Golfers Fought 10 Years to Open Parks to All

By D. A. MURPHY

Decision of the Park Board to open all municipal golf courses to all races without discrimination of any sort was the climax of the fight started by the Monumental Golf Association more than ten years ago.

Up to 1941 colored golf players had been confined to play on the small nine hole course at Carroll Park, which is very poorly equipped.

Carroll R. R. Tracks

Carroll Park is located near the B and O Railroad and a thousand yards from a slaughter house, so that between the smoke from the trains and odor from the slaughter house it is not as attractive as other courses.

Members of the Monumental Golf Association raised several thousand dollars for their first court battle which resulted in the closing of the course at Carroll Park for extensive improvements including elimination of sand greens, installation lengthening of holes, drainage, building of new club house, and other improvements which it is estimated cost the city close to $50,000.

During this three year period, which was in the middle of World War II, colored golfers played on all municipal golf courses. However, as soon as improvements were finished, colored golfers were again relegated to Carroll Park exclusively.

Second Court Victory

The Monumental Golf Club again took up the fight for the use of all golf courses. This time in cooperation with the NAACP.

A court fight directed by the late Dr. Charles Houston compelled the city to open all golf courses to colored players.

Judge Chestnut, however, suggested the Park Board might satisfy the spirit of the law by scheduling certain days for colored and other days for white golfers.

The Monumental Golf Club was still dissatisfied and had a number of conferences with the Park Board protesting this continued discrimination.

Money Raised for 3rd Battle

Until the decision of the Park Board was made a few days ago, the Monumental Golf Club was actively planning a final fight through the courts to open all of the courses. Consultations were held with the NAACP and plans for raising additional money had been completed.

Golf Course Victory

(Continued from Page 1)

was not as simple as that for golf.

Segregated tennis courts, fields and playgrounds still will be maintained, with one or more of each facility being made available for interracial competition when necessary.

Segregation Intact

For example, the city still will have "white" and "colored" tennis courts. It will designate however, "one or more" of these courts which can be used when a mixed group or couple obtains a permit to play tennis.

If no mixed groups or couples are playing on a given day, the courts will be operated on their usual basis.

The same method will be observed for use of athletic fields by interracial teams. Regarding playgrounds, "one or more" will be designated for mixed play, under supervision of a recreation leader.

There were no changes in the segregation rulings governing the use of city swimming pools and the beach at Fort Smallwood Park.

Members Discuss Action

Board members looked upon the new rulings as a big step forward, and several looked upon the changes as being forerunners of further relaxing of the rules.

Mr. Hammerman, asserted, "This thing has been on our minds for a long while, and we have worked at it humbly and sincerely.

"Personally I am very happy that the thing finally has been changed. I want to see how it works out and I hope and pray seriously that it does. I hope too that things may be relaxed further."

"Too Late"

Gerald S. Wise, board member, commented, when asked about the timliness of the change, "If anything, it is much too late."

He said moreover, "It was a decision made by the board influenced in part by those two unfortunate incidents but not entirely by that."

(Here Mr. Wise was referring to recent incidents in which mixed teams, including service men, were not permitted to compete on the public playfields because of the board's policy. The incidents were given nationwide publicity).

Mr. Wise added, "The board had been working pretty hard on this thing for at least seven months, and I think it had been able to make up its mind that the old policy was obsolete. This whole problem is one that can be met by orderly evolution."

Would Vote "Yes"

Dr. Robinson stated that "Naturally it is a very delicate question, and there always are two sides even if one side may be wrong, but if I had been at the meeting, I would have voted for it. I hope it (the new rulings) meets with the approval of everyone."

James C. Gorges, when asked to comment on the board's action, said that the unanimous vote was "indicative of what we felt about it."

Dr. Bernard Harris and James C. Anderson, board chairman, were out of the city after the meeting. George S. Shriner could not be contacted for a statement.

White Golfers Protest

In making the gold change, the board met opposition from white golf associations. Melbourne Downing, their attorney, warned that any change would be "disastrous."

Specifically, he pointed to overcrowded conditions in the club houses of the golf courses at this time.

His statement that colored golfers are satisfied with the present arrangement was challenged by William (Babe) Jones, golf and tennis player, who was attending Monday's board meeting.

Mr. Jones, also challenged Downing's authority to speak for colored golfers, and declared that they were anything but satisfied with the jim crow arrangement.

Changes Story

The attorney then modified his statement by saying that certain park officials had told him the colored golfers were satisfied.

Also attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of voluntary mixed play were Wesley Stubbs, president of the Baltimore Tennis Club whose game with a mixed service men's team was halted; Linwood Kojer Jr., NAACP attorney; and Mrs. Juanita Mitchell of the NAACP legal redress committee.

DOUGLASS DEBATES JOINING COUNCIL

The quarterly meeting of Douglass Memorial Community Church voted Wednesday night to postpone joining the International Council of Community Churches.

Douglass Memorial was formerly a member of the Biennial Conference of Community Churches.

This body merged with another to join the International Council.

A fact-finding committee was directed to determine whether it is admissible for Douglass to join.

The financial report for the last quarter showed over $8,000 paid on the church's $11,000 mortgage.

Rev. M. C. Bascom, pastor of Douglass presided at the meeting.

All in the Spirit of Good Clean Fun

Columbia Lass, 16, Gives Recital at Baptist Church

COLUMBIA, S.C. —Janet Delores Richmond, 16-year-old talented daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Richmond of 2145 Waverly St., recently was presented in a voice recital by the Reynolds School of Music at First Calvary Baptist Church.

ST. LOUIS YOUTH GETS DEATH PENALTY

ST. LOUIS (ANP)—Kenneth Boyd, convicted of the first degree murder of a white grocery store owner was given the death sentence here Thursday by the circuit court jury. This is the first time since November, 1945, that a local jury has meted out the death penalty.

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Only 1 Bather at Smallwood on Wednesday

An empty bathing beach, while bathers being turned away by the hundreds, and concessionaires losing thousands of dollars, this in brief is the picture at city-owned Fort Smallwood Park under the jim crow schedules set up by the Board of Recreation and Parks.

On Wednesday of this week, only colored bather had the entire beach to himself. There were no bathers on Tuesday, and only four on Monday.

According to Kenneth Cook, beach concessionaire, 20 colored bathers were in the water last Sunday, the largest crowd since the segregated scheduled were put into effect May 30.

The Story in Brief

One lone swimmer found at city's big Smallwood Beach on hot Wednesday.

Twenty there Sunday.

Hundreds of would-be white bathers turned away Concessionaries squak because they lose money.

Park Board's separate days bring these hardships.

Can't Meet Payroll

On June 10, Mr. Cooke said, 1700 white persons used the bathing facilities.

The concessionaire bemoaned the racial scheduled, declaring:

"We're not only losing money, we can't even meet our payroll."

Mr. Cook said the beach attendance averages about 5000 on a "good hot Sunday" before the schedules became effective.

The schedules, which include dates for whites, and 24 for colored patrons, were adopted by the Board at Easterwood Park, the Park Board's dilemna-aoubt rules concerning interracial play seems silly to these children as they get a kick out of playing together.

Opposed to Segregation

Esaw Peterson, 3008 Southland Ave., said that "I'm opposed to all segregation. We pay taxes too and I would like to see my tax money go to good use and know that my race is getting some benefits for that part that goes into recreational programs."

George Meadows of 1211 Division St. thinks that "This is a great step toward full integration in the city parks. The element of time will bring about greater changes in the future."

"I am very glad to hear about the new ruling of the park board," W. T. Elston, 2419 Woodbrook Ave. said. "Although I don't participate in any of the sports that the ruling effects. I am glad to know that I could if I wanted to."

Good Beginning

William Smith, 1229 Myrtle Ave., stated "I'm opposed to segregation in any form. It's good to know that the park board is beginning to eliminate their discriminatory policies."

Mrs. Mervyn B. Roberston, 613 N. Appleton St. comments that "they were a little late making a decision. It should not have been necessary to make such a decision, nevertheless, it is good that they did so."

Mr. Average Baltimorean Hails New Park Privileges

How do the people on the street feel toward the new Park Board ruling which ends segregation on the city golf courses and modifies the ruling on the tennis courts and playgrounds?

They welcomed the new rulings as they agreed that the first step will help to eliminate segregation in the city parks and elsewhere in the city in the future.

Melvin Smith, 1512 McCulloh St., asked "Why not have full integration in the city parks? Why not end segregation on the tennis courts and playgrounds, as well as the city golf courses? I think that it is a great step toward the elimination of segregation in the city parks."

Glenford Chesely, 443 E. Lanvale St., wants to know "Why should there be segregation to start with? Full integration helps to build a better community. The young people of today are intelligent; they will fight for what they want. I have lived here for over 20 years and it's nice to see the change."

Sarah Williams, 345 Bloom St., said that "It is time it was done."

Legal Action Planned

The Baltimore NAACP took legal action to open the beach after a party of Baltimoreans was refused use of bathing facilities at Fort Small last summer. Federal Judge W. Calvin Chesnut ruled that the city could not discriminate against colored citizens at the municipally-owned beach. The present schedules were a result of that ruling.

Meanwhile, the NAACP has announced that it will take the case back to court to challenge the constitutionality of the jim crow schedules.

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Wave, 25, Says

(Continuid from Page 1)

yeoman as my future work in the Navy. It's the same as a secretary in civilian life, only done the Navy way.

"My birthplace is Metropolis, Ill., and I am 25. My education was not extensive, just grammar and four years of high school. I've lived in New York (Port Chester) off and on all my life.

Trained At Great Lakes

"I've lived in Greensboro, N.C., Augusta, Ga., and now Pensacola, Fla. I reported to Great Lakes on Dec. 7, 1950 where I received 13 weeks of thorough naval training.

"NAS (Naval Air Station) Pensacola is my first duty station, and I think that if my two wonderful roommates will cease putting rubber mice in my bunk at night I'll survive."

MARLYNN JOHNSON

The statement speaks for itself. It is that of a person happy in her job. Incidentally Marlynn's playful roommates are white. She is one of the most popular Waves on the base.

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Y Board Quits En Masse Over Firing of Official

BROOKLYN, N.Y.—All of the 23 members of the Board of Managers of the Carlton Ave., YMCA resigned last week to protest failure of the General Y Board to promote and into a similar post for him in line with his qualifications.

Mr. Miller, executive secretary of the jim-crow Carlton branch for the past nine years, with special portfolio to do public relations for the entire Brooklyn-Queens Y set-up, was notified of his dismissal last March by Eugene F. Scott, white, general secretary of the Brooklyn-Queens YMCA.

Mr. Scott acted after the Carlton Board made recommendation for Mr. Miller's promotion and called for integration of the Carlton Branch with other branches in the area. His summary dismissal of Mr. Miller was made without consulting his board or members of the Carlton board.

Mr. Miller, who is nationally known as a fund-raiser and is a recognized public relations expert, has made a career of the YMCA, which he has serged for the past 30 years.

His salary of $7,500 in the Carlton Branch spot made him one of the highest paid Y men in the country. His salary will continue until Aug. 15, when it is expected that he will announce acceptance of one of the many job offers he has received since his dismissal.

Resignation of the Carlton board members was voted at a meeting on March 19, but was not carried out until last Thursday (June 21), when a committee of mediation reported it could find no spot for Mr. Miller commensurate with his training and ability.

Was Made Goat

In its final report on Mr. Miller's dismissal, the Committee on Mediation declared that the executive secretary had been made the goat in the situation, and that his discharge was not because of his failure to live within the YMCA budget, but because of segregation and discrimination.

"Segregation is the main issue and nothing else. The General Board has recognized the costly nature of segregation in the past and has subsidized the Carlton Branch with a meager pittance to maintain it," the committee reported.

"It is time to abolish segregation in the Brooklyn and Queens YMCA so that this costly un-American system can be abolished for all."

Disregarded Long Service

The committee called Mr. Miller's discharge unthanked and said it was done without regard for his 30 years of service in the YMCA and without prior notice to the Board of Management. The committee added

"Mr. Miller's coming to Carlton brought dignity to the branch and raised its stature in the YMCA organization and community. Recently for the first time Carlton has been called upon to bear an "equal" share of the Brooklyn and Queens budget.

"At no time, however, was the Branch told that it was a heinous offense if it did not meet the overall estimates of its budget. The budget has been given as the excuse but Mr. Scott by his statement, 'Over my dead body would Miller go to Europe this year,' indicates Scott resented Mr. Miller.

Traveled in Europe

Mr. Miller spent six weeks in Europe last year on a pilgrimage. At that time, Scott helped raise money for the trip. About 18 months ago, he also urged leaders to prevail upon Mr. Miller to continue as executive secretary at Carlton.

When Mr. Miller went to Carlton, the amount raised annually was about $4,300 in cash and subscriptions. He upped this to $25,000 in cash and no subscriptions. He also raised the salaries of staff members.

Of the 14 branches of the Brooklyn-Queens YMCA, Carlton was the only colored one and Mr. Miller fought for integration.

During his career in the YMCA he has worked at the Christian St. Y in Philadelphia, where he conducted a rehabilitation program and helped raise $80,000 for a new building. He was there for five years. From 1932-37 he wasat the Centre Ave. Y in Pittsburgh. Prior to that he helped build the half million dollar Indiana Ave. Branch in Toledo, Ohio.

At Harlem Y

From 1918-23 he was a part-time worker at the Ninth St. Y in Cincinnati, where he became business secretary in 1923 and stayed until 1926 when he became membership secretary for the Harlem Y in New York City. He was there until 1928.

He is married to the former Miss Belle Harper.

Board of Managers who quit in protest over Mr. Miller's discharge are:

Charles T. Kellar, lawyer, chairman; Thomas H. Drakes, business executive, treasurer; Allen Jordan, real estate broker, secretary; Committee on Mediation: Proskyn Thompson, real estate broker; Norman H. Johnson, attorney; Norman W. Robinson, attorney; Dr. Joseph H. Johnson, attorney; Dr. Joseph H. Johnson, attorney; Tax assessor of NY, Basil C. Dell, digest, special assistant to the president; Church, Louis J. Warner, real estate broker; William H. Staves, lawyer; John H. Watkins, building inspector; Richard Wilson, architect; Edward L. Faulcon, Walter K. Taylor, Business Executive: Cosmos D. Alfred I. Lorne, secretary of Barber Foundation, and Oliver D. Seon, teacher; Edward J. Robeson, Wilson, chairman of Board of funeral director; Arthur L. Funn, Lawyers.

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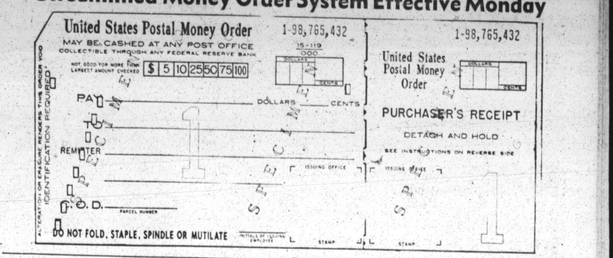

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