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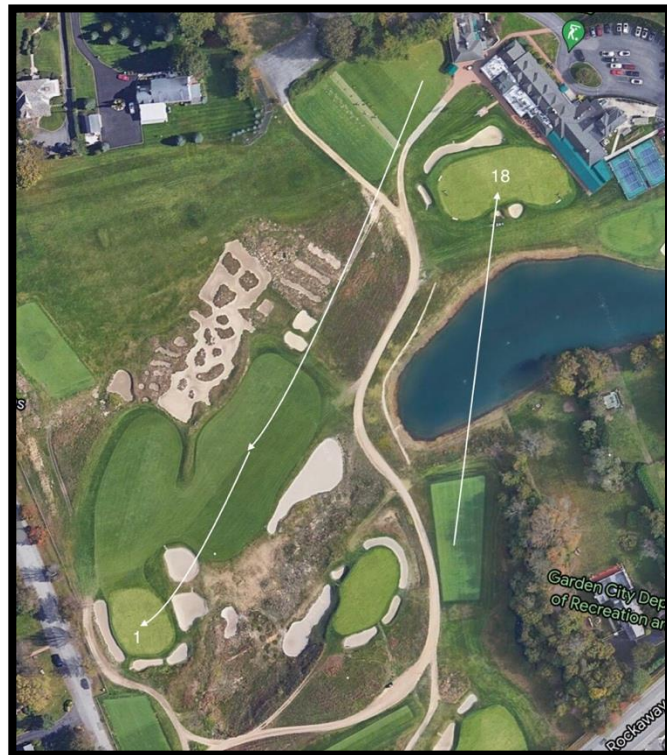
LOST FOURS- *part 2*

Drastic changes occurred on CCF's golf course between 1934 and 1951. Devereux Emmet left this earth on the final day of 1934, the same year as the first aerial photograph of our golf course. Since Emmet was CCF's consulting architect up until his death, we know that changes on the 18-hole golf course from its opening in 1923 up until 1934 were guided by Emmet himself. Subsequent alterations were performed by a handful of other architects. Documentation regarding the earliest changes is difficult to locate, however, we know the vast majority of Emmet's uniquely shaped and positioned bunkers were either converted to turf and/or drastically altered sometime during the 2 decades after his death. The most notable of these changes took place on the 10th hole [[see Volume 6](#)]. Extrapolating from similar work performed in the Northeast, and the fact that he was known to have worked at CCF during this period, it's possible that Geoffrey Cornish was responsible for muting the strategic elements on the opening hole to our inward nine. Cornish didn't just remove bunkers at The Country Club of Farmington, he also created entirely new golf holes.



Aerial photographs of The Country Club of Farmington in 1951 (**left**) and 1934 (**right**). Note the drastic changes over those 17 years: stylized bunkers present in 1934 were either removed or significantly altered by 1951 and rows upon rows of trees were planted.

CCF's centennial book, written by James A. Frost, denotes Cornish as the architect that was selected to flip-flop the sequence of par on our final 2 golf holes. Former longtime Green Committee Chairman, Harry I. Bartholomew, had long advocated for a par 4-par 3 finish at CCF. Emmet himself supported this change, which is no surprise since two of his most famous golf courses, Garden City Golf Club in Garden City, NY (Long Island), and Congressional Country Club (original routing of the Blue course) in Washington, D.C. both finish with a one-shotter. Bartholomew would grab the ear of anyone who would listen and try to convince them of the merits of such a change. Although Gene Sarazen also advocated for this conversion after playing CCF in 1938, it wasn't until CCF lost out on hosting the 1939 Ladies National Championship due to the shortcomings of the par 4 18th that Bartholomew was successful in convincing the Board of Governors that a change was necessary. Work is likely to have been completely shortly after WWII but was certainly finished before 1951.



Above right: Google maps view of the opening and closing holes at Garden City Golf Club. Like CCF, the first hole at GCGC is a short par 4 beginning steps from the proshop and clubhouse. GCGC's 18th hole is also a par 3 with green in the foreground of the clubhouse's patio.

[As detailed in Volume 8 of this series](#), the original 17th hole at CCF was a par 3 that played from the current 17th tee box to a green set in front of the pond, in the general vicinity of the bunker that currently resides in the right rough. The original 18th hole's teeing area was located just north of the pond, immediately the west of the former 17th green. The route from this original 18th tee to the final putting surface was a sporting adventure. A mighty lash with the longest club in the bag was required to carry the slope where our current 17th green

Below right: 1934 aerial view of CCF's 17th hole before it was converted from a par 3 to a par 4.



resides and reach the top of the hill. A deep bunker set into the slope, about where the current 17th greenside bunker exists, was ready to greet poorly stuck drives. In an era of hickory shafts and wooden heads, reaching the fairway summit in a single swing must have been a feat. From there, the 18th green was only visible from drives deep down the fairway since a shelf of earth stretched from west to east before dropping off to a ravine just shy of the green. (This earth was removed in the 1990s and the slope from the current 18 tee toward the green was regraded so the 18th green could be fully visible from today's tee box). A creek used to run in front of the first tee box and in front of the 18 green, exiting at the culvert on the 18th hole by Route 10. Piped underground in the late 1950's, this creek forced an aerial approach to the final green. For those that have played The Course at Yale, the original 18th hole at CCF must have borne resemblance to the infamous par 5 final hole at C.B. MacDonald/Seth Raynor's New Haven masterpiece which requires a mountaineering journey from the landing area off the tee shot to reach the green.

Right: Aerial view of CCF's par 4 opening and closing holes in 1934. While the short first hole is unchanged in its routing (white arrows) compared to today, the 18th hole was drastically different. The green arrows depict the intended line of play on the final hole which required a bold tee shot to reach the landing area at the top of the hill. The approach to the green was similar to the tee shot on today's par 3 with green in the residing the same location. At the top of the photo, one can see a smaller version of our clubhouse, a larger practice putting green (thought to be the closing green from the original 9-hole course), and The Clock Shop (red circle) that once sat along Route 10.



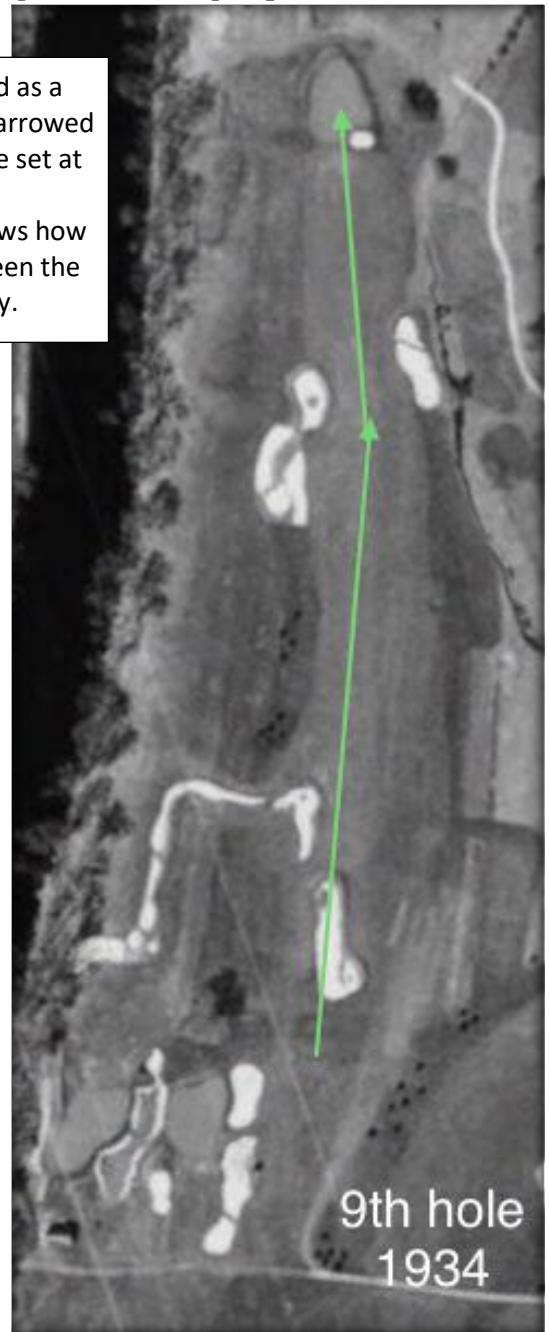
Not all par 4 conversions at The Country Club of Farmington were a reduction to a par 3. For the first 60 years of its existence, our par 5 9th hole also played as a par 4. In 1984, architect Robert Cupp was retained to lengthen the hole, moving the teeing ground from what is now the Red/Gold tee box to its current location, making #9 a

three-shot hole. At the same time, Cupp rebuilt the 9th green, elevating it above flood stage to help eliminate the recurring issue of flood damage.

While the hole that Cupp renovated may have been a shorter layout of what exists today, the 1934 version of the 9th hole consisted of a dramatic tee shot over a formidable bunker complex located just beyond the tee, blinding the landing area beyond. Plenty of fairway lay to the right for those less skilled or less daring. Additional unique bunkers lay in the distance which directed options for play to the green.

Right: Aerial photograph of CCF's 9th hole in 1934 when it played as a par 4. Note the bunkers in line of the tee shot and those that narrowed the landing area (first green arrow). The putting green was once set at grade.

Below: Overlay drawing created by Dusenberry Design that shows how a restoration of the bunker complex (yellow lines) shared between the 9th and 10th holes might impact those holes as they appear today.





Above and Right: Sketches of a renovated approach and green for the 9th hole as proposed by Dusenberry design which includes restoration of the unique island fairway bunker in lieu of the right fairway bunker, relocation of the cart path, increased short grass around the green complex, and reconfiguration of the green opening.

Dusenberry Design has proposed resurrecting these 9th hole Emmet bunkers in conjunction with the strategic cross-centerline-cross bunker complex on the adjacent 10th hole. The 9th and 10th fairways would be united from east to west with intermingled bunker complexes which emulate Emmet's from 1934. The far end of the cart path on the 9th hole would be relocated east of the culvert and the fairway approach would be extended around the right side of the green to provide more playability and angles of approach to a reconfigured green. The proposed renovated putting surface would be open on both the right and left sides, surrounding a deep-set bunker. This "Lion's Mouth" type green is one of the "templates" and can be seen most notably at Country Club of Charleston (SC), and the newly restored Fox Chapel Golf Club outside Pittsburgh, PA, both Seth Raynor designs.

Given the strength of the appearance of the lower section of CCF's golf course in 1934, wouldn't it be wonderful to restore some of these unique characteristics and bring this portion of our golf course back to its original design thereby restoring holes that captivates one's interest from tee to green?



Digital Media posts involving recently restored Lion's Mouth greens. **Above: Charleston CC (@LinksGems), Below: original, before and after renovation at Fox Chapel GC (@BethpageBlackMetal)**

