



The Golf Chronicles

Golf Stories from the Pennsylvania Heartland



Number 65 • December 20, 2017

Listen: Scorecards Can Talk

Oh, what they have to say!

Old scorecards can talk. You just gotta know how to listen. When you figure that out, what you will hear is more than a tale of the day's play. You'll hear the history of a golf course. Dig a little deeper, and you'll discover long-lost golf stories.

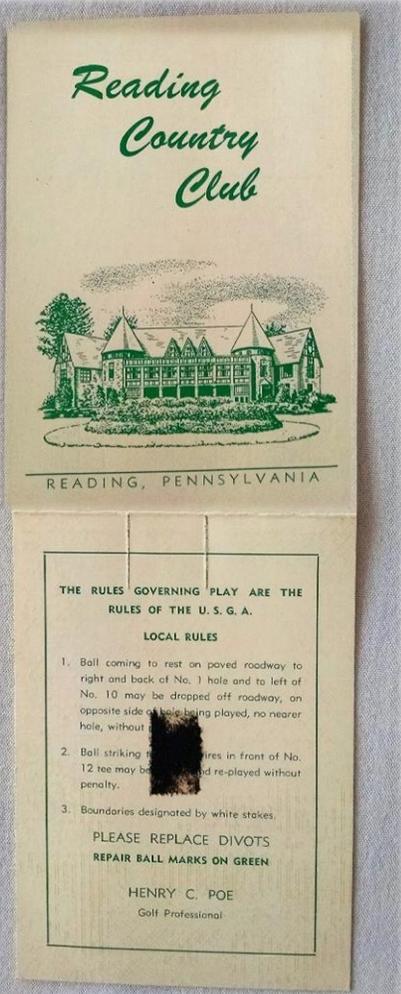
This rendering of *The Golf Chronicles* looks at the evolution of several Berks County golf courses through the eyes of a scorecard.

One of the more interesting tales involves Galen Hall, a golf course that grew from a nine-hole layout—unfortunately a scorecard form that era could not be found—to a par 66, 18-hole course to today's par 72. You can read that story on page 3.

We'll start with Reading Country Club, our home course.

Here is a card from the Henry Poe era, 1940 to 1966. The front nine plays 52 yards longer today from the blue tees, a difference that may be a result of measuring. The back nine in Poe's days featured a par 4, 10th hole (par 3 today), a 12th hole that was 90 yards longer (the hole was shortened in 1986 when Gibraltar Road was re-routed) and a par 4, 17th hole (a par 5 today). Poe's back 9 played to 3,368 yards from the blues, compared to 3,218 today. Note that the illustration does not show a fountain in the circle in front of the clubhouse. The two slits on the fold were for holding a pencil, a feature typical of scorecards of the era.

POST YOUR SCORES FOR HANDICAP											
Hole No.	Blue Markers	Men's Par	W + L - HO	White Markers	Hdcp. Strokes	Ladies' Par	Red Markers				
1	365	4		350	5	4	330				
2	375	4		360	9	4	275				
3	340	4		324	11	4	316				
4	180	3		170	17	3	160				
5	520	5		500	1	5	455				
6	168	3		155	15	3	145				
7	435	4		410	3	4	365				
8	194	3		175	13	3	140				
9	315	4		305	7	4	266				
OUT	2892	34		2749		34	2452				
10	275	4		265	18	4	253				
11	430	4		420	8	5	420				
12	451	4		441	4	5	411				
13	390	4		360	10	4	350				
14	520	5		510	2	5	500				
15	212	3		165 174	12	3	156				
16	330	4		310	14	4	290				
17	420	4		410	6	4	375				
18	340	4		330	16	4	290				
TOT IN	3368	36		3222		38	3045				
TOT IN	6260	70		5971		72	5497				
HDCP.											
NET											
DATE	SCORER					ATTESTED					



COURSE RATING NO. 1 - 67.7 NO. 2 - 69.2	POST YOUR SCORES FOR HANDICAP																							
	HOLE NO.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOTAL	HDCP.	NET
BLUE MARKERS	360	355	340	180	510	160	430	180	325	2840	260	380	458	398	506	212	310	480	340	3344	6184			
MEN'S PAR	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	34	4	4	4	4	5	3	4	5/4	4	37/36	71/70			
W + L - HO																								
WHITE MARKERS	350	350	330	170	490	150	410	170	315	2735	250	380	448	360	500	165 172	300	410	330	3154	5889			
HDCP. STROKES	8	14	12	18	4	16	2	6	10		17	11	1	9	7	5	13	3	15					
LADIES' PAR	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	34	4	5	5	4	5	3	4	4	4	38	72			
RED MARKERS	330	275	320	160	450	145	365	140	266	2451	250	370	410	350	500	156	290	375	280	2981	5432			
DATE	SCORER					ATTESTED																		

YARDAGE MEASURED FROM CENTER OF TEES TO CENTER OF GREENS

This card is from 1973, John Stasko's only year at RCC. The most significant difference from the Poe years is the 17th hole, a par 5 in '73.

THE RULES GOVERNING PLAY ARE THE RULES OF THE U. S. G. A.

LOCAL RULES

- Ball coming to rest on paved roadway to right and back of No. 1 hole and to left of No. 10 may be dropped off roadway, on opposite side of hole being played, no nearer hole, without penalty. (Two Club Lengths)
- Ball striking telegraph wires in front of No. 12 tee may be re-tee'd and re-played without penalty.
- Slow players must allow faster groups to play thru.
- Ball coming to rest on blacktop cart paths may be dropped off two club lengths. No nearer hole. No penalty.

PLEASE REPLACE DIVOTS
REPAIR BALL MARKS ON GREEN
JOHN STASKO
Golf Professional



Reading Country Club



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HOLE	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9									OUT	INITIALS BELOW	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18										IN	TOT	REPLACE DIVOTS	
MEN	BLUE	367	369	345	212	513	158	409	185	312	2870		160	392	411	406	505	219	316	517	340	3266	6136		
	WHITE	354	359	331	185	505	148	397	176	305	2760		134	387	389	398	497	175	295	491	331	3097	5857		
	HANDICAP	15	7	9	13	3	17	1	5	11		18	10	2	4	14	8	12	6	16					
	PAR	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	34		3	4	4	4	5	3	4	5	4	36	70	HCP	NET
TEE TIME:	MATCH POINTS																								
LADIES	PAR	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	34		3	5	5	4	5	3	4	4	4	37	71	REPAIR BALL MARKS	
	HANDICAP	7	13	11	17	3	15	1	5	9		18	14	10	6	2	8	12	4	16					
	YARDAGE	336	277	314	110	438	131	349	125	258	2338		120	382	387	358	475	160	284	337	277	2780	5118		

Bob DeMarco was RCC's pro from 1974 to 1985. This card shows the 10th as a par 3. Not much else has changed from 1973.

A Berkshire Beauty

This Berkshire card from 1944 is interesting on several levels. First, it shows how the course has evolved. Two strokes have been lopped from par and the course has been shortened from 6417 yards to 6375 (blue tees) and 6097 (white tees) and from 5878 to 5516 for the red tees. The fifth hole played as a par 5 at 481 yards. Today, the hole has been shortened by about 10 yards and plays as a par 4. Back in the day, the 17th hole was a par 5 at 517 yards. Today, the penultimate hole is a 367 yard par 4.

Just as interesting on the 1944 card is Harry Markel's signature. Harry started at Berkshire as assistant pro in 1922. He was named head professional in 1931, a job he kept until retirement in 1966. His son, John, joined the Berkshire staff in 1961 and took over as head professional following Harry's retirement. John stayed until New Year's Eve 1986, when he retired at age 65. That is a remarkable run of 64 years with a Markel on the Berkshire staff.

Kennedy's quest. But there is something historic about this scorecard. The golfer was 62-year-old **Ralph A. Kennedy**, a New York resident. According to the *Reading Eagle*, August 16, 1944, Kennedy was set on playing golf courses around the world, a quest he had been pursuing for 34 years. On August 15, a Tuesday, he shot 84 at Berkshire and 35 for nine holes at Reading, bringing his total to 2,420 different golf courses played. Kennedy had golfed in 41 states, eight provinces in Canada and nine other countries. By the time he hung up his clubs, Kennedy had played in all 48 states (look it up), all nine Canadian provinces and 12 other countries. Kennedy estimated that he had walked 10,000 miles in his golf pursuits. His only disappointment was that he was unable to meet with

8/16/44 STYMIE MEASURE 2419

HOLES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	TOTAL	Handicap
A	5	4	5	6	5	3	4	5	4	41	5	3	5	4	4	4	3	5	4	36	73	
B	5	4	4	5	4	3	4	4	3	36	5	3	5	5	4	4	3	5	4	38	74	
C																						
D																						
Handicap Strokes	6	12	8	2	4	17	10	13	18	7	16	1	5	11	9	15	3	14				

Harry Markel Attest 8/15/44 Date

REPLACE TURF LEVEL FOOTPRINTS IN BUNKERS

Gene Venzke, a world-class miler from Reading. Both were members of the New York Athletic Club.

One iron only. By the way, Kennedy played Berkshire and Reading with only a 3-iron. That's traveling light.

Kennedy (1889-1961) is the subject of *Golf's Iron Horse*, by **John Sabino** (Skyhorse Publishing, February 2017). According to Sabino, Kennedy finished his career having played 8,500 rounds over 3,165 different courses. He saved the scorecard from every round and, when he completed his quest in 1953, he donated them to the U.S.G.A. That's how the GC got a copy of the Berkshire card.

So, how did he support his globe-trotting obsession? He was pencil salesman. Oh, and he was a founding member of Winged Foot Golf Club.

Well played, Ralph.



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Galen Hall Gold

This 1953 scorecard from Galen Hall Hotel and Country Club tell the history of the golf course and the game of golf.

Let us first look at the golf course. Present day Galen golfers are all too familiar with the accursed second hole, an uphill-downhill dogleg left par 5. They know the third hole as a gentle dogleg left with out of bounds left along the road. There are significant differences between the 1950s cards and today to holes four through nine. The back nine has also evolved, especially holes 10 and 18. Today's course plays at 6,200 yards to a par 72, compared to the 5,220-yard, par 66 course shown in these vintage scorecards. The filled-in card is also of interest because it is signed by **Bob Middleton**, Galen Hall's golf pro for 30 years, beginning in 1926. Middleton was from Montrose, the same Scottish town as Alex Findlay, who designed RCC and Galen Hall's original none-hole course. Middleton shot rounds of 58 and 60 when Galen Hall was a par 66 course.

Stroke and distance. Now, let us take up the history of golf rules. The rules printed on the back of the cards note that the penalty for an out-of-bounds ball is distance only. Today, players suffer a distance and stroke penalty. What gives?

The OB rule, it turns out, has an interesting and evolved history. The term out-of-bounds was first defined in 1886 by the Royal Isle of Wight golf club, with a penalty of stroke and distance. In 1899, the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews defined OB as being outside the recognized boundaries of the course. The penalty was distance only.

Local rules. In 1908, the R&A added a provision that refined the rule: clubs could make a local rule for out-of-bounds shots with a stroke and distance penalty. By 1920, the rule was changed to stroke and distance for all play, with a local rule option to remit the penalty stroke. The United States Golf Association, 1947, and the R&A, 1950, decreed that a ball out of bounds was a distance only penalty, with no local option to add a stroke. By 1952, the stroke and distance penalty was back in the rule book.

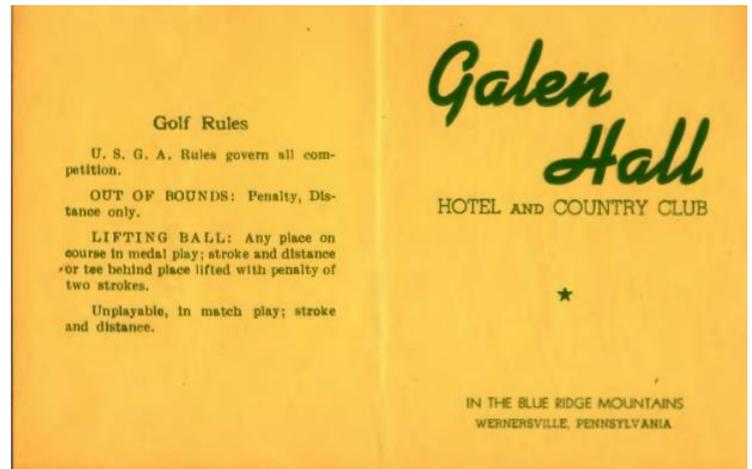
Confused? It gets better.

In 1960, the USGA experimented with a distance-only penalty. That lasted one year.

In 1964, the USGA allowed a local rule to be adopted which allowed a stroke-only option if it was felt that stroke and distance would be "unduly severe." The player could drop a



This sand trap to the right of Galen Hall's second fairway most likely guarded the original second green, a 140-yard par 3.



Replace Turf

Holes	Yards	Par	Strikes	Self	Partner	Opp.	Opp.	Holes	Yards	Par	Strikes	Self	Partner	Opp.	Opp.
1	320	4	8					10	435	4	4				
2	140	3	17					11	145	3	16				
3	460	5	1					12	445	4	3				
4	350	4	7					13	205	3	12				
5	190	3	13					14	425	4	6				
6	300	4	9					15	140	3	11				
7	455	5	2					16	265	4	10				
8	165	3	15					17	190	3	14				
9	120	3	18					18	425	4	5				
Out	2500	34		57				In	2750	32					
PLAYER								Out	2500	34					
ATTESTED: Bob Middleton Pro.								Total	5250	66					
DATE: 8/17/53								Handicap							
								Net							

Stymie Gauge

ball within two club-lengths of where the original ball crossed the out of bounds line. Reasonable evidence was required that the ball had gone out of bounds and as to the point of crossing. In the absence of either, stroke and distance was the only option. This was rescinded in 1968. Since then, all golfers have enjoyed and cursed—depends on who hit the shot—the stroke and distance rule for an ball hit out of bounds.

The card is also marked as a stymie gauge. What in the name of **Old Tom Morris** is that?

The rule that riled. The stymie rule riled golfers for 400 years. A stymie occurred only during a match-play event. The two balls on the green had to remain in place unless they lay within six inches of each other. The golfer who was away had to play around or over the other ball. If the stymied player's putted ball moved the opponent's ball, the player could replace it or play from its new position. If the opponent's ball went in the hole, the player was deemed to have holed out with his previous stroke.

In 1938, the USGA decreed that if the obstructing ball lay within six inches of the hole, the stymied golfer could ask to have the ball marked. To assist in measuring stymies, most scorecards were six inches long, which explains Galen Hall's stymie gauge. The rule changed several times between 1900 and 1951. The R & A, however, never altered its rule.

A rare spell of common sense finally broke out and the major rules-making bodies eliminated the stymie as of January 1, 1952. As evidenced by the Galen Hall's 1953 card, the stymie gauge remained until the supply was exhausted.



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One Card, Many Stories

The Berkleigh scorecard from 1957 is interesting because of the signature. **Henry Williams, Jr.**, was head professional Berkleigh from 1951 to 1975, when he moved to Moselem Springs, where he remained until his retirement in 1993.

His father, **Henry, Sr.**, emigrated from Canada to New England, where he worked on golf course construction projects. He came to Pennsylvania when the first nine holes at Galen Hall were under construction. Henry, Sr. stayed on as the pro from 1915 to '20 and again in 1925. He moved to Lehigh Country Club from 1926 to '36, which is where Henry, Jr. learned the game. Henry, Sr. was at Spring Ford C.C. from 1936 to '43.

Close but no trophy. Henry, Jr. was an accomplished player. The high point of his career was the 1950 PGA Championship at Scioto Country Club, Columbus, Ohio, when he went to the finals, eliminating two major championship winners before losing to **Chandler Harper**, 4 and 3. Williams bogied the first three holes and never got closer than two down.

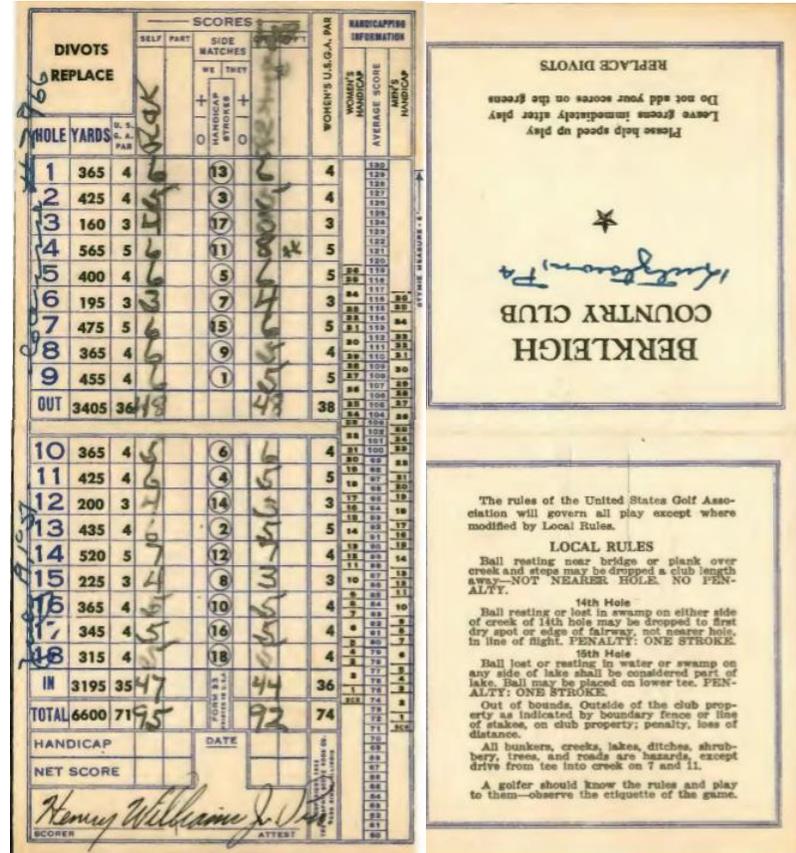
Williams went 38 holes to defeat **Claude Harmon**, the 1948 Masters champion, in the second round. Williams led 3-up with three to play, but Harmon carded two birdies and a par to square the match. Williams won when Harmon three-putted the 38th hole from 15 feet. Harmon shot under par, comparted to Williams at even par, but such is the nature of match play that the lowest score did not win.

Picard wilts. In the semi-finals, Williams played **Henry Picard**, winner of 26 PGA tour events including the 1938 Masters and the 1939 PGA Championship. The 43-year-old Picard led the 36-hole match six up with eight to play but wilted in the 94 degree heat. The reeling former champion lost six of seven holes, five with bogies, and found himself one down on the 18th hole. He forced extra holes by making a birdie three. The 38th hole was once again magic for Williams. He won when Picard missed a two-foot par putt.

Williams played in twelve PGA Championships, seven U.S. Opens and two Masters Tournaments. Williams won once on the PGA Tour, the 1952 Tucson Open. He also won the Philadelphia Section PGA Championship three times and the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania opens twice each. He played on the Caribbean Tour, winning the Jamaica Open in 1962.

Williams was not the only Berks Countian in the news that week at Scioto. **Jackie Weitzel**, who just that month graduated from Wilson High School, was assistant to **Jack Grout**, the head professional. Weitzel won the PIAA state high school golf championship in 1948.

Open leaderboard. Earlier that year, Williams shot 69 in the first round of the U.S. Open at Merion. His one-under par score placed him fifth behind **Lee Mackey, Jr.**, who fired an Open record first-round 64. Williams topped many of the favorites such as **Jimmy Demaret, Lloyd Mangrum, Cary Middlecoff, Sam Snead, Henry Picard, Denny Shute, Gene Sarazen** and **Bob Toski**. **Ben Hogan**, who would go on to win in what became known as the Miracle at Merion, opened with



The scorecard is dated June 19, 1957.

72. Williams' second-round 76 left him three strokes inside the cut line. Mackey skied to an 81, but made the cut.

Williams shot 76-77 in Saturday's 36-hole finale to finish tied 29th at 298, +18.

Bugged by a bug. After 72 holes, **Ben Hogan, George Fazio** and **Lloyd Mangrum** tied at 287. Hogan won the playoff with 69 to Mangrum's 73 and Fazio's 75. The round was not without interest. On the 16th green, as Mangrum was about to putt, a ladybug perched on his ball. Mangrum waited. So did the ladybug. Mangrum, tired of the bug dance, picked up the ball and blew the bug off. The USGA awarded him with a two-stroke penalty.

No lifting. Did Lloyd neglect to mark his position? Not at all. At the time, the rules did not allow a player to lift the ball on the green except when it interfered with the play of a competitor. It appears that Mangrum's gaffe handed Hogan the victory. It should be noted, though, that Hogan birdied the next hole, a long and difficult par 3, and it is felt by some that it was this birdie that did Mangrum and Fazio in.

Hogan's win was dubbed a miracle because he was just 16 months removed from a near-fatal accident. Doctors doubted he would walk again, much less play golf. Bantam Ben proved them wrong.

No aces. By the way, the tale in the Facebook teaser about **Jack** and **Arnie** making aces during an exhibition at the Manor is false. Too bad. That would have been something to see.