

Chevy Chase Country Club Prevails *June 13-1966*

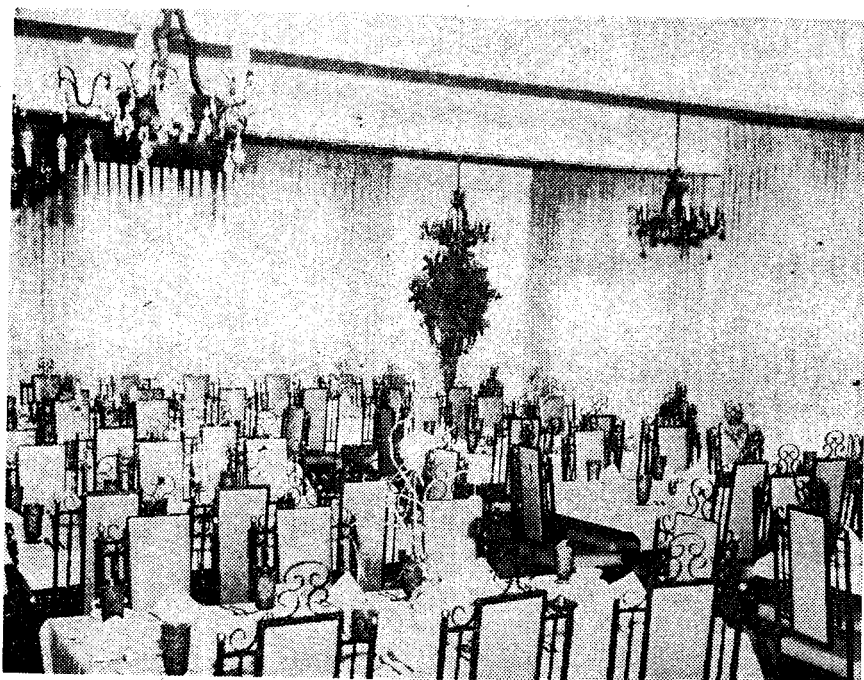
News Press

Reconstruction, Rejuvenation, Resurrection Spell Tranquility



Outside of the renovated Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse takes

on charm of Spanish and neo-Mediterranean architecture. —News-Press Photos



Dinnig room accommodates 300 in a posh setting of old Spanish motif,

part of the \$102,000 (plus equipment) expenditure to modernize facility.

June 13 1966

By JOHN MILLRANY
News-Press Staff Writer

People play golf and are rich together, to paraphrase the late F. Scott Fitzgerald.

At the "new" Chevy Chase Golf Course, richness comes in many forms.

One aspect, perhaps the most important, is that tranquility has returned to the 37-acre links, and this brings club members a wealth of richness.

The history of the golf facility, which today is a charter corporation under the name of Chevy Chase Country Club, Inc., includes some rough lies. But the CCCC supporters never stopped swinging.

Golfers know the value of patience and perseverance and these virtues may have made the difference in the present "reconstruction, rejuvenation and resurrection" of the club, as R. P. Hurst, assistant to the club's president, puts it.

Enthusiastic members are advertising their club as the showplace of Chevy Chase Canyon, with no small degree of justification.

An anonymous member of the club sees the situation thusly:

"THE MIRACLE OF C.C.C.C.:
A brief history of your club"

"Golf courses are miracles wherever they're located—testimony of man's determination to keep a little spot of greenery peacefully aloof from the rage to build.

"It's a shame man uses these sylvan glades to make of himself a nervous wreck by playing thereon a sport that cannot be mastered."

"This nameless prophet must have had Chevy Chase Country Club 1966 in mind when he referred to miracles. The history of the place is adrip with miracles.

"It has been owned, or managed, at different times by a developer, a song and dance team, a bank, a professional jockey, a realty firm and, finally, today by a collection of nervous wrecks referred to above.

"It has been attacked by fire, flood, helicopters, condemnation suits, condominiums, subdivisions, the neighborhood kids, golfers, toadstools and crabgrass.

Defended by Many

"It has been defended by those who like greenery, those who like games, those who like good food, those who like high property values and many others. Their names are as plentiful as the residents themselves or the members of the Chevy Chase Estates Association, a leader in CCCC protective circles for three decades.

"Key dates are many:

"1925—The club and Chevy Chase area were designated and built by Bert Ferrar, Inc. The course was private.

"1929—The Great Crash. Ferrar dissolved his interests in favor of Security First National Bank, which continued to operate the course . . . as a public facility.

"1937—The first subdivision threat. All 68, count them, 68 families in the canyon signed petitions, formed the Chevy Chase Estates Association and halted the (subdivision) plans.

"1938—Sewers were built as far as the club, and the subdivision battle was fought and won again.

"1938—Association members offered to buy the club for \$40,000. Offer rejected and club was leased to a 'dance team' for a few months. Despite local resident support—no success.

Hope and Progress

"1940—In the midst of war and recession, some hope and progress. The club was sold to Charlie Corbett and he ran the course with his wife for the next 20 years. At last someone cared enough to stay and work.

"1953—Plans announced to go private, improve facilities and build pool. Opened in 1960.

"1963—Membership meeting informed club was losing money. Subdivision threat again. Residents and members proposed SR (special recreation) zoning to prevent subdivision, and ordinance was passed in October.

"1964—Clubhouse burned, school board proposed condemnation, members and Chevy Chase Estates Association protested. Procedural suit instigated by taxpayer to prevent condemnation. Delay for member purchase asked. Granted and a bright tomorrow dawned.

"1965—After a year of fuss, feathers and honest discussion pro and con, the present membership took possession of the club. Repair and renovation started.

"1966—The best is yet to come.

"So reads the history of the Chevy Chase Country Club—oversimplified perhaps, but all we have time and space for in the inaugural edition of 'FORE.' A brief review of this history should still the fiscal qualms of the most apprehensive member or prospect.

'Club Will Work'

"This thing (the club) will work. Man will make it work, if only to provide a testbed for his own self-punishment and a place whereby a beautiful Sunday afternoon's walk in the country can be ruined.

"Yes—golf courses are miracles—and Chevy Chase is the most miraculous of all. Long may she rain—(Reign?)."

And long she may. CCCC optimism is uncommonly high and all the club seems to need now is new members (even as its present membership of 250 is growing steadily).

There should be no "30" to this story. Hopefully, there is an open-end future for golf in the canyon.

As recalcitrant golfers say, never a "30" but always a "fore."