



# The Golf Chronicles

## Golf Stories from the Pennsylvania Heartland



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### Burning Down the House

When Reading Country Club opened its first five holes for play in 1923, the clubhouse was situated in the stone building where the club entrance meets Perkiomen Avenue. The Bishop's House, as it was called, was named for John Bishop, former owner of the grist mill that stood on the property. The house dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The club added a wing for men's and women's locker rooms, dining and a kitchen. This was always to be the club's temporary home. The site for the current clubhouse, opened in 1931, (see *TGC* #16) was selected by **Alexander Findlay**, the golf course architect, as early as 1922.

The Bishop's House served the members until October 19, 1930, when a fire destroyed the addition (see *TGC* #20). The loss was estimated at \$10,000, including \$8,000 in golf equipment. The new building was well under way, so the members weren't without a clubhouse for long.

Two photos below show the Bishop's House with the additions, including a porch that was added to the front entrance. The middle photo was taken this week from about the same angle as the top photo. With the exception of the missing wing, the building's exterior appears to be little changed.



The photos from the *Reading Times*, February 11, 1928, left, and December 19, 2018, below, show that not much has changed in 90 years.



The photo of the entrance to the Bishop's House is from 1928. It appears in *The Passing Scene*, volume 13, page 205, by **George M. Meiser, IX** and **Gloria Jean Meiser**.

