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EARLY IN

FEBRUARY



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AND KEEP 'EM

Letter from Frank Strafacci

T/Sgt. Frank Strafacci, DUKW Command, Writes from the Philippines to
Morton Bogue, USGA President

Nov. 4, 1944.

Dear Mr. Bogue:

Just received your letter and it's the first one in 7 weeks, so I enjoyed reading it a great deal. Before I left Brisbane I got a letter from an American Red Cross official, expressing his thanks for the golf balls he received from the USGA. I'm sure they can make very good use of them.

As for golf news, when I get back to the States I hope to present the USGA with a golf ball that has already travelled over 43,000 miles and used for 52 rounds of golf. It was used in America, Australia, Dutch New Guinea, I expect soon to use it in the Philippines, China and Japan. I used it for the first time at my club Sound View, and from there it went to Omaha, back to Sound View then to Frisco, Adelaide, Australia, Melbourne, Townsville Cairns, Sydney, Cairns, Brisbane, Cairns, Brisbane, Dutch New Guinea (I didn't have a club, I batted it around with a club made out of a branch).

At present things are pretty hot here. Col. Grimm and I landed 15 minutes after the first wave D-Day. The front line was already being established ten yards in from the beach, and for the next two hours we carried shells. I say "we" because the Col. and I were together for the first five days, and wherever he went I tagged along. The reason why he had to haul ammo was because, there weren't sufficient men on the beach at that time, so we all had to pitch in. We got out of that detail oke. As we were resting, we got a big thrill. General MacArthur, President Osmena, and lots of other brass came ashore right in front of us.

The second day we headed for a town, our mission being to contact the Mayor and Governor, and take intact a certain building where we were to place guards to protect it from the enemy. And, to have the Mayor and Governor assure us full cooperation once the town was liberated from the enemy. We hiked many miles when we finally reached a spot one mile from our destination. We were held up for two hours; the town was being shelled. We finally got started, moving in with the infantry. As we reached the town, many people came towards us, they hugged and kissed us, some were crying of happiness, it sure did make me feel funny inside.

The Mayor invited us into his home where we were given some good chow and beer. After the Col. told the Mayor what

was expected of him, we left and headed for the other side of town, where the particular building we were interested in was located. Just before we reached it many civilians were running our way. One boy, about 16 years old stopped us and told us that there were many snipers ahead, couldn't we give him a rifle. I was thinking that it wouldn't be a bad idea if I gave him mine, I hadn't fired one in so long, that he probably would have done a lot better than I hoped for. He decided to tag along, and we continued on our way. We got within ten yards of the building when the Nips opened up at us. I finally got behind a tree. The Nips were a couple hundred yards away, up on the side of a hill.

I couldn't see them and so I held my fire, and it was at this time that I got to thinking of the five foot putt I had to make to tie the 8th hole in an exhibition golf match played in Brisbane only a few weeks ago (Captain Bud Ward came down from Dutch New Guinea for five days, and I arranged a match for the benefit of the Australian Red Cross, which we lost 3-2). Our opponents, Alex College and Dick Coogen, played a bit too good for us. I thought of what a tough spot we would have been in if I missed the putt. I can assure you I'll never try hard for another putt as long as I live, at least it won't seem like trying.

We were there only five minutes when the infantry came up. They proceeded ahead and blasted hell out of those monkeys. After placing a guard around the building we headed back for the Mayor's house, but only before that native lad talked me out of my rifle for one hour. He certainly did have a happy look on his face. I checked my rifle and only three shots were fired; not bad shooting. The last I heard of my friend was that he and two other boys were headed for the hills. They hate the Japs as much as we love our country.

That nite we stayed at the Mayor's home, and the following day we were treated to one of the finest Chinese dinners I ever had. The head of a Chinese village was the host. We had roast duck, fried chicken, rice, wine, whiskey, and it was topped off with a Filipino cigar soaked in rum. The next few days I rested up, my feet were shot to hell, and I stayed at an actor's home. Finally I was given an assignment, which I'm still carrying out.

The past ten days have been hell on wheels. The Nips have been coming over night and day, throwing everything at us. And I must say they are the stinkos of all time. Don't get me wrong; I'm not complaining. Last night was tough. They started at 9 P. M. and every 10 or 15 minutes they came over and dropped their eggs. They finally went away at 8 A. M. Our planes came around, and the Nips are in no mood to mess with our flyers.

That's the way things stand at the present time. Until this Bomber's moon goes away, we'll continue to catch it. So far I've had five narrow escapes, but the only thing that connected was a scorpion bite on the night of the Typhoon. The Nips didn't come over that night. I'll take them any time in preference to that bit of rain and wind, and the everlasting scared out of me, too many times to mention. Even so, I believe all will be well with me, my name is pretty hard to spell.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK STRAFACI.

Tough War For Greenkeepers

... says Harold Stodola, Pres.
Greenkeeping Supt. Assn. of America

★ LAST FALL'S OPTIMISTIC outlook for 1945 has lost its rosy hue. Events on the war and home fronts altered the picture. The grim business of fighting and winning the war rightly must have first priority and consideration. Greenkeepers will take up another notch in their belts and accept these added problems in stride. Past performance records clearly indicate the continued and additional problems will be met effectively.

District and the national greenkeeper organizations have curtailed many of their functions to become geared to war economy. The Greenkeeping Superintendents' Assn. has not held any type of meeting since February 1942. Contact with its membership is being maintained through correspondence and "The Greenkeepers' Reporter", the association's official magazine. Many of our greenkeepers are engaged in war work in addition to their greenkeeping responsibilities. Necessarily, therefore, much of the program for advancement of course maintenance technique must await the return of peace.

A new era in sports will follow the war. Golf will enjoy increased popularity and become one of the leading participation sports. O. B. Keeler, in a recent article succinctly writes: "Golf—the outdoor game that may be played from sunrise to sunset of the life-span, as well as of the day." Golf has also done a job in this war and has been belatedly recognized by military and industrial groups for its value to service man and civilian worker.

How will the greenkeeping superintend-

ent be affected by this increased growth of golf? He hopes that increased recognition and responsibilities will carry just monetary compensation for his services. He wants a chance to have a home, to educate the kids and have enough left to feel secure in his chosen career of being a good greenkeeper. This he hopes isn't just wishful thinking—like it too frequently has been in the past!

Question of Small Golf Hole

★ Following the defeat of Byron Nelson by Bob Hamilton for the 1944 PGA championship, Jim M'Curley (syndicated sports writer of New York, revived the question as to why there shouldn't be larger holes on the putting greens, claiming that Nelson, a stylist in all other departments of the game, has only been defeated by "lucky" or "hot" putters, not as adept as Nelson in other departments of the game.

After citing numerous instances where Nelson was "nosed" out of first place by three-putt greens after playing flawless golf down the fairways, M'Curley asks:

"Wouldn't golf be just as fine a game, a much finer and fairer game, perhaps, if the stress were taken off putting? Why should the harmony of a fine drive and approach be disrupted by the thought of missing an eighteen-inch putt? Was the four and one-fourth-inch hole ruled in the game so that it would be possible for the Hamiltons to beat the masters like Nelson? If so, why? Would baseball have benefited if it had built 1,000-foot fences to stop the likes of Babe Ruth? I'm for bigger and deeper holes in golf courses."

Resort Being Built Into Country Club

Sparked by Walter H. Mode, a group of 170 golfers in and around Fort Atkinson, Wis., have taken over the resort formerly known as Hoard's Resort, which includes a nine-hole golf course, located near Lake Koshkonong. Plans are to operate the property as a resort until after the war, when with returning servicemen as additional prospective members, the place can be made a country club exclusively.

The property consists of 85 acres of rolling timber land over which are scattered 36 Indian mounds, animal and bird-shaped, some extending 160 feet in length. These are being retained as natural bunkers for the course. Grass and weeds had grown to about two feet in fairways, rough and woods during the past two years since the property was unused following the death of the former owner. Over 40 members volunteered to burn this out. Operations for the first season were reported profitable.

Club's Wartime Service Emphasized to Members

★ THE COUNTRY CLUB'S ROLE in wartime is the subject of an illustrated booklet "Northmoor in Review" sent by Northmoor CC (Chicago district) to its members, 125 of whom are in military service.

Northmoor examined its position realistically and came to the conclusion that the country club which went the limit in applying itself to war work had fullest justification for its energetic continuance in wartime. In the forward to the booklet the club says:

"To those men and women members of ours in the service of our Country it may seem a long stretch of the imagination for us to say that country clubs, too, can play a useful role in wartime. Yet, upon examination it is clear that the idea is not far-fetched. Northmoor has performed a service of which we are proud.

"This booklet has been compiled so that our members in War Service, of whom we are very proud, may get an idea of what is going on at Northmoor during their absence. And it is to let them know that we are looking forward to the speedy and victorious return of every one of them."

War Effort Accented

In detailed pictorial and type treatment the club presents its story without boasting reference to the financial aspects of its cooperation with war effort. This is a policy that is sure to be more widely adopted in the sports field when figures of bond selling enterprises of sports are compared with percentage of servicemen and servicewomen income invested in war bonds. Civilian bond selling events seldom look any too noteworthy when subjected to comparative income basis of weighing.

Northmoor, by accenting its contributions of members' personal effort rather than headlining the wartime cash factor of operations, gives a picture of wartime performance of a country club that must be satisfactory to members overseas.

"Every one of Northmoor's facilities, without a single exception, has been devoted to the performance of some war activity," the booklet tells. It outlines work done for the National War Fund, the USO Party Fund, Red Cross golf collections, Red Cross tennis collections, Dime-A-Round Servicemen's fund and other activities involving cash contributions.

An average of 35 women attend the weekly knitting, bandage rolling and packing, and sewing sessions. More than 1,000 bandages were rolled and packed weekly in addition to the other work done.

Victory gardening for members' and the club's tables was prominent on the program of members and their young-



Attractive front cover of Northmoor booklet which reviews club's wartime activities.

sters at the club. Northmoor's Victory Garden produce won prizes at the Highland Park Garden club show and was exhibited in a keenly competitive garden show the club itself staged.

More than 1,000 servicemen, representing 10 per cent of all golf played at Northmoor in 1944, was played under the Chicago District GA-USO plan giving enlisted men and officers free playing privileges on certain Chicago area private courses.

Hospital parties consisting of day-long outings for patients at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station hospital were planned, sponsored and conducted by Northmoor's women members. The patients played golf with girl members as caddies, swam, strolled around the grounds or just loafed, ate and rested in the sunshine at the club.

Members Hosts to Servicemen

Alternate Wednesday evenings the club was host for dinner, dancing and swimming to servicemen sent to the club through the USO. Guests at these parties were from 40 to 75. A group, con-

Golfdom



Still in there pitchin'

He's a rough, battered old fellow—that "used" golf ball. But he has a heart of gold. And he'll still be in there pitchin' for you in 1945. Without him and his heart of gold you'll get no fresh golf balls of any kind. Should there be any new synthetic rubber golf balls they will go to the boys in the services. So keep *digging* for those used golf balls. They're your only hope for "new" golf balls to sell this year. Send them to us *now* for rebuilding. Wilson Sporting Goods Co., Chicago, New York and other leading cities.

MEMBER: *The Athletic Institute—a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of national physical fitness.*

Let's all boost the "War Memorials That Live" campaign to commemorate our war heroes.

Wilson
GOLF EQUIPMENT



Wilson
Athletic Goods Mfg. Co., Inc.
Chicago Plant

IT'S WILSON TODAY IN SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Wilson ...
everything that's new
equipment for modern

Whether it's golf or any other sports equipment the name "Wilson" marks it for quality—for modern design.

Behind the name "Wilson" there are thousands of impressions made on the minds of America's sports playing public by our consistent national advertising. Behind it, also, are the action testimonials of thousands upon thousands of players who use Wilson equipment exclusively—of leading stars, coaches, trainers. Today practically all our production of sports equipment is going to our men in the services—to training centers, rest areas, rehabilitation camps, etc.

IT'S WILSON TODAY IN S

the name that stands for
best and best in modern
sports ★ ★ ★

When the war's end makes Wilson equipment again available to civilians, you will find not only the same fine quality, but even better, more improved designs, and workmanship. In the meantime take the best of care of the equipment you now have. Wilson Sporting Goods Co., Chicago, New York and other leading cities.

MEMBER: *The Athletic Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of national physical fitness.*

Let's boost the "War Memorials That Live" campaign to commemorate our war heroes

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

sisting of five members and their wives, bought, prepared and served the food at these parties and provided transportation for the guests.

The club's own competitions were limited in number and the golf admittedly wasn't up to prewar standards, but they did keep members looking forward to a pleasant change of pace and venue from civilian war work. Women's competitive events were continued although entries slumped due to women members' duties with Red Cross, Blood Bank, Volunteer Nurses Aid, AWVS Corps, bond drives and victory gardens. A girl tennis pro was engaged after the club's men tennis pros had entered military service. Tennis at Northmoor slumped more than golf.

Swimming was more popular than usual last summer due to the kids and their parents not leaving the community for vacations at summer resorts.

The course was maintained in remark-

ably good condition despite shortage of labor and critical materials, and a reduced budget. The clubhouse meal service was unexpectedly heavy because of domestic help shortages. Rationing curtailed selection and quantity of food served.

Membership was closed at 231 men, and 21 women members, because of limitations of service imposed by wartime conditions.

The club's report to its members concludes:

"It is our determination to keep in mind the interests of our members who are temporarily away in the Service. When they come back we want to make sure that they will feel that Northmoor is unchanged from the way they left it. We want them to have once again those things for which they remember Northmoor best . . . a pleasant, leisurely atmosphere, the companionship of their old friends, the quiet and beauty of a well-groomed club."

Minikahda Plans \$109,550 Postwar Work

★ MINIKAHDA CLUB'S 46th annual report (for the year ending Dec. 31, 1944) is highlighted by disclosure of the famed Minneapolis organization's postwar planning.

The report, signed by Pres. Clarence E. Hill, says:

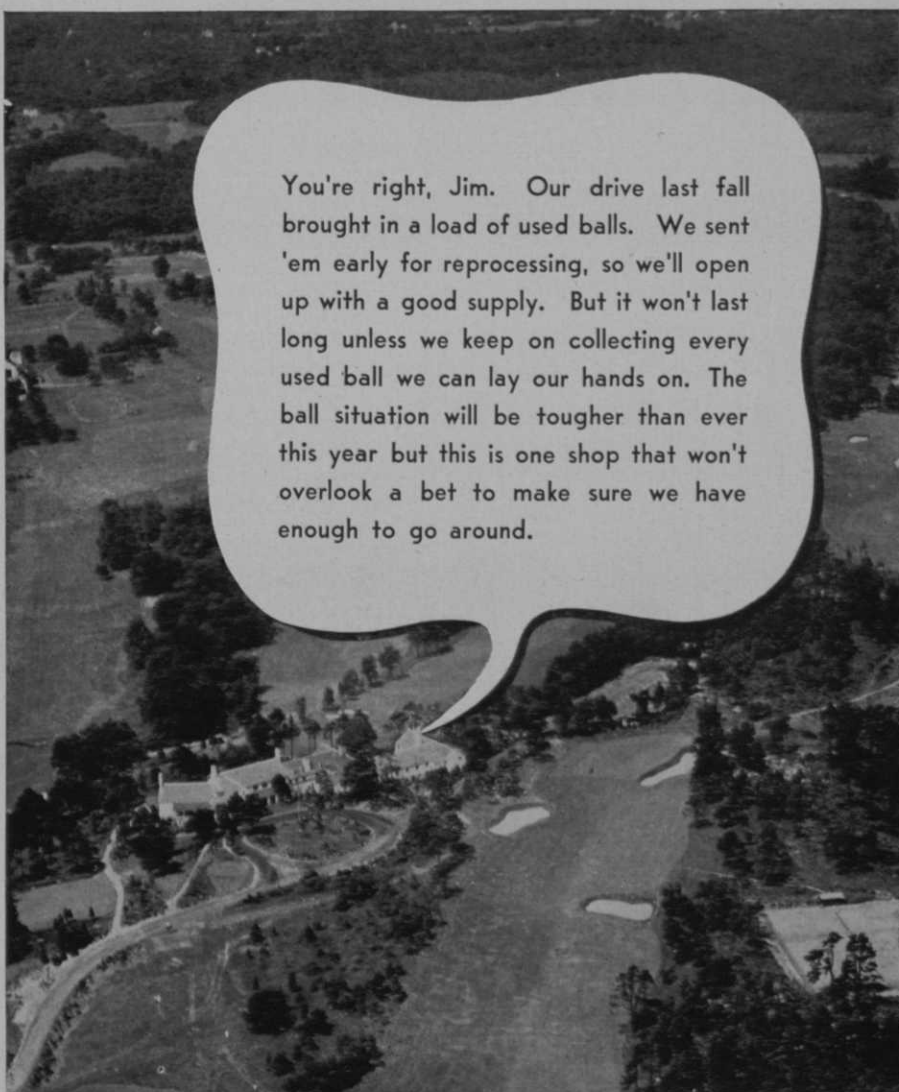
"Our Postwar fund for improvements is now \$15,000, to which we are adding \$1,000 monthly. Property, buildings and equipment, less reserve for depreciation, are carried at \$8,960.43 less than a year ago. The mortgage which was negotiated September 1, 1942, for \$165,000 has now been reduced to \$140,821.69. Over one hundred members of the Club guaranteed the first \$25,000 payments on this loan and when the January and February reductions have been made (the reserve for which has been provided) this guaranty will no longer be in existence and the guarantors will be relieved of further responsibility.

"Since December 31, 1944, special annual memberships are not being renewed and will automatically expire during 1945. It will be necessary for these members to be duly elected as resident members by the Board of Governors if they desire to continue in the Club. The membership or initiation fee will be raised from \$150 to \$240 for married couples as of April 1, 1945.

"Even under prevailing conditions we have endeavored to keep up the traditional standing and service of Minikahda Club, and a great deal of praise should be given to Richard and his loyal and efficient staff.

"Like other clubs and organizations we are naturally interested in planning improvements to our club after the war and our various committees have spent a great deal of time and effort in preparing suggestions. The following over-all estimates have been made: Refurnishing and Decorating Committee, \$32,000; Mrs. Maurice M. Moore, Chairman, and her members, Mesdames C. A. Lyman, C. L. Grandin, Jr., F. C. Legg, C. A. Taney, Jr., and Robert Meech Building Repair Committee, \$6,350; J. R. Stewart, Chairman. House committee, \$22,000 for refurnishing and adding to the kitchen, A. R. Gallenkamp, Chairman. Grounds committee, \$25,000 for a new underground watering system for the golf course and \$1,500 for an addition to our parking lot and new equipment, H. C. Mackall, Chairman. Tennis committee, \$7,500 for covering courts and building a new one using Hart-Rue surface, Mr. Stanley Hawks, Chairman. Mr. C. Y. Bissell estimates \$5,000 to build an outdoor dance floor; A. E. Joscelyn estimates \$1,200 to provide the private dining rooms with radio and phonograph equipment. George Harsh reports an approximate cost of \$9,000 to repair the fire sprinkler system in the clubhouse. While the above amounts total \$109,550, consideration for carrying out any part or all of this program will be given at a later date."

The club has 244 members, sons and daughters of members, and employees in U. S. Armed Forces. Five are on the club's Gold Star roster.

An aerial photograph of a golf course. In the center-left, there is a large, light-colored clubhouse building with a gabled roof. To the right of the clubhouse, a wide, light-colored path or road winds through the landscape. The golf course itself is visible with several sand traps and green areas. The background shows a hilly, wooded area. A large, white, irregular speech bubble is superimposed over the upper half of the image, containing text.

You're right, Jim. Our drive last fall brought in a load of used balls. We sent 'em early for reprocessing, so we'll open up with a good supply. But it won't last long unless we keep on collecting every used ball we can lay our hands on. The ball situation will be tougher than ever this year but this is one shop that won't overlook a bet to make sure we have enough to go around.

The ball scarcity will be more acute this year. Keep urging your players to turn in their old cuts.

1945—WORTHINGTON'S 41st Year DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO MAKING GOLF BALLS

THE WORTHINGTON BALL CO.

ELYRIA, OHIO

WORLD'S LARGEST EXCLUSIVE GOLF BALL MAKER

PRO Prominent in Coast Club's Wartime Revival

By RAY HAYWOOD

★ THE RICHMOND (CALIF.) GC, working on the theory that when you have a good thing the public should be informed of the fact, staged its first major event, a \$7500 open tournament, December 14 to 17.

Through this competition, the third in consecutive weeks for the San Francisco Bay area, the club and Professional Pat Markovich, hoped to, and did, accomplish two things, principally. They were:

1. Stimulate golf interest locally through the presence of the "big name" players and at the same time furnish a new stopping place along the competitive trail which admittedly is an important phase of golf's fight for war-time survival.

2. Launch a membership drive by providing an attraction meritorious enough to bring several thousand spectators to the scene.

The club believes that the gallerites saw the most improved golf course on the Pacific slope—a course which through sweat and thought has been worked into a condition at least 50 per cent better than when Markovich became professional five years ago.

Because of this obvious improvement, Markovich believes the gallery will be a fertile field during the current campaign to enroll 350 desirable members and then paint the notice "Members Only" over the entrance arch.

The beneficial results which followed the installation of a new pump and watering system, the seeding and fertilization of fairways and greens and the planting of thousands of trees drew considerable comment from spectators who had not visited the Richmond club for many months.

The condition of the rough, in an area noted for its long uncut, also was outstanding. It has been cleaned up until it is almost impossible to lose a ball. Nevertheless, numerous trees make it difficult to reach the greens in par figures once a shot has strayed.

All 18 tees have been re-turfed. Markovich arrived on the scene early when the Golden Gate International Exposition closed its Treasure Island run and was able to obtain enough sod to do the job. Forty-four sand traps, which were misery for the average swinger but only negligible threat to the better golfer, have been eliminated. The remaining 66 traps were remodeled in a manner which reduced

maintenance costs but increased their effectiveness as hazards.

Shelter houses have been placed on each tee and along the longer fairways. Local rain, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce to the contrary, is very wet.

Climbs Out of Red

Factors which didn't meet the casual eye included a debt of less than \$2000—as compared to the red \$61,000 the club had to combat by a financial re-organization two years ago after the membership dropped from 180 to 40.

This loss of revenue was circumvented by converting a portion of the men's locker room into a dormitory for male workers from the nearby Henry J. Kaiser shipyards. The dormitory was operated for 34 weeks—a critical period for both the golf course and the shipyards—and closed when government housing accommodations were made available for the workers. A heavy week-end play (non-members) also helped pay the bills.

Throughout this trying period—when the war-tide flowed strongly against the Allies—Markovich still managed to continue his course improvement program although he was, and still is, employed on a full time basis at one of the shipyards.

Although money was scarce, a strict rule was established allowing all men from an adjacent Army camp to use the course and clubhouse without charge. The soldiers were allowed to buy food and drink at slightly more than cost. This activity enabled the club to maintain its clubhouse staff.

Post-war plans at Richmond call for a \$35,000 remodeling job on the clubhouse and parking strip—plans and specifications have been completed—and continuation of the Open Tournament as an annual event for a \$10,000 purse.

The members' reaction to these plans is shown by the fact that 30 agreed to carry the financial burden of the tournament thereby eliminating the need of sponsorship by outside organizations. The 30 include the ten members who provided \$1000 each during the financial reorganization. Details of the reorganization were explained in the April, 1942 issue of GOLFDOM.

Richmond's population has increased from 22,000 to 100,000 since Pearl Harbor—a trend found in many other Bay area communities.