Al Nordin - Bob Hatcher
- 1953 Hal Boles - Ed Lycet
- 1954 Oscar Thompson - Joe Ilardi
- 1955 Tony Pangrazio - Tom Benassi
- 1956 George Mason - Bill Dioon
- 1957 Dr. Palmer Galiup - Edward Cooper
- 1958 W.H. Porter - M.N. Dix
- 1959 C.C. Davis - John Demos
- 1960 Jim Habbestad - Chuck Alameda
- 1961 Joe Petroni - Nino Petroni
- 1962 James Martin - Wallace Thomas
- 1963 Tom Long - Dee DeFord
- 1964 James Martin - Al Sacks
- 1965 Howard Tait - Jerry Buckley
- 1966 Ed Leadstrom - Charles Petkovich
- 1967 Jerry Helmuth - Bob Hibbard
- 1968 Charles Cox - James Demaria
- 1969 Roy Dickson - James Toner
- 1970 Art Pangrazio - Al Langer
- 1971 John Dahl - H. Lineweaver
- 1972 Andy Clovich - Charles Condon
- 1973 Condi Ojeda - Mack Hammett
- 1974 Simpson Dong - Lee Haux
- 1975 Al Martinez - Roy Gurney
- 1976 Ed Cooper - Hank Kawada
- 1977 Curt Dawson - Kurt Mairam
- 1978 Al Sherwood - Howard Tait



1978 Winners of the Team Championship were Al Sherwood and Howard Tait (left) with runners-up, Jason Widmer and Hank Davis

RICHMOND COUNTRY CLUB COURSE RECORD

In 1952 Patty Berg shocked the world and all her competition in the Ladies' OPEN with the lowest recorded score. She shot an 8 under men's par, 64, to win the OPEN.

This record stood for years until Ron Patten, then the Professional at Diablo Country Club shot a 63 during a Pro Amateur.

The Score of 63 is still the record here at RCC even though it has been tied a few times.

WES WARD

WOMEN'S TOURNAMENTS

There are three major championships a year at Richmond Country Club: The Women's Club Championship, 54 hole medal scratch; The President's Club, 54 hole medal; and the Team Championship, match play. Participation in five regular Tuesday Playdays within four months prior to each major tournament is required.

The Winners of record in each Major Tournament are as follows:

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1954	Lucille Wardell
1955	Mrs. C. Chiappone
1956 & 57	Barbara Williams
1958 to 60	Mrs. C. Christian
1961 to 62	Mrs. W. Farmer
1963 to 64	Mrs. R. Dickson
1965 to 67	Mrs. L. Bowman
1968	Mrs. A. Salet
1969 to 75	Mrs. L. Bowman
1976	Mrs. A. Salet
1977	Mrs. L. Bowman
1978	Mrs. A. Salet



1977 Women's Champion, Carol Bowman and Runner-up, Ruth Salet



Member Irene Marcos toasting Ruth Salet, 1978 Champion

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1964	Irene Crabtree - Martha Palmquist
1965	Betty Eldridge - Kathleen Drake
1966	Neta Hagerty - Rose Ojeda
1967	Donna Rapposelli - Gloria Giorgi
1968	Donna Rapposelli - Gloria Giorgi
1969	Grace Leavitt - Grace Moore
1970	Marion Erlenheim - Pauline Locke
1971	Gay Hoerner - Margaret Dent
1972	Sally Kantor - Van Bozeny
1973	Carol Bowman - Ruth Salet
1974	Pat McKaig - Margaret Thompson
1975	Eve Navellier - Lucille Ponsi
1976	Margaret Blank - Esther Cannon
1977	Ethel Bradison - Emily Collison
1978	Charlene Carneiro - Addie Fong

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S CUP WINNERS

- 1938 Mrs. David C. Osborn
- 1939 Mrs. A.L. Philbrick
- 1940 Mrs. C.V. Allhands
- 1941 Mrs. A.L. Philbrick
- 1948 Mrs. David Stamps
- 1949 Mrs. Thos. Carlson
- 1950 Mrs. J.B. Brown
- 1951 Mrs. David Stamps
- 1952 Mrs. C. Ojeda
- 1953 Mrs. C. Christian
- 1954 Mrs. A. Fassero
- 1955 Mrs. C. Chiappone
- 1956 Mrs. A.J. Lindquist
- 1957 Mrs. A.J. Lindquist
- 1960 Mrs. Helen Prydz
- 1961 Mrs. Helen Prydz
- 1962 Mrs. B.E. Hagerty
- 1963 Mrs. W.R. Sheehan
- 1964 Mrs. Jo Ann Wayne
- 1965 Mrs. Wm. Todd
- 1966 Mrs. Cody Burnett
- 1967 Mrs. Emily Collison
- 1968 Mrs. Doris Smith
- 1970 Mrs. Charlene Carneiro
- 1971 Mrs. Van Bozeny
- 1972 Mrs. Charlotte Sorba
- 1973 Mrs. Chris Gurske
- 1974 Mrs. Irene Crabtree
- 1975 Mrs. Audrey Apple
- 1976 Mrs. Emily Collison
- 1977 Charlene Carneiro



CHARLENE CARNEIRO, winner 1977
President's Cup also won the 1978 Team
Championship with partner Addie —



ADDIE FONG, Co-winner, 1978 Team
Championship

FACTS, FIGURES AND FUN

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY RECORD AT RICHMOND

BY AUDREY APPLE

Promotion of golf at RCC is an important part of the history of the Club. Richmond members are justified in being proud of what their club has done and is still doing for the promotion of golf and for the good of the community.

Some of the important contributions are listed here:



Buz Dyer and M. Gibson taping Dinah Shore
Colgate Palmolive

1. Richmond City Tournament, over 18 years
2. Four PGA Opens. Snead, Penna, Schoux and Harrison, winners, tested par at Richmond.
3. Three Ladies' Opens. Babe Zaharias, Patty Berg and other top professionals
4. Northern California Opens
5. Pro-Amateurs; Sometimes two a year
6. Pro-Lefthanders
7. Qualifying Rounds for PGA
8. Many exhibitions - Professionals
9. Junior Championship: Many times the course was given free to various worthwhile organizations. The same is true with the clubhouse. Promotion of golf for Juniors included free lessons; Coaching St. Mary's College, University of California, West Contra Costa Junior College and Richmond Union High School free of charge.
10. Free lessons to women whose handicap was over 30 or beginners (Pat Markovich); Continuing women's clinics, promoting good players like Barbara Williams (Joe Reboli); Clinics for women and juniors (Wes Ward, Paul Wilcox)
11. Donation of the trophy for Most Improved Woman Golfer each year
12. Perpetual trophy Mr. & Mrs. Tournament donated
13. Tournaments and prizes donated for Damon Runyan Sweepstakes, March of Dimes, and others for many years. Records show March of Dimes and Damon Runyan Tournaments in the forties.
14. Dinah Shore film commercial
15. Tree planting at Hilltop Shopping Center
16. Annual Children's Easter and Christmas Parties
17. Men's Invitationals - Women's Invitationals

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

BY ROSE OJEDA

It's a warm sunny afternoon with just a bit of a chill in the air. Rolling green hills, resembling soft velvet, run to meet the blue sky. It's hard to believe it is the middle of winter. Inside the Clubhouse, in one corner of the room, is a tall tree, dressed up with shiny ornaments, tinsel and twinkling lights. Standing in neat little rows, like proud soldiers at attention, are the decorated tables with their colorful red, white and green tablecloths, with candy canes, fancy little cakes, ice cream cups, and party favors.

Hanging high from the ceiling, swaying with the breeze from the open door, is the pinata that resembles "Big Bird."

Suddenly, the door bursts open. The children are here. First to arrive are the Gaillard children, Bob and Barbara, the

Baum girls, the Raffertys, the Minassians, the Cafassos, the Pangrazios, the Wades, the Ojedas, the Blackmans, the Braunsteins, the Ehles' children and so many more but the years have dulled my memory. Dressed in their finest clothes, the children with their sparkling eyes, rosy cheeks, excited laughter are looking forward to the day ahead. Some cling to their mothers, half afraid, half shy, while others brave and daring dart here and there making fast friends.



Perennial Children's Christams Party Chairman, Rose Ojeda, and friends



Santa and friends at Christmas party

Now, I must get to work. As this is the first Christmas party (December 15, 1952) for the children at the Richmond Golf and Country Club I would like it to be a

successful one. I remember as a child we all enjoyed the pinata so much that I thought the children would have fun trying to break open the "Big Bird" to get the goodies inside. First, everyone gets his or her chance (well, maybe not everyone) to swing the bat as the rope is lowered and raised again and again. One of the more athletic kids takes a good healthy baseball swing and the goodies go in every direction. The kids get a little banged up and are ready for a few more games. Being in charge of the party has a few privileges so I arranged to have my grandsons put on a boxing exhibition. A crowd of men is starting to gather. There is excitement in the air as these two fellows start stalking around the arena. A quick jab to the jaw, a fast right to the ribs, a left jab to the mouth, what. . . one of the fighters is starting to cry. . . the contest is over. It's a draw. . . What do you expect when the fighters are only four and five years old?

Suddenly, music gently surrounds the children and soon young voices are joining in on the Christmas caroling. One particular song has meaning — "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." There is a red speck way off in the distance — near the first green. It gets bigger and bigger. Someone shouts, "it's him, it's him." Watch out for the charge. The kids run out to meet the sleigh. Excitement everywhere as the sleigh gets closer and closer. The sleigh (golf cart decorated to resemble a sleigh) is soon surrounded by laughing, excited kids. Santa steps out — why, it's Frank Unthank, playing Santa, and Bill Sawyer, Santa's helper. Santa steps inside with his group of young followers.

As Santa calls out every little boy and girl's name to come forward to receive their gift, those who aren't afraid or too shy, give Santa a kiss with their thank you.

Now it's time to fill their little tummies with little cakes, ice cream and chocolate Santa Clauses while they are comparing their gifts from Santa. Soon little eyelids get heavy and it is time to say adios.

When it is all over, there are only memories of a wonderful Christmas party. Who was to imagine that this would continue for another 25 years and that many of the children at this first Christmas Party at the Richmond Golf and Country Club would one day bring their own children to take part in one of the oldest celebrations in the world.

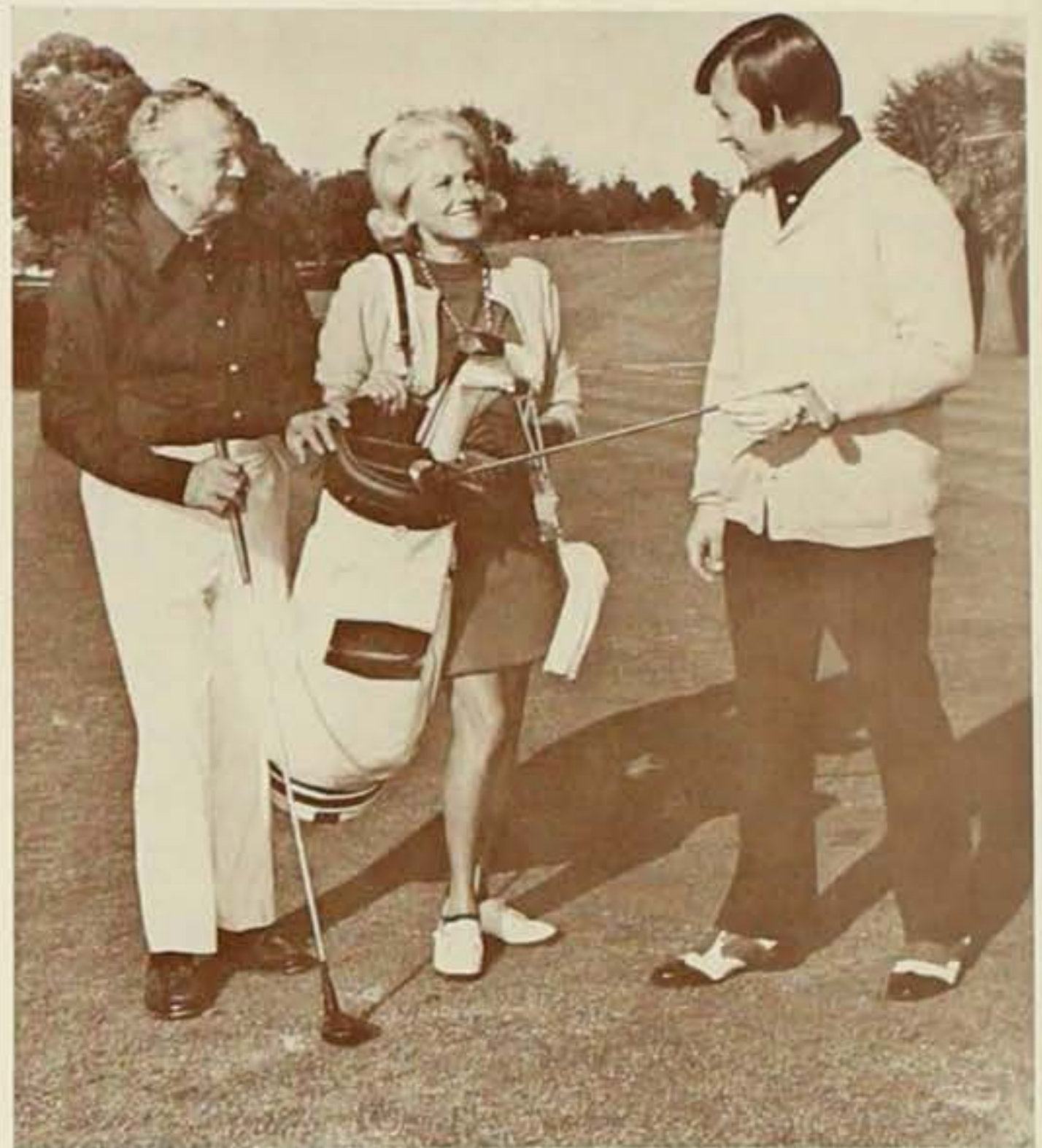
There were many fond memories to be made this day. Some will never be forgotten — by the children or their parents.

**MARCH OF DIMES
ASSISTANT-PROFESSIONAL
AMATEUR GOLF TOURNAMENT**

BY MIRIAM GRIMM

March of Dimes Tournaments were resumed 8 years ago. The Assistant-Professional Amateur Golf Tournament held October 31, 1977 realized a \$1900.00 donation to the Alameda Chapter of the March of Dimes. In the last 8 years, over \$11,000.00 has been earned by this event. Long-time Richmond Country Club member, Helen (Mrs. Lorin) Baum has chaired this project since early in 1970. Helen sounded out her project to Wes Ward, Gary Williams and Bob Smith of the Pro Shop. With their help and encouragement from other women members, the idea of an Asst. Pro Amateur Golf Tournament was launched. An Oakland businessman and part owner of the Oakland Raiders football team, Charles Foley agreed to chair the original committee. His valuable leadership and suggestions are still the model 8 years later. Getting a suitable date from the N.C.P.G.A. on a Monday when most assistant pros are available was difficult, but fortunately the weather cooperated on that first December 14th, 1970.

As to the tournament itself, each asst.-pro is invited to bring another man and two women from his own club. When he (or she) can't make up a 4-some, local members and neighboring club members are invited to fill in. The past 2 years, the play has been in 5-somes, adding another man. Cash prizes are awarded to lowest individual scores of the Pros and merchandise orders to the lowest team scores 1st and 2nd Best Ball and equivalent cash to the Pros. The purse is computed according to the entries fees, only. All other cash donations go directly to the M.O.D. We also are able to raise more money with a Hole-in-One chance for \$1.00



Joe Lavezzi, Chairman Helen Baum, Gary Thomas

and a drawing for 2 seats at a Raider game. one year we had an autographed football as a prize in the drawing. Other donated prizes are given away at the awards dinner.

The first year we were able to donate \$1500.00 to the M.O.D., but many dollars were outright gifts to help us get off the ground. The Country Club was generous in lowering the green fees and giving us a percentage at the bar. The local Mechanics Bank has remained our trustee, as arranged by Mr. Foley. Individual winner in 1970 was Bruce Summerhays, Olympic Club. The committee in addition to Helen included Irene Marcos, Eve Navellier, Dorothy Petroni, Gay Hoerner, Charles Foley, the Pro Shop and Miriam Grimm, secretary-treasurer. Today the committee remains virtually the same.

November 1, 1971 Winner, Jess Crawford.

November 6, 1972 Four Way Tie, Tom Goursolle, Fred Elliot, Reno; Bob Barro, and Skip Wheeler.

November 19, 1973 Four-Way Tie, Tom Good, Bob Barro, Frank Kelley, and Gene Mixon. Bob Grimm and Charles Hoerner were Co-chairmen.

November 18, 1974 Don Briggs, winner.

November 3, 1975 Joe Vavra and Ira Fair tied. Dick Pryde became Honorary Chairman and Tony Cortese, Master of Ceremonies.

November 8, 1976 Ron Hoyt, winner.

October 31, 1977 Greg French, winner.

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY BY RICHMOND PROS AND MEMBERS

Promotion by Richmond Professionals and members is best illustrated by these photographs — they are only examples of the many promotional activities that have been a part of our Richmond Club History from 1924 - 1978.



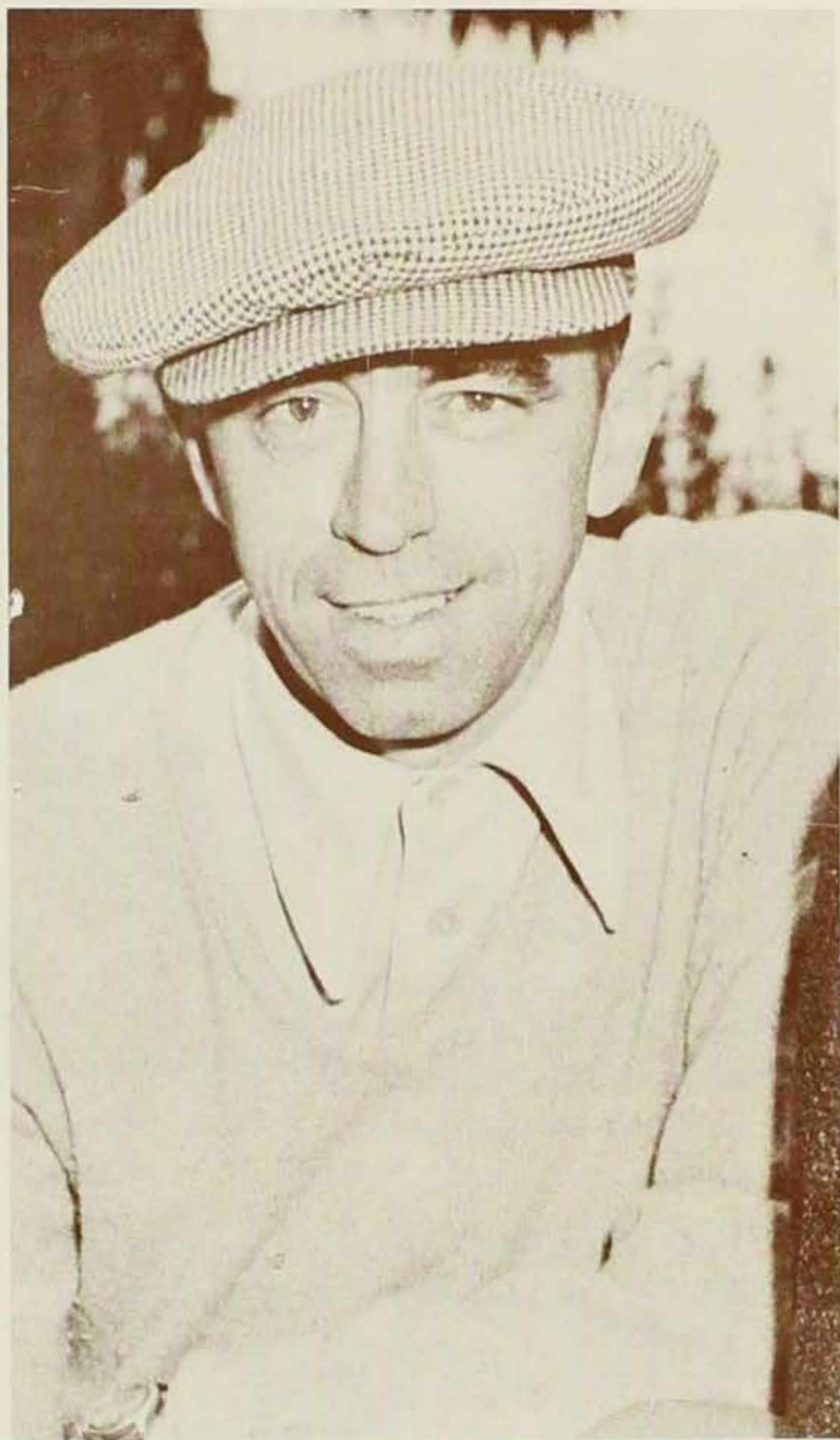
Pat Markovich presenting Jr. Cup to winner



Pro Wes Ward encouraging Junior golf at RCC



Joe Reboli

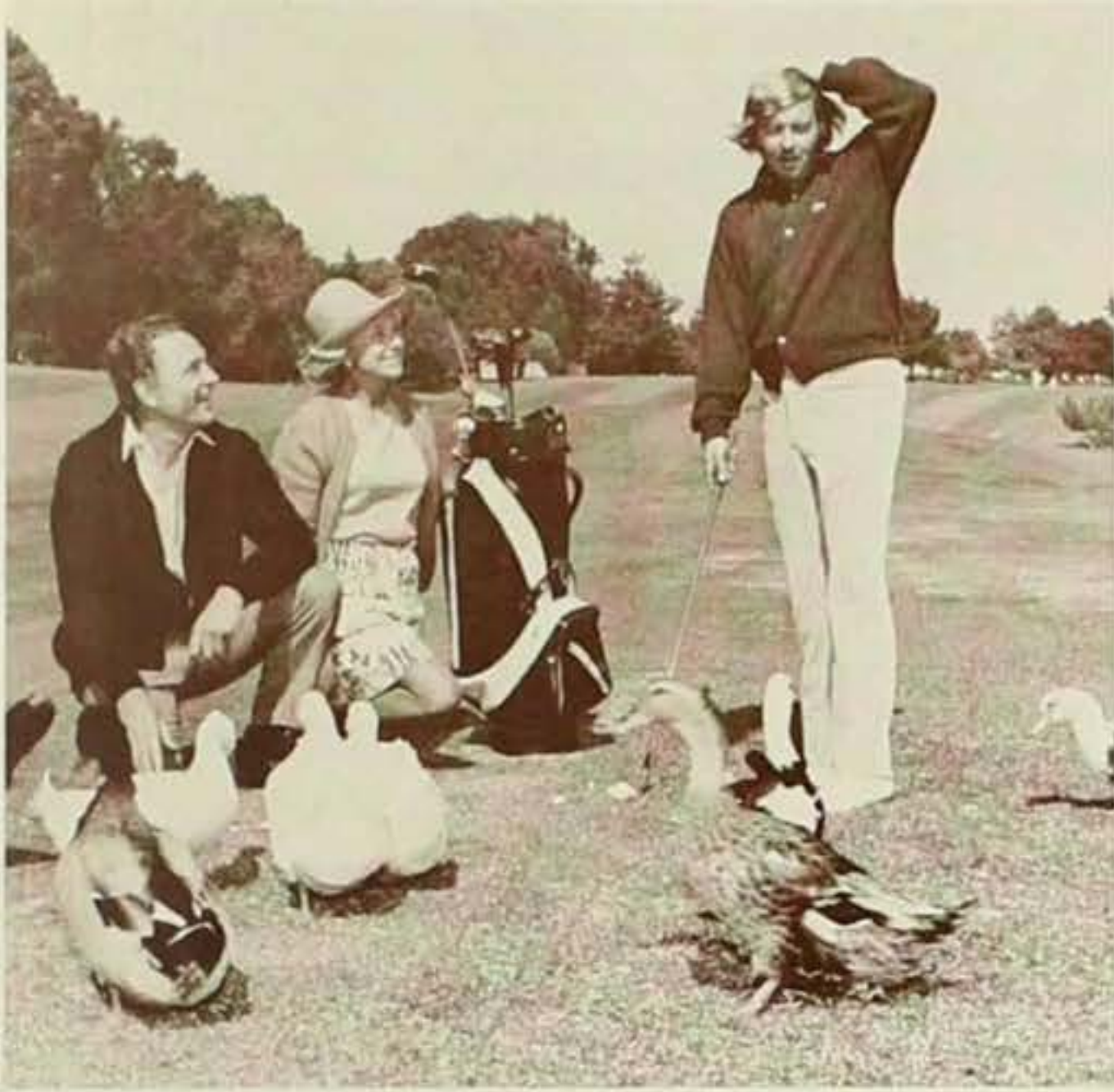


Young promoter

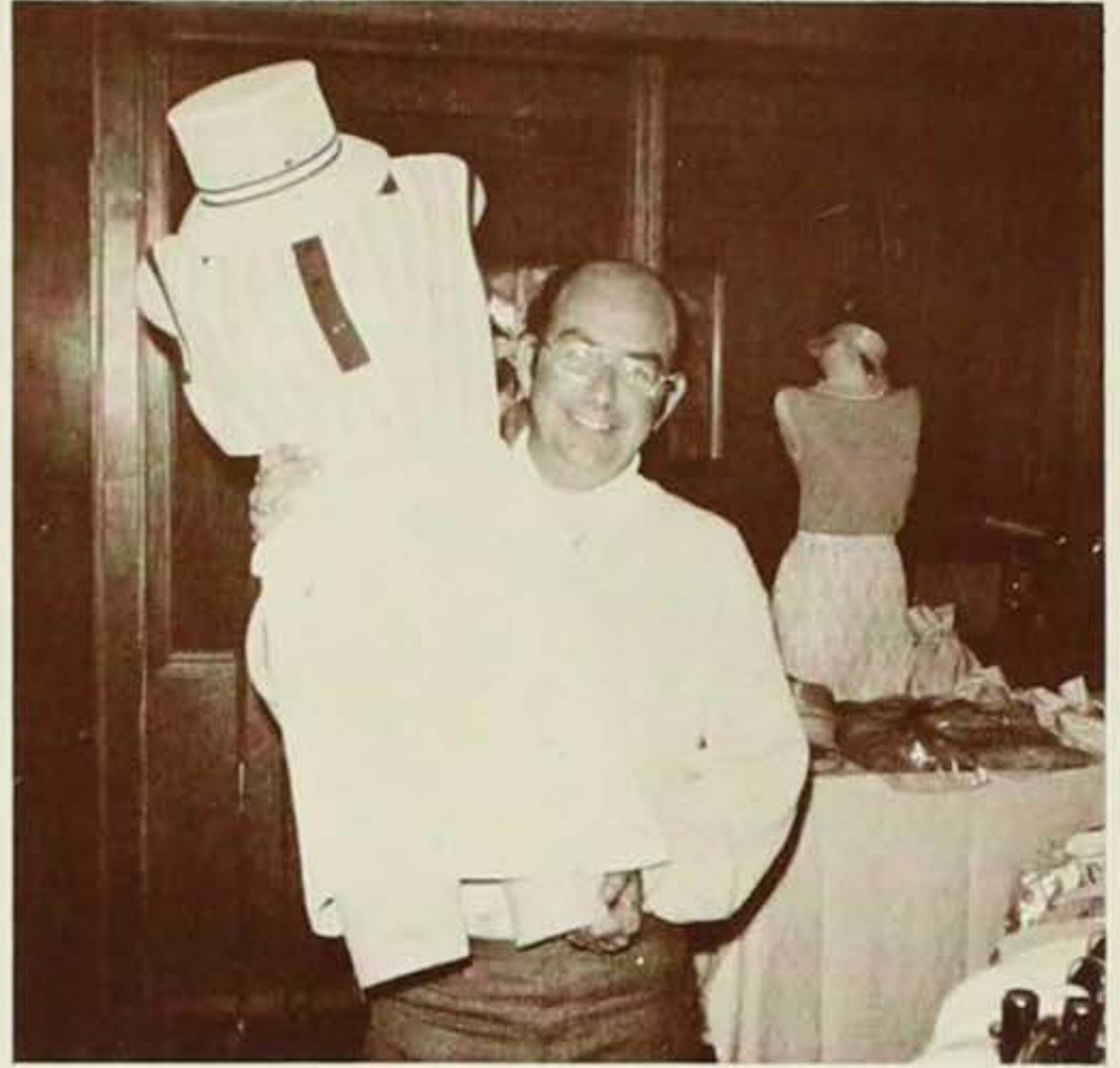
Joe Reboli, RCC Golf Professional 1961-1970 and Assistant Pro for many years before — was always a good promotion man — encouraging and developing young stars like Barbara Williams; managing tournaments, and constantly working to Promote his golf course.



Seasoned promoter



Putting problems, Paul? "No — just more promoting"



Also promoting? ? ?



March of Dimes Promotion at Richmond

Among MEMBERS who always promoted Richmond —



"Our own 'Tommy'" — early promotion

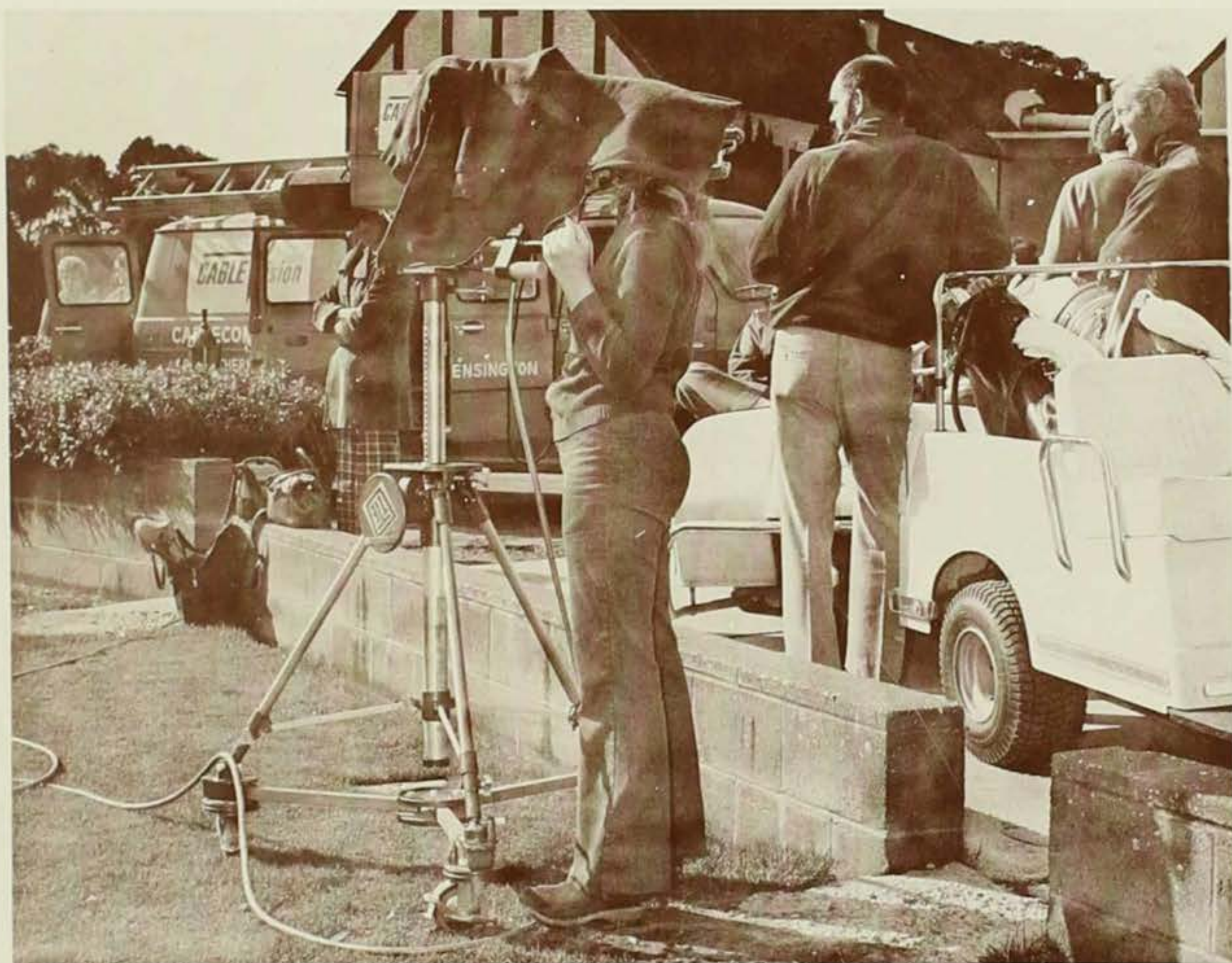


Fourth "ACE"-in-the-hole for Tommy Herbert — one week before his 78th birthday — still promoting

RICHMOND ON FILM

It had to happen sooner or later, Richmond Golf and Country Club had been discovered. With one of the best golf courses in California, a General Manager, Mr. Buz Dyer, "on call" constantly; a photogenic Golf Professional, Wes Ward — one can easily understand why Richmond was selected as an ideal setting to film a television commercial.

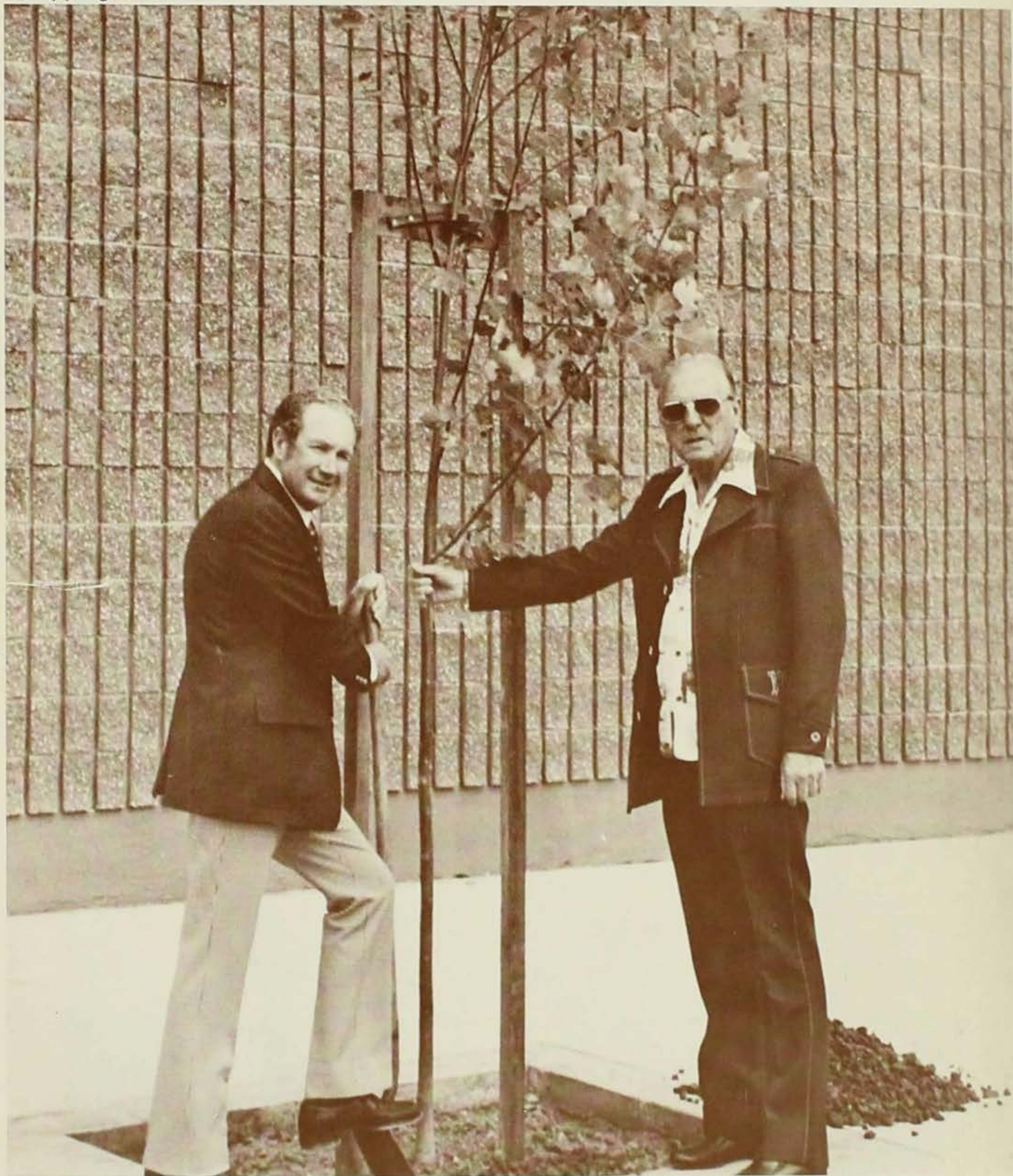
Sponsors for the Dinah Shore Colgate-Palmolive Company had been looking for the ideal location and chose Richmond because it was recognized as one of the best golf courses as well as the prettiest. The three women golf pros, Althea Gibson, Jacelyn Bourassa and Joyce Kay Miersky, on location with fellow Richmond TV stars, agreed "Richmond was a perfect setting".



Recent Promotion (Dinah Shore Colgate Palmolive) RICHMOND on National TV

AS THE TREE GROWS? ? ?

Al Wolff, former Club President and General Manager, Buz Dyer promoting Richmond Country Club and its continued growth & development by planting a tree at the neighboring Hilltop Shopping Center.



Former President Al Wolff and Manager Buz Dyer planting and "promoting"



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