

St. Joseph Country Club and the Missouri Amateur The early years

The St. Joe Country Club will host the Missouri Amateur for the 9th time, more than any other club. The dates are June 19-25 with qualifying at five sites from May 30 - June 7, with a last chance qualifier on June 11.

Brad Nurski, Brian Haskell and Harry Roberts are all MGA Champions and St. Joe CC members. Brad says "the course has withstood the test of time. For only being about 6500 yards the golf course makes you use all the clubs in your bag. The tree lined fairways, deep bunkers, and small greens make it a very difficult challenge!" Roberts and Haskell agree with Nurski's opinion. Players who try to "bomb and gouge" their way around this 105 year old course may find some big numbers on their scorecards.

The St. Joseph Country Club was founded in 1898 at what is now the Corby Mansion at 302 S. 11th Street in downtown St. Joseph. (see photo) John Corby was the son of Joseph Corby, a St. Joseph real estate, telephone and telegraph magnate.

From 1899-1902 the club's golf course was located along what is now Corby Parkway. At the time there was only one golf course within 200 miles, Kansas City Country Club which was located at the present day Loose Park, just south of the Plaza.

From 1903-1911 the present day Moila Club was the site of the club. A course was laid out on the present location in Country Club Village on the north side of St. Joseph by as of this date, an unknown architect and play began in 1912. Thus, when the Missouri Amateur first came to St. Joe in 1914 the course was only two years old.

Unfortunately the original clubhouse burned down in 1921. The present clubhouse was built and ready for use by the 1922 Missouri Amateur. (see Dedication photo)

A.W. Tillinghast made an inspection of the course in 1936 and left the routing unchanged. He suggested moving some bunkers and improving the #13 par three. The other suggestion was to change the 6-6-6 arrangement of par 3s, 4s and 5s. Hole #6 was converted to a long par 4 about 1976. The routing has been changed during the eighty years, but the layout has been the same since 1912.

At that first Missouri Amateur at the club in 1914, St. Joseph's Rufus McDonald's 82 took medalist honors. The tournament was won by Alden Swift. His grandfather Gustavus Swift had started the Swift Packing Company in Chicago and Alden was the plant manager in St. Joseph. He won the Trans-Miss a year later and had won the Pacific Coast Championship in 1909.

In 1922 the Missouri Amateur returned to St. Joseph and the newly rebuilt clubhouse. The medalists were Jess Stuttle of Kansas City and Roger Lord of St. Louis with 75s. In an all-St. Louis final Richard Bockenkamp defeated Eddie Held 5&4.

In the first two tournaments most, if not all players from St. Louis traveled by train to St. Joseph. Most of Missouri's highways for those first two tournaments at St. Joseph were gravel, not concrete.

Missouri Amateurs played at St. Joseph CC:
1914, 1922, 1937, 1948,
1967, 1976, 1988, 2009, 2017
Next time: the mid-century tournaments at St. Joe Country Club.



Alden Swift & Runner-up
Jesse Carleton 1914



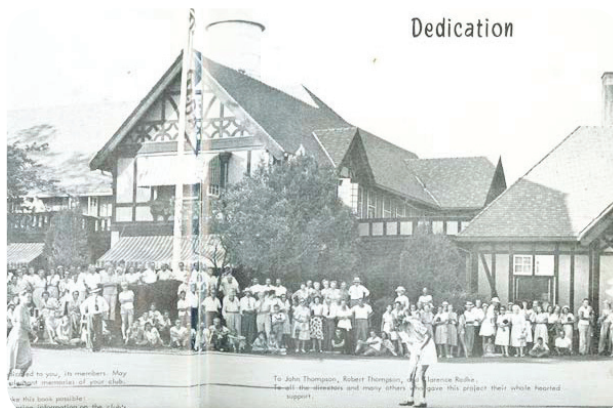
The Corby Mansion, built in 1882, where the club was founded in 1898. 302 S. 11th Street.



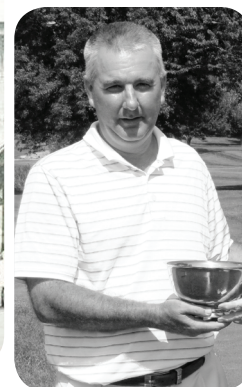
Richard Bockenkamp 1922



Brad Nurski
Missouri Amateur Champion 2010
Missouri Mid-Am Champion 2011, 2013
Missouri Stroke Play Champion 2012
U.S. Mid-Am Runner-up 2014



This was the dedication in 1922 of the present day clubhouse that replaced the original that burned down in 1921.



Brian Haskell
Missouri Stroke Play Champion 2011
Missouri Mid-Am Champion 2008, 2009
Missouri Am Runner-up 2006



Harry Roberts
Missouri Mid-Am Champion 2010