

When fire destroyed the clubhouse at Dellwood CC, the management kept its peak season business from going up in smoke along with its clubhouse

If Fire Hits, Save the Season

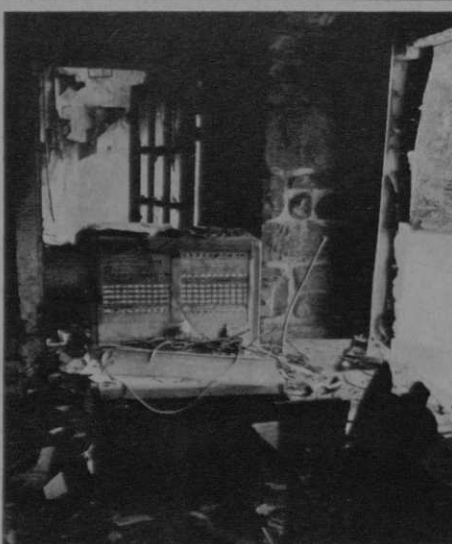


The fire broke out shortly after 10 p.m. on July 1st; by 6:30 a.m. the clubhouse at Dellwood CC in New City, N.Y., was demolished. Lost were the restaurant, bar lounge, offices and card rooms, and hanging in the balance was Dellwood's entire social season.

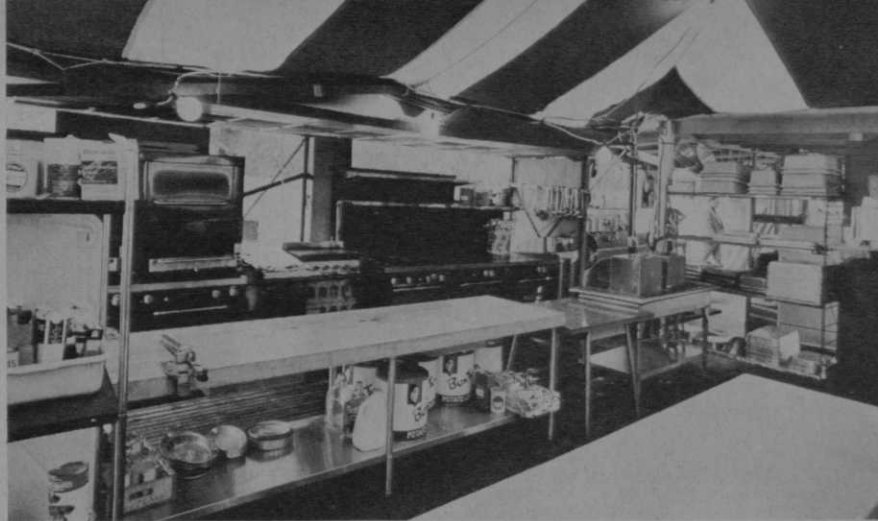
While the fire raged Dellwood's president, insurance chairman, insurance broker and general manager, John Straub, met to decide what immediate course of action should be taken. The decision to do everything possible to quickly put the club back into complete operation was made, with the approval of the executive committee, which met the following day.

The restoration of telephone, gas and electric services was an immediate concern because it was felt that

In total ruin: All that remains of Dellwood's clubhouse are the stone walls and foundation.



without these vital utilities, the whole rebuilding effort would be hampered. Within 12 hours after the fire these services were restored. A temporary telephone service was installed on the lower floor of one of the hotel buildings, which had become a temporary office. With telephones available, the club's many suppliers could be immediately contacted to deliver necessary equipment. In addition, the normal communication service for members was maintained; messages were even delivered on the golf course via the instant communication network (see April GOLFDOM, p. 52), which provides through a citizen band radio, communication from a base station in the office to staff members equipped with transceivers. Also, the network was supplied to other staff



This temporary kitchen (left), set up in a tent, handled dinner for over 300 people.

members, such as pool manager and pro shop manager, who were given walkie-talkies, which were connected to the base station located in the temporary office.

The temporary office, Dellwood's management soon realized, would be better utilized as card room facilities; therefore, two 10-foot by 50-foot field office trailers were rented for temporary office space. These trailers will continue as offices until the new clubhouse is completed.

The day after the fire, club officials decided to locate the temporary restaurant and bar facility in a portion of the parking lot. They also decided, after investigating such possibilities as inflatable bubbles and temporary wood structures, that a circus tent-type installation consisting of three tents would be best. These tents, one 20 by 30 feet for the kitchen, one 40 by 100 feet for the dining room and one 30 by 30 feet for the

bar, were installed the Wednesday after the fire.

To the tents the utility company brought gas lines and electric power. In the bar tent, carpenters fashioned a complete bar made of two by fours and paneling. From Canada, within two days, came 600 yards of indoor/outdoor carpeting which was used throughout the dining room and the bar tent. This was laid and nailed directly to the asphalt pavement, giving the interior a very comfortable feeling. A bandstand was built and a PA system installed.

Because the parking lot is slightly

General Manager John Straub (right) surveys temporary dining room. These tent structures (below) became Dellwood's clubhouse, and the trailers became the nerve center for communications and clubhouse business.



pitched to allow proper drainage, a paving company was called in to build a curving around the tent perimeter to prevent rain from entering. Throughout Thursday and Friday, as each piece of equipment arrived, it was immediately set in place and a plumber or electrician made the necessary connections.

One problem arose after the kitchen equipment was installed. The 20 by 30 foot tent proved to be too small, so the carpenters were asked to build extensions. Their work doubled the kitchen area.

By 5 p.m. Saturday, July 10th, everything appeared to be in order, when it was discovered that the dance floor had not been built. Hurriedly, 12 sheets of three-quarter inch plywood were nailed together and a roll of vinyl flooring was purchased and glued to the plywood. Before the glue had dried, a dinner dance for 300 people was well underway.

With organization and cooperation the Dellwood people turned a disaster into one of the most fun-filled seasons in the club's history. □

