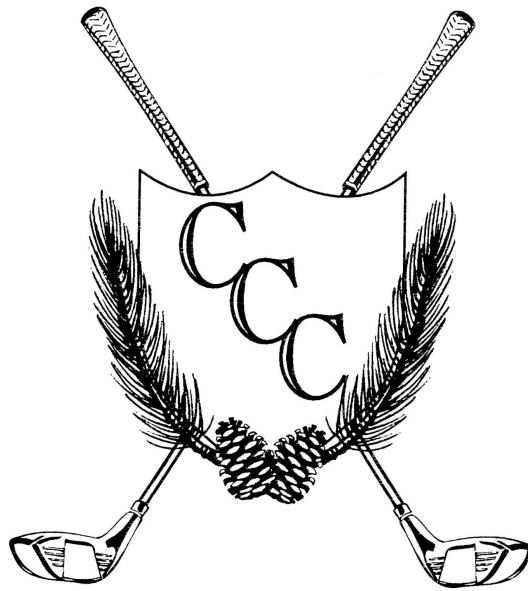


CLOQUET

COUNTRY CLUB



HISTORY OF THE CLUB

100TH ANNIVERSARY

1923-2023

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CCC 100TH ANNIVERSARY: HISTORY OF THE CLUB

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2023, Cloquet Country Club, the 18 hole championship golf course, is celebrating its 100 year anniversary since its formation. Cloquet is a city of 12,000 plus residents located in Carlton County in Northeast Minnesota. It is considered a primarily blue collar town and for years has had the designation as the “City of Wood Industries.”

Approaching the 20th Century, joining Ojibwe/Anishinaabe people on portions of the Fond du Lac Reservation, white settlers and lumberjacks began to populate the shores of the St. Louis River which was then known as Knife Falls. Among them were the famous Weyerhaeusers, the lumber industrialists from Illinois.

Rudolf Weyerhaeuser, a son of Frederick Weyerhaeuser, was a 1890 Yale School of Forestry graduate who was assigned to Cloquet to oversee the Weyerhaeuser business activities. The Company included two large sawmills and a burgeoning paper mill following the course of the St. Louis River. He would later be named President of the large lumber and paper company, Northwest Paper and eventually the site of Potlatch Corporation and Sappi Fine Papers.

Cloquet is routinely noted in Minnesota history due to the devastating 1918 Cloquet Fire. It was the largest natural disaster in Minnesota history. The town was leveled. The fire was attributed to originating from a train spark and many people died. Shortly after the fire, Weyerhaeuser rebuilt his home and businesses and also pursued the building of a Cloquet library, parks, forest research center and a golf course. Originally a nine hole golf course, it expanded to eighteen holes in 2001, and the following is a history of the Cloquet Country Club/Golf Club.

HISTORY OF CLOQUET COUNTRY CLUB

There are very little undisputed, permanent historical records on the origination of the Cloquet Country Club. Rudolf Weyerhaeuser was the Club president for the first 14 years (1923-1937). Relying on a discovered 1937 letter that Weyerhaeuser wrote resigning from the Cloquet Country Club Board of Directors, the following are some key people mentioned and important in the Club’s early history.

Rudolf M. Weyerhaeuser - Born in 1868 in Illinois. Died in St. Paul, MN in 1946 (at 78 years old). Son of the famous timber entrepreneur, Frederick Weyerhaeuser. Likely, to be the prime originator of the Cloquet Golf Club. He was assigned to be the President of the Northern Lumber Company and held that post from 1896-1945. Frederick Weyerhaeuser had bought the huge Cloquet lumber company from C. N. Nelson for \$1.9 million. In 1928, Rudolf was also assigned as the President of the Northwest Paper Company in Cloquet which was the preeminent Weyerhaeuser facility in Minnesota. His family lived in and, after the 1918 Cloquet Fire, rebuilt the

large Cloquet house on Park Place by the present USG factory. Later it came to be known as the Potlatch house. Rudolf and his father were charter members of the private Somerset Golf Club in the Twin Cities in 1919. In the early years of Minnesota golf, the Weyerhaeuser's are recorded as being honored guests at several "roaring twenties" club openings. He had a passion for golf and confirmed written quotes from Weyerhaeuser letters regarding the Cloquet Golf Club stating "I never thought it would turn into a nine hole course. We just wanted a place to putt and drive and maybe play a few holes."

Donald Ross - Born in 1872 on the north Scottish coast, Democh, United Kingdom. Ross died in Pinehurst, North Carolina in 1948. For many years, he has had the distinction of being recognized as America's best known golf course architect. Prior to his arrival in the U.S. in Massachusetts and North Carolina in 1899, Ross was an apprentice to Old Tom Morris at the infamous St. Andrew's golf course in Scotland. Ross was an excellent player and club maker. He was the architect of over 400 courses in the United States. Famous courses he designed in Minnesota include Interlachen in Edina, started in 1919 and opened in 1921, and Northland Country Club in Duluth, original design in 1899 and renovated by Ross in 1927. Other courses in Minnesota, with the Ross trademark design, include White Bear Yacht Club, Minneapolis Golf Club, and Minnekhada Golf Club.

Using workers with shovels, picks, and plows pulled by horses and oxen, his designs changed the Minnesota landscapes. Ross never saw a quarter of the courses he designed. Due to the restraints of train travel, half of the courses he drew on paper, he only visited once or twice. He worked from topographic maps, drafted blueprints, and wrote instructions. Although no formal record or drawings, Ross has long been given credit for designing the Cloquet Golf Club's original nine holes. The timetable appears correct. His tendencies included very little walking from one green to the next tee, greens that invited run up shots but deep trouble over the green, and placing flat, sand bottomed cross bunkers 50-100 yards from greens. While the Cloquet Country Club has many of these Ross attributes, did Ross design or have influence on the final track? Word of mouth appears to be the only proof.

Tom Vardon - Born on the isle of Jersey in the English Channel in 1874 and died in October of 1938 in St. Paul. Brother of the infamous Harry Vardon, six time British Open champion and credited with popularizing the Vardon golf grip. Tom Vardon was also a tremendous golfer playing in 18 Open Championships from 1892-1909 and finishing in the top ten nine times. He was second in 1903 at Prestwick to his brother Harry. Vardon came to the U.S. to stay in 1909, leaving his job as the professional at Royal St. George's Golf Club in Sandwich, Kent, England. He tied for ninth at the 1916 US Open at Minekada In Minneapolis and was the oldest competitor at the 1930 US Open at Interlachen in Edina (part of Bobby Jones' famous winning all majors in one year - the Grand Slam). He was the professional at the White Bear Yacht Club golf

course in White Bear Lake, Minnesota from 1913 until his death in 1938. He helped redesign White Bear with Donald Ross. Tom Vardon is credited with designing over 40 courses including the Minot (ND) Country Club, Meadowlark Golf Club (Great Falls, Montana), Eau Claire Country Club, and the University of Minnesota's Les Bolstad Golf Course in St. Paul. He was elected to the Minnesota Golf Hall of Fame in 2012. For the historical record, R.M. Weyerhaeuser gives credit to Tom Vardon, in his 1937 letter, as the original nine hole course design consultant.

Runcie Martin - Amateur golfer and long time sports writer for the Duluth News Tribune newspaper. Martin was also asked by Rudolf Weyerhaeuser, along with Vardon, to come to Cloquet and assist with initial golf design and operations. He helped set up the Cloquet Invitational. With help from the Nemadji (Superior, WI) greenskeeper, he was the architect of the Moose Lake Golf Club in 1927. He was an excellent, well known golfer in Minnesota, winning five Senior Amateur State Championships. Martin was in the initial course opening ceremonial foursome at Lester Park Golf Course and the redone Northland Country Club in Duluth.

THE ORIGINAL NINE HOLES

The original course construction included a total of six holes - holes 1, 2, 3 & 4 as they exist today. There was a tee by #1 green which was played to the now #9 green - and that was hole #5. Hole #6 was the finishing hole, which is now currently #18, a par 3. A few years later numbers 5, 6, 7 and 8 were completed. The short par 3, hole #4 is known as the "gully" hole, as players have to hit over a large ravine. Hole #5 was called "the chip hole" in the early days - as many wood chips from the mill were brought there to build up that hole. If your ball landed on the chips, sand was provided at the site to make a sand tee to place your ball on without penalty. Hole #3 was known as "bottle alley" for the reason it was a path used by men who worked at the lumber company and they dropped the bottles they drank there on their way to and from work. Men would play the white tees on the front nine, and the blue tees on the second nine to make up a par 71. The biggest difference was a hole #6 was played as par 5 on the first round, and a par 4 the second time around.

THE NEW NINE 2000-2001

Joel Goldstrand - Born in 1939 and grew up in Worthington, MN. He was a senior on his 1957 Minnesota State High School golf championship team. Goldstrand attended the University of Houston and was part of, famous coach, Dave Williams' two NCAA winning squads and dynasty. He was a PGA playing professional for over seven years with his best finish being second in New Orleans one stroke back from the winner. Joel qualified for one Masters at Augusta National Golf Club. He has won over 100 various level golf tournaments. He was the head professional at Minneapolis Golf Club for sixteen years. Joel Goldstrand died in November of 2022.

Goldstrand is one of the better known golf club architects in Minnesota. His regional accomplishments include Minnesota National in McGregor, Grand National Golf Club in Hinckley, Grand View Lodge / The Pines in Nisswa, Ridges at Sand Creek (Jordan, MN where Cloquet High School won the 2021 Minnesota High School championship), and Superior National at Lutsen. In all, Goldstrand has laid out and constructed over 70 championship golf courses. He is in the Minnesota Golf Hall of Fame.

For over 75 years, CCC was often referred to as the finest nine hole course in Northeastern Minnesota, if not, the entire state. For many of those years, the Cloquet membership faithful, had dreamed of an 18 hole challenge. Finding adjacent land, construction and design costs, and other environmental concerns had made the change prohibitive. However, at the end of the 1990s the golf business was booming and managing expanded tee times on a nine hole course was restrictive.

Led by Cloquet attorney, golfer, and long time CCC member Butch Newby, a push was made to purchase land and eventually construct an additional nine holes. It required an attorney with Butch's background and skill to put together land acquisition deals. He worked with the Fond du Lac Reservation, farmers & private land owners to purchase land adjacent to the original nine to make 18 holes possible.

It's not a coincidence that Newby and Goldstrand were nearly the identical age and both golf phenoms at early ages and that Goldstrand was chosen by Newby and the Club to be the architect of the new nine holes. The two were both competing at the Minnesota State High School Tournament at the same time and also crossed paths when Newby's Minnesota Gophers went to Houston to play Goldstrand's Cougars in a golf match. They became more than acquaintances and were long time friends. Undoubtedly, Newby asked Goldstrand for a favor and Joel delivered.

In 1999, Goldstrand made several visits to Cloquet and the Country Club. He walked over the adjacent land the Club had purchased and also, with his keen eye, reviewed topographical maps of the region. The shape of the land acquisition was highly unusual, definitely not a square. It was going to take all of Goldstrand's design experience to make a new nine holes "fit" in land available. It requires a lot of innate skill to look at rough, undeveloped land and design picturesque golf holes that meld with the terrain...Goldstrand possessed those abilities.

The current superintendent, Jud Crist, was also CCC's superintendent in 1999. He drove Joel Goldstrand around the rough land, several times, for the proposed nine. Local contractor, Ulland Brothers, was asked to do the initial clearing. Then, the company Dick Freitag Construction started transforming the cleared areas into "roughed out" holes. Per Crist, "Pink Ribbon areas were designated wetlands by the DNR and could not be touched...not a drop of soil put on them or removed. It added to Goldstrand's Cloquet puzzle."

Crist said it was impressive seeing Butch Newby, in his penny loafers, and Joel Goldstrand standing on muddy hills picturing where the future golf holes would lie and flow from tee to green. It took visionary leadership. Cloquet's Harry McCuskey was chair of the CCC Greens Committee at this time and Steve Anderson the club's GM/Professional. Both were key players, as well as local financial institutions, in making the purchase timelines realized. To accomplish this feat, it also took many hours of volunteering from individuals from the CCC membership as well.

The modern, computerized irrigation system was laid out, an efficient well drilled, and a large lake incorporated into the new design. Originally, a new grass seed developed by the University of Minnesota agronomists was planted, but horrendous rainstorms washed out the seed and displaced some topsoil. Eventually, sod was cut and laid. Part of the Goldstrand challenge, also, was melding the 1923 originally designed nine holes with the new nine.

The new nine and total of 18 holes opened for CCC in 2001. Bob Gamble, a 60 plus year member of the club, had the honor of being the first to "officially" hit off the 10th tee. Now, twenty years later, there is very little differentiation in the quality of the turf and design of the front and back nine holes and Cloquet Country Club is firmly entrenched as one of the finest 18 hole courses in Northeastern Minnesota.

CLUBHOUSE

The Clubhouse has been in existence dating back to the 1930s. The dining room has hosted many club events, graduations, and even wedding parties. Business representatives from especially the mills visited the Club in its first 50 plus years to have lunch, discuss potential partnerships, and enjoy a beverage. With varying budgets and membership demands, the Clubhouse has provided a comfortable setting, delicious food, and thirst quenching drinks. The Club has been indebted to the many dedicated cooks, bartenders, servers/wait staff, maintenance crew, and volunteers that have met the memberships needs and expectations.

The Clubhouse underwent a major renovation in 2010 with a complete remodel of the bar area led by Jared Wehr, Rick Nelson and CCC staff. It was accomplished with donated time and finances and has been an integral part of accommodating the many events that are hosted each season. Significant investments have been made into the space to improve the longevity of the building. Other notable projects include the Men's Locker room & sauna (2020), a new roof (2018), a new parking lot, a new outdoor patio and a remodeled Weyerhaeuser room (2021) to accommodate the golf simulator that debuted in the offseason of 2020. It has long been desired by some members to build a new Clubhouse, but for now, the Club continues to upgrade the facility when possible to meet the needs of the membership and keep the building as modern and efficient as possible.

GOLF PROFESSIONALS & GMS

Current, and 2023 Golf Pro & GM, Bill Manahan, claims the prize as the longest tenured professional in Cloquet Country Club's 100 year history. Bill, who hails from Rochester, Minnesota, has had two stints with the Club, first from 1988 - 1994 and then from 2007 to the present, for a total of 24 years. Bill has had additional experience at the Black Bear Golf Course in Carlton, and Grand National in Hinckley.

From the memory of Joe Jenkins, 50 year CCC member, Bill McNair was the first professional of the Club and he was "succeeded by Harold Clasen, Jimmy Hersey, and Wally Mund." Joe worked for Clasen in the CCC Pro shop. Some other Pros include:

- **Harold Clasen** - Hired at CCC from Chicago, where he was an assistant pro, in 1928. Worked at the Cloquet Civic Center (YMCA) in the winters. In 1930, Clasen went to Minot Country Club which was also designed by CCC architect Tom Vardon. He won State Open and several state Publinks. He came back to the region as the pro at Northland Country Club. In 1958, he drowned in a fishing mishap on Island Lake, north of Duluth.
- **Wes Stafne** - From the Duluth News Tribune, announced Wes Stafne by CCC President, Arne Heino, as the new golf pro in 1952. He was Clasen's assistant at Northland, the pro at Lester Park in Duluth, and pro in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Stafne succeeds C. V. Anderson who was the Cloquet golf professional for several years.
- **Wallie Rasmussen** - Well-rounded athlete from Chicago region. Employed at the CCC in 1958. Played minor league baseball, competitive tennis, and was a squash professional. He was also assistant pro at Woodhill Country Club in Wayzata, MN.
- **Steve Anderson** - Was the GM from 1995-2002. He was an athletic phenom from Denfeld High School and an All-American hockey player at the University of Wisconsin in Superior. Anderson was the pro during the construction and opening of Joel Goldstrand's designed back nine holes. He was also a big part of the driving range sodding and renovation in the early 2000s.

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

The CCC has had the luxury of having a group of dedicated superintendents whose mission was to lead small work groups in maintaining the course to championship grass and other measurable standards. The first nine holes and now the eighteen hole design layout has always been applauded by players as an elite course for grade of excellence. The job requires many hours of unwavering effort and is still at the mercy of Mother Nature. Some superintendents have included:

- **Carl Peterson** - The initial course superintendent at CCC, held the job from before the time the course opened in 1923 to 1957, a total of 35 years. Under the direction of Rudolf Weyerhaeuser and partnering with Runcie Martin, Tom Vardon, and AJ Martin, Peterson helped construct the original nine holes at CCC as they are today. Hole #18 (old #9) was a big challenge to get perfect, reconfigured several times by Peterson and his crew. He grew up in Cloquet and lived near former City Hall. He was often referred to, with his accent and not in a derogatory way, as the “Old Swede.”
- **John Lightfoot** - Held the Superintendent’s position from approximately 1965 to 1985. He was a landscaper by trade until hired by Northwest Paper/Potlatch. John’s wages were paid by Potlatch and he’d work in the Mill’s Finishing Room from November to March and full time on the course for the other months. He started the Arrowhead Turf Association and was an active member of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association. Two of John’s long time subordinates (Scott Lockling and Kerry Gladder) became renown Minnesota superintendents at other courses.
- **Jud Crist** - Current Superintendent, has had two stints as the greens leader at CCC. He was present at the construction of the new nine in 2000, left for other opportunities at Enger Park in Duluth and the Nemadji course in Superior, Wisconsin, and returned to the Cloquet Country Club in 2017.

Working on the course has always been a great summer job for high school and college students and retirees. The job offers flexibility and the beauty of reporting to a magnificent course with plenty of fresh air. Those that come back for multiple years show the devotion of these people and truly their love of golf and the CCC course.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Like most successful membership driven organizations, the Cloquet Country Club has been assisted for 100 years by a large group of dedicated volunteers. The Board of Directors are volunteers elected for three year terms of office by the membership who also help choose a Club President. Nearly all sub committees are led by a Board Member but they include additional member participants freely giving their own time. This includes committees such as Finance, Greens, Tournament, Long Term Planning, Social, etc. **SEE APPENDIX A for a list of CCC Presidents.**

CLOQUET INVITATIONAL

From its humble beginnings in 1932, the Cloquet Invitational Tournament has been held annually in July. It is a four day event starting with a Thursday optional practice round and three days of tournament play. Bobby Campbell won the first ever event and the following year, 1933, won the MN State Amateur tournament. At some point, the Invitational turned into medal play for those declaring the championship flights. The tourney has been held every year, with a full field, from 1932 to the present.

The first Cloquet member to win the Invitational was Jiggs LeBreche in 1958. In that tourney, Jiggs shot the first competitive sub par round in Invitational history with a one under par 71 total. Per Jiggs, "I had 17 pars and one birdie." He beat Leo Spooner of Duluth in his first match. "I think I kind of caught him by surprise," joked Jiggs. Spooner would, in the coming years, be a top challenger and champion winning four titles in a row in a span of years in the 1960s.

Rudolf Weyerhaeuser, CCC founder, had asked some local golf experts, including Runcie Martin, to see if they could establish a top notch tourney to be held annually at the Cloquet Country Club. Supposedly, Weyerhaeuser, by undocumented stories, hired a meteorologist to determine which weekend in Cloquet, Minnesota, had the best chance of being perfect golf weather. It was the second weekend of July and that was the chosen date. In the early years, it was truly an Invitational tournament basically sponsored by the Weyerhaeuser led Northwest Paper Company, Cloquet's paper mill. Unique, wool blankets were the coveted prizes for flight winners for many years. Invitees included Northwest sales, manufacturing, and marketing representatives from offices across the U.S. Other invites went to the top amateur golfers in the region and surrounding states. Only about a dozen CCC members were chosen annually to round out the field. It was and continues today to be a very popular event. ***SEE APPENDIX B for a list of CCC Invitational Winners.***

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Starting way back in the initial year of 1923, the CCC has conducted annual Club Championships for its men and women members. Sherman Coy was the 1923 Club Champion. Coy was born in Massachusetts and came to work for the Northern Lumber Company in Cloquet in 1904. He was a star football player, along with his brother, and graduated from Yale University. Coy held several various positions at the consolidated Cloquet Lumber Company in 1918. Coy was with manager, Rudolf Weyerhaeuser, in their vain attempt to save the company from the 1918 regional Cloquet Fire. They released trapped horses and rescued employees working along the St. Louis River. The CCC Coy Cup is so named in his honor.

The Men's tourney has had several members win the event multiple times. John Sheff won his first Club Championship in 1986. Subsequently, he has won thirteen additional crowns. Butch Newby had held the personal record with thirteen individual championships, the last one coming in 1996.

Somewhat unique are the father-son and brother combinations that have won this coveted Club title. The Rosen brothers who grew up on Summit Avenue near the club entrance, often competed against each other in the championship flight. Dave won four times, his twin brother Dan once, and their younger brother Mike "Beatsie" also once. They all have worked at the Club in various roles and Dave and Mike even

managed the pro shop one summer. The Newby and LeBreche families also had multiple winners. **SEE APPENDIX A for list of CCC Men's Club Champions.**

The Cloquet Women's Club Championship was introduced in 1940. Currently, there is an impressive winning streak occurring with that group. Arica Sheff, John and Patti's daughter, has won seven consecutive Women's Championships. Sheff played collegiate golf at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth qualifying for National Tournaments. Maybe, some day, she'll surpass her dad's record.

SEE APPENDIX A for list of CCC Ladies Club Champions.

TOURNAMENTS & LEAGUES

- **Wood City Classic** - Was a two day men's tournament for members and guests. Usually held in June, about one month before the Invitational. Qualifying on Saturday with over 100 players slotted into championship and other flights for Sunday. Very popular in the 1960s through the 1980s.
- **Fundraising Events** - The importance of these special events to non-profits and other organizations in the community is immeasurable. The financial dollar impact is assuredly in the millions of dollars. These events have historically been on Monday afternoon's at the Club.
- **Leagues** - Since its inception, the Cloquet Country Club has had active mens and women's golf leagues. For as far back as anyone can remember, the Men played on Thursday and Women on Tuesday.
 - For Men's League, in April, selected captains choose other players for their team based on their handicaps. The league runs from May to September with a concluding banquet. Team point totals determine an overall champion. The Thursday evenings usually conclude with a clubhouse dinner, maybe a sauna, and social interaction.
 - The women's league has documents showing its origination at least back to the 1930's. In the historic past, there were both morning and afternoon/evening leagues combining for nearly 75 players. Leagues typically include lunch or dinner, card games, and social time.
- **Tennis** - For many years, the Club's two courts were the "finest in Cloquet" often hosting City and High School matches. Its location, surrounded by towering pines west of the club parking lot, made it less susceptible to wind. Leading the tennis membership efforts for many years (1960s to 1980s) were Dr. Jack Tomhave and Joe Jenkins. Maintenance has deteriorated to the point, now, that the surface is no longer playable.

HISTORICAL EVENTS

- **2009 Lightning Strike on #17 Fairway**- In a terrific thunderstorm, a bolt of lightning hit a Northern Minnesota Utilities underground gas line in the middle of the 17th fairway. Many local residents were awoken by the terrifying

blast and amazed by the three story high flames that spewed from the line until the gas was shut off. Nobody was hurt. Trees on the left side of the fairway were scorched but never caught fire. The gas company repaired the pipe, filling the hole, and resodding the affected area.

- **2011 Maintenance Building Fire** - Fairly major fire occurred and damaged many members' private carts and made the building unusable. Now, members must use the Club's golf carts or find a way to get their own on the grounds as no storage remains.
- **2012 Golf Course Flood** - On June 19 & 20, 2012 in NE Minnesota over 10 inches of rain fell in two days on top of an already very wet Spring. Regional infrastructure, including roads and bridges, were destroyed. The front nine, built on a glacial esker, received little damage but the back nine had substantial tree and water damage. The turf recovered surprisingly quickly, but the golf course was closed for an extended period of time. One of the most noteworthy parts of that flood - was the rushing river that extended from #9 pond all the way down through the left woods on #5, where many bullheads could be found in the long grass in front of the ladies tee box.

CHALLENGES/ACTIONS

In 1923, when the Club was organized and opened for play, there were struggles with the course layout and even the established par. Not until Tom Vardon, the pro and golf course architect from the White Bear Lake Yacht Golf Club, had firmly established the par (36 versus 31 and a shorter yardage) and course layout were these questions eliminated. Weyerhaeuser, in his 1937 resignation from the CCC Board, detailed some of the ongoing finance issues including membership numbers and rates and "new" federal laws requiring social security withholding and payments. The #9 (now #18) slope and trap set up was also of his concern.

Undoubtedly the wars, especially World War II, presented challenges to the Club. Examples included raw materials such as gas, rubber, sugar and even butter being rationed, many members being directly in the military or supporting military efforts, hiring clubhouse and golf course staff, and overall country morale and allotted time for leisure activities such as golf. America was in survival mode. The CCC practice fairway was converted into a "victory garden" providing needed community vegetables. Certainly, the Club faced all these problems, and although with not much documented evidence, continued to grow and thrive.

The decision on whether to build an additional/back nine holes was contemplated and discussed for many years, even decades. The only feasible plan was to construct nine holes to the west of the original nine and purchase land in that direction. The membership was stable in the 1990s but busy enough, whereas, it was required to

make two tee times for 18 holes and different color tee markers were played for a front and back experience. On the “back” nine, #6 played as a par 4 from the front tees for a total par of 71. Golf had regained more popularity with the emergence of Tiger Woods. The Cloquet Invitational entrant list had to be capped basically due to time restrictions of having the event on a nine hole course.

Once the final decision was made to indeed build another nine holes in 1999/2000, another choice was to have the course design leave the “original” nine in place, and not disrupt golf for a couple of years. Joel Goldstrand was the course architect. The original nine stayed intact.

With the purchase of a large tract of land, needing maintenance equipment to manage the turf for 18 holes, and additional staff, chemicals, fertilizer, a substantial loan had to be drawn from local financial institutions. Several important decisions had to be made including seed or sod for the new nine and unseasonal weather forced direction of a few of those alternatives.

With the advent of the early 2000s, a nationwide recession forced many Cloquet players to reconsider their club membership. The large loan and its finance charges were becoming a Club burden. The innovative Club Stock Program, begun in 2015, paid off the debt and freed up capital. All members were required to be stockholders. This proved to be an important part of getting the Club back on track. The Club was able to slowly build its membership back up with creative programs that got several young people and ladies involved.

More recently, in 2020, the Cloquet Country Club had to face the realities of a pandemic and Covid-19. The seriousness of the illness prompted the Minnesota Governor to force golf course closures across the state. When reopened, there were restrictions on golf cart riding and cleaning, clubhouse food and beverage serving, face masks, no trap rakes, pins had to remain in holes, and other rules.

Going into 2023 and beyond, challenges may include the irrigation system, clubhouse longevity, forest management, and membership growth and retention. The Club has stood the test of time going through many difficult stretches. Currently, the CCC is experiencing a resurgence in membership and the game of golf as it has been near its membership cap for the last few seasons.

It's hard to imagine what R.M. Weyerhaeuser and other golf enthusiasts envisioned for the Cloquet Country Club at its origination and now 100 year anniversary and celebration. The Club is indebted to all members, guests, and contributors from Cloquet and the surrounding areas. As originally planned, Cloquet Country Club continues to bring friends, families, and competitors together to enjoy the great game of golf. Cheers to the next 100 years!