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HCTA

1989

~

1990

Sports

► News in brief

'I'm making progress, but I've got a long way to go.'

SAMMIE SMITH

TENNIS TEAM



The News-Sun/John Savage

HCTA BOARD: Recently elected officers and directors for the Highlands County Tennis Association are: (Seated, l-r) Darrel Porozynski, vice president, Lowell Fricker, president, Jo Anier, treasurer and Jean Rosser, past president and director. (Standing, l-r) Bobby Fulcher, director, Lynda Eastman, director, Mike Refferty, director, Betty Hurlburt, secretary, Elsin Baker, director and Macy Appelbaum, director. The club has many events on its calendar including the Shearson-Lehman tournament next month at Prairie Oaks Golf and Country Club.

October 1, 1989

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

So you always wanted to belong to a TENNIS ASSOCIATION! Now that you have joined the HCTA this year are you happy yet? I hope the answer is "not completely satisfied". We have made monumental progress last year, however, we have just begun to realize our full potential. With your active support and assistance, the HCTA can make a difference. We can do some good for our community, have lots of fun, and feel good about ourselves for volunteering and accomplishing our goals for 1990.

I see the HCTA's primary purpose to be to promote Tennis throughout Highlands County. Although this sounds simple, it means to me providing programs not just to encourage avid tennis players to join us, but programs so that new and X-tennis players join and become active players. They too can then benefit in having fun playing tennis, while participating in a healthy physical and mental stress reducing exercise. We can do better in providing this worthwhile community service to the adult population of Highlands County.

It means to me providing programs to promote tennis among kids, so they get hooked on tennis (instead of drugs) at an early age. More so than other sports, tennis is something they can play and stay involved in for the rest of their lives. What better legacy and community service can we provide?

It means to me continuing and expanding existing programs to attract tennis players of all stages and ages by providing members with social functions, tournaments, clinics, ladders, comradery, local tennis news and introductions to players of equal caliber.

This is what promoting tennis in Highlands County means to me. But more importantly, what does it mean to you. You are invited to let your ideas be known. All members are welcome at the HCTA board meetings. We have a new and enthusiastic board of directors which meet at 6PM on the second Sunday of the month at McMargarita Restaurant in Sebring. The next meeting will be October 8th. We need your ideas and support. Come join us and participate. You will feel good about yourself accomplishing something worthwhile while at the same time having lots of fun. We have the goals and the means of accomplishing them through TENNIS. Now all we need is YOU! See you October 8th.

Lowell "Jock" Fricker

9-12-89 89-90 YEAR

HCTA begins its new year

The Harder Hall's 19th Hole clubhouse will host the Highlands County Tennis Association's (HCTA) first meeting of the 1989-90 year on Tuesday, Sept. 12.

Social hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and drinks can be purchased from the bar. The public is welcome to come hear the club's plans and to met fellow tennis players. Topics will be plans for the upcoming year and the election of a new board.

The HCTA is a non-profit organization of 90 members, including of all ages and levels of play, from the beginners to the advanced player. Persons interested in team tennis, tennis caravans, tournaments, clinics, tennis socials and community service programs are welcome to join. Annual dues are \$15 per person and can be paid at the meeting.

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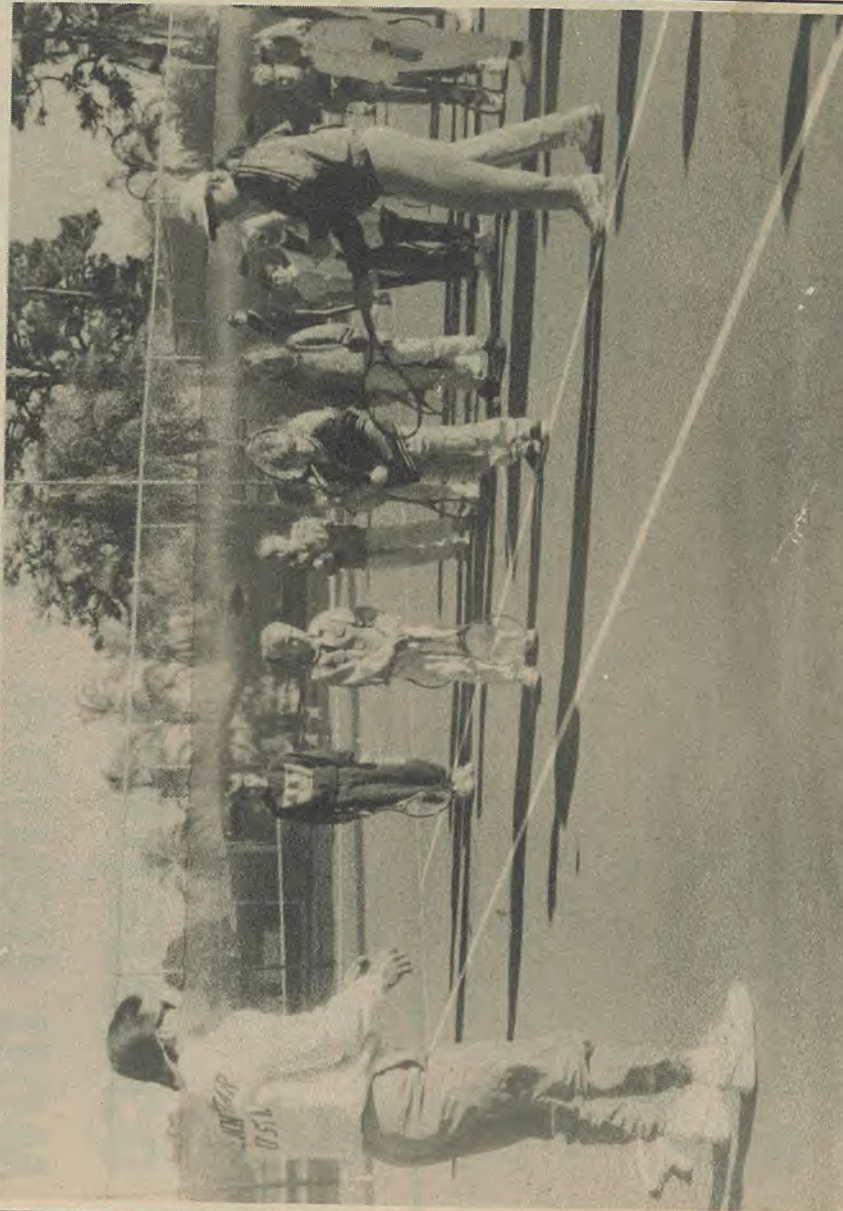
Sports

► News in brief

'I am not really enjoying the game of basketball right now.'

LIVINGSTON CHATMAN

TENNIS CLINIC



EAGER STUDENTS: A group of area youth pay attention to instructors at a tennis clinic held Saturday at Harder Hall.

The News-Sun/John Savage

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The News-Sun — INSTA-PLAK^{of Florida} & Coca Cola Bottling Co. — Highlands

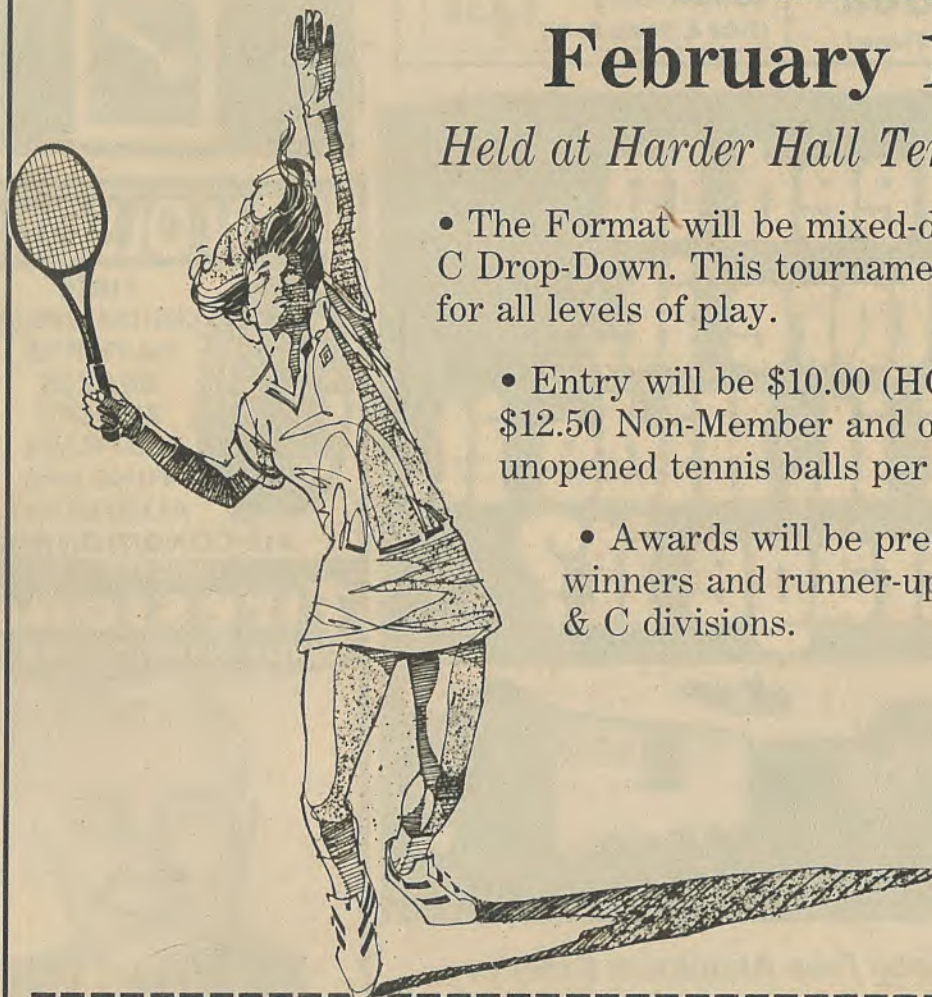
Present the

Valentine Tennis Classic

Mixed Doubles Tournament February 10 & 11

Held at Harder Hall Tennis Courts

- The Format will be mixed-doubles A, B, & C Drop-Down. This tournament is designed for all levels of play.
- Entry will be \$10.00 (HCTA Member) \$12.50 Non-Member and one can of unopened tennis balls per team.
- Awards will be presented to all winners and runner-up of the A, B & C divisions.



1990 Valentine's Tennis Classic

Entry Form

\$10.00 per person — HCTA Members

\$12.50 per person — Non HCTA Members

Name:

Partner's name:

Address:

Phone:

Make check payable to: HCTA (Highlands County Tennis Assoc.)
Mail to HCTA; c/o Jo Anier, 915 Harmony Dr., Sebring, FL 33870.

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CHARITABLE GESTURE

HIGHLANDS COUNTY TENNIS Association

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WWTK AM 730 Talk of the Highlands	Kenilworth LODGE	WALZ Realty
Barnett Bank	Heacock Real Estate	E.O. KOCH CONSTRUCTION
The NewsSun	Harder Hall	STORER CABLE COMMUNICATIONS

To Join or FOR INFORMATION Call
382-0613



The News-Sun/John Savage

PROPERTY OWNER SUPPORTS SIGN: The Highlands County Tennis Association, which is sponsored by many area business, also got a boost from the new owner of a five-acre commercial tract that used to be part of the Harder Hall resort complex. Chris Pavlo, who moved to Sebring from Coral Gables, decided to allow the tennis association to leave the sign in place until he can start construction on a proposed retail and restaurant complex.



Tennis tourney benefits memorial

A tennis tournament Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 will benefit fund-raising efforts for a permanent memorial to Maj. Thomas B. McGuire, a World War II medal of honor recipient from Sebring.

Herb Saldarini, a trustee of the McGuire Memorial Fund, and Anier of the Highlands County Tennis Association, announced that the mixed doubles tourney would help raise money to place a memorial stone at the site of McGuire's boyhood home on Kenilworth Avenue near Lake Jackson.

The tournament, an A-B-C drop down and A consolation event, will be played at Harder Hall that weekend.

Entry fee will be \$10 and one can of tennis balls per team. Trophies, will be awarded to winners and runners-up, and soft drinks and snacks will be provided.

Baker, Pena winners in Harder Hall tennis

The News-Sun

SEBRING — Elsin Baker and Luis Pena of Sebring captured the first Maj. Thomas B. McGuire Memorial mixed doubles tennis tournament Sunday at Harder Hall.

They defeated Jean Senkarik of Pinellas Park and Larry Johnson of Sebring, 1-6, 6-4, 6-2 in the finals of the two-day tournament, which was conducted by the Highlands Air Force Association and the Highlands County Tennis Association.

The event was held Saturday and Sunday.

Heather Miller and Steve Beck of Lake Placid won the A-consolation championship with a 7-6, 6-4 victory over Sydney Miller and Art Miller of Lake Placid.

The B division winners were Jo Anier and Tom Johnson of Sebring, who defeated Betty Whitakker and Frank Whitakker of Lorida, 6-3, 2-6, 6-3.

Wynette Ward and Mike Zimmerman of Sebring won the C division over Kim Boone and Vipul Thakkar of Sebring, 6-4, 6-4.

Fifteen teams participated in the tournament, which was played with a drop-down format. Losers in the first round went into the B division, while losers in the second round played the A consolation.

All proceeds go to the Maj. Thomas B. McGuire Memorial Fund, whose goal is to place a memorial stone near McGuire's boyhood home in Sebring. McGuire was a medal of honor winner in World War II.

TENNIS TOURNEY



TOUCH SHOT: Jo Anier of the Highlands County Tennis Association goes for a shot during the drop down tournament Saturday at Harder Hall in Sebring. The tournament concludes today, beginning at 3 p.m.

The News-Sun/John Savage



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CHARITABLE GESTURE

HIGHLANDS COUNTY TENNIS Association

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Shearson tourney deadline this week

■ By LARRY LEVEY

News-Sun Correspondent

SEBRING— Tennis, say the wise, is not a matter of life and death. It is something much more important than that.

Well, "something more important" takes place Dec. 1-3 at the Prairie Oaks Golf and Country Club in Sebring with the fourth annual Shearson-Lehman-Hutton Tennis Tournament of Champions.

"This is the biggest tennis tournament in Highlands County," says tournament director Darrel Porozynski, a member of the Highlands County Tennis Association, which is hosting the event.

Last year, says Porozynski, some 75 teams entered the tournament, with a number of players coming from outside of the county. "We won't know how many players we'll have this year until after our sign-up deadline of 5 p.m. on Nov. 29. (Wednesday)"

The tournament features men and women's doubles and mixed doubles. "Anyone who enjoys playing tennis — regardless of level of play — should enter the tournament," says Porozynski. "With our A and B brackets, if they lose in the first round, they'll then be playing like competition in their matches. This is a competitive tournament — but it's also a fun tournament."

Each entrant will receive a Shearson-Lehman-Hutton T-shirt, along with a gift bag of coupons and discounts from local restaurants and merchants. Players will also be treated to hot dogs, hamburgers, fruit and drinks on Saturday and Sunday.

Entry fee is \$20 per person for one event; \$30 for two events. Winners receive a trophy and gift certificates for dinner. For more details and an entry form, call 382-5933 or 332-0613.

Tennis tourney at Prairie Oaks

The Highlands County Tennis Association will host the annual Shearson-Lehman Tournament at Prairie Oaks Golf and Country Club in Sebring Dec. 1 through Dec. 3.

There will be men's, women's and mixed doubles categories, with A and B divisions as well as consolation rounds for each.

Entry fee is a can of tennis balls and \$20 per person for one events and \$30 for two. The deadline to enter is Nov. 29 at 5 p.m. The fee includes lunch and refreshments on the courts, as well as souvenir shirts and gift certificates.

Trophies will be awarded in all divisions.

For more information, call 382-5933 or 382-0613.

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The News-Sun/John Savage

REISS HONORED: Lowell Fricker, left, of the Highlands County Tennis Association, presents a plaque to Fred Reiss for his part in the founding of the Shearson-Lehman-Hutton Tennis Tournament in Sebring.

Shearson tourney honors founder

■ By **LARRY LEVEY**
News-Sun Correspondent

SEBRING — It was a time for tennis, and a time to tell a friend of tennis how much he's appreciated.

The event: the sixth annual Shearson Lehman Hutton Tennis Tournament of Champions, held this past weekend at Prairie Oaks Golf and Country Club.

The friend: Fred Reiss, recently retired executive vice-president of the local office of Shearson Lehman Hutton, Inc., who was presented with an engraved plaque for his efforts in founding the annual S-L-H tennis tournament.

The plaque was given by Lowell Fricker, president of the Highlands County Tennis Association, which hosted the tournament.

"This is the nicest tennis tournament in the county," says tennis association member Macy Applebaum. "Fred ran it as a first-class tournament — and he was primarily responsible for setting it up that way."

Says Reiss, "Since Shearson is a major co-sponsor of the U.S. Tennis Open and many other tennis tournaments around the country, we thought it would be very appropriate to sponsor a tennis tournament here in Highlands County — and I'm pleased that my successor in the office, Dale Grubb, will continue this every year."

According to tournament director Darrel Porozyński, 49 teams (made up of 70 participants) including players from Lakeland, Winter Haven, Arcadia, Okeechobee, Ft. Lauderdale and West Hollywood, signed up for the men and women's doubles and mixed doubles matches.

The men's A-level match, a round-robin, double-elimination affair, saw Ken Kanwisher and Jason Heacock, both from Sebring, taking top honors. The match was decided when Kanwisher and Heacock, who had gone undefeated in preliminary rounds, beat Ted Roberts and Rodney Hollinger, also from Se-

See **TENNIS**, page 3B

TENNIS

Continued from page 1B

bring, 6-4, 6-3.

The men's B-level championship was won by Bruce Wyse and Larry Johnson, from Sebring, who defeated Darrell Ferneau and Chuck LaBarre of Okeechobee, 7-5, 6-1.

Linda Eastman and Karlynn McCormack defeated Janie Hollinger and Sydney Miller, all from Sebring, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 to win the women's A-level title.

Women's B-level honors went to a Winter Haven pair, Roxanne McVay and Carol Mahler, who defeated Judy Smith and Wynette Ward from Sebring, 6-2, 6-1.

In the mixed doubles final, a husband-and-wife team, Jerry and Marge Murphy, from Pembroke Pines, but who also have a Lake Placid home, took first place with a 6-3, 6-1 win over Bruce Wyse and Janie Hollinger.

In addition to the financial support from Shearson Lehman Hutton, several other Highlands County businesses contributed to the three-day event, says Porozyński. Lunches were catered by the Wild Turkey Tavern; Bill Jarrett Ford-



A US Tennis Association representative instructs Highlands County Tennis Association (HCTA) members on new teaching techniques for children at Harder Hall tennis courts. A kids tennis clinic is scheduled for mid-January to promote tennis among grade school children. For information call 382-0613. HCTA volunteer instructors for the clinic are from left to right: Daryl Porozynski, Lowell "Jock" Fricker, Art Greenwald, Bobby Fulcher, Jo Anier, Janet McGee and Barbara Braunstein, USTA teaching administrator from Daytona.

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The News-Sun, Wednesday, June 13, 1990

HCTA aiding junior tennis

■ By JEFF CANTWELL
The News-Sun

SEBRING — The Highlands County Tennis Association's (HCTA) motto is All Stages for All Ages, and for the last four weeks, the emphasis has been geared toward introducing youngsters to tennis.

HCTA President and clinic instructor, Lowell Fricker, said the basic purpose of the program is to introduce tennis to Highlands County youngsters. "Making it a fun experience," Fricker said is the clinic's overall goal, and added that he hopes by having fun, the kids will seek future lessons and go and play throughout their lives. He said it is important to give the kids a positive attitude toward tennis, and noted that as a kid, he never had the opportunity to be exposed to tennis. Fricker said he began playing a couple years ago when he began working at Harder Hall, and now he's in the best shape of his life.

The Junior program will enter its



The News-Sun/Jeff Cantwell

NICE HIT: Harder Hall's Lowell Fricker, left, instructs these youngsters in tennis last Saturday.

fifth week this Saturday at 8 a.m., and then will have one more session. Fricker said over 100 kids have participated so far with the highest turnout being 51. There are clinics for all ages throughout the year. The Junior program began on the heels of a senior clinic, but Fricker said only 6-8 people attended.

The good thing about tennis, said Fricker, is that you don't have to be in top physical condition to play. He also said that the players will gradually get in better shape and have a lot of fun while doing it. "It's a chore to do exercise — tennis isn't as strenuous," Fricker said. He also said that when people get older, it is easier for them to get a partner

to play tennis or golf as opposed to getting a small group of players for basketball or baseball.

The instructors at the Junior Clinic have been emphasizing serving, playing up near the net etc. At the end of each session, the instructors ask the kids questions about tennis and professional players.

Fricker said they show the kids the proper way to hold the racket and the rules of the game so they can understand tennis when they watch it on television. He added that the HCTA is using United States Tennis Association (USTA) teaching techniques.

The HTCA will be holding a men's and women's doubles tennis tournament in conjunction with the Fourth of July at Harder Hall. There will also be a golf tournament. The tennis tournament will be divided into A, B, and C divisions to enable everyone to play at their own level. The tennis tournament will be June 30, and July 1.

HEARTLAND

The Magazine of Southcentral Florida

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Tennis in the HEARTLAND.....

The HEARTLAND Today Magazine, Spring 1990 has an interesting article which tracks the history of the Tennis Association and the people involved over the years. It makes interesting reading and lists many Sebring so-called older set players who have promoted and developed the game of tennis in the county and have played an important part in the growth of the HCTA. Speaking of growth, the HCTA membership count is at 145 as of March 21st. We extend a big **W E L C O M E** to new members:

Micky Byrd 321 Quail Ave.

Richard Dayton 2007 Recreation Dr

Ray Gleave 261 Tangerine Rd N.W.

Michelle Pierce P.O. Box 2862

As the Heartland Today stated-----

The HCTA is presently enjoying an enthusiastic wave of growth, and we are all excited about the increase in our membership over the last six months.

Who First
Walked
Florida's
Cracker Trail?

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U.S. Postage
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OCALA, FL 32674



TENNIS

In The Heartland

Highlands County Tennis Association...Going, growing!

A reawakening and resurgence is happening right at the front door of one of the Heartland's revered landmarks...Harder Hall. It is called a "harbinger of a brighter future in this sports minded community which cherishes a quality lifestyle," says its prime mover Lowell Fricker.

He is given much of the credit for the enthusiastic wave of growth which the Highlands County Tennis Association is presently enjoying. Always a vibrant group, its membership has grown from 70 to 115 since Fricker was elected president; Darrell Popozynsi, vice president; Betty Hurlbit, secretary; and Jo Anier, treasurer.

Fricker is the man assigned by Security Savings and Loan of Phoenix, Arizona to negotiate the sale of Harder Hall and its surrounding prime properties. Charged with the immediate care and upkeep of that complex, he saw the immediate growth possibility on the tennis courts and in the golf courses.

What appealed to Fricker, he relates, was a close knit group of tennis fans playing with hardnosed fervor every morning and really enjoying it.

The group has a nice mix of male and female; young and older; well known and not so well known. To name a few...Norb Walz, business entrepreneur; Elsa and Marvin Kahn, citrus folks; Macy Applebaum, retired Mi-

ami business man; Rev. Eugene Bengston, Jack Hancock; Ken Haysley and many many more...all actively involved in business and sports circles.

Those happy, wholesome tennis scenes sent the writer to wondering...How and why did tennis start in the heart of the Heartland?

Alan Altvater, 92, the town historian, says "when I arrived in 1915, a clay court existed at what is now Magnolia Street, about a half block east of South Ridgewood Drive. Since it was the only one, it was in constant use."

Altvater also noted "clay courts sprung up within a few years. Construction of the Kenilworth Hotel in 1916 resulted in two more courts located in the area now occupied by the restaurant.

"The downtown Florida National parking lot had a plush court complete with lights for night playing. Some courts sported double decked benches covered with a roof that protected spectators...how comfortable can you get?," he asked.

Throughout the Twenties, tennis became fashionable. Ladies wore ankle length dresses off court, and knee length skirts on court. Gents wore blazers with bold red stripes. Other signs of the twenties were newspapers selling for two cents; lunch for 35 cents with a nickle cup of coffee; and gasoline for 11 to 20 cents a gallon.

Only two doctors tended to medical needs in the early Twenties. In 1922, Dr. J. W. Mitchell and Dr. H. V. Weems, who was a noted tennis buff.

It was common practice whenever Dr.

Weems showed up to give him court time immediately, so he could return to his practice without delay.

His daughter, Verna, still lives in Sebring and is attorney Joe Macbeth's wife. Verna played exceptional tennis and won a city tournament.

At the dawn of the Thirties, tennis courts blossomed at Harder Hall and reached the current total of 12 courts. Harder Hall was constructed in 1927.

Charles N. Thompson, who had the controlling interest at that time, developed the tennis courts and golf courses. An avid tennis and golf fan from Buck Hills Falls, Pa., Thompson arranged for introducing the famed Rex Beach to Sebring.

During the intervening years, today's well known older set set the pace in tennis. In the late Thirties and early Forties, Dot Young, recently retired as secretary at First Baptist Church, played a tough brand of tennis and got her share of wins.

In the late Fifties and early Sixties, Eric Annett dominated play at Sebring High School and in local area tournaments. Eric went to the University of Delaware where he became the No. 3 ranking player.

Local attorney Jack Hancock remembered, "One year Eric challenged the entire Bartow tennis team, and beat all six players....one at a time, of course."

Eugene Bengston, now a minister, competed favorably with Eric, but always came up second. Bengston came from an athletic family. His great grandfather, Henry

Continued on page 22

Continued from page 10

Martin, helped pioneer Sebring.

Lucy Derkman, former sports editor at the Avon Park Sun, won her share of trophies. A competitive woman, she had to ease up when raising a family became her number one chore.

Prominent tennis advocate Larry Johnson arrived on the scene in 1970. A Florida Southern graduate, he recalled the Tennis Association as a cordial, laid-back group. Its membership varied from 50 to 100 with many skilled players.

Johnson noted other areas began asserting themselves as tennis sites such as Sun 'n Lakes in 1976 and Prairie Oaks in 1980.

Johnson teamed with Bruce Wyse, Highlands School board coordinator, and the pair won enough matches to rank seventh in the state.

One of the association highlights occurred when they supported the Morrow twins, Rachael and Beth, who eventually received

tennis scholarships to the University of Alabama.

Now the pendulum has swung back again under the guidance of Lowell Fricker. The University of Wisconsin at Madison graduate wants to encourage young players and at the same time, have an enjoyable competitive atmosphere for older players. The organization is more effective in reaching out for more members.

Fricker also has a flair for generating funds. His sponsor Tennis Association billboard has a prominent spot on US 27 and proclaims the group's message. It generated more than \$4,500 for the group's work.

For an individual who became interested in tennis as of February, 1989, Fricker seems to be a natural leader to guide the association.

By Tony Buono.

(Tony is a designated Sports Ambassador for the Heartland)

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ST. VALENTINES CLASSIC
RESULTS

The results of the annual Valentine
Tennis Classic, conducted by the HCTA
held Feb. 10-11 at the Harder Hall
Courts are as follows:

A Division: Jane and Rodney Hollinger
winning by default.

Runner-Up Lynda Eastman and Bobby
Fulcher.

A Division Consolation:

Runner-Up Elsin Baker and Luis Pena
Gay and Marty Vaughn

B Division: Mary and Jerry Linsley

Runner-Up Peggy Sisemore and Russ
Ward

C Division: Jo and Jay Anderson

Runner-Up Jevy and Doug Littlewood

The HCTA is tremendously appreciative
of the support and sponsorship by the
NEWS-SUN, INSTA-PLAK of FLORIDA and
HIGHLANDS COCA-COLA BOTTLING CO.

(75)

H.C.T.A. Family Fun Day!

DON'T MISS IT!!!! May 5th, from
10:00 til 4:00 at HIGHLANDS HAMMOCK
PARK. EVERYONE will be there-----
it will be totally AWESOME.....

We have reserved a covered area and
HCTA will supply the meat, corn on
the cob, McDonald's Orange drink and
coffee.

You need to bring:

1. Your Family
2. Covered Dish
3. Lawn chairs and games

To sign up for the festivities, call
Janie A.S.A.P Home 385-3475
Work 385-0846

Oh Yea! Cost!!! Did I hear you ask
how much this would cost you? It's
a deal at \$19.95!!

OK Get someone to peel you off the
wall and I'll tell you the REAL AMOUNT
Doesn't "FREE" sound good?????????
Members are free and non-members are
a mere \$2.00.

Also, everyone needs to bring a covered
dish to share..

See you soon to Sign UP.

Janie

H.C.T.A. FAMILY FUN DAY!

Janie's got it all ready for a day
of good food, fun and relaxation.
With Russ, Bobby and Mike doing all
the cooking, and everyone else bring-
ing their secret homemaderecipe goodies to
the picnic, it sounds like a good
time for all. The festivities start
at noon and go on til around 4pm.
This is a family picnic at HIGHLANDS
HAMMOCK PARK on Saturday May 5th.
If anyone needs any more information,
please call Janie at 385-3475. We
look forward to seeing all of you at
the park Saturday around noon.
Chicken, corn and drinks will be
provided.

MUCHO THANKS ---- I would like to
thank everyone who helped make our
2nd Annual HCTA Family FunDay a great
success.

Special Thanks go to our cooking team
of Bobby "Burn 'm Up" Fulcher, Mike
"Cook first - Eat Later" Rafferty and
Darrel "Larry and his other brother,
Larry" Porozynski. Also, a big thanks
to Karen "Keep those kids moving"
Knowles for organizing the childrens
games and Betty & Dana "we'll lend
you our toys - but won't be there"
Hurlbut for the horseshoes and volley
ball set. we sent the volley ball
set back with a warning:

NOT TO BE USED IN THE PRESENCE OF
A RAFFERTY - COULD BE HAZARDOUS
TO YOUR HEALTH!!!!!!!!!!

Janie Hollinger