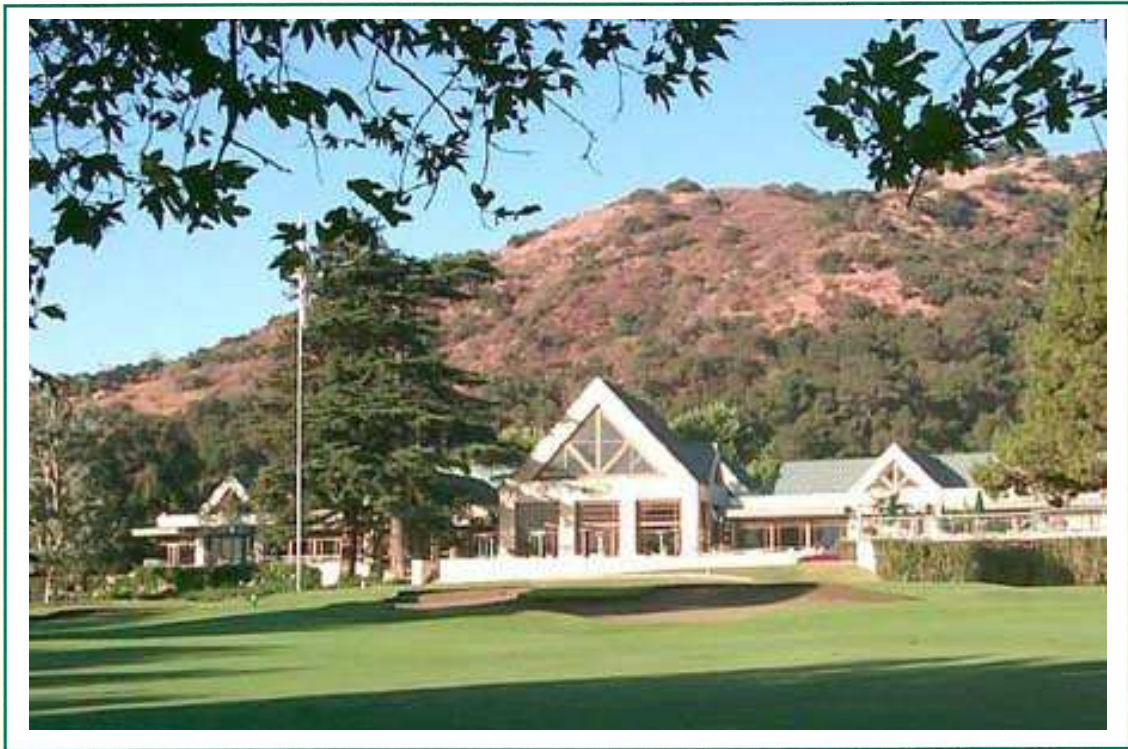


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ISTORY OF OAKMONT COUNTRY CLUB  
GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA



.....

*90th Anniversary*  
**1922 - 2012**

## Dedication and Appreciation

When I was asked to write the history of Oakmont Country Club in 1997, I assumed that everything I needed to mark the club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary would be included in a large dusty volume that had been lovingly maintained over the years.

Instead, I was handed a cardboard box. It contained yellowing newspaper clips, old pictures, handwritten recollections and old fliers. It was rather like unearthing the Dead Sea Scrolls. There was a lot there but there was a lot missing.

Fortunately for me --- and all of us who are interested in the history of the place --- that cardboard box also contained research done by the late Shirley Curry, whose husband Parnell was president in 1967. She had spent considerable time digging through newspaper files and what she discovered helped to cobble together a narrative of the club's early years. Without her, this history would have been much more difficult to produce.

I was fortunate to be able to supplement the information I had in hand by interviewing people like Don Young and Larry Pendleton who had been at the club since the 1930s and were a wealth of information.

It is a tale worth telling. Oakmont is certainly a first-class golf club. But it is also an entity that endured a Depression, a World War, devastating fires, floods and earthquakes.

Through it all, it has survived and thrived, maintaining its reputation as a premiere country club.

--- Bob Rector, August 2012

# History of Oakmont Country Club

## Glendale, California

### 90th Anniversary 1922 - 2012

The story of Oakmont Country Club is in many cases a metaphor for the game of golf itself.

It is a tale of high ideas and expectations, interrupted by frustrations and even disasters, followed by ultimate triumph.

Most of all, it is a story of the grit and determination of generations of men and women who made Oakmont work from the Roaring Twenties to dawn of a new century. This celebration of Oakmont's 90th anniversary is dedicated to them.

#### IN THE BEGINNING: FROM BURGUNDY TO BUNKERS



In the beginning, there was Louis LeMesanger. It is unknown whether LeMesanger, an immigrant French soldier, ever picked up a golf club or had ever even heard of the game. What we do know is that he owned the land now occupied by Oakmont; and, as the French are inclined to do, he planted a vineyard on it.

For years, he delivered his harvest to a winery on North Main Street in Los Angeles before opening his own winery in Dunsmore Canyon just off Ramsdell Avenue in 1911.

The Arroyo Verdugo, a wash that could be dry in the summer but a torrential river during heavy winter rains, meandered through LeMesanger's vineyards. The many years of silt and debris that would flood the area are the very reasons it was a

prime location for a golf course. It was blessed with exceptional drainage.

Across the vineyards ran the Edison electric lines which were erected in 1917. They were built primarily to power the Los Angeles Pacific Electric trolley system.

Just exactly who thought of the idea to build a country club at this location is not known. But like many institutions in Southern California, it came into existence largely because of the promotional endeavors and entrepreneurial zeal of real estate developers.

Those primarily involved in the birth of Oakmont were William S. Sparr, developer of Sparr Heights and Montecito Park; Frank Lanterman, developer of the land adjacent to Sparr's in Montrose and La Canada-Flintridge; and F.P. Newport, who developed much of the Verdugo Woodlands area.

Sparr was a citrus grower and packer who played

a key role in the development of Oakmont. He came to California from Florida in 1898 convinced there was big money to be made in lemons.

He would purchase run-down groves and rejuvenate them under the guidance of University of California scientists. He ultimately owned groves in Ventura, Riverside, Orange and Los Angeles Counties.

Around the turn of the century, Sparr bought acreage in the area and planted lemon and orange trees. By 1920, he had established packing houses and had become the largest independent fruit packer and shipper in Southern California.

But, as good as the citrus business was, the real estate business was even better; and the growth in the value of Sparr's land led him to subdivide and to add to his acreage.

In 1922, Sparr purchased 1,500 acres adjoining his Sparr Heights development along Verdugo Road,

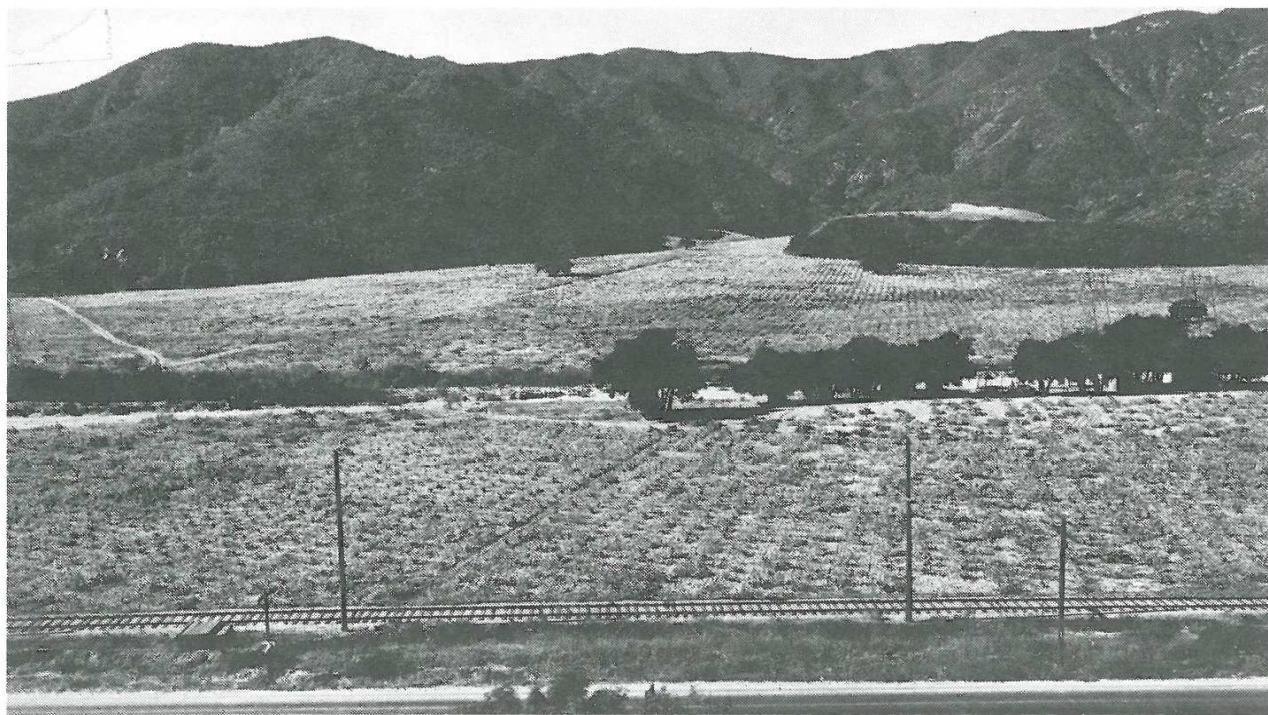
including the land owned by Louis LeMesanger. He hired two developers, Harry E. Barnum and Malenkthion Walters, to form a realty firm to market the land.

About the same time, F.P. Newport was subdividing the Verdugo Woodlands area. Newport was an avid golfer and member of the Glendale Chamber of Commerce, which Barnum and Walters had just joined.

It was not known at what cosmic moment the idea of a country club was born, but by October of 1922 the story of a planned 18-hole course was being reported in newspapers.

While a love of golf may have been partial motivation for these gentlemen, there was more money than mashies in their plan.

They realized how valuable the land had become around the already developed Wilshire, Los Angeles, Brentwood and Annandale Country



*View of vineyard, pre-Oakmont. Note the future Clubhouse site between the oak trees in the background and the red car tracks in the foreground.*



*View of Montrose and Club site from area near current site of Verdugo Hills Hospital, circa 1918. Note the building at the corner of Montrose/Honolulu is still standing as well as Anawalt Lumber Barn. You can see the oaks which are currently near the #18 green.*

Clubs. But they needed men of means to help finance an endeavor of the size they envisioned. The local Chamber of Commerce was a natural place for them to turn.

Their timing could not have been better.

It turned out that the Glendale Chamber had been casting an envious eye on its neighbor to the east, Pasadena. Pasadena was a city that was enjoying the benefits of having wealthy Easterners winter in their area and then stay on to build large homes.

The Chamber, as it turned out, was already working on plans to lure these wealthy Easterners to Glendale by securing a better railroad depot and attracting a large hotel.

The idea of a country club was perfect. The Chamber was pleased with the proposed location because of its accessibility from downtown Glendale. The trolley line ran along what is now the 11th and 12th fairways.

Seven chamber members (Harry Hall, Theo Belanger, Joseph Thompson, V. Hollister, Jesse Smith, C.C. Cooper and Harry Webb) were said to have helped in financing the Club, as did developer

Frank Lanterman. All would later serve on the first Boards of Oakmont and would become lifetime members of the Club.

But Oakmont was not the only Club on the drawing boards at the time.

U.S. Senator Frank P. Flint owned a large tract of land adjacent to Lanterman's in the La Canada area which, in all modesty, he named Flintridge. In 1922, he proposed an 18-hole golf course and clubhouse; but he needed some flat land on which to do it, and he turned to Lanterman for help.

However, it turned out that the Lanterman family was very upset over Flint's callous disregard for the old Spanish name of the area and refused to sell him all the land he needed.

In fact, it is said that is why Lanterman invested heavily in the proposed Oakmont Club.

## BREAKING GROUND: BRING ON THE MULES

• • •  
The Articles of Incorporation for Oakmont Country Club were filed on September 28, 1922. Harry M. Parker, a former manager of the Hollywood



*Golf attire of the day, circa 1922. Gentlemen included in the picture from left to right are Harvey Hill, J. C. Smith, Frank Lanterman, F. P. Newport, Charles Thompson. Note the power poles and farmland around Montrose is in the background.*

# Oakmont Country Club

May be Completed for Thanksgiving

that sixty acres of the golf course were set in grapes which have been removed and the ground graded. The fairways will be sown in bluegrass and the greens in imported creeping bent. The automatic sprinkling system will cover the entire course. This course which is 6320 yards long will, when completed, be one of the finest in Southern California, in the opinion of Mr. Parker, offering a fine sporty game with a variety of play.

The clubhouse itself is 330 feet long and 54 feet deep, of concrete and brick, with a fine interior. It contains one whole wing devoted to women's quarters, including a lounge and dressing rooms, shower and terrace, and a shaded pergola. The main lounge is forty by seventy feet with a large central fireplace open on four sides, the room, fitted in Old English period furniture. The main dining room is fitted to accommodate 200 guests at a time. The kitchen is equipped with the most modern and complete facilities, crowned by the service of a famous chef.

The furnishings and appointments of the clubhouse will cost in excess of \$100,000 according to Mr. Parker's estimate, and will give a completeness and finish all in the English period, hard to excel. The contract for the swimming pool has been let to Henry Hooper, of Los Angeles. The pool is 35x75 feet, and will be located in the rear of the clubhouse, worked out in sunken garden effect.

THE OAKMONT COUNTRY CLUB of Glendale which is now being erected, will be one of the show places of Southern California. An 18-hole golf course has been under construction for the past three months at a cost of \$100,000. The clubhouse, which is 330 feet long and 54 feet deep, is now under construction. The general contractors, who are ready in the middle of November, states H. M. Parker, general manager of the club. At that time nine holes of the golf course is completed and there will be a membership of around 300.

At the present time the club has on its roster more than 300 members, many of whom are prospective members. The clubhouse is approximately 125 by 330 feet, and will contain a swimming pool, tennis courts, a playground for the children, parking space for automobiles and a large number of other features.

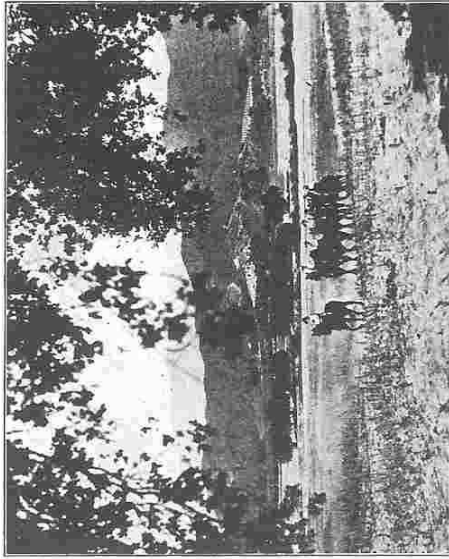
Mr. Parker states that the clubhouse will be a masterpiece of architecture, and that the clubhouse will be a masterpiece of architecture, and that the clubhouse will be a masterpiece of architecture.

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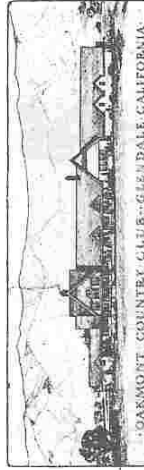


Viewing Oakmont Country Club Grounds on Horseback

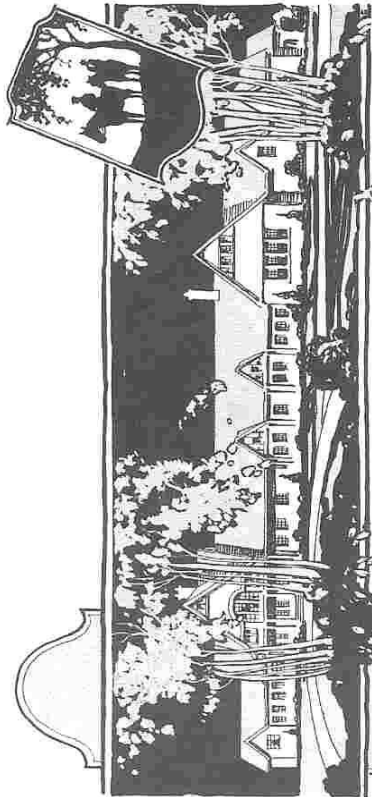
with a large central fireplace open on four sides, the room, fitted in Old English period furniture. The main dining room is fitted to accommodate 200 guests at a time. The kitchen is equipped with the most modern and complete facilities, crowned by the service of a famous chef.

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Oakmont Country Club



Glendale now has to offer to her residents, a first class Golf and Country Club with many recreational and social advantages, not obtainable outside of an organization of this kind.

Memberships in the club carry property rights and will be transferable—which gives you an investment in dollars and cents as well as an investment in pleasure for yourself and your entire family.

Golf, Tennis, Swimming, Riding and Dancing will be some of the features of the Club. All social affairs informal.

A grand opening will be staged on or about Thanksgiving.

Applications for membership should be made at an early date.

Call, Phone or Write for full information.

## OAKMONT COUNTRY CLUB (OF GLENDALE)

Monarch Building : Glendale, California



WALZBACH

Story form 1922 publication advertising Glendale to the East Coast.

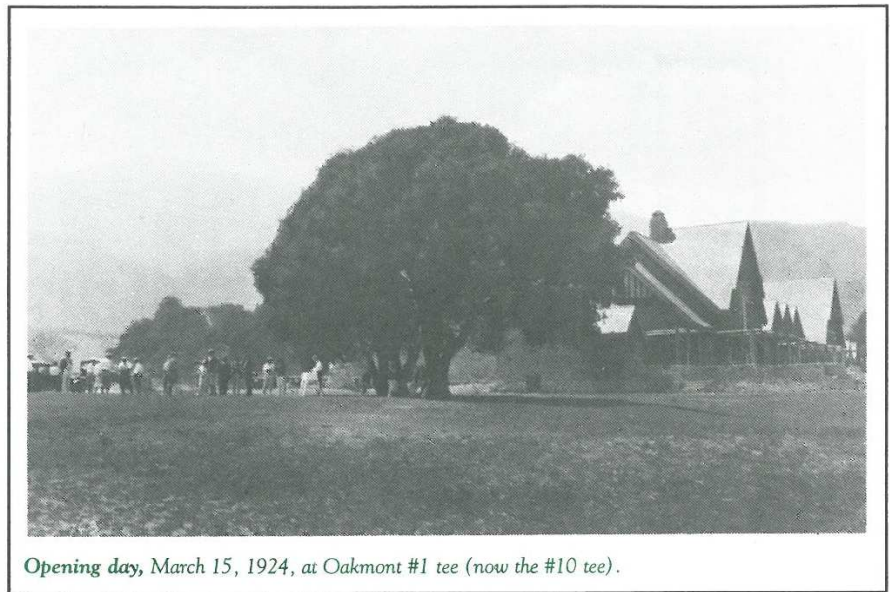
Country Club and general manager of the new venture, spent time visiting every service club and organization in Glendale extolling the virtues of the proposed Club and golf course.

On November 1, 1922, the newly incorporated Club opened for business in the Monarch Building in Glendale. By December of 1922, an Oakmont bond issue was advertised in Glendale newspapers. One hundred

bonds were sold during the initial offering. The purchaser of each \$2,000 bond would receive a life membership in Oakmont. Life memberships were exempt from dues, were perpetual, transferable and could be handed down with an estate in case of death.

A life membership would save the purchaser \$10 a month—the anticipated monthly dues.

On May 5, 1923, Oakmont Country Club purchased the land from William Sparr. The deed required Oakmont to use the property exclusively as



*Opening day, March 15, 1924, at Oakmont #1 tee (now the #10 tee).*

a golf course and country club for a period of 25 years from the date of the deed. Total price of the 112-acre parcel: \$230,000.

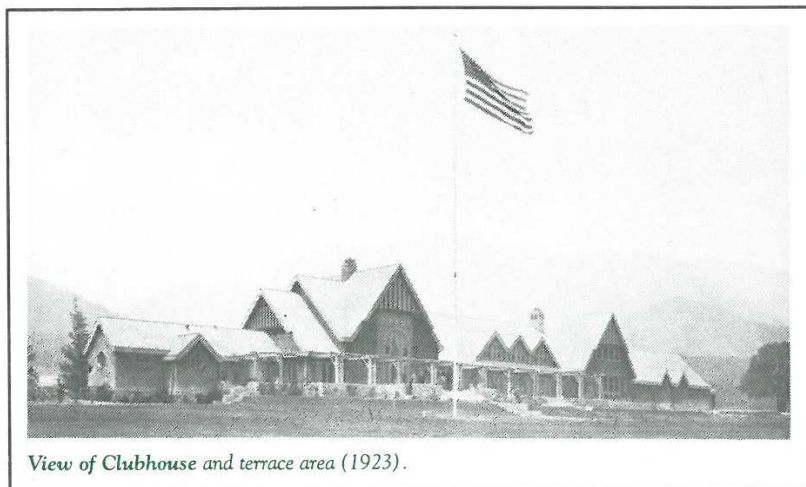
Construction of the clubhouse and the first nine holes of the golf course started in June, 1923. The English Tudor clubhouse was designed by Charles Creassy, a British architect. It was built by the Edwards, Wildey and Dixon Construction Company, which bid \$70,292.

The golf course architect was Max Behr, who also designed Lakeside, Rancho Santa Fe and Montebello municipal courses. In his design, Behr used the Arroyo Verdugo to add character and difficulty to the course.

Contractor J.W. Dees of Pasadena was employed to grade the course. He used ten teams of mules to grade the fairways.

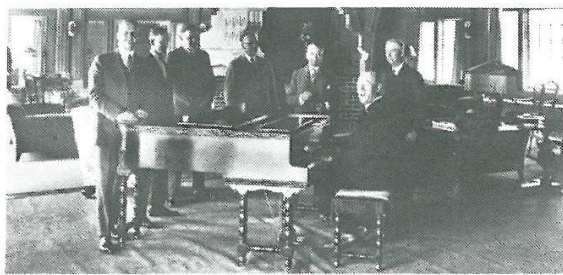
Behr had 900 pounds of German creeping bent grass seed imported from Hamburg which was used on all of the greens.

It was anticipated that the



*View of Clubhouse and terrace area (1923).*





*Around the piano in the Club's lounge. Sitting at the piano is the then Mayor of Glendale, Spencer Robinson.*



*Oakmont's original golf shop on current site of putting green adjacent to 1st tee.*

clubhouse would be done in the fall of 1923. In fact, the contractor had estimated that he could finish construction in four months, but it was not until March of 1924 that the clubhouse was ready.

The formal opening of the Clubhouse was held on March 15, 1924, with a party that drew 590 guests. The first nine holes of the golf course opened for play on June 14, 1924. The first ball struck in earnest was by club president Harry Hall. It was not recorded if it landed on the fairway.

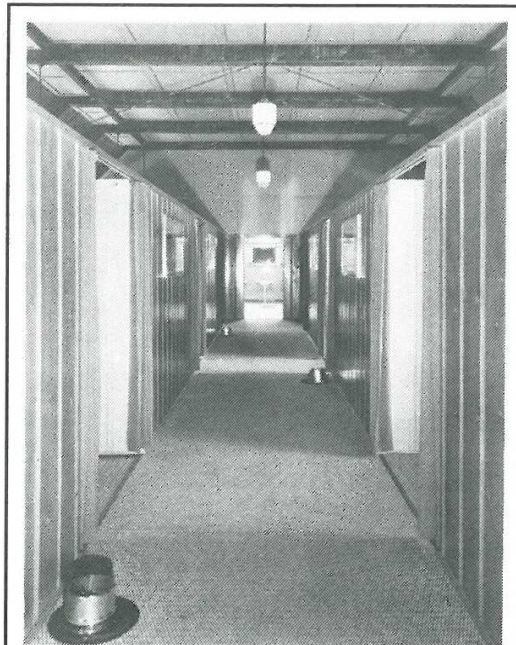
The nine-hole course was described as being 2,970 yards long with a par of 35.

The first hole (now #10) was a 400-yard par 4;  
 #2 - 105 yards, par 3; #6 - 290, par 4;  
 #3 - 445 yards, par 4; #7 - 390 yards, par 4;  
 #4 - 430 yards, par 4; #8 - 485 yards, par 5; and,  
 #5 - 180 yards, par 3; #9 - 445 yards, par 4.

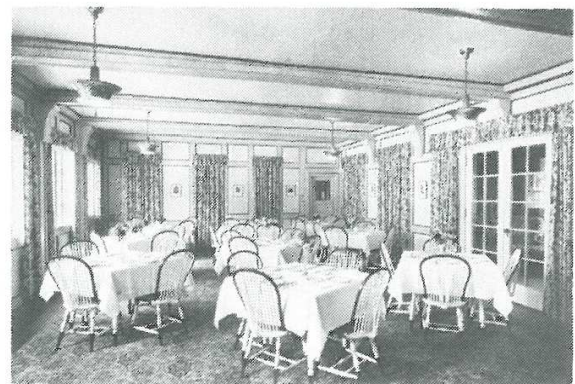
When the first nine holes opened for play, there were 15 women playing golf at Oakmont. By 1927, the Oakmont Women's Golf Auxiliary (OWGA) was formally organized.

The Glendale Chamber of Commerce cooperated enthusiastically with Oakmont officials to promote the new Club. A special magazine was published in the *Glendale Daily Press* Sunday edition and mailed to friends and relatives of subscribers who lived in the Eastern United States.

Oakmont also participated in a Chamber promotion called "Glendale's 100,000 Banquet." The idea was to increase the population in town from 50,000 to 100,000 people. A banquet was held



*The original Men's Locker Room.*



*The Elizabethan Dining Room (originally slated to be a billiard room. The ladies would have no part of that!)*

in Oakmont's main dining room to raise money to advertise Glendale's glories in the Eastern United States.

A total of \$16,000 was raised at the banquet. By the end of April, 1923, a total of \$37,000 has been raised. But instead of advertising the city in Eastern publications, the money was spent for advertising in the *Los Angeles Times*. It is said that some members to this day regard *The Times* with skepticism.

## COMPLETING THE COURSE: A BATTLE OF THE SEXES

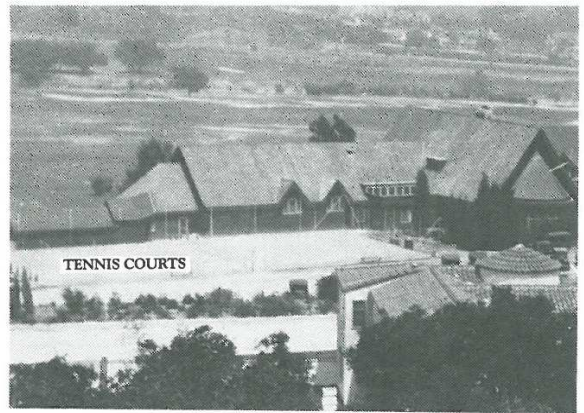
The 1925 Board of Directors had the obligation of completing the second nine holes of the golf course. Near the end of January, 1925, 90 members and 85 hired men met to clear the land where the remaining nine holes were to be built. They pulled out stumps and grapevine roots, drove tractors, cleared brush and piled up rocks.

Even though an Olympic-sized pool was planned and promised in Oakmont's promotional literature, there was not enough money to build the pool when the clubhouse opened.

The Oakmont Women's Club set out to remedy the situation and eventually came up with \$26,000 to build a pool.



*Oakmont grill room, circa 1923.*



*Oakmont's Clubhouse in 1925. Note the tennis court in the foreground.*



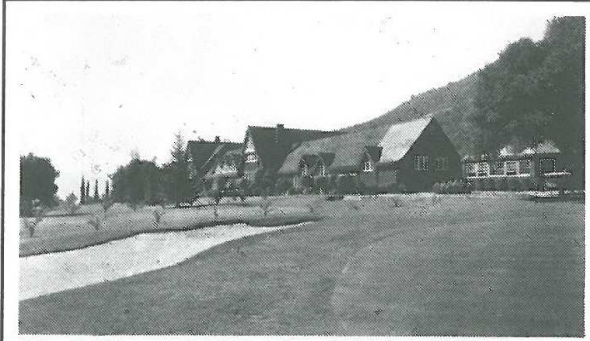
*Terrace grill patio, circa 1926.*

The members made one mistake, however. They turned their money over to the Board of Directors who promptly chose to spend the money on the completion of the golf course. It is unclear how many divorces were threatened as a result of the Board's action.

The first 18-hole round of golf was played on July 4, 1925. Par was 70, and the course record set that day was a 71 by Harold Thompson. That evening, dinner was followed by a fireworks display, a tradition that continued on-and-off for many years.

Starting in 1926, the Club held an annual "Hookers and Slicers" tournament. The entire

## DEPRESSION AND DISASTER



*The Clubhouse and golf shop from the 9th (now 18th) green, circa 1926.*

golfing membership was placed in two flights, and all matches were played during one weekend. The team that won the most matches was treated to dinner by the losing team.

In 1928, Frank Lanterman was elected president and set out to make improvements to the golf course and clubhouse. Fairways were reseeded, bridges were constructed over the wash, and fund raising parties were held to refurbish portions of the clubhouse.

Lanterman also raised \$90,376 through a series of assessments to help pay off the Club's mortgage. This left a bonded indebtedness of \$124,000.

The membership of the Club during Lanterman's first term totaled 488 regular members and 75 associate members.

Assessments notwithstanding, Lanterman and his entire Board were reelected the next year. More of the fairways were improved, sand traps were changed and improved, a practice putting green and driving range were installed, and the men's locker room was sheathed in natural redwood.

Lanterman also convinced the membership that the Club would have to change its bylaws to make people with lifetime memberships pay dues. The lifetime memberships would now be called "preferred" and those holding such memberships would pay half the dues paid by "ordinary" members.

Lanterman was reelected once again and served a third term as president.

Although Oakmont had survived the initial throes of the Depression, by 1933 the membership was being eroded. In addition, the Club had done nothing about paying off its bonded indebtedness since Lanterman had raised \$90,000 for that purpose. The debt of \$124,000 remained. In October of 1933, the bondholders started foreclosure proceedings.

In November of the same year, a devastating fire burned for five days in the foothills near Tujunga, La Crescenta and La Canada-Flintridge consuming 6,000 acres of watershed. The County Flood Control District immediately recognized the potential for disaster in the event of a heavy rain and began work on a debris basin in what was then a rock quarry north of the Club. Two shifts of 500 jobless men were hired to build the debris basin starting on December 15, 1933.

But it was too little, too late. On December 31, 1933, 11 inches of rain fell in 11 hours. A flash flood roared down Pickens Canyon sending a 20-foot wall of water crashing through La Crescenta and Montrose. Before the storm had ended, 13 inches of rain had fallen, 44 people died, and more than 100



*Oakmont dining room and lounge, circa 1929.*

homes were washed away. Although uncompleted, the work done on the debris basin may have saved people and homes below the Club.

Nonetheless, parts of houses, cars, dead animals and boulders (so large they had to be dynamited) covered the course. Mud, six feet high, surrounded the clubhouse and filled the basement. People who attended a New Year's Eve dance at the Club could not get home that night. In fact, the clubhouse served as a rescue station.

It took more than a month to make the course playable again. The clubhouse was another matter. Mud and water had caused great damage to the facility. Because of the enormous repair costs involved and the Club's shaky financial situation, Oakmont became a public course on February 1, 1934.

Green fees were 75 cents. On Saturday and Sunday, green fees were increased to \$1.00 and play was restricted to those holding "courtesy cards" which had been given to former Oakmont members. But these efforts at survival were in vain. It was announced that Oakmont Country Club would be sold at public auction at 11:00 a.m. on March 28, 1934, to satisfy the claims of the bondholders.

## THE BANANA KING TO THE RESCUE



Shortly before the day of the auction, William Crenshaw, a man who had made his fortune in bananas, and J. Hartley Taylor, who owned a milling company that made Purina foods, were sitting at the Club discussing the fate that was about to befall Oakmont. They decided that one of them would have to save the Club, and they flipped a silver dollar to see who would be the one. Crenshaw won the toss.

On auction day, the minimum acceptable bid was set at \$40,000. A.D. Burkhart of Los Angeles bid

\$41,000. Crenshaw raised it to \$42,000.

In a moment's time, Crenshaw had won the bidding to the cheers of former Oakmont members who were in attendance. Frank Ayers, trustee of the property since the bondholders had begun foreclosure proceedings, protested the sale and demanded postponement. The matter was declared closed, and Oakmont had survived.

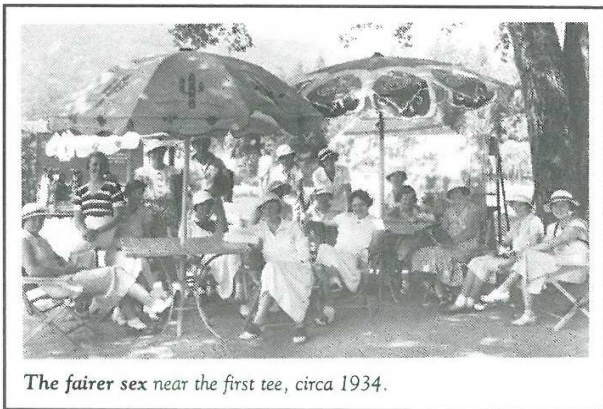
Crenshaw was an unlikely hero. He was born and raised in Virginia and moved to Seattle during the Alaska Gold Rush. He made a fortune there as the sole distributor of garlic and onions to miners heading for the Klondike.

In 1921, he moved to Southern California where he devised a way to refrigerate bananas so they could be imported to the West Coast. He was so successful that he became known as the Banana King.

He joined the Hollywood Country Club where he learned to play golf. He held the show business set in disdain and eventually joined Oakmont in 1932. By 1934, he owned Oakmont.

Shortly after purchasing the Club, Crenshaw began making lavish improvements to both the clubhouse and the golf course. More than \$125,000 was spent on the clubhouse alone.

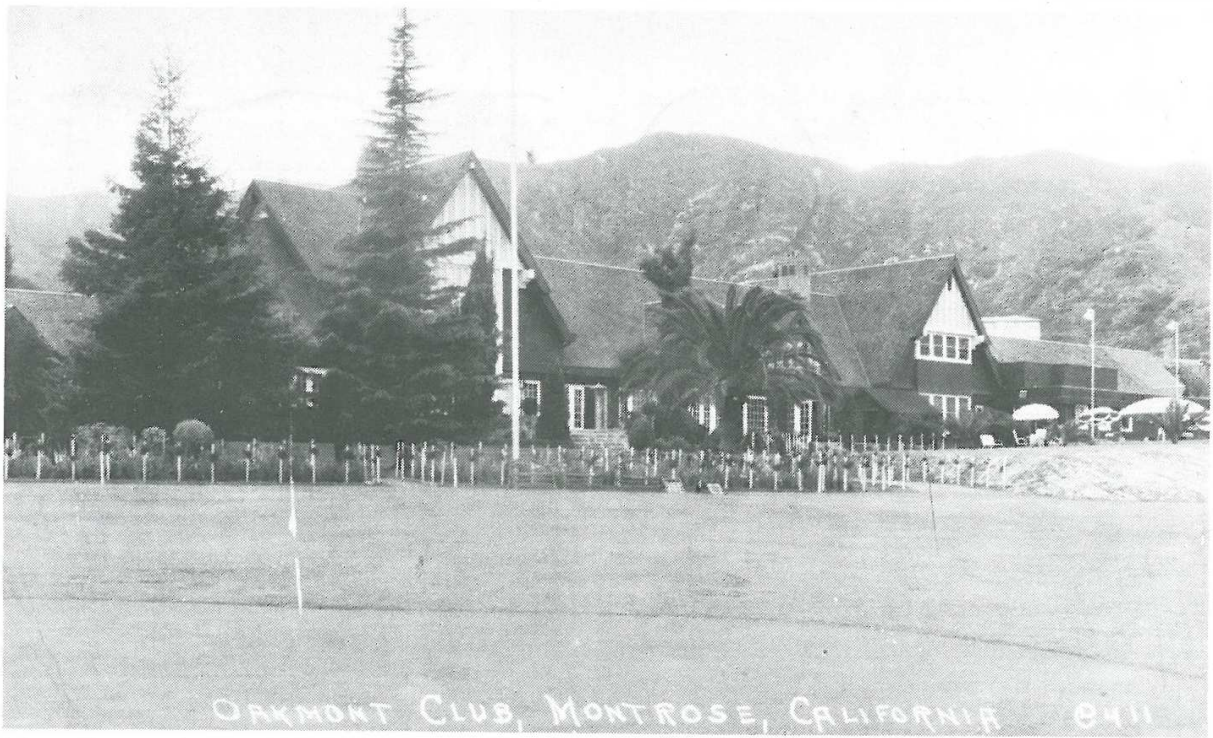
About the same time, the County Flood Control District was finishing the debris basin north of the Club and planned to cement the Arroyo Verdugo



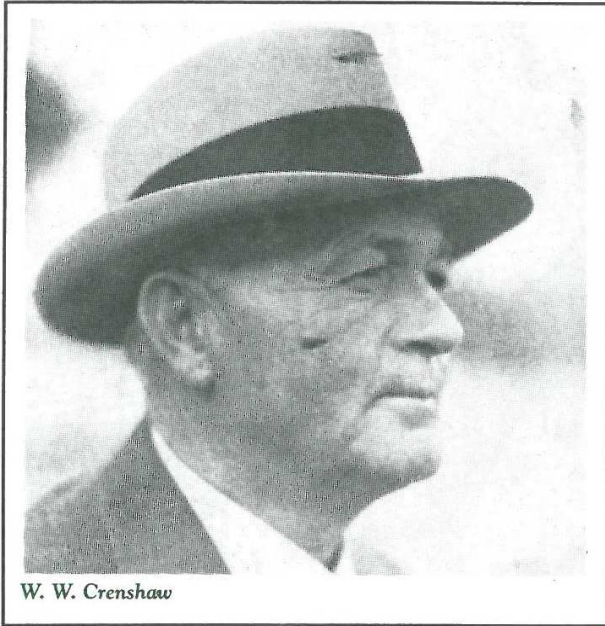
*The fairer sex near the first tee, circa 1934.*



*Front entrance to Oakmont, circa 1929.*



*Postcard greetings from beautiful Oakmont Club, circa 1929.*



W. W. Crenshaw

wash that runs through the course. This meant modification of many of the holes.

## MACDONALD SMITH HIRED AS PRO



MacDonald Smith, four-time winner of the Los Angeles Open, was hired by Crenshaw to be the resident golf professional. He was given a home on Verdugo Road and was made responsible for overseeing the changes to the golf course.

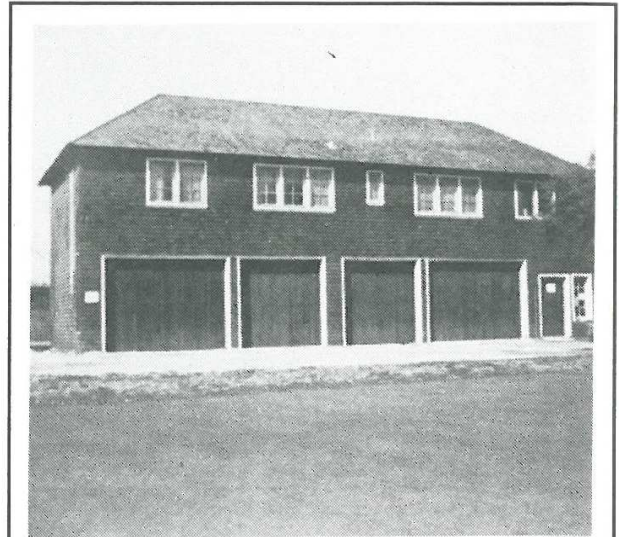
Smith, in turn, hired William Bell, Sr., to redesign the holes affected by the cementing of the wash. Bell had designed the courses at Riviera and Bel Air Country Clubs.

Those were not the only changes taking place on the course. It turned out that Crenshaw had purchased the entire stock of the Los Feliz Nursery that was going out of business. Most of the trees and shrubs on the course came from the nursery, including most of the eucalyptus trees.

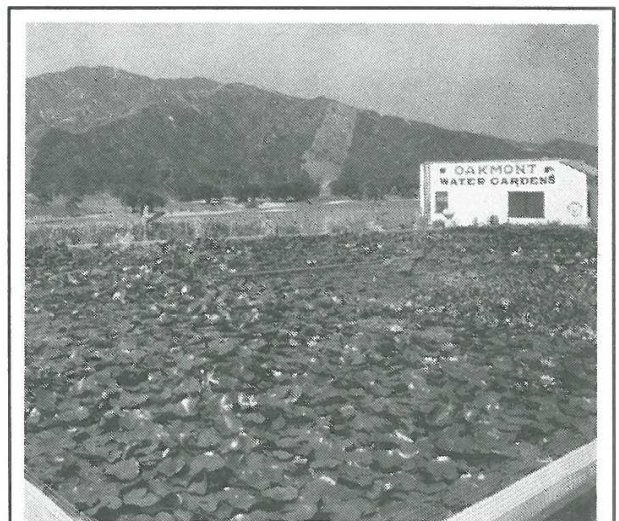
Peacocks came with the nursery stock; and they were housed in a pen near the golf course. They did

not last long, however. They made such a terrible noise at night that the police were called on several occasions to investigate what neighbors thought were murders taking place at the Club.

A water lily pond also came with the purchase; and Crenshaw spent \$50,000 building a large cemented pool, a flower shop and a parking lot on the La Crescenta side of the golf course.



*Maintenance yard apartment built for MacDonald Smith by W. W. Crenshaw.*



*Oakmont water gardens, circa 1937, corner of Verdugo Road and La Crescenta Avenue. Later used as a building for the night driving range.*

Some of the ideas brought by the Crenshaw ownership were outlined in an elaborate brochure published by Crenshaw to promote his "New Deal" Oakmont Club.

Membership would now mean maximum service at minimum cost, with no financial liability to the member, the brochure claimed. The Club now offered three kinds of membership: Regular (golf and social including family); Special (golf and social for single ladies, clergy, etc.) and Social (all activities except golf).

Crenshaw had a new constitution and bylaws drawn up. An executive board would represent the members in all dealings with Crenshaw. Members would serve four years and then could be appointed to another term, or a new Board could be appointed.

Each month a small booklet called the *Oakmont Calendar* was published. On the front was a crest of a large acorn with the saying, "Warm in Winter, Cool in Summer", written across the top. At the bottom were crossed golf clubs and the name Oakmont Club.

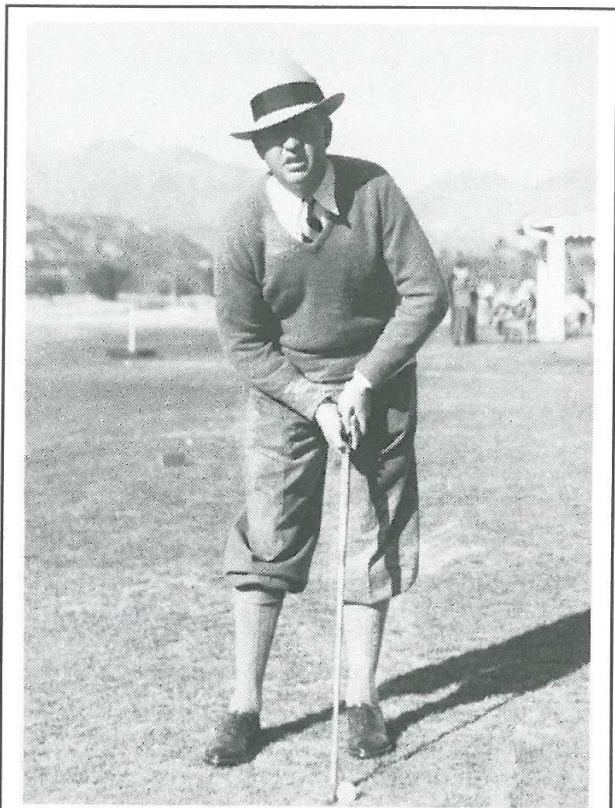
According to the *Calendar*, a formal dinner and dance cost \$2.50 per person. Dinner at the Club was served every evening except Monday at \$1 or \$1.25 with children's portions at half price.

## THE FIRST PROFESSIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



Crenshaw's Club was enough to entice Bing Crosby to join, and he did in July, 1934. It did not last long, however. Crosby left a short time later to join his buddies at Lakeside.

In 1935, Oakmont and the Glendale Junior Chamber of Commerce put on the first Glendale Open. Among those participating were Walter Hagen, Gene Sarazen, Horton Smith, Harry Cooper, Olin and Morrie Dutra, Ray Mangrum and Oakmont's own MacDonald Smith.



*MacDonald Smith, four-time winner of the Los Angeles Open. Mr. Smith was Oakmont's golf professional from 1935-1946.*

Smith won the 72-hole tournament and a purse of \$4,000. He had a storied career as a golfer before coming to Oakmont. Born in Carnoustie, Scotland, in 1893, he and his five brothers all learned to play golf as soon as they could walk. In fact, Smith left home at age 14 to pursue the game. He became the teaching professional at Oakmont in Pittsburgh in 1915 and came to California after serving in World War I. He landed a job as a teaching professional at the Olympic Club in San Francisco and won the California Open as well as the Los Angeles Open four times before coming to Oakmont in Glendale.

In 1936, Crenshaw spent another \$50,000, increasing the dining areas of the Club so that large organizations could use the facilities. Also in 1936, the Southern California Open was held at Oakmont and was won by George Von Elm, who once beat Bobby Jones for the national amateur crown. Von

Elm won \$1,500. Crenshaw supplied most of the prize money and all of the amateur prizes.

In 1937, a formal bridge organization was formed at Oakmont. It was called simply the Oakmont Bridge Group, and Mrs. C.W. McKnight was the founder-president. Also in 1937 Crenshaw offered a unique membership building incentive. If a member brought in ten new members, he would receive free passage to and from Panama on one of Crenshaw's fruit boats.

## ANOTHER BOUT WITH THE ELEMENTS



Weather played havoc with Oakmont again in 1938. In March, 11 inches of rain fell in two days, causing the Los Angeles River to overflow its banks and wash out six bridges.

In Glendale, most of the damage occurred below the Club when a bridge near Glendale College washed out. The cemented sides of the wash were undermined, causing the water to overflow the banks in that area and damaging many homes. Verdugo Woodlands was cut off from the rest of the city.

The Club did not escape unharmed. The damage from a fire in Deer Canyon a few months earlier allowed mud to cascade down Beaudry Boulevard into the parking lot. The streets around the Club were impassable, and the course was also in trouble. Mud flowed across the course in front of the #1 and #2 tees. It would take the city four days to clean the streets around Oakmont.

During this cleanup, the city asked Crenshaw if he would allow them to dump mud somewhere on his property. Crenshaw had them dump the mud in the area of the water lily gardens that he had installed several years earlier. This is why the land along the #12 green and #13 tee is so much higher than the rest of the course. At the same time, Crenshaw decided to convert the flower shop into a night driving range which opened in October of 1938.

## THE DON YOUNG ERA BEGINS



In 1939, Don Young, Crenshaw's son-in-law, came to work as club manager. His move to Oakmont, however, did not exactly start off easily. On the day Young arrived, his father-in-law fired all the kitchen help and replaced them completely with Chinese employees who could not speak English.

While Don took up golf when he became manager, it was a little more difficult for his wife, Marcia. It seems old man Crenshaw had a thing about women playing golf and drinking afterward. When he caught Marcia golfing (after playing nine holes with her husband), he forbade her from playing again. Despite this obstacle, Marcia Young went on to play on the women's golf team for years and is now the namesake of an annual tournament.

Oakmont's swimming pool was finally built by Crenshaw in the spring of 1941. It was officially opened on March 16, 1941, with a swimming and diving exhibition which featured the likes of Esther Williams and Johnny Weissmuller.

Also in 1941, the Left Handers Golf Association was born at a meeting held at Oakmont. Member Scott Chisholm was the first president.

## OAKMONT AND WORLD WAR II



World War II impacted life at Oakmont. Rationing was in effect, and food supplies were scarce so Victory Gardens were planted in many areas of the course. Rhubarb and tomatoes were planted, and at some times there were so many tomatoes ripening that Crenshaw would sell them to the members. Artichokes and cabbages were planted along the #17 fairway; pigs and chickens were raised near the 17th green.

The War Production Board put a priority on the materials used to make golf balls. As a result, a num-





*Oakmont Clubhouse in full operation, circa 1939.*

ber of small golf ball producers came into existence. Such an operator was J.F. Eaton, who set up a small golf ball manufacturing plant on the Oakmont grounds.

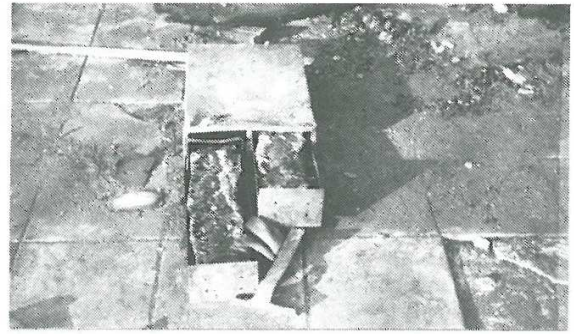
## UP FROM THE ASHES

While the Club was able to withstand the rigors of the war years, disaster struck in the form of a devastating fire in 1946. On July 4, 1946, the clubhouse was destroyed by a blaze that started in the lounge at 2:00 p.m. It was reported that defective wiring in the Club's main chandelier, which was undergoing repairs, started the spectacular fire. Aided by employees, manager Don Young saved the money in the Club's safe, but the intense heat prevented them from saving much else.

The Club was jammed with 400 guests when the fire was noticed in the ceiling. Employees quickly



*Scene of Clubhouse area after the July 4, 1946, fire.*



*\$10,000 in charred cash from the July, 1946, fire.*

circulated among them and had them make their way to the golf course. Many members came off the golf course to help get golf bags out of the storage area. Some, however, continued their game as the inferno blazed remembers long-time member Larry Pendleton.

Crenshaw was at the race track when the fire struck. According to Don Young, he learned about the blaze when an announcement was made over the loud speakers that said, "Paging Mr. Crenshaw. Your Country Club is on fire."

The Glendale Fire Department was having a Fourth of July picnic and ball game that day so fire fighting duties were left up to the Montrose station. Their firemen actually saved the locker rooms by knocking holes in the exterior walls and filling the rooms with water.

When the fire was out, all that was left of the main clubhouse was a tall brick fireplace that had been in the middle of the building. The fire did not stop the Club from continuing its activities. The men's locker room was still usable, and a makeshift roof was placed over it. A huge tent was placed in the parking lot for dining purposes.

The Club had to exist this way for more than a year. Since war-time conditions still prevailed, obtaining building materials had to be approved by the Civil Production Board. With the assistance of Congressman H. Alan Smith, the building materials



*That poor deer trophy did not survive the fire.*

for a new clubhouse were finally approved in 1947.

In the spring of 1947, Crenshaw offered Club members the option to acquire the property. Money would be raised through the sale of shares in a corporation which would purchase and operate the Club in addition to fees assessed to golfing members.

About the same time, a representative of a real estate company owned by Eddie Cantor approached Crenshaw and asked him if he was interested in selling the Club. Without giving it much thought, Crenshaw asked him to make an offer.

A few days later, Crenshaw was at the Club when he noticed surveying crews hired by the real estate firm out on the back nine.

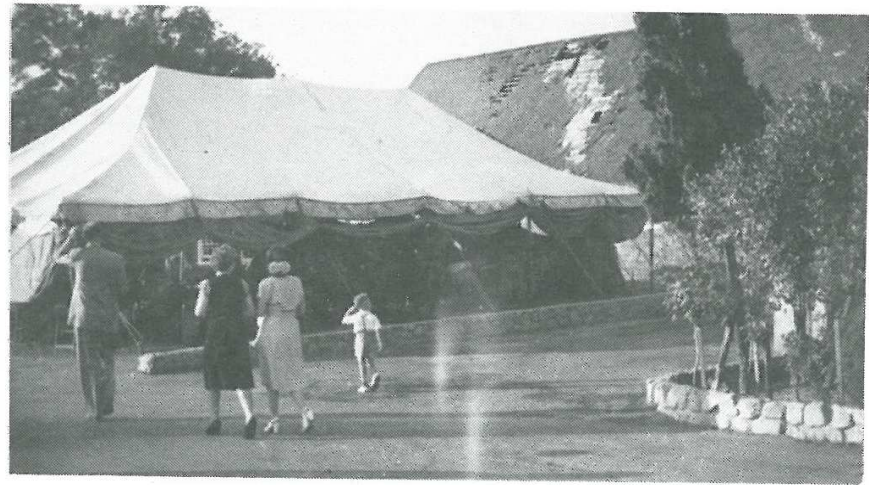
He became angry and ordered the crews off the course saying Oakmont was not for sale.

All members of Oakmont received a postcard signed by Crenshaw that read: "It has been called to my attention that it is reported that if the present members do not take over the Club, it will be subdivided. This injustice to you and myself, I wish to refute. It is the farthest from my thought to subdivide the Club in event of the failure of the present plan..."

With the announcement that Crenshaw would continue the Club as before, the plans for members to purchase the Club fell through.

The grand reopening of the new clubhouse was held on November 15, 1947. Architect George Lindsay had designed the new clubhouse but had to incorporate into his plans the unburned portions that were left.

1948 saw two tournaments of note held at Oakmont. One was a musicians' tournament which featured men who played for the famous orchestras of the day. Participants included Jimmy Dorsey, Harry James, Phil Harris and Johnny Mercer. It was won by Bob Kimic, a trumpet man for the Jack Benny and Fibber McGee radio shows.



*Tent used as temporary Clubhouse after the fire.*



Ben Hogan clowns with Peggy Ann Garner and John Edwards.

going away. The \$2,450 purse made Hogan the top money winner on the PGA tour for the year. Hogan's 72-hole total was 275. His final-day score card read: 4/3/2/4/4/4/3/4/4 for a 32 on the front; 3/3/4/4/3/3/4/4/4 for a 32 on the back.

## AN ERA ENDS

MacDonald Smith died in August of 1949, and W.W. Crenshaw died in January of 1950 marking the end of an era at Oakmont.

After Crenshaw's death, his wife Margaret assumed the duties of president of the Oakmont Club Corporation until her death in 1952. The two Crenshaw daughters, Marcia Young and Grace

BEN HOGAN		OAKMONT CLUB																		OCT. 15, 1948	
CONTESTANT		OFFICIAL SCORE CARD																		DATE	
HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOTAL
YARDS	520	360	100	400	315	425	350	400	365	3235	410	120	430	440	175	370	400	550	465	3360	6595
PAR	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	36	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	5	5	36	72
	4	3	3	4	4	2	5	6	4	34	4	3	4	11	2	4	4	5	4	34	68

Scores must be verified and recorded at each hole. Questions in dispute must be referred to the Rules Committee.  
On completion of the round this card shall be signed by the scorer, verified and signed by the contestant and promptly handed in at the scoreboard.

Scorer's Signature: *W. W. Crenshaw*  
 Contestant's Signature: *Ben Hogan*

Second round scorecard from 1948 Glendale Open.

## THE GLENDALE OPEN

Of more importance was the Glendale Open, featuring the top Professional Golf Association (PGA) players and sponsored by the Glendale Junior Chamber of Commerce. The week-long event featured clinics, pro-ams and banquets.

The final day of play found Ben Hogan four down to Lloyd Mangrum, but Hogan tore up the course with a record-shattering 64 and won



Glendale Open participants from left to right: Skee Riegel, amateur champion; Skip Alexander; Queen, Peggy Ann Garner; and Ben Hogan.

Mertens, became members of the Corporation's Board after the death of their mother, and Marcia Young served as president. In honor of Crenshaw, a two-day memorial tournament was started in 1952.

As originally conceived, the Crenshaw tournament called for partners to be from separate clubs. As it became more difficult to get two partners from different clubs, the format was changed to member-guest. Much discussion was held over the handicaps that should be allowed. Finally, it was decided to split the field into high and low handicaps, rather than to limit the required handicap.

It was at that point that Larry Pendleton said, "It really does not matter who wins. They always play way better than their handicaps. They are either pirates or bandits." That immortal phrase renamed the tournament to the "Pirates and Bandits", which it remains to this day.

## OAKMONT MEMBERS LEASE THE CLUB



In the spring of 1955, a letter addressed to the Oakmont membership conveyed the wishes of the Crenshaw heirs to be relieved of their administrative duties concerning the Club. A meeting was held with a committee of Club members to present the heirs' proposal to develop a lease agreement which would maintain Oakmont as a private Club.

Club members would operate the country club and golf course for a period of 25




*Six Oakmont past presidents from left to right: Gordon MacDonald (1965), Harvey Kruse (1962), Clarence Becwar (1959-1960), Ralph Zaun (1961), Jarl Nerdrum (1964), and W. Donald Shaw (1957).*

years with an option on an additional 25-year lease. Rent was to be \$48,000 per year, with an adjustment every five years based on the Commerce Department's cost of living index. Oakmont would retain the right of first refusal to sell the Club.

Naturally, the committee established to oversee this arrangement wished to use the name Oakmont Country Club. They were shocked to find that the original corporation had never been dissolved. That is why Crenshaw had to use the name Oakmont Club when he bought the property.



*Oakmont pool and snack bar area before Golf Shop relocation, circa 1955.*



OAKMONT CLUB      OAKMONT SUNDAY EVENING BUFFET-DINNER      GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA  
 January 30, 1955  
 Served from 5:00 'til 8:00 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please help yourself at the SMORGASBORD Table. The waiters will serve the Entree and the rest of your dinner.

CHOICE OF ENTREE

SWORDFISH STEAK SAUTE, ALMONDINE	\$2.50
ROAST STUFFED CHICKEN, SPICED PEACH	\$2.50
ROAST TURKEY, GIBLET GRAVY, CHERRY SAUCE	\$2.50
ROAST PRIME RIBS OF BEEF, NATURAL JUICE	\$2.75
BROILED CHOICE NEW YORK CUT SIRLOIN STEAK	\$3.85

Baked Potato  
 Buttered Wax Beans  
 Hot Dinner Rolls

DESSERT


Layer Cake	Assorted Pies	Sherbet
Ice Cream or Sundae	Cheese Cake	Cup Custard
Angel Food Cake		

Coffee - Tea - Milk

ANNOUNCING

Our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Warren for presenting tonight's program. The Club appreciates, and we know that all of the members here tonight appreciate, having the exciting experiences of the Warrens, during their world wide trip in 1951, shared with us.

COMING      Saint Patricks Dinner Dance with Keith Williams Orchestra. Make your table reservation now, for Saturday, March 12.



**Damn inflation!**

A special meeting was held of the remaining 1933 Board of Directors on June 14, 1955. Their first and last order of business was to dissolve the original Oakmont Country Club Corporation.

The new corporation's bylaws provided for 450 regular memberships to be offered at \$1,000 each. Social memberships would be \$50. A total of 35 special memberships were authorized for women whose husbands were not members. Junior memberships would be available for sons and daughters of regular members who were between the ages of 23 to 28. Dues were set at \$25 a month for regular members, \$10 for social and \$12.50 for special and junior members.

Final approval of the lease arrangement with the Crenshaw heirs was approved on August 22, 1955. In the meantime, the Club received 234 applications for regular memberships, Larry Larrimore was hired as general manager, and a new master plan was authorized to improve existing facilities. James Swaggerty was hired as the Golf Professional, and

Don Young was voted a honorary membership.

The rest of the decade moved quietly. A new irrigation system was installed in 1958, and powered golf carts made their first appearance at the Club in 1959. An initial fleet of ten was purchased, but it grew to 35 in one year.

## MEN'S CLUB CHAMPIONS

The Men's Club Champion tournament began in 1925 and has been held every year since then with the exception of 1955 and 1958. The participants in this match-play tournament are the low handicap (currently 9.9 index or lower) scratch players competing in a match-play format that determines the Club champion. The format for approximately the last 20 years consists of two days of qualifying with the top seven qualifiers seeded with the defending champion in 36-hole match-play format.

Some highlights about the 72 year old tournament are:

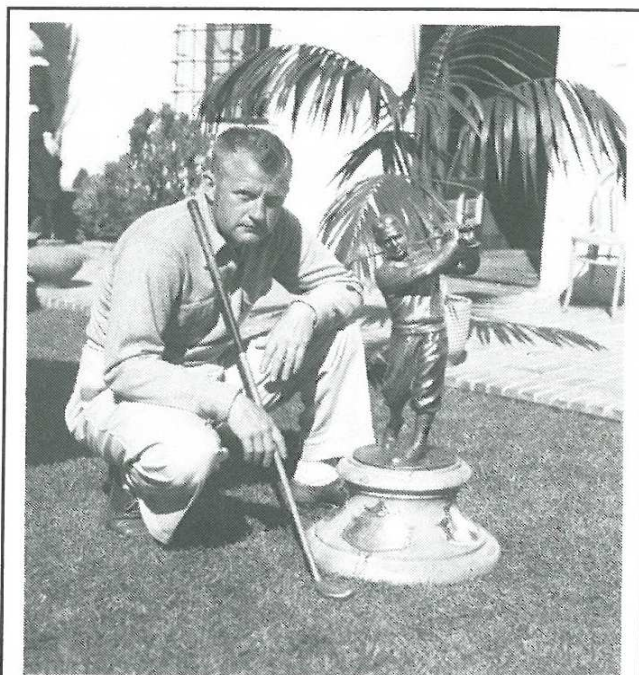


**LEADERS SCOREBOARD**

LEADING SCORERS	SCORES - HOLE NO'S			TOURNAMENT STANDING	TODAY'S ROUND PAR	HOLE NO
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>			
Geiberger				4 UNDER	281	
Richards				13 UNDER	285	
Morgan				7 OVER	292	
Davies				7 OVER	292	
Myersfeld				8 OVER	293	
White				9 OVER	294	
Zar				9 OVER	294	
Darwin				12 OVER	297	
Mc Cormack				12 OVER	297	
Counhry				15 OVER	300	
Biscus				15 OVER	300	
Olyn				15 OVER	300	

1959 SCGA Amateur Championship won by Al Geiberger.

1. Jack Gaines won four consecutive tournaments from 1931 through 1934 and a total of eight tournaments. Mr. Gains left Oakmont in 1944, the year of his eighth victory.
2. Former member and past president, Cecil Dees, won a total of nine club championships over a 24 year period from 1954 through 1978.
3. Mike Haney has won the championship seven times. (Mike's grandfather, George Haney Sr., joined Oakmont in 1932 and remained a member until he passed away in 1955; Mike's dad George Haney, Jr., joined Oakmont in 1948; and Mike joined Oakmont in 1974 as a junior member and transferred to regular membership in 1989.
4. Dave Sheff won the championship during Oakmont's 75th anniversary year for his fourth victory.
5. Larry Pendleton, won the Club Championship in 1948 - 65 years ago.
6. Keith Kinsel has won the championship eight times. Keith's dad, William Kinsel won the championship in 1971, 1973, and 1975. Keith's mom, Betty Kinsel won the OWGA championship thirteen times.



*Jack Gaines, Oakmont Club Champion, in 1931-1934, 1937, 1940, 1943 and 1944.*

Winners for the last 87 years are as follows:

1925	Julian Hayward
1926	J. F. Robertson
1927	Harold Thompson
1928	Roy Stockburger
1929	Harold Thompson
1930	Gilbert Eckles
1931-1934	Jack Gaines
1935	Jack Woods
1936	Wilbur Johnson
1937	Jack Gaines
1938	Wilbur Johnson
1939	Bud Thompson
1940	Jack Gaines
1941	Bruce McCormick
1942	Dave Hanna
1943-1944	Jack Gaines
1945	Charles Boyer
1946	Bud Thompson



*Mr. and Mrs. Don Young with Mr. and Mrs. John Knight, original members 1924.*

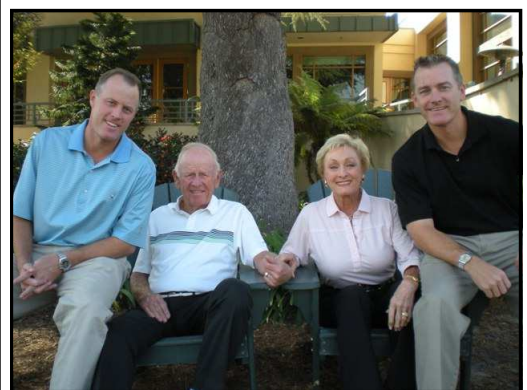


*Cecil Dees, Oakmont Club Champion in 1954, 1960, 1961, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1970, 1974, and 1978.*

Winners for 87 playing years (cont.)

1948	Larry Pendleton
1949	Carl Lucas
1950	John Goodman
1951	Frank Hardison
1952	Bud Thompson
1953	Frank Hardison
1954	Cecil Dees
1955	not held
1956-1957	Jerry Steelsmith
1958	not held
1959	John Frey
1960-1961	Cecil Dees
1962	William Hariston
1963	Alan Sweetster
1964	Frank Hardison
1965	John Frey
1966-1967	Cecil Dees
1968	William Sundahl
1969-1970	Cecil Dees
1971	William Kinsel

1972	Phil Hosp, Jr.
1973	William Kinsel
1974	Cecil Dees
1975	William Kinsel
1976	Dr. Dick Bower
1977	Gregg Alsdorf
1978	Cecil Dees
1979	James Stead
1980-1981	Mike Haney
1982	Craig Messner
1983	Dr. Dick Bower
1984	John Minnick
1985	Larry Barr
1986-1987	Mike Haney
1988	Robert Veeh
1989	Dave Sheff
1990	Mike Haney
1991	Robert Veeh
1992	Dave Sheff
1993-1994	Mike Haney
1995	Dave Sheff
1996	Greg Lumsden
1997 - 1998	Dave Sheff
1999	Robert Veeh
2000- 2006	Keith Kinsel
2007	Lee Keyte
2008	Keith Kinsel
2009	Robert Veeh
2010 - 2011	John Ziegler
2012	Randy Stevenson



*Keith, William, Betty and Jim Kinsel*



## LADIES' CLUB CHAMPIONS



The first OWGA Ladies' Club Championship Tournament was held in March 1928. This is continued to the present day. The championship scratch competition is preceded by one qualifying round. The champion is determined by a total of four days play with either a medal or match format.

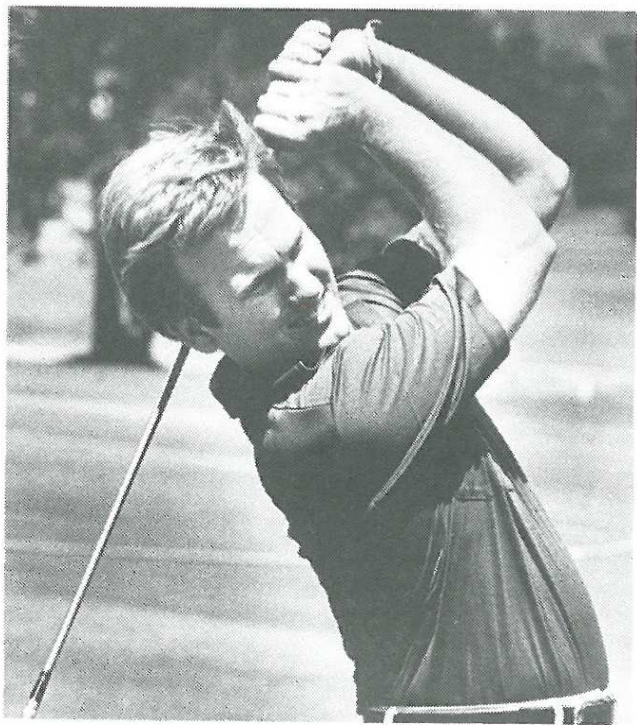
1928 - 1931	Louise Rentch
1932	Chris Rasor
1933 - 1934	Mrs. R. A. Speicher
1935	Helen Stewart
1936	Ruth Pancake
1937 - 1938	Vivian Elliott
1939 - 1941	Cecelia Winstanley*
1942 - 1944	Vivian Elliott
1945 - 1946	Edna Langdon
1947	Rose Montgomery
1948	Angie Vote
1949	Grace Peterson
1950	Tina Cota
1951	Rose Montgomery
1952	Jean Damerall
1953	Jerry Lindsey
1954 - 1955	Jean Damerall
1956	Rose Montgomery
1957	Betty Loveys
1958	Rose Montgomery
1959 - 1962	Rhea Hudson
1963 - 1964	Shirley Horvath
1965 - 1966	Rhea Hudson
1967	Lucy Busch
1968	Rhea Hudson
1969	Lucy Busch

1970 - 1971	Rhea Hudson
1972	Betty McKay
1973	Gloria Phillips
1974- 1975	Bobbie Kuhn
1976 - 1977	Betty Kinsel
1978	Peggy Sue Curry Pratts
1979 -1981	Bobbie Kuhn
1982	Maureen Hosp
1983	Cherie Zaun
1984	Bobbie Kuhn
1985	Cherie Zaun
1986 - 1987	Bobbie Kuhn
1988	Betty Kinsel
1989	Cherie Zaun
1990	Betty Kinsel
1991 - 1993	Mary Budke
1994	Cherie Zaun
1995 - 1999	Betty Kinsel
2000	Jeri Garrison
2001-2003	Betty Kinsel
2004	Maureen Hosp
2005	Betty Kinsel
2006-2007	Angela Collins
2008 - 2010	Linda Pearson
2011 - 2012	Angela Collins



*Cherie Zaun, Angela Collins, Linda Pearson*

\*Women's Southern California Golf Association President



**Mike Haney**, Oakmont Club Champion in 1980, 1981, 1986, 1987, 1990, 1993 and 1994.



A tribute to Don Young from the Glendale Newspress.



**Men's Club Champions**

*Front Row - Left to Right*  
Robert Veeh, Dave Sheff, William Kinsel, Gregg Alsdorff

*Back Row - Left to Right:*  
Keith Kinsel, Mike Haney, Lee Keyte, Greg Lumsden, John Ziegler, John Minnick

**RAISING THE ROOF**

In 1960, the clubhouse underwent another remodeling at a cost of \$285,000. The roof was literally jacked up in order to make the necessary changes. In 1961, the entire perimeter of the golf course was fenced for security reasons.

In the summer of 1963, the Army Corps of Engineers and the County Flood Control District notified the Club that they planned to widen and enlarge the barranca. It would take four years.

Preliminary to the widening, two storm drains were built on the course. One extended from Country Club Drive in front of the #2 tee and across #6, #7 fairways to the barranca. Another extended from Country Club Drive in front of the #1 tee and across #18, #9 and #17 fairways to the barranca. These were preventative measures to minimize potential rain damage.

Mother Nature lashed out at the Club on March 16, 1964, when 100 mile-per-hour winds raked the

course, causing 206 trees to blow over. \$15,000 was allocated to replace or repair damage to trees, fences, fairways and the clubhouse. Regular members were assessed \$10 each to pay the costs. Ladies and special members paid \$5 each.

In 1967, construction on the widening of the barranca had finally begun in April and concluded in November. The Club received \$175,000 as compensation for damages to the course. Temporary greens were built, and par was lowered to 68. When it was finished, the course was longer and more difficult than it had been; and new ratings had to be applied. Also in 1967, a monthly minimum was established to encourage use of the Club's facilities.

Despite the mood of the country in the late '60s and '70s things remained relatively quiet at Oakmont. George DeMayo became manager in 1969, the Don Young tournament was established in 1972; the UCLA vs. USC tournament was begun in 1975; and, perhaps, most important, the Bandini Brigade (volunteer members who fill divots with

Bandini mix so new, fresh grass appears in a few days) was started in 1977.

## MEMBERS PURCHASE THE CLUB



In 1978, the Club's legal committee notified the members that the option to renew the 25-year lease on the Club would have to be exercised. By the end of 1979, the lease was extended for another 25 years; but at the same time, the effort to purchase the Club from the Crenshaw heirs was initiated.

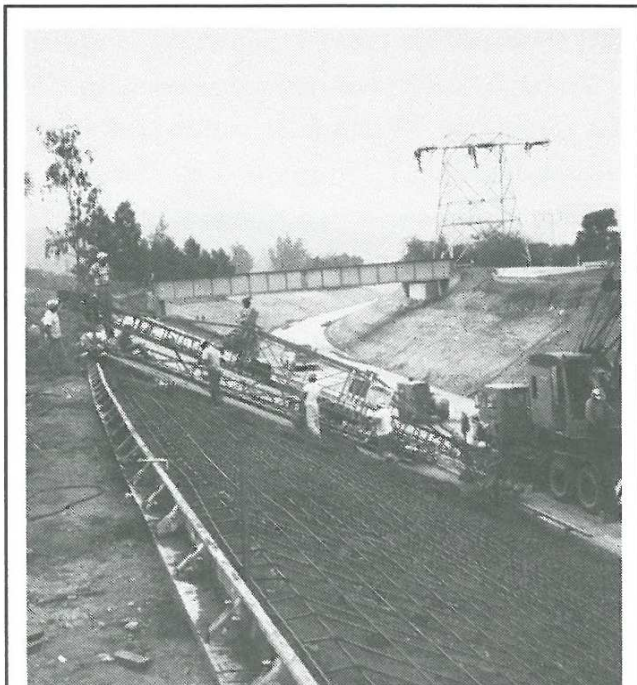
The ownership of Oakmont was divided between Marcia Young (1/7th), her sister Grace Mertins (1/7th) and Crocker Bank, as trustees for their children (5/7ths). A committee comprised of Messrs. Al Woodard, Howard W. Hill and Clyde Tritt was established to arrange for the purchase.

In 1982, Mr. Woodard reported that the Crenshaw heirs were proposed a price of \$5,280,000 for the Oakmont property. The Club offered to purchase the property over a seven-year period. The 5/7ths owned by the trust would be purchased in three years and the 2/7ths owned by Marcia Young and Grace Mertins would be purchased at the end of seven years.

Regular and associate members would be assessed an additional \$100 a month. The Club would credit the \$100 monthly payment to the member's equity to be returned upon his/her resignation from the Club. The contributions from member assessments and the resulting revenues were estimated to be sufficient to pay the asking price.

On September 29, 1983, final details were settled and all parties agreed to the purchase plan. On November 1, the plan was approved at a special membership meeting.

By 1991, the purchasing arrangement with the Crenshaw family had been concluded, and the Club officially became the property of its members. To celebrate the occasion, a "Burn the Mortgage" party was held.



*Fabrication of barranca (1967).*

## THE LPGA TOURNAMENT AT OAKMONT



In 1984, plans were being formulated to have a Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) tournament at Oakmont. Sponsorship was being offered to Great Northern Insured Annuity Corp (GNA). The firm had been on the lookout for a sponsorship because it had begun marketing tax deferred annuities in Southern California and was looking for ways to enhance its visibility. Also enhancing his visibility at the same time was Steve Hockett, who became manager of the Club in August of 1984.

In March of 1985, the first GNA Classic at Oakmont was about to become a reality. All of the big names of the LPGA were participating, including Jan Stephenson, Nancy Lopez, Pat Bradley, Patty Sheehan and Julie Inkster.

Things got off to a dubious start when a brief snowfall blanketed the course before a practice round on March 18. Then it was clear sailing after that. Jan Stephenson won with a two over par 290 followed by Amy Alcott, Pat Bradley and Barbara Moxness, all with 291. Stephenson won \$37,000 which enabled her to surpass the \$1 million mark in career earnings.

Don Andersen was the executive director, and tournament co-chairmen were Norm Barakat and Larry Barr.

The tournament returned in 1986, with Glendale Federal as co-sponsor, but heavy rain and hail played havoc with the event causing play to be cut short to three days and eliminating Sunday play altogether.

Chris Johnson won with a final score of 212. She played 8 1/2 holes on Thursday, 27 1/2 on Friday, 12 1/2 on Saturday, none on Sunday and 5 1/2 on Monday. Jane Geddes was second, and Julie Inkster was third.

In 1987, the LPGA was ready to take on Oakmont again, and Bob Deal was the tournament chairman. Jane Geddes defeated Robin Walton in a one-hole playoff to win the tournament. Tied at 286 after 72 holes of play, the two returned to the 18th. Geddes notched a birdie while her opponent managed a par. Colleen Walker finished third.

The Oakmont Board approved the terms of a proposed three-year contract to host the LPGA again, with Glendale Federal as the principal sponsor. A special meeting of the members was held in July of 1987 to approve the plan. It lost by four votes.

In a decade of remarkable success at Oakmont, it is perhaps fitting that the icing on the cake was the return of the LPGA tournament. A vote of the members taken in June, 1995, indicated an 85% approval rate for the return of the women professionals to Oakmont. When AJ Sports asked if the Club was interested, the wheels were set in motion.

Bob Deal, who had been chairman the last time the LPGA played Oakmont, was again put in charge; and a three-year contract was signed in May of 1996.

Despite a major wind storm on January 6, 1997, that took out 56 trees a month before the tournament, the LPGA returned to Oakmont in February of 1997. Terry-Jo Meyers, starting five strokes back on the final day, battled Anika Sorenstam down to the wire before winning by two strokes. Meyers fired back-to-back 66s in winning the tournament—her first victory in eight years. A remarkable woman who had overcome serious physical difficulties to play on the tour, Meyers collected \$97,500 for her victory.

## MAJOR STEPS FORWARD



While this important piece of business was being concluded, other vital work was underway. A total

remodeling of the clubhouse had been under discussion as early as 1985, but by 1992, it became a priority. A survey of the membership had indicated that the clubhouse was not "up-to-par" with the golf course, so to speak. As member Bob Wolcott put it, "We have an A golf course and a C+ clubhouse."

Despite the overwhelming sentiment to do something and the efforts of Jack Attwood's Board of Directors, the membership voted to do nothing. So in 1992, president Jack Hilts appointed Cal Adams to head a committee to do one thing: sell the idea of a new clubhouse to the members.

It worked. The concept and financing were approved in 1993 with 58% of the members voting for the plan, and the ambitious \$6 million remodel was set in motion. Set in motion it was. The start date for the project was January 17, 1994, the day the 6.8 Northridge earthquake rocked Southern California.

As with other disasters, Oakmont survived what turned out to be the most expensive urban disaster in the history of the United States. Under the guidance of 1994 Club President Al Frank, the new clubhouse emerged and was officially opened in May, 1995.

With a member-owned Club and a showcase facility now a fact of life, it was time to tackle another pressing problem: the membership. The recession that damaged Southern California had impacted Oakmont as well. The average age of golf members had climbed to 61, and there were some 40 members waiting to get out. Unfortunately, new members were coming in at a snail's pace. At one point, only one new member applied in a three-month period.

Spearheaded by 1996 Club President Olaf Falkenhagen, the idea of a floating membership fee was implemented in October, 1996. Other clubs in the area had tried it with varying success; and after

considerable debate at the Board level, it was time for Oakmont to try it.

It was an instant success. Five new members applied immediately. Thirty five members applied in six months.

Stroke Allowance		Full Difference		BLOOMQUEST		HANKY		THEY		FRICKSON		JOHNSON	
HOLE	LADIES' STROKE	LADIES' PAR	YARDS	MEN'S PAR			MEN'S STROKE						
1	5	5	488	5	4	5	7	5	5	5			
2	13	4	345	4	3	4	13	4	3	4			
3	17	3	90	3	3	3	17	3	4	4			
4	1	4	387	4	3	4	1	5	4	5			
5	15	4	305	4	3	5	15	4	4	5			
6	3	5	418	4	3	5	3	5	5	3			
7	9	4	343	4	3	5	9	4	3	4			
8	7	5	385	4	3	6	5	4	4	5			
9	11	4	354	4	3	4	11	4	4	4			
OUT		38	3115	36	28	41		38	36	39			
REPAIR DIVOTS ON GREENS - ANY PLACE - ANY TIME													
10	2	4	400	4	3	6	8	3	5	4			
11	18	3	102	3	2	2	18	4	3	4			
12	10	5	413	4	4	4	4	5	5	5			
13	6	5	<del>4</del>	4	3	4	2	6	4	4			
14	16	3	<del>105</del>	3	3	4	16	4	5	4			
15	14	4	<del>386</del>	4	3	5	12	4	4	5			
16	4	3	<del>72</del>	4	4	4	6	4	4	4			
17	8	5	<del>110</del>	5	4	5	10	5	3	5			
18	12	5	<del>451</del>	5	4	7	14	6	5	4			
IN		38	3212	36	30	41		41	38	39			
TOTAL		76	6327	72	58	82		79	79	78			
HANDICAP													
NET SCORE													
Player <i>C. Bloomquest</i> Date <i>12-5-50</i>													
Attested <i>W.D. Johnston Jr.</i>													
BE SURE TO TURN THIS CARD IN TODAY													

Ralph Bloomquest's famous 58. Lowest score posted for a Par 72 golf course at that time.

## Oakmont's Presidents



1955 - 1956	J. Robert Springer	1986	F. Phillip Hosp
1957	W. Donald Shaw	1987	Leo Heydorff
1958	Joseph A. Piuma	1988	Edward Waterbury
1959 - 1960	C.V. Becwar	1989	Robert Deal
1961	Ralph S. Zaun	1990	Robert W. Kummer, Jr.
1962	Harvey W. Kruse	1991	Jack R. Attwood
1963	Peter S. Fry	1992	Jack Hilts
1964	Jarl Nerdrum	1993	Sebastiano Sterpa
1965	Gordon A. MacDonald	1994	Alan L. Frank
1966	William L. Lhamon	1995	Alfred W. Merkel
1967	Parnell S. Curry	1996	Olaf Falkenhagen
1968	Eugene H. Taylor	1997	Charles Gelhaar
1969	Cecil C. Dees	1998	David Werbelow
1970	William Ferry	1999	Edward White
1971	Richard Daugherty	2000	Raymond Boushie
1972	John C. Argue	2001	Hal Mills
1973	Olen I. Kull	2002	Don Aldrich Sr.
1974	Frank M. Guerin	2003	Gregg Alsdorf
1975	Clifford S. Godwin	2004	Richard Voll
1976	Jack MacDonald	2005	David Boyce
1977	Hayes Bowers	2006	Bart Campbell
1978	Richard L. VanCleve	2007	George Reyes
1979	Alan R. Woodard	2008	John Odell
1980	Warren B. Penland	2009	Sunder Ramani
1981	Don I. Johnson	2010	Kevin J. Mintie
1982	Merlin E. Robertson	2011	Michael Malone
1983	Clyde E. Tritt	2012	John Schiller
1984	Don R. Anderson		
1985	Howard W. Hill		



## Past Presidents

**Front Row - Left to Right:**

**Olaf Falkenhagen, Edward White, John Schiller, David Boyce, Kevin Mintie,  
Sunder Ramani**

**Back Row - Left to Right:**

**Gregg Alsdorf, Bart Campbell, George Reyes, Richard Voll, Hal Mills, Jack Hilts,  
Don Aldrich, David Werbelow, Charles Gelhaar**





## A NEW CENTURY



As the 21<sup>st</sup> Century dawned, it would have been easy for Oakmont to rest on its laurels. After all, the club had survived a depression and a world war not to mention flood and fire.

It had a new clubhouse, a gym and a premiere golf course. Plans were being made to replace the pro shop and bag/cart storage areas and enhance the pool area.

It was a beautiful facility, owned by its members, in good financial condition.

But a country club is also a business and it must continue to evolve, adapt and grow in order to compete with other clubs to attract new members. Oakmont's presidents and boards understood this and proceeded accordingly.

The 18<sup>th</sup> hole was redesigned in 2000 and plans to refurbish the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee, a project which involved the club and the county flood control district, which each had easement rights, were under discussion. After two years of negotiations, the project was approved only to be delayed at the last moment by the Department of Fish and Game who had to conduct an inspection for nesting birds. Our feathered friends notwithstanding, the tee finally opened for play in 2003.

The club continued to host prestigious tournaments. The Pac 10 Men's Championship was played at Oakmont in 2003. UCLA won the team competition while individual honors went to the Bruin's John Merrick, who, on the final day, eagled all the par 5s on his way to shooting a 63, a course record.

In later years, the club would be the site of three U.S. Open qualifiers and would co-host the state amateur championship.

Oakmont lost its last link to its past in 2007 when Don Young, son-in-law of the club's mercurial owner William Crenshaw and its manager beginning in 1939, passed away at the age of 99.

## CHARTING A NEW COURSE



Perhaps to most ambitious project undertaken at Oakmont since its inception was the golf course redesign.

The beautiful course that members play today had somewhat less than glamorous beginnings. In fact, it began as a leaky pipe.

Beneath the fairways of Oakmont, the decades old irrigation system was failing. It had become antiquated and increasingly inefficient.

As the Green Committee wrestled with the problem, discussions expanded to include costs, other course improvements and the importance of having a long-term plan. The idea of a refurbished golf course was born.

"Lots of people put lots of time in on this project," said Al Frank, chairman of the golf course enhancement project committee. "There was lots of planning, good thinking and lively debate."

What was achieved was a plan that committee members felt was well thought out, transparent with no surprises, one they felt comfortable communicating to the members. The process took two years.

Job No. 1 was finding an architect. Seven or eight were interviewed and the list was quickly narrowed down.

Brian Curley, of Schmidt - Curley Design, Inc., an architect with an extensive resume, was selected despite his assessment that "if it wasn't for the baranca, power lines and polls, it would be a pretty good course."

The plan included new fairways, new bunkers, new tees, redoing several holes and adding California native areas to soften the look of the baranca.

The membership approved the project by a vote of 226-173.

The renovations begin in fall of 2008. There were a few bumps along the way. Rains revealed drainage problems. Storm cleanup took longer than expected. The city of Glendale insisted on fire suppression measures in the restroom despite the fact that the only flammable material was toilet paper.

On the other hand, as Al Frank pointed out, "At least we didn't find any Indian burial grounds."

The course reopened for play in May of 2009. And it came in under budget.

## OTHER NOTABLE NEW CENTURY DEVELOPMENTS



— A new management team consisting of General Manager Mike Hyler, Head Pro John Milligan, Golf Course Superintendent Rick Holanda and Chef Pierangelo Ramponi were hired to guide the club.

— The Dining Room and Terrace Grill were refurbished.

— The first Oak Tree Tournament was played in 2000, won by Oscar Campbell and Leo Heydorff.

— An Oakmont website was launched.

— In fashion news, mock turtlenecks were prohibited, then quickly approved, presumably after member outcry. Denim made its appearance in the club on Fridays.

— A study was conducted to identify all the tangible assets owned by the club and how long each can reasonably be expected to last before being replaced. The membership approved an assessment that established a capital reserve fund to pay for the replacement costs.

— The clubs bylaws were revised and updated.

— Christie Kubicek was elected as the first female member of the Board of Directors.

Throughout history, it is the members who have made Oakmont work and for 90 years they have laid a solid foundation that will serve the club in the future.

It is well and good that we celebrate the anniversary of this special place.

## THE FUTURE



Management and the Board of Directors have strived to keep Oakmont competitive and well positioned for the future.

"The mission of Oakmont Country Club is to Offer its membership and their guests a premier golf, dining and social experience in a family-friendly environment."

# Golf Course Renovation





Oakmont Country Club  
Glendale, California  
2012