



North Shore Golf Clubs



Westmoreland "Goes West" for Home and Name

Fine Course for Game on Glenview Rd.

Club, Without Bonded Indebtedness, Boasts Democratic Spirit; Women Are Socially Active

This is the first of a series of stories about the famous golf clubs of the north shore district. Visiting the various clubs the writer learned much of interest, which will make good reading for the players of the clubs and others interested in the sport. There is romance in golf. Read this series.

By RAY C. PEARSON

SOME few months more than sixteen years ago, fifteen men accepted the advice of Horace Greeley and "went West." They trekked the Glenview road until they reached a point three-quarters of a mile west of Ridge road. There they stopped, looked and considered. Then they acted and Westmoreland became one of the greatest golf clubs of the north shore district.

There is an interesting little story of how the Westmoreland Country club acquired its name. When the old Evanston Golf club, the first club of that name, was forced to move from its original home in North Evanston because of the inevitable building demand, the members met and decided to at once seek a new site for the club. A committee of fifteen was appointed to find a new location. Very shortly this committee reported and the tenor of its report was:

"We'll have to go West to get more land."

A Club Springs Up

That's how it happened that the fifteen men "went West" and how out of the prairie land of Glenview road there grew a country club as beautiful, as staunch and permanent as any in the country. And when they sought a new name—they couldn't use Evanston, because other members had banded together and decided to form a new organization in Evanston perpetuating the name—that first report of the committee of fifteen couldn't be forgotten. They had to go west to get more land, and they got it and so they used the words "west, more and land" and "pushed" them together and Westmoreland was created.

In sixteen years Westmoreland has accomplished remarkable progress. The initial cost of memberships was \$175 back in July of 1911. And at that time



Westmoreland's beautiful clubhouse—Miss Mercedes Bush, club champion.

the new club solicited twenty-five special members who were to pay \$1,000 each. These memberships were non-assessable and non-dues bearing and were redeemable after ten years at \$800, the member retaining a regular membership in the club. Hark back to those organization days, the days of \$175 memberships. Today a membership cannot be purchased in Westmoreland and unless a fellow is lucky enough to be invited and that invitation costs him \$1,600. This is accounted for by the fact that membership is restricted to 350 members.

Good Fellowship Keynote

Exclusive, one might say, but I am informed by one of the club's executives that a search the length and breadth of the country wouldn't reveal a golf organization in which the spirit of democracy is more outstanding. Good fellowship is the keynote. The members are really partners in the club.

As evidence that Dame Fortune has smiled on Westmoreland and that honest and aggressive efforts have been rewarded it is pointed out that today the club is one of a few without a bonded indebtedness. The years have been so prosperous that always the treasury is prepared for any expenditure of money that may be necessary. A. C. Collett, the assistant secretary



Caddie house and golf shop.

PHOTO BY LEHLE



Al Lesperance, professional.

and treasurer, informs me that \$3,000 is spent annually in improvements. Just at present a new asphalt road

costing \$1,500 is being constructed on the grounds.

Westmoreland was officially opened for play in 1912, the year following its organization. At that time the membership was more than three hundred and there was a gradual increase until it finally was decided to restrict the list to 350 members.

The writer has touched lightly on the spirit of Westmoreland, but there is much more that can be said. For instance listen to this little story. One of the old members who moved to another city came back after several years and decided to visit his old club. During the years he had been away the natural change in personnel had taken place and he was a bit afraid that he might not be as well acquainted; that he might not receive the old time "glad hand." When he appeared in the doorway he was grabbed and "pump handled" to weariness and slapped hard and often. He'll testify to the wonderful spirit of the club.

Solo Play Not Necessary

There is a slogan that "every member gets a game." That means that

(Continued on page 34)