



ANCC FOUNDATION Did You Know?



Fresh Air

While individual reasons for joining a country club vary, the most cited reasons are social activities such as dining and dancing; recreational activities in the form of tennis, golf, and swimming; and access to clean, fresh air. In the early days of Army, Navy and Marine Corps Country Club the “clean, fresh air” description was not necessarily valid.

Fresh Air

Ahh, fresh air. One would think that the air quality would be good in the rural setting perched on the heights of Arlington where the original Army, Navy and Marine Corps Country Club Clubhouse was situated. However, anyone who ever resided on a farm could attest that was not necessarily the case. Some examples of the aromas that permeated the Club were:

1. **Horse Manure.** In the early days, the Club could not afford to purchase commercial fertilizer for the golf course. Demonstrating his legendary resourcefulness, Major Richard D. Newman, the Club’s first manager, was able to obtain horse manure from the stables at Fort Myer to spread on the fairways.
2. **Stable.** According to an article, “Army, Navy and Marine Corps Country Club is Mapped Out from Plane”, in the July 19, 1929, *Washington Evening Star*, the Clubhouse “(b)efore it was taken over by the present golf organization, it was used as a stable for horses of the...people living in that vicinity.” One must wonder how long it took to get that smell out.
3. **Pigeon Roost.** According to the *Army Navy Country Club 1924-1989 Historical Review*, page 21, in reference to the Clubhouse “Mrs. William M. Moroney remembers her first visit as a child with her father, Major Newman, to inspect the premises; she was startled by the noisy exodus of pigeons roosting in the rafters.”
4. **Pig Sty.** The minutes of the April 27, 1932, Executive Committee meeting advised that “in view of the incinerator being installed in the new addition, the Manager is authorized to sell the pigs belonging to the Club at such date as is deemed advisable.” The pigs were used to devour kitchen waste and, as a bonus, provide the occasional dinner.
5. **Cesspool.** At the September 10, 1934, meeting of the Executive Committee, “Commander Sanders reported as the duty member, and among other matters, particularly referred to the condition of the cesspool which was overflowing in the vicinity of number one fairway. The Executive Committee directed that Commander Sanders take this matter up with a member of the Club who has the qualifications of a sanitation engineer and after so doing make a further report to the Executive Committee.”

6. **Coal Burning Furnace.** Coal was burned to provide heat to the Clubhouse as shown in an excerpt from adjacent 1947 topographic drawing.
7. **No Air Conditioning.** When the conditions in the Clubhouse got particularly uncomfortable, one could open the Clubhouse windows and doors and breathe in the...fresh air.

So much for the “good old days”.

