

Rutland's First Golf Club

by Bob Labbance

You never know what you'll find when you open an old file cabinet drawer. Howard Shortsleeve of the Rutland Country Club was pleasantly surprised during the summer of 1993. While poking around in one of the few original farm sheds left from the cluster that formed the nucleus of the country club's facilities at the turn of the century, Howard discovered some very important papers.

The Rutland Country Club was founded in 1901 as a nine-hole course, but the Rutland Golf Club preceded the current club by four years. The original three-hole course of the golf club was across town, on part of the property that St. Joseph College now occupies. Howard discovered the original Articles of Association for both clubs.

The Rutland Golf Club was organized on March 15, 1897, with thirty-four charter members. The club opened on June twelfth of that year,

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and held one of the state's first golf tournaments, a putting contest, on October 1, 1897. The club would see four seasons of play before many of the members moved to the new facility with its longer layout and working farm. Before the move, William Dunn would set the nine-hole record with a skillful 39.

Rutland is a club rich in history, and fortunate to have much of it displayed on the walls of the new clubhouse. The blueprint of the 1901 layout, designed by George Low, is there. The plans for revision and addition by Wayne Stiles and John Van

club's original certificate as an Associate Member of the USGA is preserved. Many newspaper articles, contracts, postcards, and photos have been restored and framed. Recently, three silver bowls were found in a second-hand store and Howard Shortsleeve has made a handsome place for them as well. Those interested in golf memorabilia would enjoy lunch, and a chance to peruse the collection.

One of the rarest items, however, is tucked away in the office. Calvin Coolidge was not especially fond of golf, but there on the guest registry of August 19, 1921, is his signature, along with those of Cal Jr. and Mrs. Coolidge. Though they visited from their Northampton, Massachusetts, home, it's not clear whether they teed it up or not.

Grady Girard is Vermont's Top Junior Golfer

by Bob Labbance

Grady Girard of Newport continued to dominate Junior Golf in Vermont during 1993. In the spring, he led North Country Union High School to another Division I state championship, was the medalist in every match, compiled an individual 26-0 record, and was chosen Player of the Year for the third straight year. He also won the Vermont High School Open.

In the summer, he won the Vermont State Junior Match Play Championship, qualified for the US Amateur, where he advanced to the match play rounds, and won the New England Junior Championship at Quechee. He also won the AJGA Cape Cod Junior Classic, a national junior event, for the second time in the past three years.

In the fall, the seventeen-year-old high school senior finished third in St. Johnsbury's stroke play tournament for men, known as The International, and won a men's Fall Ramble at the Newport Country Club. He was honored with Second Team 1993 Rolex Junior All-American status, and had amassed a 700 point margin over second place in the Vermont Golf Association Boys' Rankings.

During the winter, Grady was