



# Did You Know?

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## THE CELEBRITY GOLF TOURNAMENTS

In the summers of 1949 and 1950 the ANCC hosted two golf tournaments featuring nationally known celebrities from the fields of entertainment, sports and federal government. The tournaments were sponsored by the Washington Post, with the proceeds going to support the Justice Department in its campaign to fight juvenile delinquency. Two earlier tournaments were hosted by the Columbia Country Club, with Bing Crosby highlighting the show in 1948. In 1949 Crosby's fame and personality carried over into the 1949 event at ANCC, this time joined by Bob Hope and Arthur Godfrey in the limelight. Celebrity foursomes were made up with luminaries such as Bob Hope, General Omar Bradley, Dr. Cary Middlecoff, and Del Webb playing together. The scorers for the 1949 tournament were two ladies rather well known in their own right; Jane Russel and Eunice Kennedy. Another interesting foursome consisted of Bing Crosby, General Hoyt Vandenberg, Sam Snead and Baseball Commissioner A. B. "Happy" Chandler. Many other celebrities attended. Including Jack Dempsey, William Randolph Hearst, Frank Lehy and Charlie "Choo-Choo" Justice.

The 1950 Tournament, again sponsored by the Washington Post, brought out another imposing list of playing celebrities from all backgrounds. Bob Hope was the 1950 Honorary Chairman and incidentally, that year's Celebrity Champion. Among the list of players in 1950 were Milton Berle, Danny Kaye, Perry Como, Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark, Eddy Cantor, Jim Thorpe, Otto Graham, Connie Mack, Dizzy Dean, Gene Sarazen, and Patty Berg. The Honorary Scorers were Judy Holiday, Cyd Charisse and Dagmar.

Following the grand success of the 1950 event, the plans for the 1951 tournament were well underway. However, the club membership rejected the proposal on the basis that damage to the course during the tournament was too costly to repair. The Club took a hard stand that ANCC would host another tournament only if other clubs in the area would do so on a round-robin basis. That did not happen. In a February 1989 letter to Colonel Fred White of ANCC, Bob Hope fondly recalled his participation in 1950 as the Tournament Chairman and extended his best wishes to ANCC.

The ANCC Foundation has taken the lead for ANCC in researching and documenting the history of the Club. This undertaking can only be successful with the financial support and volunteer effort of the Club membership. The Foundation is a public charity, an IRS approved 501(C)(3), incorporated to support the legacy and history of ANCC. For further information, contact the ANCC Foundation at [www.anccfoundation.org](http://www.anccfoundation.org) or call 1 (800) 506-2622.