



The Golf Chronicles

The story of golf at Reading Country Club and in Berks County



Number 31 • January 20, 2016

Time for a Dip: Everybody into the Pool!

As the season's first snow storm looms, what better time to go out to the freezing garage and test the snow blower? Be right back.

The beast started. Let it snow.

This is also the perfect time to write about—what else—swimming.

When Reading Country Club was in the formative stages, the founders envisioned a fresh-water pool fed by the flowing waters of the Antietam Creek. The following from the *Reading Eagle*, October 22, 1922, page 11, describes the proposed swimmin' hole:

"In the meadow near the creek the club plans, in the near future, to construct a regulation size swimming pool of concrete. The pool will be supplied with fresh water directly from the creek and will be so constructed that the pool can be protected from flood water and all pollution."

A polluted Antietam Creek in 1922? Who knew.

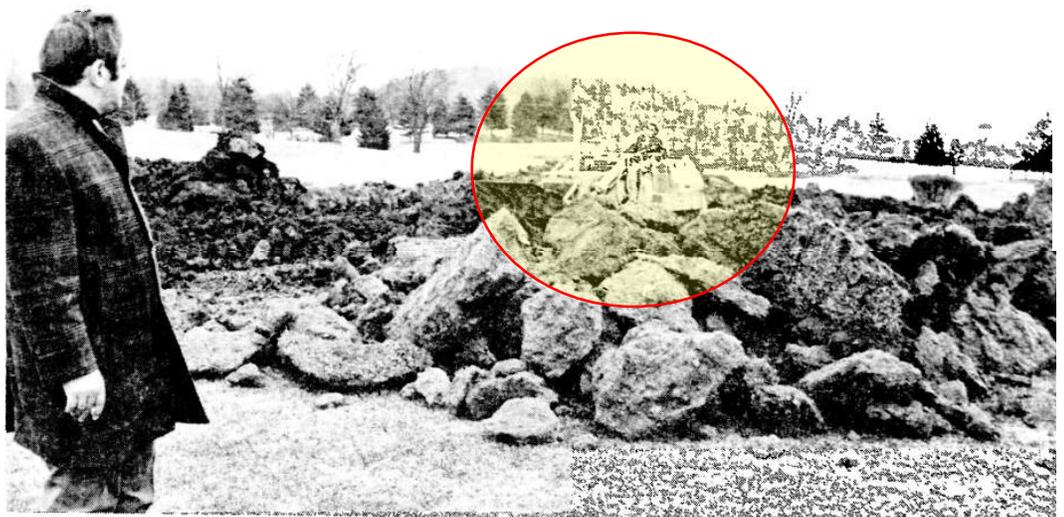
From RCC's 1923 membership brochure: "The land furnishes several excellent sites for a swimming pool, upon which, it is hoped, there will be one built in the near future."

The near future turned out to be 48 years distant. As reported in the *Eagle*, February 22, 1970, (left) RCC announced construction of a swimming pool.

Club management must have figured that if members waited 47 years, another year would be no problem. The pool finally opened in 1971. RCC's bankruptcy in the 1940s probably causes delays, as well. The photo below shows work in progress. We learn that the L-shaped pool cost \$70,000. Constructed by Sylvan Pools, it opened in July, not on Memorial Day as anticipated (see page 2).

The pool was located to the west of the 11th tee and fairway, on the grounds now housing the medical building and nursing home, which was built in 1982 and 1983.

We also learn that the club was resurfacing the tennis courts and building a new pro shop. Fodder, perhaps, for subsequent issues of *The Golf Chronicles*.



Ground Broken for Pool At Reading Country Club

With Berks County in the throes of freezing weather who could be thinking of a swimming pool but members of the Reading Country Club. Milan Sokolovich, club manager, looks on as a bulldozer breaks ground for an L-shaped pool which is expected to be ready for use by Memorial Day. A bathhouse, snack bar and parking lot will be part of the \$70,000 project, which is located along the golf course about a half block west of the clubhouse. The work is being done by Sylvan Pools of Doylestown.—Eagle Photo.

Reading Eagle, February 16, 1971 – The photo is blurry, so a circle was added to show the location of the bulldozer.



Milan Sokolovich.

Reading Country Club names General Manager; Remodeling underway

The appointment of Milan Sokolovich as general manager and an extensive remodeling program, now under way, have been announced by John Bossaco, president of the Reading Country Club.

A native of Wilkes-Barre, Mr. Sokolovich has 13 years of club management experience, including noncommissioned officer clubs in the U.S. Air Force and most recently the Schuylkill Country Club in Orwigsburg.

He is a graduate of the Club Managers School, Fort Lee, Va.

As part of the remodeling program, the men's and women's locker rooms now are undergoing redecorating and refurbishing, as well as the grill and main dining room, which will be air conditioned when completed.

"All the remodeling and redecorating in the clubhouse will be in keeping with the Spanish architecture of the building," noted Mr. Bossaco.

Excavation will start shortly on a new swimming pool to be located in the caddy area of the club grounds. Showers and locker rooms will be located at pool side for the convenience of guests, Mr. Bossaco noted.

This spring the tennis courts will be reactivated and resurfaced; the parking area will be expanded; a new pro shop will be built; and a building is planned for parking and maintenance for the additional electric carts now on order.

"We expect most of these improvements to be completed in time for the summer season," Mr. Bossaco said.



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Swimming at RCC: Two Ways to Go

The photos to the right show what happens when too much rain falls too quickly. Perhaps the flood inspired RCC members to build a pool two years later. Lookin' good, Jimmy!

The photo below from July 11, 1971, was taken on the pool's opening day. The RCC pool also got a send-off when it closed that first season. The article on the lower right appeared September 5, 1971, in the *Eagle's* Sunday "Especially for Women" section.



New Golf Hazard

Jack Nicklaus couldn't get around this water trap on the fourth hole at the Reading Country Club. At least James M. Hafer of Reading R.D. 3, above, has the right paraphernalia for the day, even if it won't help his score on the links. Below, you can't blame these two fellows for mistaking the country club pool. The fairway was turned into one of the largest temporary swimming holes in Berks County by the deluge which dropped more than four inches of rain on Reading.—Eagle Photos by Edward G. Schneider.

READING EAGLE

TUESDAY, JULY 29, 1969

PAGE SEVENTEEN SECOND SECTION

WEEU
850
ON YOUR RADIO

Phillies Baseball
Tonight
6:30 o'Clock



MILAN SOKOLOVICH, left, general manager of the Reading Country Club, looks over the newly-completed swimming pool at the club with two couples who attended a Hawaiian Luau which formally opened the facility. Dressed in appropriate attire for the social event are Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Gaines, right, and Mr. and Mrs. James H. Williams. Both couples live in Crestwood. Mr. Williams is chairman of the entertainment committee which arranged the luau. Poolside dancing to the music of the Bob Lou Quartet followed the buffet.—Eagle Photo

Country Clubs to Have Final Fling Labor Day

Organized summer activities at area country clubs will come to an end over the Labor Day weekend, but the new fall season will not be lacking in social events.

A steak fry on the patio at the Reading Country Club Monday evening will follow the club championship golf match. The new swimming pool will close the next day. The next event on the links will be a "Ham and Egg Tournament" on Sunday morning, Sept. 12. A one-day, member-guest tournament is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 22.

Plans are in the making for an "Octoberfest" to take place Saturday night, Oct. 16. This is a Reading Country Club event which is being repeated by popular demand.

At the Heidelberg Country Club, golf tournaments, swimming meets, horseback trail rides and other activities are on the Labor Day weekend agenda. The highlight of the program will be a clam and lobster bake at 6:30 p.m. Monday. The day's activities will come to a close with a display of fireworks.

Last weekend the club held a preview showing of the new condominium "country townhouses" which have been constructed overlooking the golf course. The decorating and furnishing is being done by Wilbur Z. Weik of Lebanon. Before the end of the year there will be 20 families living in the Heidelberg community, some having constructed homes on the property.