



# North Shore Golf Clubs



## Indian Hill Club Digs Name Out of Redskin Trail

### Golf Course Is Real Test for Players

Club Formed in 1912  
First Called Winnetka  
Country Club-Tennis,  
Riding Featured

This is the sixth article of a series describing the fine golf clubs in the North Shore district. There is much of interest to all golfers in the stories of these clubs, which rank with the greatest in the country. Indian Hill is a fine example of the club which makes life more enjoyable for those who are fortunate enough to be members. The article herewith presented tells the story of Indian Hill.

By RAY C. PEARSON

WHEN one "digs around" at the Indian Hill club to glean information for a story about that fine north shore club, the net result is a fund rich in interest. It is "a story"—a story in which unusual twists intertwine with the ordinary events in the life of any club organization; a story of a club which got away to a flying start and followed a pace which grew swifter and swifter as the years sped on.

Lets go back to a day in 1912. That was the day when a small group of Winnetka men took the steps that "made" the Indian Hill of today. In this group were Douglas Smith, Judge Thomas Taylor, Willoughby Walling, W. B. McIlvane and others. They agreed that the best way to start operations would be to form a syndicate to purchase the land for a golf course. The syndicate was quickly formed. The start was made.

#### Called Winnetka C. C.

But these men were conservative. They "saw" the future, but they didn't go on a wild buying spree. They selected the ground they wanted to the west and south of Winnetka. Gradually the holdings were increased and when January 29, 1914, arrived, the club was ready to become a "going institution." Incorporation papers were taken out, but not in the name of Indian Hill. The club was incorporated as the Winnetka Country club.

The clubhouse had been built, the golf course was finished, the club became an established fact and then began the important business of liquidating the debt. The syndicate which had financed the project—friendly because of its interest—sold the land to the club at a small price, a price which yielded no profit. This arrangement

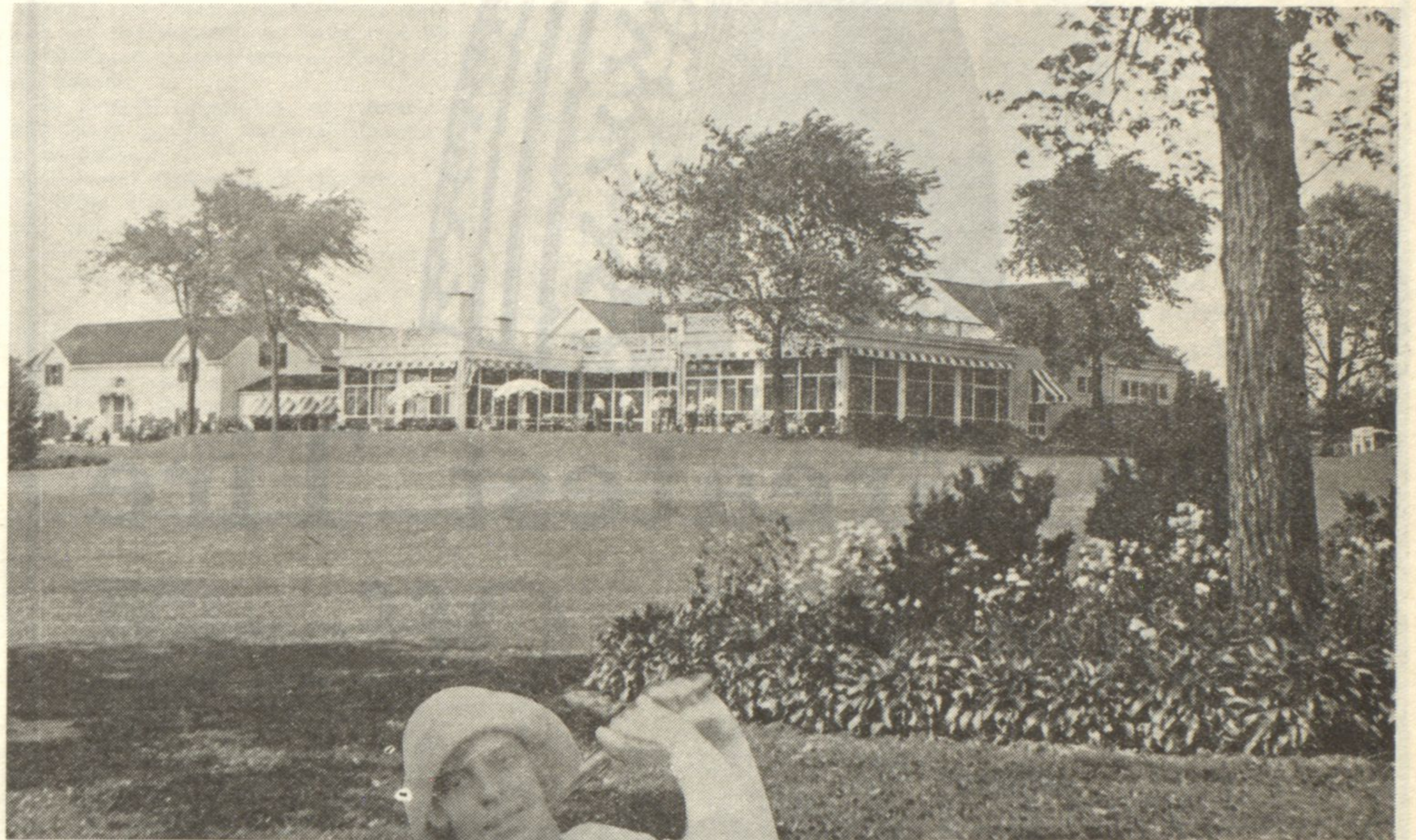


Photo by Lehle



THE PICTURES: Indian Hill clubhouse (top)—Mrs. Austin Pardue, ranking woman star (lower right)—Joe McMorran, professional (inset).

happened that in 1915 the members decided to change the name of the club. They voted on whether to retain the name under which the club had been incorporated or to change to Indian Hill. It was decided that Indian Hill was the more distinctive name, and that was the choice of the members, so it has been that ever since and probably always will be.

#### Club of Many Sports

When the new name was taken, however, it was not called a country club. Neither is it called a golf club. Correctly it is the "Indian Hill club." Just why it is that is not hard to understand. While golf is greatest in importance at Indian Hill, the club goes in for other sports extensively. For instance tennis is given a big play, the members and their families enjoy the benefits of a riding academy and in the winter skating and tobogganing provide healthful pleasure. It is an all year around club.

If anyone thinks that Indian Hill golf course is easy, that person may play it and be convinced of his error. The course measures 6,420 yards and most of the play is through trees which makes it difficult. And of course there are traps, ponds and other difficulties which serve to hold a player's mind on the business at hand.

#### Many Good Players

Par for the course is 72, and although it has been broken or equalled a few times, it is seldom that either members or guests have been able to do so.

The club roster includes many good players. Francis Blossom is the club champion. He also is the low handicap player. Other good players are Leslie Gordon, Robert O. Lord, G. M.

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gave the Winnetka Country club a fine start. And how it has grown in thirteen years!

#### Name Is Changed

The club was a success right from the start. But the next year there was another important step taken, a step which caused a change of name and the selection was the indirect result of some "digging around"; real digging,

not the inferential sort of the opening paragraph of this story.

The new name of Indian Hill was dug out of the ground. Someone, we do not know who it was, discovered that the old Indian trail ran through the golf club grounds. This was verified when excavators, while working on the ninth green found some old arrow heads and hatchet heads. So it