

# JOHN WALRATH BOUGHT GROUSE LAND, HANNA BUILT SUNNYCREST GOLF COURSE ON IT

(The Syracuse Journal has had Mr. Average Golfer, in the person of Charles De La Haye, play the 15 golf courses in or close by Syracuse and has had him tell what he thinks of each of the holes of the various courses. In today's article De La Haye gives The Journal readers the dope on the Sunnycrest course off Teal Av.

By CHARLES De La HAYE (Mr. Average Golfer)

In the summer of 1925 it was suggested to Mayor John Walrath that it would be advisable to purchase about 65 acres of land off Teal Av., north of Burnet Av., and to put in a golf course.

And so the tract of land was purchased. It cost the city about \$70,000. It was undeveloped land and was known as the Crouse estate.

In 1926, under Charlie Hanna's administration, work was started on the course and finished that year. Inasmuch as there was not much land only a nine-hole course was installed with the course being open in the spring of 1927.

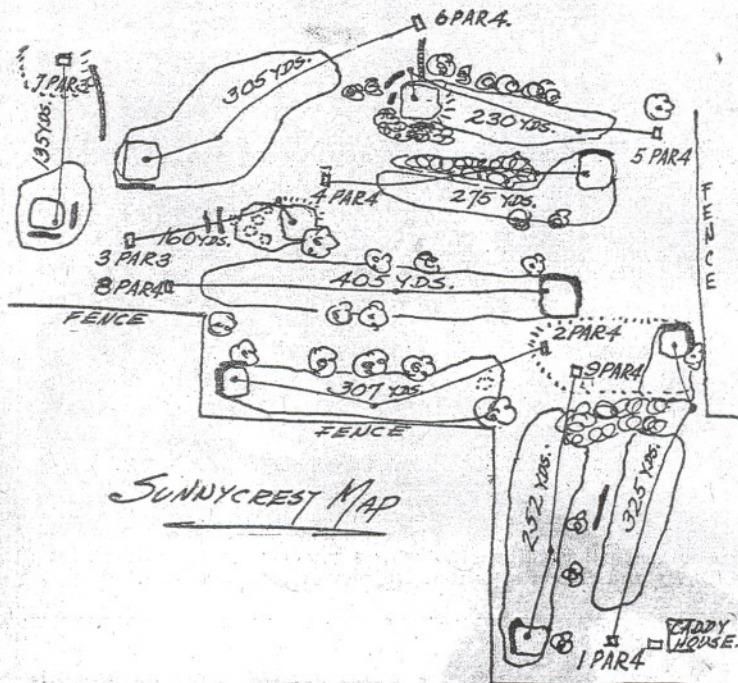
The first starter was Glenn Stetson and he remained on the job nine years. John Lucid has been the starter since 1937. Stewart Plummer is the groundskeeper. Larry Murphy is the pro.

The course is kept in good shape by Bill Barry, the park commissioner and his helpers, and while short there is a wide variety of holes. The fairways are wide and the greens are velvety.

Larry Murphy informed me that the course record is 29 and is held jointly by Mike Owens, Alex Banaszek and Ed Kowsuski. The course is 2,394 yards in length and par for the nine holes is 34.

Playing with Joe Pfohl over this city course I started out.

Hole 1, Par 4, 325 yards. A rather hard par 4 with a gully at 200 yards and the green set on the top of a rather steep hill. Getting a good drive the ball stopped on the far side of the gully. With a



LAYOUT OF SUNNYCREST COURSE



**JOHN WALRATH**  
*Bought Land*

**CHARLES HANNA**  
*Started Course*

**JOHN LUCID**  
*Starter*

**S. PLUMMER**  
*Groundskeeper*

**LARRY MURPHY**  
*Club Pro*

fine 7 iron pitch I got on the green in two and with two putts scored a par 4.

Hole 2, Par 4, 307 yards. Trees cut diagonally into the fairway at the right at about 180 yards, making it a dogleg hole unless one can risk going through the trees. The green slopes upward to the rear and holds well. Hitting just to the left of the trees with my driver I reached the green with my second and took two putts to get a par 4.

Hole 3, Par 3, 160 yards. A fine one-shot hole to a table green. Getting a little pull with my 5 iron, I took two putts, after a chip on and scored a four.

Hole 4, Par 4, 275 yards. Trees line the left of this fairway and the green is just to the left beyond the trees. A drop on the left of the green calls for an accurate shot onto the green. Hooking my drive into the trees and hitting a tree on the second, I finally got on in three. Putting from 15 feet the ball rimmed the cup and I took a 5.

Hole 5, Par 4, 230 yards. The green on this hole is set on a hill which rises sharply in front of the green. This makes the green almost impossible to drive and thus the par 4 rating. Topping my drive I played a spoon shot that sliced into the green above the hole. Chipping on, I dropped a 10-footer and scored a par 4.

Hole 6, Par 4, 305 yards. The tee is set high and the fairway runs along a sidehill to a flat open green. Getting a fine drive and pitch onto the green, I three-putted from the far edge of the green to make a 5.

Hole 7, Par 3, 135 yards. A pitch downhill over rough to a flat green trapped on the left and rear. Using a 7 iron the ball landed on. Hitting too hard, the first putt slid past the cup, but I came back and dropped the second for a 3.

Hole 8, Par 4, 405 yards. A fine par 4 hole that requires 180 yards carry on the drive to cross the gully and a fine long second to reach the well-trapped green. Getting a fine long drive, I put my second, a spoon shot, onto the edge of the green and with two putts scored a par 4.

Hole 9, Par 4, 252 yards. The fairway slopes down to a deep gully at 100 yards and then to the sloping green trapped on the right. After a good drive I pitch right to the pin and sunk the short putt for a birdie 3.

Summing up I find I carded a 36 against the par 34 for the finely set short nine-hole course.

See you tomorrow with a report on the course at the Tecumseh Golf Club.

a Bit  
Local A