 Appropriately, two of the biggest hitters in bunkerland, Mel Galletta, ex-North and South and Long Island titleholder, and Gordon Stott, erstwhile Lakeville champion, were tied in the driving contest, a feature of North Hills’ 1947 Field Day. Pictured are I. to r., J. T. (Pat) Clancy, president; Steve Bayer, Galletta, Stott and Arthur Cunningham, tournament chairman last year.

### North Hills’ FIELD DAY Is Great Tournament Feature

**By JOHN M. BRENNAN**

About this time 20 years ago, when Wall Street was riding for that earth-shaking fall of 1929, a group of Clearview Golf Club members conceived the idea of staging one tournament a year to end all tournaments. The Whitestone club in those days bragged of a membership roster that resembled a Who’s Who of the American theatrical world in addition to some of Gotham’s most influential citizens and was headed by Vincent X. McGuire, who made a fortune promoting golf and cleaning towels for newspaper presses.

Overlooking Long Island Sound and located within New York City, Clearview had its own 350-foot dock for boats, an extensive pier that was used for boxing shows, softball games; a gorgeous 18-hole golf course and extensive grounds.

With such a commodious layout it was natural that boat-minded golfers (everybody seemed to own a cruiser in those days) would turn to Clearview, for it was a short run through East River from Manhattan to Clearview—and a round of golf.

As a result, sleek, white cruisers during an ordinary day might be seen dropping off such glamour girls and boys as Ginger Rogers, Harry Richman, who had an estate nearby at Beechhurst; Louella Gear, who also had a showplace adjoining the club; Joe Frisco, William C. Fields, Marilyn Miller, Eddie Dooley, Martha Morton, Bert Lahr, The Lyons brothers with the inevitable bevy of Broadway show girls; Clara Bow and dozens of others whose names were familiar to theater marquees throughout the nation.

It was during a bright moonlight night while an amateur boxing show was in progress on the giant pier that Harry Neu, an executive of Decca Records; Joe Gross, Vince McGuire, Common Pop" Gerson and Ray McDeavitt started discussing what’s wrong with the tournament schedule. All agreed that Clearview should emerge with a tournament that should set a standard—eclipse any tournament ever put on at any club.

"But we have so varied a membership, how can we put on a tournament that will interest everybody?" reasoned Vince McGuire. "Let’s put on a Field Day that will be exactly that," shot back Neu, who played a major role in directing tournaments in those carefree days.
George Worthington lost the use of his right arm in a hunting accident, so tosses balls into a bowl to win a prize during Field Day.

A month following the mammoth nocturnal boxing party Clearview’s Field Day unreeled and the results were something resembling a Barnum & Bailey extravaganza. The day was tailor-made, with sun bathing the premises and the show girls on the beach. There was music all over the place, with a band playing in the rear of the 18th green.

There were eats before, between and after rounds. Beer barrels were set up in every bunker on the course and a fellow couldn’t be blamed for hooking or slicing one into inviting silica sand—if for no other reason than to whet his parched throat.

There was not only golf, but softball, putting competition, dart throwing, tossing balls into barrels, weight lifting, swimming events, speedboat racing and a dozen other attractions to keep everybody happy.

The day was touched off with a dance and dinner, plus an entertainment program that would, as Joe Frisco estimated, “have cost a million dollars to stage.” It was ad-lib, with Broadway at its best. The day and night were unforgettable.

So pleased was the Clearview committee with the Field Day that Harry Neu expressed the desire to see it perpetuated. The other members agreed to stage a similar party every year.

But when the City of New York, a few years later, decided to purchase the grounds for $940,000 the powers in control decided it was a lot of money in the midst of a depression and Clearview became a municipal links. The private club membership dispersed, with the majority converging on North Hills Golf Club, a short distance away, in Douglaston.

Neu and Joe Gross were among the group hooking up at North Hills and when summer rolled around the pair discussed their Field Day dilemma with some of the oldsters at Douglaston. It was natural that North Hillsites had heard of the unique and novel party staged so successfully at Clearview, so they were receptive to the idea and immediately shaped plans to inherit the idea nurtured by Harry, Joe and the rest at Whitestone.

North Hills members took to the Field Day program like a duck to water. Neu and Gross were somewhat stymied at first, for North Hills, being an inland club, hadn’t the facilities for the nautical-minded, but to compensate for the lack of water, the Douglaston club had a far more pretentious clubhouse and larger grounds—if not a superior course.

(Continued on page 102)
Memphis CC Is Groomed
For National Amateur

Jimmy Hamner, supt., Memphis CC and
pres., Memphis Greenkeepers' Assn., is
ahead of schedule on the work of grooming
the course for the National Amateur, Aug.
30-Sept. 4. Hamner laid out his plans after
consultation with Fred Grau, USGA Green
Section director; O. J. Noer, and club offi-
cials.

Some construction work is being done in
tightening traps. Several holes presented
interesting problems involving the com-
parative difficulties of recoveries from
traps and shooting at greens so large that
the risk of three-putting was greater than
normal. Memphis CC greens have size to
accommodate change-over from Bermuda
to rye without taking the greens out of
play. The dividing line is about up and
down the middle of the greens.

Hamner has made numerous experi-
ments with various strains of bent and
maintenance practices but hasn't found a
bent or maintenance method that will
keep bent greens during the summer.

The course will play about 6670 for the
amateur. Some new tees have been con-
structed and greens size diminished by the
tighter trapping. Bermuda will be in excel-
 lent condition for putting at the time of
the Amateur, Hamner says.

Greens, fairways and tees have been put
into good shape by aerifying. Topdressing
after aerifying has helped put greens in
shape. Three applications of Milarsenite
and spraying with arsenic acid completely
eliminated the crabgrass last year. Rain
and ice this winter may have presented
some more maintenance problems but
Hamner, who has been with the club 28
years, is set to handle them if they do arise.

The course originally was a 9-hole lay-
out constructed 43 years ago. It was in-
creased to 18 and completely redesigned
and rebuilt by Donald Ross in 1913. A few
alterations since have been made by W. C.
Sherwood, when he was the club's active
pro. Changes for the Amateur are mainly
dictated by the longer ball and the rye-
Bermuda change over influence on size of
greens. Frances Ouimet and Richard Tufts
of the USGA visited the Memphis CC
after the 1947 Amateur and went over the
proposed alterations with George
Treadwell, veteran official of the club.

PGA Activities Illustrated
In Chart Form For Members

PGA secretary, Joe Novak, has prepared
a chart showing the aims, purposes, ac-
tivities and accomplishments of the Assn.
in a form that can be readily portrayed and
explained. Dividing the PGA's activities
into four general classes, namely, 1. General association procedure and routine,
2. Aid to members, 3. Promotional activi-
ties, and 4. Outside relations, the chart does
not attempt to describe in detail, but if
studied easily illustrates the history of the
PGA, where it came from, where it is to-
day, and where it is going tomorrow.

Presented at the Association's recent
annual meeting as the basis of the
secretary's report, the convention unani-
mously voted to provide all members with
a copy for study and analysis. Joe is to
be commended for this "bird's-eye" view
of PGA activities and all members and
other interested individuals should have
a copy at hand for ready reference.

NORTH HILLS' FIELD DAY
(Continued from page 41)

How well Neu and Gross succeeded at
North Hills is reflected in the attendance
figures for 1947. Unfortunately, the
Weather Man was in an uncompromising
mood and unleashed a torrential storm
the morning of the Field Day last year,
but in spite of the atrocious conditions
some 200 members and guests ignored
the inclement weather. In spite of the
turnout, the party was postponed and
when rescheduled more than 350 partici-
pated in the five-ring circus, as the affair
has become at North Hills.

Joe Gross, known as "Uncle Joe" to
bunkerland, passed on to greener pastures
on the eve of last year's tournament. Soon
after, North Hills decided to perpetuate
his memory by donating a Joe Gross Me-
orial Trophy that will go to the winner
of the annual Field Day.

No expense is spared at North Hills' Field Day. There is food fit for royalty,
including a clam bar that is well patron-
ized during the day. The inevitable beer
barrels decorating the bunkers are still
much in evidence and, in addition, there
are refreshments at every tee and green
for those accurate shooters who don't ex-
plore traps.

There is music all day long, with a band
on the high terrace back of the green of
the 600-yard 18th hole. Many an easy
putt is missed at this green when the
band strikes up some blue notes just to
disconcert the player.

In back of North Hills, there is softball
in progress and on the vast lawn and on
the big putting green there is endless
competition and fun for those who can't
find time to get out on the golf course.
It's a grandiose party that has transcended
any and all other parties at North Hills—just as at Clearview in those loose days
of 1928. Ask any North Hills member and
he'll tell you business can wait when Field
Day rolls around. It's that kind of day.
"We have member-guests that have been the talk of the golf world and every other kind of tournament imaginable, but for genuine satisfaction Field Day is the thing," commented J. T. (Pat) Clancy, president of North Hills and prominent attorney.

"I should imagine that such an event would prove a sellout at any club. It's a day when we let our hair down, as it were. Everybody comes out anticipating a wild, crazy day and nobody goes home disappointed. We have a near-100 per cent member attendance when this event rolls around."

George Spargo, who was deputy mayor when Bill O'Dwyer moved into City Hall following the La Guardia regime and is at present Chairman of the important Triborough Bridge Authority, summed up the Field Day program at North Hills when he said: "I know business men who declare a holiday when Field Day rolls around."

Eric G. Kock, president of the Club Managers Association of America who is executive manager of North Hills, has been responsible in a large measure for the tremendous strides made by the Field Day at Douglaston.

Under Eric's astute direction, the party which might easily get out of control be-

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"I never realized that night out on the Clearview pier that 20 years later, at a different club, we would be still carrying on so gustily," commented Harry Neu the other day when the North Hills tournament committee selected Wednesday, June 16th, for the Field Day jamboree. "It's become like the proverbial snowball and I often wonder if it will ever lose momentum. It doesn't seem to, does it?"

Al Matarazzo, tournament chairman at North Hills, said that in addition to the ambitious Field Day plans, his committee has just about the most diversified tournament schedule in the country. "We'll have the usual member-guest and tournaments every weekend and holiday from mid-April until Thanksgiving."

Matarazzo said that for genuine fun and good fellowship, the Field Day program can't be duplicated. "It's a sure fire hit at our club," he commented.

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