

BACK IN TIME

The day pony golf came to town

By DICK SHEARER

Back in the summer of 1930 the new game in town was pony golf, a fad that swept the nation during the late 1920s.

Lansdale residents eagerly embraced the news that their very own miniature golf course would be opening July 3 on a lot where the post office now stands.

So great was the interest that a front page story appeared in the *North Penn Reporter* to announce the grand opening:

"After ten days of intense preparation and labor, the Lansdale Pony Golf Course is completed and will be opened to the public this evening. The course is laid out on a lot between Lincoln Avenue and Vine Street and consists of a complete eighteen-hole course in miniature.

"The course presents an attractive scene with its green and white picket fence surrounding the "green". Large shade trees surround the entire course providing ample shade and making the plot always cooling and refreshing.

"Sufficient parking is one of the features of the plot of ground selected by Paul G. Hartman and Dr. Charles F Rossell, sponsors of the novelty game.

"Umbrellas and benches will be erected for comfort during the day while several powerful arc lights will illuminate the entire course at night so that games can be played as easily then as during the day. Every one of the holes is entirely different from the others and presents obstacles which make it both difficult and more interesting.

"Sand hazards, bunkers and water obstacles are a few of the barriers that will keep even an experienced golfer on his mettle to make the hole in par.

"The holes are raised from the ground of the course which has been evenly graded and filled in with a hundred tons of limestone gravel. Each hole is filled in with sand and



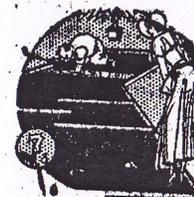
A GOOD GAME IMPROVED!

The popular outdoor recreation ... Pony Golf improved with new playing rules ... on the best course in the North Penn ... and it, too, has been improved!

Bring your family and friends to enjoy a round or two, tomorrow. Avoid traffic worries—play pony golf, shuffle or quoits here.

Listen to the fights tonight at

Lansdale Pony Golf



fenced in with a low green board fence. In the center of the course is a raised rock garden from the top of which the golfer may tee off.

"Small evergreen shrubs are planted about the course further accentuating the green and white coolness of the plot against the background of white limestone. A small green and white caddy house has been erected in one corner of the course where clubs, balls and score cards may be obtained as well as refreshments.

"Prizes will be offered for holes made in one on certain holes and for the lowest score of the week. The course can accommodate between seventy and eighty players at one time when they play in foursomes."

Despite the rhetoric, it's safe to assume that Lansdale's course was a far cry from the one out at Freddy Hill Farm these days.

We aren't certain exactly how many years the pony golf course lasted but the nationwide frenzy ebbed in the 1940s and re-emerged in the post - World War II era.

The 1931 advertisement pictured above promotes "improvements" which apparently included broadcasts of boxing matches. We can only imagine how Tiger Woods would react to a little radio interference while he's putting.