

THE ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF Fairy Chasm and the Fox Point Club Part 3

By Douglas H. Frazer



By the late 1920s more families were relocating to South Fairy Chasm to spend the summer and a few began to live in the area year-round. The residents responded in 1931 by

creating the Fairy Chasm Athletic Association for the purpose of advancing interests in outdoor sports. Residents organized the Fairy Chasm Yacht Club in 1937. The club built a boathouse between the remains of the dam and the then existing bridge across Fish Creek to store the club's four motorboats and three sailboats.

The residents were a close-knit group; families continued for generations. Through the 1940s little changed; the area remained a relatively sparsely populated summer colony with a handful of year-round residents. The children of the year-round residents attended the Fox Point School on Lake Drive and Dean Road and after 1935 at its relocated site on Longacre Road (now Peter Stormonth School.) On June 30, 1952, the Fox Point-Bayside School District added South Fairy Chasm to its service area.

On February 3, 1953, Bayside area residents voted to incorporate the Village of Bayside. From the standpoint of transportation, schools, and shopping, South Fairy Chasm had never been a part of either the Town of Mequon or Ozaukee County. In 1955 at the urging of many South Fairy Chasm residents, the Village of Bayside annexed the territory. A court challenge followed, based on the Village's dual county status. On January 7, 1957, the Wisconsin Supreme Court affirmed the decision of the trial court that the annexation was legal and in 1962 residents incorporated the South Fairy Chasm [Homeowners] Association.

The Fish Creek Park Company shareholders dissolved the corporation in 1971 following the decision to deed their respective interests in the corporation's 19-acre reserve, the Fairy Chasm Woods, to the Nature Conservancy.

A few miles to the south, the Fox Point Club functioned for nearby residents as the focal point of social life. The Club's schedule, according to historical sources, included an endless series of harvest and costume balls, Venetian nights, card parties, and even a memorable circus staged in 1908. In 1909 the Club acquired the boathouse situated on North Beach Drive and, in 1913, property to locate a swimming pool and tennis courts (now 1111 East Lilac Lane).

In 1926, the Fox Point Club transformed itself from an informal organization into a regular country club with an enlarged membership and expanded fee structure. The Club added a tennis court, improved golf links, and opened a Fitzhugh Scott-designed swimming pool.

Play on the golf links ended in the mid-1930s. In 1936 a newly organized Fox Point Beach Club, which exists to this day as a non-stock corporation, acquired the boathouse. Developers tore down the clubhouse in 1946 to make room for the homes that now occupy the site. The golf links became a residential neighborhood of single-family homes. The short but important history of golf in Fox Point is remembered now by the still operating Beach Club, and up over the bluff by the Bridge Lane footbridge, street names like Club Circle, Links Way, and Links Circle. And perhaps, the ghosts of those who walked the fairways, gathered at the clubhouse, or celebrated the round at Charlie Riemer's Tavern.

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.

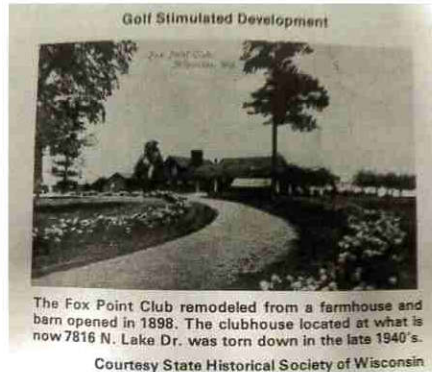


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