



Did You Know?



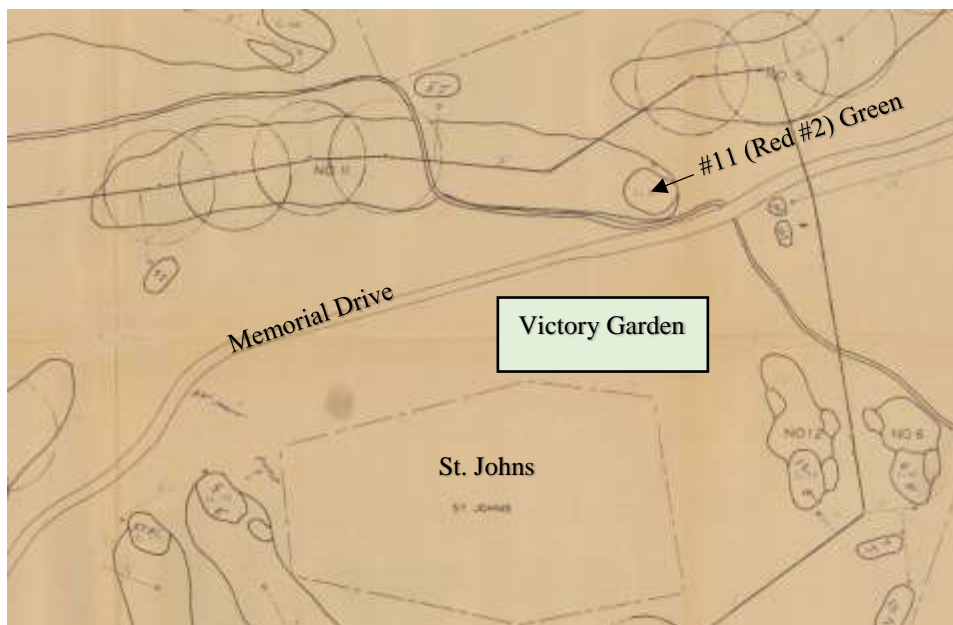
ANCC “Victory Garden”

During World War II the United States Golf Association encouraged clubs to turn part of their roughs into victory gardens. While few clubs implemented this recommendation, some went all out. The Wygagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, New York plowed up their first two holes to allot plots to each member family. Briarwood Country Club in Deerfield, Illinois used eleven sites on their property to produce 150 tons of tomatoes for the Armed Forces. To what extent did Army Navy Country Club partipate in this effort?

Army Navy Country Club “Victory Garden”

In April 1943 the Board of Governors reported that “plots of land 30’ X 40’ across the Club road from No. 11 green are being arranged for Victory Gardens”. At the time the area now occupied by the White #3 tee was owned by Charles H. St. Johns (ANCC purchased the St. Johns property in 1952). Accordingly, the area across the Club road and below the St. Johns holdings was open space. We have found no record of how many of these lots were planted and harvested.

Because some clubs planted their Victory gardens close to fairways and greens, some suspect that the Victory gardens were the genesis of the common phase that a shot hit into any overgrown area had been hit into the “cabbage”.



ANCC Victory Garden Location (1943)

Reference and Related Material:

- 1) ANCC Board of Governors' Meeting Minutes from April 21, 1943: "The Chairman of the Grounds Committee stated that plots of land 30'x40' across the Club road from No. 11 green are being arranged for the Victory Gardens."
- 2) "Duration Golf, or, The Story of Byron Nelson", 1948, Herbert Warren Wind: "Three-quarters of our clubs remained open throughout the war. A few of them took up the USGA's suggestion that part of their roughs be turned into victory gardens, and members of the Wykagyl Golf Club were almost alone in ploughing up their first two holes and allotting a plot to be worked by each of the fifty-five member families."
- 3) "When War Played Through, Golf During World War II", by John Strege, 1948: "Golf courses were encouraged to turn part of their properties into victory gardens for growing fruits and vegetables which we in short supply. Even the Los Angeles Country Club developed a Victory Garden, which supplied the Club dining room with homegrown vegetables. Clubs that agreed to do so often put their gardens in close proximity to fairways and greens, in other words, they were in play for golfers hitting wayward shots. Some suspect that the Victory gardens were the genesis of the common phase that a shot hit into any overgrown area had been hit into the cabbage.

Victory gardens proved fertile for sarcasm. "This year a ball may be moved a ball may be moved two club lengths from the broccoli, tomatoes and lettuce without penalty."

Many golf course operators realized they had plenty of land on the periphery of the course for Victory Gardens. It was seen as well as a way for clubs to ease the antagonism that some inexplicably felt toward them, by demonstrating a concerted effort to help their fellow Americans. W.W. Crenshaw of the Oakmont Country Club of Glendale, CA tended the club's Victory Garden himself. The property had a history as a fertile growing ground, having been the site of a vineyard before golf intervened. Crenshaw plowed up forty acres of rough for his garden. He raised potatoes, tomatoes, corn, lettuce, carrots and eggplants on the Oakmont property. When the tomatoes began to ripen, an average of 500 pounds per day were harvested. Members passing through the grillroom were encouraged to buy boxes of tomatoes for which they would receive a bonus of a dozen fruit jars with each purchase.

One hundred and fifty tons of tomatoes grown on the grounds of the Briarwood Country Club in Deerfield, Illinois, were supplied to the government who in turn canned them for use by the Army and Navy. Eleven locations around the course were used for tomatoes plants, only marginally interfering with play. A free drop was accorded to those hitting into the tomatoes, denoted by signs dotting the course: LIFT WITHOUT PENALTY FROM THE TOMATOES PLANTING."