

The Beginning

The front page of the Newark Advocate on April 7, 1910, had a feature story headlined "COUNTRY CLUB LEASES ENCAMPMENT GROUNDS." The article reported on a meeting of the Board of Trade, held the night before, at which time a lease for a period of 10 years at an annual rental of \$650 was approved. The lessee was the Licking Country Club, Incorporated.

The incorporators worked fast, for on April 7, 1910, the Articles of Incorporation were signed, then filed with the Secretary of State on April 8, 1910. The Capital Stock of the Corporation consisted of 200 shares of \$100 each.

The original incorporators were: James R. Fitzgibbon, John R. Carroll, William C. Miller, Edward Kibler and A. A. Stasel. These are the men who started our Club. The next year, 1911, the name of the Club was changed to The Moundbuilders Country Club. But first let's try to look back to Newark in 1910.

William Howard Taft was President. Herbert Atherton was Newark's Mayor. The town's population was 25,000. Times were good. President Taft played golf and while golf in these United States was a little over 20 years old, the New York Times (8/9/10) estimated there were 3½ million golfers in the U.S. The Times also reported that the number of players at Van Cortlandt Park and Forest Park had doubled this year (1910). Van Cortlandt Park was the first municipal course in the U.S. Their greenkeeper at one time was Thomas Bendelow, the golf course architect who laid out our first 9 hole course. More later about Mr. Bendelow.

Newark and Licking County were not without problems. In December, 1908, the County under "local option" rules had voted "dry", much to the dismay of the local Consumers Brewery, the Everett Glass Works (a bottle factory) and many local citizens as well as 80 saloon owners in Newark.

Many of the saloons continued to operate in defiance of the law and on July 8, 1918, deputy marshalls raided several of the illegal saloons. A saloon keeper was killed by one of the marshalls.

The marshal was taken to county jail and that night a mob broke down the door to the jail, beat the young man and hanged him from a utility pole on the southwest corner of South Park Place and South 2nd Street.

This sad incident caused the good people of Newark to band together to overcome this blot on their fair city. The Mayor left town, the Sheriff and Chief of Police resigned and new, more law-abiding men filled those positions. The Board of Trade held a drive increasing their membership to 650 and published a booklet "GREATER NEWARK, OHIO" with photos of Newark's schools, churches, businesses, factories, etc., to show Newark's assets. Our clubhouse appears in this booklet with the notation, "Newark's new \$12,000 country clubhouse, erected upon the bank of a wonderful prehistoric mound."

It is interesting to note that House Rules of the original 1910 By-laws of the Club, paragraph 13, state, "No intoxicating drinks shall be served by the Club."

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So this was Newark in 1910 -- another event that occupied much space in the daily papers was the coming appearance of Halley's comet. This time the comet was to be more visible to Newark than it will be in 1985-6 and the earth would pass through some of the comet's tail.

BACK 3,000 YEARS

Now let's go back in time farther still -- back 3,000 years. Most archeologists agree that the Moundbuilders Period began then, with the most active era of mound building being 300 B.C. to 1500 A.D. Many artifacts of these people have been found in their burial mounds, but nothing indicates

that they had a written language. They apparently were a sedentary people, with permanent villages and subsisted by raising corn and hunting the abundant game in the area. They must have had some knowledge of geometry to build the circles, squares, the octagon and connecting embankments that the early settlers found.



Licking County has (or had) the most extensive earthworks when white settlers came to these parts. Many of the mounds and earthworks disappeared as they cleared the land for settlement and the plough. Wisely, those at Moundbuilders State Park and ours were preserved. The Agricultural Society purchased the grounds at Moundbuilders State Park in 1853. The City of Newark purchased the land our course is on in 1891 and deeded it to the State of Ohio for the purpose of locating the State Encampment Grounds thereon.

The State Militia (now the National Guard) camped here the months of June, July, and August for drill school and target practice with rifles and machine guns. The Militia also restored the mounds that had been damaged by cultivation, etc.

In 1910, the site was abandoned as the State Encampment Grounds and the property deeded to the Newark Board of Trade. In 1933, the Common Pleas Court ordered the property deeded to the Ohio Historical Society, our present landlord.

Our lease covers approximately 125 acres, of which 52 acres are enclosed by the Octagon Mounds and 20 acres by the Circle Mound. One surveyor states that the midline of the walls of the Circle Mound deviates no more than 3 to 6 feet at any place from a circle with a diameter of 351 yards. He also measured the sides of the Octagon Mounds and found that they varied from 194 to 199 in length.

As the mysteries and secrets of the Sphinx and the Pyramids in Egypt and Stonehedge in England have caused many writers to put forth their solutions, so have our mounds. One writer theorized that the Moundbuilders were one of the Lost Tribes of Israel, another that the mounds were used for athletic events. James Marshall, a civil engineer in Roselle, Illinois, found in studying Ohio Mounds that the builders used a 57 meter modular unit. To quote him: "The diagonal of a 57 meter square measures 264 feet, which is exactly 66 feet multiplied by 4. In the old world, 66 feet was the length of a commonly used unit of measure called a "chain," a measure that can be traced back as far as 3000 B.C. Is this a coincidence?"

Dr. Roy Hively and Dr. Robert Horn of Earlham College have studied our mounds extensively. They concluded that our mounds were an important lunar observatory around 250 A.D., with some ceremonial significance.

This much is certain: there is a lot we don't know and probably never will about the people who built the mounds. This, too, is certainly true: we have a golf course on an unusual site, older than written history -- the only one in the world. Won't archeologists 2000 years from now be puzzled as they study the mounds and find all those lost golf balls?

Moundbuilders Country Club Presidents

Moundbuilders Country Club archives of the earlier years are sparse, thus the list of presidents prior to 1951 is incomplete.

It is recorded that Albert A. Stasel, a practitioner at the Licking County bar, who maintained a prominent place in the ranks of the legal fraternity, was the first president of the club in 1910. It was noted that friends of Mr. Stasel found him a gentleman, never neglectful of the courtesies of life and never too busy to be cordial.

Augustus H. Heisey became the second president in 1913. Other members who served as president during the earlier years were: Frank L. Beggs, James R. Fitzgibbon, James K. Hamill, Charles L. Flory, Frank L. Elliott, F. H. Guthrie, T. Clarence Heisey, J. Howard Jones, Howard L. Maddocks, William C. Miller, George F. Ralph, Leon P. Shinn, Frank C. Webb, and Ralph S. Wyeth.

1951 Robert H. Flory	1963 William St. Clair	1975 James E. Grady
1952 Robert H. Flory	1964 Lynn Campbell	1976 Alex T. Treneff
1953 Robert H. Flory	1965 Lynn Campbell	1977 Harland Fargo
1954 Robert H. Flory	1966 Robert Schenk	1978 Edward M. LeGendre
1955 Richard C. Kibler	1967 Robert Schenk	1979 Edward M. LeGendre
1956 William W. Wells	1968 G. Alfred Krebs	1980 Neil M. Laughlin
1957 Thomas H. Rugg	1969 Carl Blesch	1981 Neil M. Laughlin
1958 Paul L. Welsh	1970 F. H. Guthrie	1982 R. Daniel Evans
1959 Andrew C. Turner	1971 Thomas Powell	1983 R. Daniel Evans
1960 George A. Berry	1972 Thomas Powell	1984 Robert L. Chiles
1961 William C. Schaffner	1973 Robert Griffith	1985 Robert L. Chiles
1962 Kurt G. Franck	1974 Royce Amos	

