



The North Shore Country Club in Bayside

By Douglas H. Frazer

North of Fairy Chasm Road in the northwest portion of the Village of Bayside are the streets North Waverly Drive, West Ravine Baye Road, North Broadmoor Road, and North Fairway Drive and Circle. The names of the latter two are the giveaway. For 42 years ending in 1966

this property was the site of the former North Shore Country Club.

The North Shore Country Club got its start as the Parks' Golf Club. Its home course was the six holes at Lake Park. In early 1921 it reconstituted itself as the Michiwaukee Golf Club and moved its 'home' to the Grant Park links. In 1923 Michiwaukee decided to build its own 18-hole private course "on property located less than 12 miles from the City Hall, about one and a half miles north of Fox Point and a half mile west of the lake, a location most desirable." Moreover, it was a location that could easily be reached by streetcar. The site was in the Town of Milwaukee, which became part of the Village of Bayside.

One hundred and seventy-five golfers signed up at the relocated club. The course opened for play on September 27, 1924. Michiwaukee's "Great Fourteenth Hole" was along what is now West Ravine Baye Road. The clubhouse, located at 134 E. Fairy Chasm Road, was off a circular drive near where North Broadmoor Road intersects East Fairy Chasm Road.

The first years at the new location were not without drama. In November 1925, a fire razed the clubhouse. In April of 1928, widely reported in the Milwaukee and Madison press, the club expelled its approximately 30 Jewish members.

Eight of those members sued, alleging conspiracy and gross business misconduct. The case went to the Wisconsin Supreme Court; the high court found for the club on the basis that the plaintiffs had failed to state an actionable claim.

Other Jewish golfers apparently saw the

writing on the wall: in 1926 they and others formed Brynwood Country Club and purchased a 160-acre farm off Good Hope Road (now the Wisconsin Club). That 18-hole links opened for play on Labor Day 1929.

In 1935 Michiwaukee changed its name to the North Shore Country Club.

The club continued in Bayside but could not expand. On January 4, 1964, the *Milwaukee Journal* reported that a private developer and the Village of Bayside were interested in acquiring the property. That developer was Harry N. Forman. Forman proposed an exchange of the 120-acre site for a new facility on a 215-acre site in Mequon that would accommodate a 27-hole golf course lined by 125 homes.

That proposal went forward, and on November 15, 1964, members took a rain-soaked tour of the new Mequon site.

In January 1966, the North Shore Country Club began the move to Mequon's new North Shore Estates subdivision that surrounded the fairways of the new golf course and clubhouse. Forman subdivided the Bayside property into the North Shore East subdivision that exists today.

In 2020 the North Shore Country Club celebrated its one-hundred-year anniversary. Today, it is a far different organization. Board president Paul Rowlett explains: "I was disappointed to learn of the club's discrimination in 1928. Such discrimination is something that none of us would stand for, then or now. Today's club is an

incredible family-oriented club embracing members from throughout the community. And thankfully today we have a vibrant club that is diverse and welcome to all."



Douglas H. Frazer is a Fox Point resident and neighborhood contributor as well as the village president. The views expressed are his own and not necessarily those of the Village, the village board, other village board members, or Best Version Media, LLC.



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