The Golf Chronicles

Golf Stories from the Pennsylvania Heartland

Byron Nelson
Reading CC Pro
1937-39

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8. June 17, 2015
   The Am, the Open and the Nelson Connection

We celebrate U.S. Open week with an article that links the 1939 Open to RCC and the Berks Am. What's the connection? Read this new entry in *The Golf Chronicles* to find out.

9. June 22, 2015

Tillinghast is Coming to Town

We have already reported on the greats of the game who have played at RCC. See *He Played There?,* the first entry in *The Golf Chronicles*. One of the greats of golf course design, A.W. Tillinghast, also visited. In this week's entry, you can find out why Tilly traveled to the 'Ding in 1935.

10. June 29, 2015

The Mystery of Number 6

The 6th hole at RCC once played from a tee at the top of the hill along Shelbourne Road. Or did it? Read *The Golf Chronicles* to find out.

11. July 6, 2015

The Keystone Connections to the Women's Open

What are the connections between RCC and the U.S. Women's Open? Find out in *The Golf Chronicles*.

12. July 7, 2015

Slammin' Sammy's Record 63

July 7 is an historic day at RCC. Read *The Golf Chronicles* to find out what happened in 1949.

13. July 30, 2015

Roarin' in the 20's

Reading Country Club was born in the Roaring '20s. Read the newest entry in *The Golf Chronicles* to find out what set Berks Countians abuzz.

14. August 13, 2015

Lefty, Gix, Mutz and Cotton – Public-Course Players Take Center Stage

This week's *The Golf Chronicles* is a tribute to Lefty, Gix, Mutz, Cotton and all the Berks Country golfers who have played the Publinks championship since 1931.

15. August 17, 2015

Golf Comes to Berks County

Golf in Berks County dates from 1896 when visitors from Carlisle brought hickory-shafted clubs and gutty balls from England to friends in Reading. The golf novices thrashed about in Eckert's lot behind the home of George F. Baer, one-time president of the Reading Railroad. The Baer mansion was located at Clymer Street and Mineral Spring Road, which puts Eckert's lot in the vicinity of the former Reading Central Catholic High School. For more about the early years of the game in Berks, read the newest chapter in *The Golf Chronicles*.

16. August 28, 2015

An Imposing New Home

The grand structure that sits at the end of the driveway from Rte. 422 was dedicated in 1931. With major renovations about to get underway, *The Golf Chronicles* tales a look at the history of RCC's two clubhouses.

17. September 4, 2015

A Place in History

The RCC club championship is nigh. With that in mind, let's take a look at the glorious history of

RCC club champions that began in 1924. This chapter of *The Golf Chronicles* examines the record-holders. The next chapter will highlight the winners.

18. September 8, 2015

The Guy Who Gets Pointed At

RCC's first club champion was crowned in 1924. The tournament has been contested every year since, with a few exceptions. To find out who won and when, go to this issue of *The Golf Chronicles*.

19. September 21, 2015

18 + 1 = The Tradition

Congratulations to Guy McKeone and Dave Speece, winners of the third playing of The Tradition, a two-day partners tournament that celebrates Reading Country Club's storied position in Berks County golf. With that in mind, this entry into *The Golf Chronicles* takes a quick tour of RCC's front and back 9's.

20. September 30, 2015

A Burning Issue

In his book *A Centennial Tribute to Golf in Philadelphia*, author and noted golf historian James W. Finegan writes that RCC's clubhouse burned to the ground in 1930. This edition of *The Golf Chronicles* uncovers the truth behind the fire.

21. October 8, 2015

The Saga of Flowing Gold

RCC has hosted numerous golf champions since 1923. There have also been champions of another stripe. One such story is in "The Saga of Flowing Gold" in this entry into *The Golf Chronicles*.

22. October 26, 2015

2015 Jack O'Lantern Classic—Supporting Our Community

How old does an event have to be before it is considered historic? A day or so should do. With that in mind, this edition of *The Golf Chronicles* looks at the annual Jack O'Lantern Classic, contested at RCC on October 25.

23. October 28, 2015

Celebrating 90 Years

Reading Country Club's 18-hole golf course opened in the fall of 1925. This issue of *The Golf Chronicles* takes a look at what was happening at RCC 90 years ago.

24. November 11, 2015

Down at Black Bear – Tony, Tiny and The Great One

It's not always about the golf. *The Golf Chronicles* #21, "The Saga of Flowing Gold", promised to tell the story of the Black Bear Hotel. In #24, the story is told. Find out how the hotel connects Tony, Tiny and The Great One.

25. December 9, 2015

Course Corrections and the Mile-high View

RCC's golf course has changed little in more than 90 years. The keys to understanding what has changed and what has not are the words of the architect, Alex Findlay, and the photos of Victor Dallin. The original 17th tee, the riding ring and more are all in *The Golf Chronicles* number 25.

26. December 15, 2015

Building a Strong Exeter Community

Events at Reading Country Club have much broader impact than the playing of golf. Since 2010, RCC golfers have contributed $42,355 to support local organizations. The total includes more than $26,000 to the Exeter Area Food Pantry and $8,000 to the Exeter Community Library. Read *The Golf Chronicles* number 26 to learn how RCC golfers are helping build a strong Exeter community.

27. December 21, 2015
Markle's New Mark
When Harry Markle shot a course-record 70 on August 12, 1927, he took a different route than the one today's golfers enjoy. To find out how Harry did it, read this installment of *The Golf Chronicles*.

28. December 31, 2015
You Can Build It, But Will They Come?
Happy New Year from your friends at RCC! Check out the final issue of *The Golf Chronicles* for 2015, "You Can Build It, But Will They Come?" to see how RCC attracted members in the 1920s.

29. January 10, 2016
This Game Called Golf, 1939 Style—Reading CC
You can read what Byron Nelson had to say about RCC in this installment of *The Golf Chronicles*. This is the first installment in a series of seven articles highlighting Berks County's golf courses published in the Reading Eagle in 1939. Good stuff!

30. January 19, 2016
This Game Called Golf—Berkshire CC
Just posted to *The Golf Chronicles*, the second installment of 'This Game Called Golf', a look at Berks County Golf in 1939. *GC* #30 features Berkshire CC.

31. January 20, 2006
Time for a Dip
It's freezing. Snow is coming. What better time to read about swimming at RCC? It's in *The Golf Chronicles* 31.

32. January 26, 2016
This Game Called Golf, 1939 Style—Berkleigh CC
Did you know that Berkleigh Country Club's clubhouse was destroyed by fire in 1938? Do you know who held the scoring record for two loops around Berkleigh's nine-hole course? All that and more was in this *Reading Eagle* article from 1939. And now it's on *The Golf Chronicles*.

33. February 2, 2016
This Game Called Golf, 1939 Style—Galen Hall Golf Club
Two of golf's most renowned course architects had a hand in designing Galen Hall: Alex Findlay, who designed RCC, and Donald Ross. During his tenure as head professional at RCC, Byron Nelson played one round at Galen Hall and shot 67. There's more in this issue of *The Golf Chronicles.*

34. February 8, 2016
The Remarkable Johnny Markel
Berks County's Johnny Markel out-Palmered Arnold Palmer. Whereas the King won two consecutive PIAA state high school championships, young Johnny won three, the only player to

do so since the inception of the championship in 1935. Markel, one of the brightest stars in the Berks golf constellation, died on February 1 at age 94. You can learn about his amateur and professional career in this issue of *The Golf Chronicles*.

35. February 15, 2016

This Game Called Golf, 1939 Style—Riverside Golf Club

From its opening in 1931, Riverside Golf Club in Muhlenberg Township was a mainstay of public-course golf in Berks County. It hosted the first Berks Publinx championship in '31 and every one thereafter until '45. It was gone by 1948, swept away by the Schuylkill's flood waters. It was fun while it lasted. You can read about Riverside in this edition of *The Golf Chronicles*.

36. February 22, 2016

This Game Called Golf, 1939 Style—Manor Golf Club

Manor Golf Club is another Alex Findlay Berks County golf course. The Scotsman also designed Reading CC, laid out the original nine holes at Galen Hall and consulted on the Berkshire Country Club course. Manor hosted the Berks County Publinx championship from 1946 to 1966 and in 1969. Manor was also the site of the 1950 Pennsylvania Publinks. Although construction on Manor Golf Club began in 1917, the golf course did not open until 1928. You can find out why in this edition of *The Golf Chronicles*.

37. February 29, 2016

This Game Called Golf, 1939 Style—Rich Maiden Golf Course

Happy Leap Day! And if anyone ever took a leap—a leap of faith, that is—it was Jake Merkel, who built Rich Maiden Golf Course in the early 1930s. He not only opened a golf course during the depression, he had no experience building or operating a golf course. His faith was rewarded and you can read about the Merkels, their golf course and a visitor who played Rich Maiden in 1951 on his way to a feat unmatched. It's all in golf history in this edition of *The Golf Chronicles*.

38. March 8, 2016

Moselem Springs GC Takes Shape

Opened in 1964, Moselem Springs Golf Club established a high standard for championship golf, not only in Berks County, but in the country. Just five years after opening, Moselem hosted the 1968 U.S. Women's Open. By the early '70s, it appeared on the *Golf Digest* magazine list of the 100 greatest U.S. golf courses. In this edition of *The Golf Chronicles*, you can read about the dreamer who envisioned golf on the "family farm" and the journeyman pro whose timeless design respects the natural rolling countryside.

39. March 17, 2016

Celebrating the Great Bill Reedy

Bill Reedy spent 46 years writing about sports in the *Reading Eagle*. For most of those years, he was sports editor. At his peak in the 1930s, '40s and 50s, he wrote a column seven days per week, commenting about everyone and everything in Berks sports. His last column was published on September 17, 1958, just five days before he died. You can read about this fascinating man in this edition of *The Golf Chronicles*.

40. April 18, 2016

The Slammer Rests Easy

Sam Snead's RCC course record 63 was recently challenged by Matt McKeone, who came within a stroke of tying the Slammer's 67-year-old mark. In 1990, Scott Orr blistered the back 9 in 30 strokes to tie the record. You can read about going low at RCC in this installment of *The Golf Chronicles*.

41. May 13, 2016
Well Played, Laddie—The Enviable Legacy of Fred Findlay
With the second playing of the Findlay Cup, our attention turns to Fred, the other Findlay. Although Alex Findlay is credited with designing RCC's golf course, Fred played a leading role in bringing his brother's vision to reality. Find out all about Fred in this installment of *The Golf Chronicles*.

42. May 16, 2016
2016 Findlay Cup
The 2016 Findlay Cup was decided on the final hole on Sunday. You can read about it and see the winning putt in *The Golf Chronicles*.

43. May 27, 2016
Lord Byron Takes on Pine Valley
This installment of *The Golf Chronicles* is a gem. First, it is the first video *GC*. Second, it shows Byron Nelson, RCC pro from 1937-'39, playing a match against Gene Littler in 1962. And third, it provides a peek at the rarely seen Pine Valley Golf Club. What's not to like?

44. July 6, 2016
Following up on Fred
The Golf Chronicles has found its way to England and Australia. Find out how in GC 44—"Following up on Fred".

45. August 1, 2016
Frank Schnee's Publinks Passion
First played in 1931, the Berks County Publinks Golf Championship is the second-oldest county-wide tournament behind only the Berks Amateur, which dates to 1929. That the Publinks survives is a remarkable testament to the perseverance of public course players in general and in particular, to Frank Schnee. You can read about the fascinating Frank Schnee, and the 2016 renewal of the Berks Publinks, in *The Golf Chronicles* 46.

46. September 1, 2016
Mixing Gangsters and Golf
Green Hills Golf Course is no more. But what a colorful legacy it leaves! In this issue of *The Golf Chronicles*, you can read about the Robeson Township nine-holer and Reading's own Prohibition-era bootlegger who built it.

47. September 28, 2016
The Ryder Cup Rolls through Reading
The Ryder Cup is upon us. The biennial competition has changed dramatically over the years. Back in the day, that would be the '40s and '50s, the U.S. team staged exhibitions to raise money to help defray expenses. In 1953, the Ryder Cup Challenge Matches were played at RCC. The story is in this edition of *The Golf Chronicles*.

48. October 4, 2016
Long Live the King—A Salute to Arnie
Arnie. That's all you had to say. Everybody knew who you meant and everybody knew what you

meant. Nobody ever asked, "Arnie who?". You can read about the King in this edition of *The Golf Chronicles.*

49. January 11, 2017

Quite Early One Morning

Not all history is old. Some is rather new. Take the subject of this issue of *The Golf Chronicles*. Although the setting for this story was created decades ago, the event reported here happened just this morning.

50. March 10, 2017

The Rule That Riled—The death of a 400-year-old nuisance

Rules controversies raged throughout the golf world in 2016 and spurred sweeping changes that will take hold in 2019. These flare-ups are nothing new. Behold the stymie rule, the bane of golfers for more than 400 years. In this, the 50th issue of The Golf Chronicles, you can read how the dead stymie died. And, of course, there are a few Berks County and RCC connections. *The Golf Chronicles*.

51. May 13, 2017

RCC Members Go Colonial—Celebrating Presidents' Day 1927 Style

Reading Country Club's celebration of George Washington's birthday in 1927 garnered coverage in *Golf Illustrated*. The Golf Chronicles profiles this social event that featured members in period costumes and a Colonial dinner. You can almost hear the harpsicord.

52. May 24, 2017

The Gentleman from North Carolina—Honoring RCC's Longest-tenured Professional

Henry Clay Poe succeeded Byron Nelson as RCC's head professional in 1940. In 1956, he was honored with a banquet at RCC for his service to the Philadelphia Section of the PGA. A letter Poe wrote about the banquet to fellow pro Marty Lyons of Llanerch Country Club sparked a trip through the archives that revealed the deep connections that characterize a life in golf. You can read about it in *The Golf Chronicles*.

53. August 1, 2017

In a Manor of Speaking

Berks County is blessed with its golf courses, public and private. That Berks' most venerable public course still stands is a remarkable story. The course is Manor Golf Club. The timing for this article is appropriate, for 2017 marks the centenary of Manor's beginning. The Reading Eagle, May 14, 1939, reported that work on the golf course commenced in 1917.

54. August 2, 2017

Razey Day in Summer

Exeter Township lost a piece of its history on August 2, 2017, when the dilapidated home at 25 Shelbourne Road next to Dunkin' Donuts was razed. Most passers-by didn't even know the house was there; the overgrowth of trees, bushes, weeds and vines that engulfed the home shielded it from the gaze of drivers zooming past.

55. August 10, 2017

Byron Nelson's Heroic 1-Iron

Byron Nelson struck the greatest shot in championship golf, a 1-iron from 200 yards for an eagle 2 on the 4th hole of the second 18-hole playoff in the '39 Open. Lord Byron rode the eagle to a victory over the luckless Craig Wood.

56. August 17, 2017

Setting the Scene for the ’39 Open

The Reading Eagle provided extensive pretournament coverage of the 1939 National Open. And why not? The event was to be played at the Philadelphia Country Club’s Spring Mill course, only 45 miles distant. Plus, two of the favorites were local pros: Byron Nelson representing Reading Country Club and Henry Picard from Hershey Country Club.

57. September 1, 2017

Snead and Nelson Conjure Back-9 Magic

Golf tournaments are rarely won in the first holes, but they can be lost. Witness Sam Snead and Byron Nelson in the 1939 National Open, played on Thursday, June 8. The early starters of the 165-player field enjoyed a 68-degree morning. The day’s high temperature topped out at 78 degrees with light winds. An afternoon rain storm challenged the late starters.

58. September 12, 2017

Snead Holds Fast after 36 Holes

The sub-headline in the Reading Eagle, June 10, 1939, set the stage after two rounds of the National Open golf championship: Nelson Six Strokes In Rear of Sam.

59. September 15, 2017

RCC’s Portrush Connection

Reading Country Club has a connection to Royal Portrush Golf Club in Northern Ireland, the only golf course outside of Scotland and England to have hosted the British Open (1953). Royal Portrush will once again host the Open in 2019. So, what’s the connection? Find out in this edition of *The Golf Chronicles*.

60. September 22, 2017

Nelson Surges, Snead Makes a Snowman

The final two rounds of the 1939 U.S. Open are remembered for two sub-plots First, Byron Nelson surged to the top of the leaderboard after starting five strokes off the lead following 54 holes. He shot 68 in the final round to finish at 284, to tie with Craig Wood and Denny Shute. Second, Sam Snead, who led after the first and second rounds, made a snowman in the June heat. Snead finished two in arrears and went home.

61. September 29, 2017

Ales Selig Wins County High School Golf Title

Alex Seelig, an Exeter High School junior who works the RCC bag room, won the Berks County high school boys golf championship at Blackwood Golf Club. Alex became the first Exeter player to win the title since Chip Lutz won for the second time in 1972.

62. October 17, 2017

Team Woody Takes the Woodring Cup

Team Woody, dressed in white, captured the 2017 Woodring Cup with a decisive 312 to 282 victory over Team Ron. Previously known as the RCC Cup, the event was named in honor of Ron Woodring, who founded the tournament in 2008. Ron lost his life in a tragic accident in September.

63. November 22, 2017

Nelson Goes 36 to Beat Wood for the Open Title

Everybody knows this: Byron Nelson won the ’39 Open in a three-way playoff. But what was it about Nelson’s attire that made his win unique? Find out in this episode of *The Golf Chronicles*.

64. December 7, 2017

All Hail Lord Byron, National Open Champion

So, what does the newly christened National Open champion do? In 1939, Byron Nelson made the short drive from Gladwyne back to Reading to resume his duties as head professional at Reading Country Club. He gave lessons. He ran the golf shop. He played tournaments, winning the Massachusetts State Open ($400), the Western Open ($750), the Central Pennsylvania Open at RCC ($100), and, with partner Johnny Giles, the Berkshire Country Club pro-am ($140).

65. December 20, 2017

Listen: Scorecards Can Talk

The final Golf Chronicles of 2017 is one of the best. We use old scorecards to tell golf history.

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.

Here are some things we may, or may not, have learned from old scorecards from Reading, Berkshire, Berkleigh and Galen Hall.

The out-of-bounds penalty has always been stroke and distance, right?
Players have always been able to mark, lift and clean their ball on the green, correct?

Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer played an exhibition match at the Manor, each making a hole-in-one during the round: true or false?

A man who played more than 3,100 different courses toured Berkshire and Reading on the same day in 1944, playing with only a 3-iron: true or false?

No way a Berks County club pro defeated two major championship winners on his way to the finals of the 1950 P.G.A. championship. Or is there?

There’s only one way to answer these questions. You gotta read GC #65, Listen: Scorecards Can Talk.

Don’t forget to share. You can win bar bets with this stuff.

66. January 18, 2018

The Peripatetic Pencil Pusher Golfs His Ball in Berks

This may be the best Golf Chronicles yet! It’s yuge!
If it was a person, it would be Oprah. If it was a movie, it would be Titanic. If it was a book, it would be A Tale of Two Cities. If it was a team, it would be the ‘27 Yanks.
What could inspire such superlatives? A pencil salesman, that’s what.

Read the Golf Chronicles #66 to find out how a member of the Kennedy family passed his time in Berks County on his way to an achievement that will never be equaled. Hint: it involves golf. Spread the word. Your friends will thank you. One of them may even send flowers. https://golfchrons.weebly.com/

67. January 29, 2018

Revisiting Max's Playground

Here's something you will find in The Golf Chronicles and nowhere else in the world. Nay, nowhere else in the universe!

What we have for you is a hand-drawn yardage book from the defunct Green Hills Golf Course. You may recall from GC 46 that Max Hassel, Reading's prohibition-era beer baron, built the golf course. Unfortunately, Max was gunned down at age 33— most likely by Dutch Schultz's henchmen, Max being the victim of a territorial battle—before his golf course was completed and before he could enjoy a legal drink.

It's a quick read. And spread the word. This is too good not to share.

68. February 16, 2018

The Night Old Dixie Came to Town

The Golf Chronicles 67, The Peripatetic Pencil Pusher, told the story of **Ralph Kennedy**, the globe-trotting golfer who played 3,165 courses in a lifetime on the links. The wandering Ralph visited Berks County on August 15, 1944, playing at Berkshire C.C. and Reading C.C.
Which got the editor to thinking: What else was going on at that time? As it turns out, quite a bit and the news wasn't all sports.
To find out what happened in that glorious August 74 years ago, read *The Golf Chronicles 68*, "The Night Old Dixie Came to Town." And who is Old Dixie and why did he come to town? There's only one way to find out.
Pass the word. This is not to be missed.

69. May 14, 2018

Byron Nelson—Conqueror of the Golfing Part of the World

This week's 50th renewal of the Byron Nelson Classic is a perfect time to reflect on the man himself. Lord Byron, Reading Country Club's golf professional in 1937, '38 and '39 and a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame, Class of '74, didn't smoke. Didn't drink. Didn't gamble. But he kept a little black book in which he recorded all his conquests and failures.

Oh, my! What could be in it? One sure way to find out is to read *The Golf Chronicles*, number 69. How naughty!

Share this with your friends, golfers and non-golfers. They will thank you.

70. May 18, 2018

Still Byron after all these years

The GC #70 presents part two of a series on Byron Nelson to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Byron Nelson Classic. This time, we do a deeper dive into Byron's Little Black Book, examining how he reported on his tournament play and presenting some sage golfing advice from the master himself. There are also tributes from golfing greats such as Arnold

Palmer, Sam Snead and Henry Picard.

If you are a golfer, you will want to read *The Golf Chronicles*, number 70. If you're not a golfer, read it anyway. Byron Nelson is a great story.

Don't forget to share. https://www.golfchrons.weebly.com/

71. May 21, 2018
Lord Byron Sinks Titanic, But Titanic Wins the Match
In the words of Captain Renault, Casablanca's Prefect of Police, seconds before the croupier handed over his winnings, "I'm shocked! Shocked to find that gambling is going on in here!"

Nobody is shocked, shocked that gambling goes on in golf. Not even Byron Nelson, an avowed non-gambler. So what was he doing playing a big money match against Titanic Thompson, golf's greatest hustler? And what's the story with the Ray Floyd – Lee Trevion three-day battle on a hardscrabble Texas golf course?

Gambling is the theme on *The Golf Chronicles* #71. And why not? The Supremes have cleared the way for a nation-wide sports 14, 2018
book. So before you take Spieth 18-1 in the Open—The GC's editor is looking at Phil for 50-1—check out GC #71.

Don't gamble on bad karma. Share. https://www.golfchrons.weebly.com/

72. June 14, 2018
Confirmed—RCC's Place in History

This may be the most significant *Golf Chronicles* article. On May 31, RCC was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Of more than 90,000 properties on the National Register, fewer than 1-00 are golf courses. RCC now joins the likes of Shins U.S. Open, Shinnenecock Hills, site of this week's U.S. Open, Merion, Oakmont, Augusta National and Baltusrol.

Read GC #72 to see what it's all about. https://www.golfchrons.weebly.com/

73. The View from 5,000 Feet

Imagine yourself in 1937. You are in an airplane. You fly over Exeter Township. You look down. You see a verdant golf course. Now imagine the same scene today. What's changed? You would need a sharp eye to spot any changes to the golf course. Not to worry, the Golf Chronicles is on the case and the view is magnificent.

Read GC #73 to see RCC in 1937. https://www.golfchrons.weebly.com/

74. July 26, 2018
Messing with Mother Nature
Do you remember reading in Golf Chronicles #3 about how the Antietam Creek's passage across the 7th fairway was rerouted? Sure you do.

Newly discovered information is presented in GC #74, aptly titled "Messing with Mother Nature."
Do yourself a favor. Read it and share it.

75. August 6, 2018
Hawley Quier Wins Berks Golf Diadem
With the 2018 Berks Am in the books—congratulations, Chris Storck—The Golf Chronicles looks back to the event's first playing in 1929. The inaugural tournament attracted 136 entrants to Berkshire CC. The field was so large that three flights were played at RCC. The winner, Hawley Quier, had a lasting impact on Berks County as thje publisher of the Reading Eagle, as a golfer and as the founder of Moselem Springs GC, where a tournament in his honor brings together the county's elite players.

In GC 75, we harken back to September '29, just weeks before the stock market crash.

You'll be glad you read GC 75 and your friends will thank you for sharing.
https://www.golfchrons.weebly.com/

76. Alex Seelig Wins the Nelson Cup

77. December 21, 2018
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 18th century.

This chapter of The Golf Chronicles shows how little the Bishop's House has changed in 90 years, even after the fire of October 1930.

Two photos below show the Bishop's House with the additions including a porch that was added to the front entrance. The photo at the bottom of the page was taken 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.

78. January 12, 2019
Psyching for 2019
The phenomenon of linking psychology and golf is unique to the sport's modern age, roughly beginning in the mid-1950s with the advent of TV coverage.

Everybody knows this.

Everybody is wrong.

In 1923, Leslie Schon, a golf professional, published *The Psychology of Golf*, aimed at improving the golfer's mental game. You can buy it for a pittance on Amazon and iBooks.

But that's not the first linking of mind science and the artful game. In 1897, *The North American Review* published "The Psychology of Golf" by Dr. Louis Robinson. The GC research team found the article and has posted it as episode 78. You'll find it here: https://golfchrons.weebly.com/ .

You'll also find it a perfect pastime for a snowy day.

Because if you can't play golf, you might as well read about it.

79. February 2, 2019
Byron's Big Breakout

It's Groundhog Day, time for another chapter in The Golf Chronicles. And you know what that means: we'll soon be playing golf.

GC 79 is the first in a series about Byron Nelson's breakout year, 1937. In April, Nelson won his first major championship, the Masters. But Byron's big event in his big year, the launching pad for his hall-of-fame career, occurred in February.

To find out what happened when bitter winds chilled Berks County with winter's icy kiss, read The Golf Chronicles #79, Byron's Big Breakout.

Don't forget to share.

80. February 12, 2019
Byron's Big Breakout 2

Today we celebrate the Golf Chronicle's four-score chapter and what better day to celebrate that the birthday of Mr. Four Score himself, Abraham Lincoln.

There is a tie between the old Rail-Splitter and Exeter Township. A home on Lincoln Road—Where else?—was built about 1733 by Mordecai Lincoln, Jr., Honest Abe's great-great-grandfather.

Chapter 80--that's 4 x 20, 20 being a score--continues the saga of Byron Nelson and his accomplishments during his time as RCC's head professional. The GC could find no link between Nelson and Lincoln. Unless Byron drove a Lincoln at some point. That would be cool. But Byron did shoot 63 at RCC.

Read on. And please share. The universe will be grateful for your generosity.

81. February 12, 2019
Byron's Big breakout 3

Why did Byron Nelson have such big, strong hands? Why did Byron carry a Dynamiter? Why did the rule-makers settle on the 14-club rule? What was Byron's score for his first round of golf?

The answers to these and many other questions are in The Golf Chronicles #81, Byron's Big Breakout 3.

Read it and share it. : https://golfchrons.weebly.com/

82. **August 6, 2019**
The 1991 Henry Clay Poe Member-Guest

We're back with a look at the 1991 Henry Clay Poe member-guest, a perennial highlight of RCC's golf season. The tournament is named after RCC's longest-tenured golf professional. Poe took over from Byron Nelson in 1940 and stayed until 1966.

The Golf Chronicles recently scanned a copy of the '91 tournament booklet, courtesy of Ernie Dannenberg. Ernie played in the 1991 event and in the 2019 renewal.

Go to www.golfchrons.weebly.com to read about the '91 HCP and take a look at the program book.

Spread the word. This is good stuff.

83. **October 4, 2019**
Byron's Big Day

Byron Nelson's win in the Philadelphia Inquirer Invitational at Llanerch Country Club in 1945 marked his seventh of what would be 11 wins in a row, a PGA tour record that will stand forever. He won with a stirring back-9 comeback with birdies on five of the last six holes to close with a 63, posting a two-stroke victory over his good friend, Harold "Jug" McSpaden.

These were the days before tour caddies, so Byron hired Phil Riley, a Llanerch regular, to tote his bag. The program book for the 1946 Inquirer Invitational includes Riley's as-told-to article about caddying for Lord Byron.

It's a great read and it's in The Golf Chronicles #83.

Spread the word. This is the type of thing people want to know about.

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84. **October 14, 2019**
Byron Nelson, Open Golf Champion, Tells of His Plans for the Futures Big Day

"Members of the Reading Country Club have been very kind to me and I was happy that I could win the Open as some repayment before going to Inverness Club next spring."

So wrote Byron Nelson in an article that appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer three days after he won the National Open in 1939. The man was gracious.

Go to The Golf Chronicles to read Byron's words, an as-told-to article penned with the help of Fred Byrod, a legendary Philadelphia sportswriter.

It's a great read and it's in The Golf Chronicles #84.

Spread the word. You can't get this stuff anyplace in the world, real or cyber, except for www.golfchrons.weebly.com

85. April 1, 2020
Setting it Straight for the Silver Scot

86. April 20, 2020
Betty Brings the State Crown to RCC

87. April 28, 2020
When Betsy Met Betty

88. May 12, 2020
Lord Byron's Fabulous '45

We celebrate the 75th anniversary of the most remarkable year ever by a golfer, Byron Nelson's 1945 season. Lord Byron, head golf professional at Reading Country Club in 1937, '38 and '39, won an astonishing 18 of the 30 tour events he entered. What's more, his 11 consecutive wins set a standard that will never be broken.

Of course, there's much more to the story and, of course, it's on The Golf Chronicles, #88.

Spread the word. This is the type of thing people want to know about.

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89. December 9, 2020
The Hole Truth about the Big Bucket

Now that the weather has changed and it's more convenient to write about golf than play golf, The Golf Chronicles is back.

In Number 89, we look at a unique golf experiment from 1933 that was championed by The Squire himself, Gene Sarazen. The Year-Round Clubs Open, played at the Miami Biltmore, March 3, 4 and 5, was like no other professional tournament before or since. What could this radical change to the very fabric of the game have been?

To find out, read "The Hole Truth about the Big Bucket." It's in GC #89.

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90. January 20, 2021
Big Al's Golfing Pal

The 90th chapter of The Golf Chronicles strays far from Berks County. Our story concerns the 1933 Western Open. Played at Olympia Fields Country Club outside of Chicago, the ’33 Western was one of golf’s most unusual tournaments.

Nothing unusual about the winner, the Scotsman, MacDonald Smith. He counted the 1912 and 1925 Western Open among his 25 tour wins.

No, there was something sinister afoot, something with links to the notorious Capone Gang.

It’s all in GC 90, Big Al’s Golfing Pal. This is a good read.

91. March 3, 2021
Edith’s Winning Ways

Teaser question number one: Who is Berks County’s best female golfer not named **Betsy King**?
Teaser question number two: What Berks-connected golfer not named **Byron Nelson** won 11 tournaments in succession?
To find out, read “Edith’s winning Ways”. It’s in GC #91.

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92. March 8, 2021

The Rivals of Edith Quier
Appreciating Edith Quire’s golfing success requires an understanding of her competitors. In the major regional, national and international tournaments, she went head-to-head with the players who defined golf’s “Golden Era”— national champions and hall-of-famers in the making — and pulled off more than a few victories.
You can read “The Rivals of Edith Quire” in the next chapter of an on-going series about the golfing life of Edith Quier Flippin, Berks County’s premier woman amateur golfer.

Only in The Golf Chronicles.

93. March 15, 2021
Chasing the National Championship
This chapter of The Golf Chronicles *is part of an on-going series on the golfing life of Edith Quier Flippin, Berks County’s premier woman amateur golfer.*

Edith Quier was a regular competitor in the U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship for 30 years. During that span she competed against the game’s greatest players. Her best showing was in 1949 at Merion East where she lost in the quarter-final round.

Her U.S. amateur championship record is in GC #93.

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94. March 22, 2021
Chasing Cups
The Golf Chronicles *continues a series on the golfing life of Edith Quier Flippin, Berks County’s premier woman amateur golfer.*
The early years of golf in the United States were a great era for cups. Or, perhaps, Cups is a better

construction. Most courses awarded trophies for tournaments with Cup in the name: President's Cup, Founders' Cup, Chairman's Cup

Most of these tournaments were club events aimed at local players but a few gained status by inviting golfers who had attained regional, national and international recognition. Two in particular that were contested in the early decades of the 20th century attracted the best players and national media attention: the Berthellyn Cup and the Griswold Cup. Miss Quier was a frequent competitor in and winner of these events.

In this chapter of *The Golf Chronicles*, we'll take a look at the Berthellyn Cup, played at Huntingdon Valley Country Club outside of Philadelphia.

Miss Quier did very well in this tournament and there's only one place where you can read her story.

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95. March 29, 2021

Edith Cops Two Cup

Edith Quier won the most significant title of her career in 1929, taking the Griswold Cup at Shennecossett Country Club, Groton, Conn. She defended her championship in 1930. First played in 1918, the Griswold was one of the most important summer invitational tournaments for women. Newspaper reports regarded the Griswold as women's golf's third-most important title, behind the U.S. amateur championship and the North and South championship at Pinehurst.

96. July 22, 2021

On the Road to Fame

Edith Quier provided a preview of things to come with her play in 1929. She completed the '29 season ranked among the top 10 women golfers in America. An article in the *Reading Times*, July 10, reported that she was looking at the possibility of becoming the first Reading-area golfer to compete in a British tournament. Miss Quier and a number of American women were invited to play in the 1930 British ladies golf championship. Among those invited were Maureen Orcutt, Helen Hicks, Dorothy Campbell Hurd and Helen Payson. An American had never won the British championship.

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97. July 26, 2021

The Class of '21

The first members of the Reading Country Club Hall of Fame were enshrined on May 1, 2021, prior to the annual RCC Heritage Tournament. Here is a look at the accomplishments of the charter class.

98. January 10, 2022

Fry Takes the '77 Berks Am

What better way to start The Golf Chronicles new year than with a hot story on a cold day.

The 1977 Berks Amateur Championship came down to a shoot-out among a group of RCC stalwarts. When the wind stopped blowing at Berkleigh Country Club, Herman Fry emerged with his second Berks Am title.

Of course, there's much more to the story and it's all in The Golf Chronicles #98.

www.golfchrons.weeble.com

99. Edith and Practice

100. New Course Record

101. May 19, 2022
The Haig Bows Out

Wow! The Golf Chronicles has reached 101 issues with this story about the PGA Champion who did not defend his title.

And that is, of course, Walter Hagen, known as The Haig and Sir Walter. Hagen was the greatest PGA Championship golfer ever. And he has a tie to RCC.

This fascinating story is in The Golf Chronicles #101.

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102. May 21, 2022
Walter Hagen Takes on RCC

When Walter Hagen and Tommy Armour rolled into Reading Country Club on July 13, 1931, they held a total of 13 major championship wins: Hagen had 11 and Armour, two. For The Haig, Reading was another stop along a five-day odyssey that took him from Toronto, to Buffalo, to Reading and back to Toronto. That's a perfect description of the life of a 1930s touring pro.

This fascinating story is in this chapter of The Golf Chronicles

https://golfchrons.weebly.com/

103. The Big Story of 1929

Reading Country Club observed its seventh anniversary in 1929. The club's annual report to the members noted a surplus for the year of $5,536.22 and 439 members. Of course, the year's big news was the stock market crash of October 28 and 29 that ushered in the Great Depression. Undeterred by the economic crisis, RCC's board of governors was moving ahead with construction of a new clubhouse, the one that still stands, that would open May 3, 1931.
It's all in The Golf Chronicles.

104.

105.

106. December 2, 2023
It's True: Cheaters Never Win

The 1929 Metropolitan Open was rocked by a cheating scandal the likes of which professional golf had never seen. A 24-year-old pro named Arthur Potter posted a second-round 64, which would have been a course record at the Lido Club on Long Island. This subterfuge stood for a day until his playing partner grassed him. In this chapter of *The Golf Chronicles*, Wiffy Cox, a prominent pro of the era, tells the story.

107. December 10, 2023
Golf is all Balled Up

GC 107 is a humdinger! It references two past U.S. presidents, a baseball hall-of-famer and red-hot golf ball controversy.

The recent announcement from golf's ruling authorities concerning the golf ball is not the first time they have tinkered with ball specifications. In this chapter of The Golf Chronicles, our correspondent Wiffy Cox takes a look at the balloon ball controversy of 1931.

Spread the word. It's all in The Golf Chronicles.

Here's a follow-up on GC 106. One of our conscientious readers pointed out that the headline of Cheaters Never Win is far from accurate. We agree and have changed the headline to This Cheater Didn't Win.

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108. December 21, 2023
Byron Battles Berks' Best Golf Links

In his three years at RCC, Byron Nelson took his game to Berks' best golf courses. He became the first player to crack par at Berkleigh Country Club, but could not go low at Galen Hall. Lord Byron's first foray at Berkshire Country Club was in a pro-am tournament where his partners was the youngest player to win the Berks Amateur championship.

Along the way, Nelson pulled off one of the most spectacular shots ever seen at RCC.

You can read these stories in The Golf Chronicles most recent entry.

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109. December 31, 2023
Edith Encounters the Great RTJ

Edith Quier found herself in the company of greatness on July 5, 1931. Playing at the Carmago Club in Cincinnati, she teamed with Watts Gunn in a fourball match against Marion Bennett, New Britain, Conn., and Mr. Robert T. Jones himself.

Jones was just one year removed from his glorious grand slam. Although he retired from competitive golf, Bobby was still very much the game's biggest draw, as evidenced by the crowd of 3,500 who came out to witness the charity match.

To find out who won, you must read the most recent entry into The Golf Chronicles.

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110. January 13, 2024
National Queen of Golf Tries out Berkshire Course for State Event

Berkshire Country Club hosted the 1950 Pennsylvania Women's Amateur Championship, August 14 to 18. On August 10, Bill Reedy, the Reading Eagle's long-time sports editor, previewed the tournament in his column. Reedy is the subject of GC 39, Celebrating the Great Bill Reedy, published March 17, 2016.

Chapter 110 of The Golf Chronicles features Reedy's text as it appeared in the Eagle in 1950, in which the scribe drops a few names indelibly etched in the ancient game's history.

This is a must-read entry into The Golf Chronicles.

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111. January 20, 2024
Betty Fehl Takes State Golf Crown

The 1950 Pennsylvania Women's Amateur Championship was contested at Berkshire Country Club, August 14 to 18. Betty Fehl, a Reading Country Club member, outlasted the field to take her first of two state titles. Ellen Gery, a Berkshire member, won the second flight championship.

The field included two golf luminaries. Edith Quier Flippin, the 1936 state champion, was Berks County's first national and international golf star. Also playing was Dorothy Germain Porter, the reigning U.S. women's amateur champion, who won the state title in 1946 and would go on to win in '52 and '55.

The story of this important championship is in The Golf Chronicles current entry. You won't be disappointed.

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112. January 27, 2024
The Last Word—1950 PA women's Am

Bill Reedy, the Reading Eagle's sports editor, fittingly wrote the last words on Betty Fehl's 1950 Pennsylvania State Amateur Championship.

His commentary is in this chapter of The Golf Chronicles. You will be all the better off for reading Reading's number one sports writer.

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113. February 3, 2024

Byron's Berks Homecoming

Byron Nelson left Reading Country Club at the end of the 1939 golf season to take the head professional position at Inverness Country Club, Toledo, Ohio. In his three years at RCC, Byron won eight PGA tour events, including two major championships: the 1937 Masters Tournament and the 1939 U.S. Open Championship.

On June 12, 1945, Byron returned to RCC for an exhibition match featuring Patty Berg, Dottie Germain and Henry Williams, Jr. Lord Byron was in the midst of one of golf's most historic feats: 11 consecutive tournament wins.

The story of Byron's Berks homecoming is a crackerjack and it's in GC #113. Reading this article is time well spent. Sharing with your friends is an act of kindness.

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114. February 11, 2024

RCC in the Millennium

The Golf Chronicles recently acquired Reading Country Club's membership directory for 2000. Not to put too fine a spin on it, but that was nearly a quarter-century ago. Yikes!

A lot has transpired since we bid adieu to the 20th and rushed into the 21st century. Who knows what will transpire as RCC dusts off the 100-year-old cobwebs and embarks in its second century.

That aging directory is a good read and it's in The Golf Chronicles.

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115. February 18, 2024

The U.S. Invades Britain

E**dith Quier, a member of Berkshire Country Club,** completed the 1929 golf season ranked among the top 10 women golfers in America. An article in the *Reading Times*, July 10, 1929, reported that she was looking at the possibility of becoming the first Reading-area golfer to compete in the Ladies' British Amateur Open Golf Championship.
On April 9, 1930, the Associated Press reported that **Edith Quier** accepted **Glenna Collett's** invitation to join the United States team that would play a series of matches against a British team May 1 at Sunningdale Golf Club in England prior to the amateur championship.

This chapter of *The Golf Chronicles* reports on the first international golf competition between teams of American and British women.

There are two Berks County connections to the story. The first is obvious: Edith Quier. The second? Ya gotta read it to find it.

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116. February 25, 2024
Close but no Yorktown

E**dith Quier** was among 16 Americans competitors in the 1930 British Ladies' Open Amateur Championship at Formby Golf Club near Liverpool. The original 18 holes at Formby were designed by **Willie Park, Jr**., who designed Berkshire Country Club's golf course.

Since the first playing in 1893, no American had won the British championship. **Glenna Collett** came close, losing the final match, 3 and 1, to **Joyce Wethered** in 1929 at St. Andrews. America's "Big Four" of **Glenna Collett**, **Maureen Orcutt**, **Helen Hicks** and **Virginia Van Wie** were considered strong contenders. As play progressed, one English sports writer, impressed by **Edith Quier's** play, suggested the "Big Four" should be the "Big Five."

We have the story in Chapter 116 of *The Golf Chronicles*.
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117. March 9, 2024
Weathering British Golf

In an article published in the Reading Times on June 14, 1930, Edith Quier shared her thoughts on playing in England. Although she encountered rain, wind, cold and sometimes sleet, she thoroughly enjoyed the experience of playing on foreign soil.

"The wind howled and howled. In one of the matches I wore two sweaters, a leather jacket, a woolen scarf and a pair of mittens," she said.

There's much more and it's all in The Golf Chronicles #117.

https://golfchrons.weebly.com/

118. March 30, 2014
Lord Byron Rules Central Pennsylvania
The Central Pennsylvania Open was once a mainstay on the regional professional golf circuit. Pros from clubs in the tri-state area competed, as did leading amateurs. First played at Berkshire Country Club in 1924, the tournament moved around in its early years before finding a home at Reading Country Club in 1934.

Byron Nelson, RCC's home pro, won two of the three CPO's played. He finished second in his other try.

To read about this fascinating chapter in Berks golf history, go to GC #118. You'll be glad you did because you will also learn an intriguing fact about RCC's 15th hole.

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