

HOUSE, HACK AND HOG LINE



WAUSAU
CURLING
CLUB



A HISTORY



DEDICATION

The officers and Board of Directors of the Wausau Curling Club, Inc. acknowledge with respect and sincere appreciation the work of Robert C. Altman in producing the history of the Wausau Curling Club as you find it in these pages.

Readers will sense that many of our members have contributed to this history. Bob is quick to credit those whose memories of past curling years have made the narrative possible.

For three years Bob has searched the available written records, newspapers, plumbed the memories of "Old Timers", separated the wheat from the chaff of nostalgia to arrive at this point in the life of our club. Few of us would have displayed such patience and diligence of this magnitude.

Thus, the officers and Board of Directors have requested that this edition of "House, Hack and Hogline" be dedicated to Robert C. Altman — curler, Honorary Lifetime Member and friend.

Moved, seconded, passed unanimously and with enthusiasm.

Dated this 3rd day of March 1986.

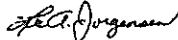
OFFICERS



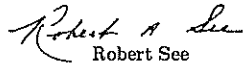
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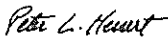


Lee Jorgenson
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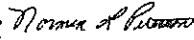


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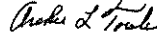
DIRECTORS



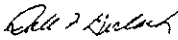
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Norman Peterson



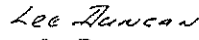
Archie Towle



Dale Gerlach



John Weichmann



Lee Duncan



Doug Seeber



William R. Edwards

PREFACE

The idea to compile a history of the Wausau Curling Club probably was born during one of those typical after-curling round-table discussions. The "more experienced" curlers decried an apparent lack of understanding by the newer curlers of the true meaning of curling, of how our facilities grew, and of what was necessary to keep a curling club healthy and viable. The younger curlers accused the "more experienced" of complaining but of doing little to instruct the newer curlers about the origins and history of the club. A letter from George Wolff (with a follow-up from Lee Duncan) to our president, Archie Towle, led to the development of a committee to compile the history of the club.

We decided to divide the total research task into categories based on the memorable eras of the club, with one or more members assigned to research specific times. The following were recruited to assist in gathering material for the project and assigned the periods and subjects indicated:

Lee Duncan, son of one of the original members and the most experienced of the active curlers, was assigned the early years (1920-1942), Life Members, and the Green Jacket award.

David Hogan, Wausau's scheduling wizard, to the new (present) facilities and the first matched stones (1942-1949).

Al Papenfuss, one of the first curlers after the originals, having been a member for all but two years of the club's existence, and George Landon, the financial genius who successfully programmed the payment for refrigerated ice, the clubroom additions and refrigerated ice (about 1951-1954).

Bob Wilson, affectionately known as the Father of Sheet 5, that period in which the fifth sheet was added and, generally, the years of 1950-1963.

Don Horkan and Ken Nuernberg, respected curlers and devoted workers instrumental in the upgrading of our facilities, the general period 1963-1975.

Bob See, not that far beyond the recent curler status, but undoubtedly one of the most active and dedicated curlers of this era and keeper of the archives, the period of 1975 to the present.

Ray Peters, chairman for the Nationals in 1976 was assigned that event. Unfortunately, Ray passed away during the formative stage of this history, but his notes and files were so complete that we were able to give a creditable account of this prestigious event.

Marcie Weinkauff, as president of the Highlanders, with Ruth Horkan, Lucille Omholt, Patty Wirt, and Arlene Ross, pioneers of Highlander

curling, the story of the Highlanders and mixed curling. Harriet Schwichtenberg was very helpful in gathering material for mixed curling.

Dennis Tietge, curling coach for Wausau West, and Bill Edwards, originator of the First Chance and Silver Spoon bonspiels and former coach at Wausau East, the era of high school curling, and the development of the First Chance and the Silver Spoon.

At an organizational meeting of this nucleus, our aims and purposes were shaped by the opinion that too few of our current members are aware of the beginnings and growth of our organization, the trials and tribulations that were involved, and what really had to be accomplished to make the curling club what it is today and what it will be in the future. To that end we adopted as our theme the fact that the current status of the club is a direct result of the dedication of the individual curler who plays and enjoys the game, accepts and respects its disciplines, observes its courtesies, and recognizes his responsibility to the club and its members. This curler is willing to subordinate his own personal desires, and wishes to a course of action that will be not only of current, but also of future benefit to the club. Finally, the well being of the club depends on the curler who is willing to uphold the friendly rivalry of the greatest game yet devised by man.

Our research soon disclosed that there were almost no written records prior to 1942 and that the records between 1950 and 1955 were missing. During the early part of the research period Dr. W.B. Cuff, who we thought would provide us with the most material, passed away. His family, knowing of his love for the game, gathered all the material he had saved over the years that even remotely concerned curling and sent it to us. Here we obtained the first written record of the club — the treasurer's handbook from 1925, the original minutes of the first organizational meeting and a summary by Doc of his memory of the early days. We also started with a summary of those days previously prepared by Al Papenfuss, as well as one on high school curling by Harry Johnson, sometimes referred to as the Father of High School Curling in Wisconsin.

As we continued our research, including a time consuming search by Bob See of all the newspapers from 1920 to 1942, we began to realize that there had been so many changes, so many important developments, that it was no wonder that newer curlers were unaware of our history. We also discovered, as have other curling historians, that there has been a shift in emphasis from camaraderie to competitiveness. Nevertheless as we reflect on curling within our own club, we still feel the camaraderie and affection that curlers have for one another. It is more restrained, perhaps, but it is there. May it always be so.

It is from the efforts described that we, the committee, with ill-concealed pride, present our version of the history of the Wausau Curl-

ing Club. We believe it to be accurate, or at least so close thereto that any discrepancies become inconsequential.

Special mention and thanks must be given to Digby Whitman, who has publicly acknowledged that curling is the greatest of all sports, for his suggestion for the title of this history, the Introduction, and his suggestion to intersperse the nuts and bolts of the history with so-called "Stacked Brooms."

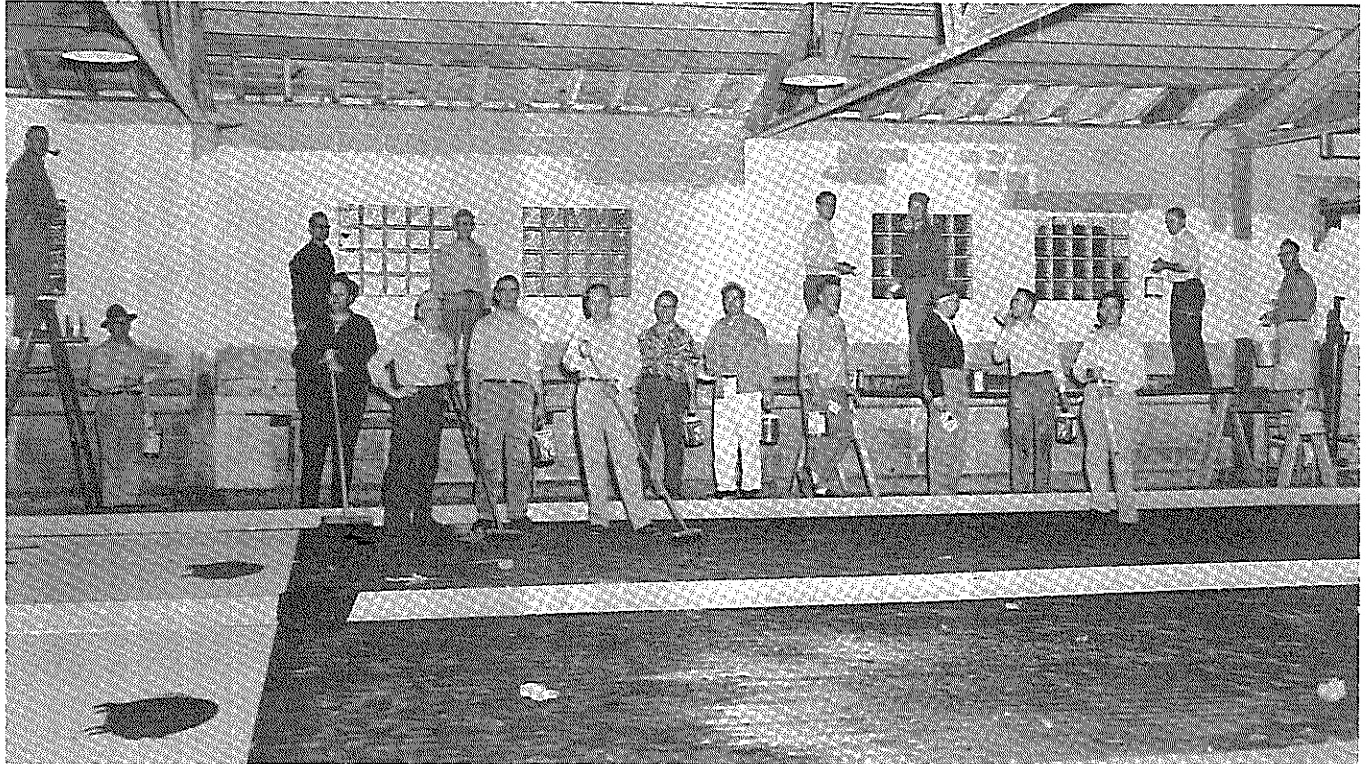
Special thanks to Curly Weinkauff for the photography which graces the cover, and to Harold "Rosie" Roselius for the delightful characters who announce the Stacked Brooms.

My heartfelt thanks to all who helped and participated in any way, including Pegge Schramm and Shari LeGoullon (curler at North Shore in Glenview and niece of Bob and Anne Altman), who suffered through the editing of mouthier experienced curlers. Special mention should be given to the Walter Alexander Foundation (established by the family of one of the club's original members) for its assistance and to the Marathon County Historical Society for its help in printing and distributing this publication.

Bob Altman
Chairman, History Committee



Some of the original members taken Circa 1927. *Far Left:* (only half showing) George Wilson - *Then;* Clive Bell, B.F. Wilson, R.J. Dudley, Harold Gesse, Chas. Tisdale, Howard Morrison, Lee (Baldy) Yorkson.



Typical WCC work gang - all members.

THE HISTORY

Early Years
The Forties
Refrigerated Ice
Fifties and Sixties
USMCA National Championships
Last Decade
Epilogue

IN MEMORIAM

This section is dedicated to the memory of Lee L. Duncan who died May 28, 1986. His dedication and devotion to the Wausau Curling Club and curling in general is chronicled in the following pages and the Green Jacket section.

INTRODUCTION

by

DIGBY WHITMAN

“Curling (Kur ling), a game played on ice in which two teams of four players each compete in sliding large stones toward a mark in the center of a circle.”

Thus does RANDOM HOUSE UNABRIDGED describe the game, and thus do dictionaries despoil prose. You might as well define electricity as the product of a generator and a spool of wire, or a gun as something to shoot crows with.

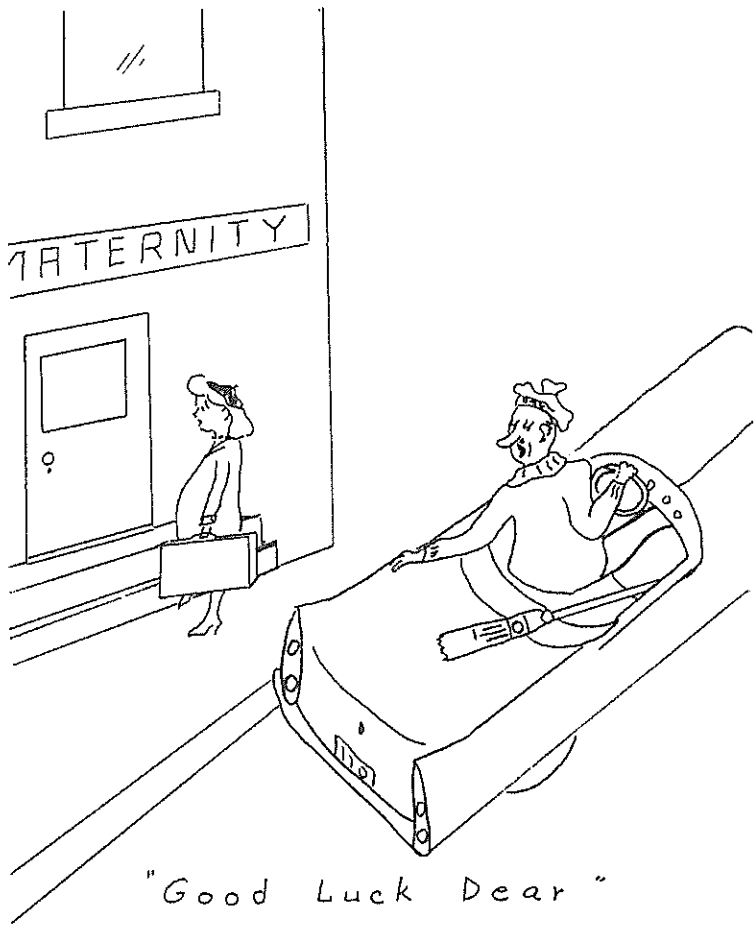
Curling is much more than a game played on ice. Born in Scotland more than four centuries ago, it is the oldest international pastime to retain its original essential forms and rules continuously since its inception. But more important, it is the only widely played game that still deserves to be called a sport in the original sense of that honorable term — that is: a game played not for money, not for display, not for glory, but a game played by amateurs for the pure love of it.

Curling's Scottish origins cannot be dated with any precision, but W H Murray in his great book *THE CURLING COMPANION* (Richard Drew Publishing, Inc., Glasgow, 1981) cites a stone found at Stirling dated 1511. Later stones bored for handles are inscribed with dates of 1551 and 1611. Curling may well be as old as that other ancient Scottish product, USQUEBAUGH, or Scotch whiskey (“whisky” in Britain). The two go very well together. Although both are found today in warm or even semitropical climates, they are not really at ease there. The God-given functions of curling and malt spirits are to enrich cold weather and make long winters pass quickly.

North Central Wisconsin, whose largest city is Wausau, offers exactly the right environment. “If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?” inquired the poet Shelley. Put this question to any Wisconsinite, and the answer will be a resounding, “Hell, yes!” Winter does not often beat Labor Day to Wausau, but white Halloweens are not uncommon. And at the far end of the season, one account records a Memorial Day parade being broken up by a late blizzard. It may be too much (although not much too much) to say that curling makes Wausau's winters as beautiful as its summers. But for the game's happiest addicts, it comes very close.

This is the story of how curling first came to and was developed in our city, of the founding and formation of the Wausau Curling Club in the 1920s, and of its joys and travails for the next sixty years. The factual chronicle will be interrupted here and there by notes under the mystic (to outsiders) caption “STACKED BROOMS.” It is the very essence of curling that it takes place not just on the ice, but also around clubroom

tables. Two rinks (teams), perhaps right in the middle of a hotly contested match, will feel a sudden and simultaneous need to put up their brooms and put their feet under a table and talk things over. In that same spirit, we shall occasionally abandon our account (stacking our pens, so to speak) for anecdotes and refreshments.



Sketch by:
Bob Wilson

THE EARLY YEARS

Curling began in Wausau sometime in the early 1920s, perhaps even earlier. There are reports of a few dedicated curlers playing the game on the Wisconsin River's west channel, just below the Curtis wood-working plant. Details are very sketchy, and it must be assumed that this was an occasional event, programmed on the spur of the moment and reminiscent of the cry of "Black Ice" in Scotland. Following this, we have reports of curling on the tennis courts of the YMCA, a safer but no better protected area. We have no one who recalls these days and have no specific information as to who participated in this curling, although it seems certain that they were among those 49 who were part of the first organized club.

Organized curling in Wausau began in 1925, and similar to that of all curling clubs, was born from the insatiable desire of a few persons with curling experience to continue the game where no organized curling existed. Most memories credit Howard Morrison with being the spearhead of the movement. Howard came from Gilbert, Minnesota, in 1922 to work for C.C. Yawkey, a lumber baron, as an accountant. Howard had curled in Gilbert and in the previous year had won a set of curling stones in a company bonspiel. But with no curling in Wausau, his stones were relegated to doorstops. The Morrisons found new friends in L.M. (Roy) and Nellie Duncan. Listening to Howard describe curling, and especially bonspiels, Roy became convinced that curling should, indeed, come to Wausau. He recalled seeing curling stones in the homes of B.F. Wilson, pioneer businessman, and John Schultz, engineer with the Milwaukee Railroad. Conversations with Wilson revealed that he had curled in Waupaca, as had J.L. Sturtevant, owner and publisher of the local paper, and Lee (Baldy) Yorkson, executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. These men formed the nucleus of organized curling in Wausau.

Morrison's employer, C.C. Yawkey, had been a major mover in the construction of buildings in the county park, which housed the annual fair, and when Morrison came across blueprints of the various buildings, he found that one was ideal for the two sheets of ice needed for curling. He convinced Yawkey that organized curling in Wausau should exist and that the building would be put to use in the winter without interfering with its use during fair time. Yawkey agreed, Wilson approved, and Wilson and Morrison talked to Sturtevant. Sturtevant was most enthusiastic and even instructed his sports editor to give curlers all the space they would need. (We have even found stories about cancelled games that got more ink at that time than our club championship series does now!)

An organizational meeting was held at the Wausau Club, a favorite gathering place for Wausau lumbermen and the birthplace of the so-called Wausau Group, the elite of Wausau. Roy Duncan, Howard

Morrison, B.F. Wilson and Baldy Yorkson attended. The first officers were B.F. Wilson, president; Roy Duncan, vice president; Baldy Yorkson, secretary; and Howard Morrison, treasurer. Dues were set at \$5.00 per year, payable in advance, and the club was off and running as a voluntary association.

With the club organized and a building available for use, the recruitment of members and the search for additional curling stones began in earnest. Wausau was involved in putting on a Winter Frolic that year, with Yorkson coordinating the effort. This was to be a gala affair with state dignitaries in attendance, national competition in speed skating, hockey and skiing — both cross country and jumping — and all the trappings of a lavish winter carnival. Yorkson envisioned the novelty of including curling in the competitions and received the enthusiastic backing of Yawkey, who chaired the organizers of the event. There is no doubt that this fact, along with the prestigious backing of C.C. Yawkey, spurred membership efforts to the point where 49 men became full time members of the curling club. The original roster (see appendix) read like a Who's Who of Wausau, with most of the elite Wausau Group being counted among the members.

Harold Robertson, one of the original members, discovered eleven pairs of curling stones in Columbus, Wisconsin, and purchased them for \$10.00 a pair. These, along with two pairs from Yorkson and one pair each from Morrison, Schultz and Everest, gave the newly formed club enough stones to have two full sheets of curling. (We were unable to find any prior curling history on D.C. Everest or how he happened to have a pair of stones.) Now all they needed was ice!

Perhaps there is no more controversial subject in curling than the art of ice making. Wausau was (and is) no exception. Despite the fact that no one was experienced in that art, there were divergent opinions as to how it should be done. As it is today, experience rarely counts, only opinions! The dirt floor of the cattle barn proved to be ideal for producing the level (well, almost) ice necessary for a good curling surface. The sand base was dragged and compacted to a point where water could penetrate the ground only slightly. This kept bulging and heaving to a minimum and permitted the use of enough water to cover unavoidable high spots. Once level and cared for diligently, the two sheets were acclaimed by visitors as being as good, if not better, than most ice used for curling.

Bernard Zielsdorf, a full-time caretaker for the park, volunteered to be the ice maker. There is no mention of pay for him until the early 1930s, where it appears that he received \$35.00 for his efforts. Ice-making costs ranged from \$142.00 to \$149.00 in previous years and primarily involved the preparation of the base. Zielsdorf was not without gratuitous advice, however, and despite better than reasonable success in his efforts, a small group of curlers was constantly telling him how to do things. Morrison writes about Zielsdorf in his memoirs:

"Zielsdorf volunteered to be the ice maker. While he was making ice that December I went over to see how he was getting along. I could see that something was bothering his mind and asked what was wrong. He said to me, 'I hate to say this, Mr. Morrison, but I'm going to quit this job.' I asked, 'The park job?' He answered, 'No, this ice job. That B.F. Wilson or Roy Duncan! One or the other of them comes over here every morning and raises the devil about the way I'm doing it.' I told Bernard to ignore them and keep on doing the work in the manner he wanted to and luckily cold weather settled down on us and everybody became happy." Untold in the story is what Morrison said to Duncan and Wilson. No one will ever know, but it must have been priceless: there is no record of any further interference with the ice-maker.

The new curling barn ran east-west with the two sheets of ice separated by a row of cattle stanchions and two rows of posts supporting the roof. The warming room ran north-south, permitting viewing of the two sheets from the west end. The warming room floor was constructed of duckboard in sections over two-by-fours and was removable. This came in handy, for merely by lifting one of the sections, one could find a perfect repository for that necessary libation of apres-curl. There was complete trust among the members and locks were totally unnecessary.

The viewing wall was built in sections with old storm windows placed horizontally. Doors at the ends opened to the ice area. Stones were kept on benches at the end of each sheet and brooms (of the broad warehouse floor type) were suspended, straw upright, through the cattle nose rings in the walls. The warming room was kept semi-comfortable by a stove constructed from an old oil barrel with the flue extending through the temporary false ceiling that had been installed to retain heat. Park benches stored for the winter provided spectator seating. Plain, bare incandescent light bulbs illuminated both the playing and spectator areas. Heating was inexpensive, and the club only purchased a quarter of a ton of coal per year. When supplies needed replenishing, Zielsdorf would borrow some from the county's stockpile.

Each season, after the county fair, the tedious process of converting a cow barn into a curling club began. The stanchions had to be removed, the surface graded and compacted, the warming room rebuilt — all prior to the eagerly awaited day when the weather would permit ice making. In the spring, the process was reversed, and the cow barn had to be restored for its original intended use. All of this work was done by volunteers providing labor and materials, each to his own ability. Such activity and dedication to the cause initially assured the survival of curling in Wausau. We think it still does.

The fledgling curling club was not without its financial problems, yet the records show that every time there was a setback, members personally came through to maintain a liquidity that is the envy of all

voluntary organizations. The first year showed receipts of \$215.00 and expenditures of \$142.05, leaving the club with a balance of \$72.95 for the following season. Early membership fluctuated considerably, with a high of 62 in 1926 to a low of 33 in 1928. Dues remained at \$5.00.

The Wausau Curling Club did not escape the depression years. But a bank loan of \$35.00 was obtained, and a personal loan from Morrison with advance payment of dues from others made it possible to start the season in the early 1930s. The books record that the bank loan was paid in full by the end of the season (\$.56 interest had been added to the original debt). The personal loans were all paid off without interest, and the club ended the year with a balance of \$48.73. The lowest balance occurred in 1932, the princely sum of \$.57. That the club was viable was shown by the next year's balance of \$27.23. The only real trauma occurred during the bank holiday declared in April 1934, when the account was frozen and a sum of \$8.67 was made untouchable. Club dues stayed at \$5.00 until 1935, when they were reduced to \$3.00. In 1941 they returned to \$5.00.

From the onset, the Wausau Curling Club maintained close relationships with Waupaca and Medford. It was reasonable to expect that Waupaca and Wausau would be compatible, because of the original members who had curled at Waupaca. A home-and-home series, involving total stones, came into play for Wausau and Waupaca. This competition was for the Chandler trophy, named for a Dr. Chandler, a long-time physician and curler supreme from Waupaca. The host club provided the food and libation. Typical food costs were \$40.00 to \$50.00 for the match and the main course appeared to be oyster stew. There was no separate record for libation costs, which must have been buried in the food cost. Unfortunately, these contests were abandoned during World War Two and never revived. No permanent records were maintained as to wins and losses, but memories of those who participated indicate that Waupaca won more than they lost. As a matter of fact, one of the few Wausau wins warranted full-page banner headlines in the local paper.



The Waupaca series brought forth several anecdotes, two of which are related here. Both involved R.J. Dudley, a fun-loving, almost impish salesman for Armour Company who eventually became sheriff of Marathon County. He, Roy Duncan, and Howard Morrison were constant curling companions, and they usually selected a fourth who could keep up with them. Dudley and Duncan were charged with transporting the stones to Waupaca one year. They used Duncan's coupe which had a turtleback to accommodate the stones. They stopped in Stevens Point to visit Roy's brother, Homer, and parked the car in the market square. Dudley, who had little to do, opened the

turtleback and made a to-do over the stones. When a curious crowd gathered, Dudley began expounding on the game of curling. Questions were flying freely as Duncan quietly returned and stood at the far edge of the crowd. One farmer asked, "Mister — you say that hunk of stone weighs 42 pounds and you throw it 138 feet down the ice?" "Yep," was Dudley's reply. At that, Duncan called from the rear, "Through the air, Mister?" Dudley recognized Duncan's voice and without pause or smile replied, "Yep, no trouble at all." The lid banged down and the curlers left for Waupaca, leaving the crowd agape and gasping at the Supermen from Wausau.

It might have happened at the same bonspiel, held outdoors on the square at Waupaca. Dudley was watching the progress of a game when an obvious alien both to Waupaca and curling stopped to watch. His curiosity could not be contained, and he finally asked Dudley what was going on. Dudley in all seriousness replied, "These are inmates from the mental institution, and this is how we give them their exercise." There might have been more truth than fiction in his reply.



The sources of Wausau Curling Club's association with Medford are not as easy to understand. They may have begun to develop when Roy Duncan's brother, Homer, a casket salesman, came across a pair of curling stones in a Medford customer's place of business. He arranged to borrow the stones and invited the owner to participate on Wausau ice. Then in the early 1930s two Medford men, O.G. Blakeslee and Frank Pierce, paid dues to Wausau and curled regularly. Within the next few years, there were two full rinks from Medford who curled in the regular league games in Wausau. It is said that they never cancelled and were never late, regardless of the weather. Some of the members were Ray Blakeslee, Frank Pierce, W. Pflugheoff, Gil Strebeg, Ubert Alm, and Bill Schmidt. These men formed the nucleus of the Medford Curling Club which was soon organized itself.



Once organized, Medford patterned an invitational bonspiel after Wausau that soon became a huge success. There seemed to be something about a small town that eliminated extraneous activity and held the curlers together at all times. One year a group from Wauwatosa found some idle time between games and itched for some activity. Guided by John Marcon, a curler and game warden, the rink went fishing on Black Creek Pond. They had more success through the ice than on it and came back for their next game with a sizable bag of well-frozen fish. They solemnly replaced the conventional scoreboard markers with fish, hanging a small bluegill for 1, a large perch for 2 or

3, and a chunky crappie for 4. For a really big end they used a northern pike. Who won the game? No matter. Who got the markers? The winners, of course — the most unique prize in the history of curling.



As the Wausau Curling club grew, it became necessary to acquire additional stones. This was done as stones and money were available. In 1930 after the original acquisition, the club purchased six pairs of stones from Scotland for \$207.00. Additional stones were purchased from Green Bay in 1940 (seven pairs); from Toronto in 1942 (four pairs), and from some undisclosed source in 1943 (fourteen pairs). Members purchased most of these stones for their own use, although the club did retain some as club stones. The average purchase price for the stones was \$12.00 per pair.

As the members became more proficient in the game (even today, it takes only a couple of weeks for some to believe that they have reached that stage), they began to claim that they could curl well only with their own or certain designated club stones. There was indeed, no uniformity in size or weight among the stones. The weight varied from 36 to 46 pounds, with diameters from 11 to 14 inches and heights from 6 to 8 inches. Some owners got fancy and had specially made ivory handles, some had the Scot family crest in silver, and most were kept in special boxes much like a carpenter's tool chest with hinged covers and velvet-lined compartments designed to carefully cradle the stones. All chests were securely locked and kept off the ice on the benches. Those who owned less exotic stones, prominently painted their initials on top of each stone and secured long hasp locks around the handles. Some owners even unscrewed the handles from their stones after every game and took them home. This really did not guard against theft as much as it insured the owner that his stones would be available when he wanted to use them.

Players would arrive long before game time to make sure they would get their favorite pair of stones. Some would ask permission to use others' personal stones, but more often than not, they would just appropriate the stones, hoping that the owner would not show up that night. This situation caused the rules committee to enact a special rule of curling which is probably unique in curling history. This rule, Rule 10, which fully set forth the method for stone selection, along with other special rules enacted in the early days of the Wausau Curling Club is cited in full in the Appendix and makes very interesting reading indeed.

The personal stone problem existed in most of the curling clubs of that day. As a result, travelers to bonspiels would take their own stones to the competitions. This lack of uniformity caused some confusion, consternation, and more than a few acrimonious arguments. It has been told — but not verified — that one curler had two stones of

different diameters. The wide one was used for takeouts, the narrow one for draws through a port. There is no question that this problem hastened the acquisition of matched club stones, not just in Wausau, but throughout the curling fraternity.



A number of stories have been told about the adventures and misadventures of transporting stones, but one concerning Glenn Harris is typical. It may be difficult today for the new crop of curlers and observers

to understand that in the early years curling stones were a genuine oddity. Relatively few people knew of the game, few had seen it, and rural people particularly would not believe that a granite rock could be used for anything but a headstone. Glenn Harris and his rink went to Portage one year, won the bonspiel, and started home late Sunday night, stopping for the night near Eau Claire. The next morning, Max Elmgreen (third) went to the car to check the stones, which were wedged into a running board carrier (we suppose you kids won't know what this is either). One stone was missing. There was nothing to do but backtrack and hope to find it. They scanned the ditches and fields without luck until, finally, they saw a farmer standing in a rock-strewn pasture, alternately scanning the skies and the ground. It was not until Elmgreen showed the puzzled man its mates on the running board that the farmer believed what the strange object he had found was. He turned away, disappointed that his gift from heaven, the most unique sauerkraut cover he had ever seen, had to be returned to its rightful owner.



The club-owned stones, already used when purchased, eventually developed worn running edges, creating "sliders." It was just as aggravating then as it is now to the player who assumed that he had hit the broom with the proper weight, only to have the stone slide by on the wide side. In 1938 one of Wausau's most dedicated curlers, A.W. Plier, general manager of D.J. Murray Manufacturing Company, agreed to try sharpening the stones by grinding the inside of each running edge. One stone was mounted on the face plate of a lathe, and a motorized grinding wheel was mounted on the lathe tool post. The grinder was set in motion and turned in to touch the spinning stone on the lathe. Upon contact, the grinding wheel disappeared in a cloud of dust. The curling stone was untouched. Lee Duncan, then the purchasing agent for Murray, was instructed to discuss the matter with the Carborundum Company, makers of grinding wheels for all purposes. Upon due contact, the company replied, "If you will just tell us what a curling stone is, we will tell you how to grind it and with what." The experiment was duly abandoned at a cost of \$35.00. But the money was not wasted because it hastened the purchase of a full set of matched stones shortly thereafter.

With the increase in membership, it soon became apparent that more ice was necessary. A third sheet was laid out between the two existing sheets. It was good and level, but it was only twelve feet wide. It became obvious that the rings of the new sheet would have to be narrowed to permit biters. As a result the rocks seemed to bunch in the center, and the sheet was thoroughly disliked by those for whom even a fourteen foot sheet was hardly adequate.

Nevertheless, Wausau was a three sheet club with an adequate number of stones, and a growing membership, well on its way to prominence in Wisconsin curling. The added sheet permitted 32-rink bonspiels. The early bonspiels were well attended with good representation from Columbia county, Waupaca, Medford, Superior, and Duluth. Illinois had not yet caught the fever and was not represented. Around-the-clock curling was the pattern due to the number of games involved and the vagaries of the weather. Entry fees were low, \$4.00 per rink, with the prizes solicited from local merchants. Wives of the curlers provided lunches; coffee, free and liberally laced with whatever was available, was always kept hot on the oil barrel stove. In fits of nostalgia, the old-timers say that there is nothing better than hot pea soup and enriched coffee at 4:00 a.m.



Wives of the Wausau curlers have always been very supportive of their curling husbands, even before they were allowed the privilege of participating. They knew in the early days that a bonspiel

started on Friday morning and that they were unlikely to see their husbands until late Sunday. As with most women, they indulged their men and would see to it that something besides laced coffee would be consumed. Nellie Duncan, wife of Roy and mother of Lee, was no exception. She faithfully prepared pea soup each year becoming known for the excellence of her cooking. During one invitational she came afoul of the law by overparking at a new fangled parking meter. She rushed to the police station, ticket and dollar in hand, anxious to return home. Unfortunately, the officer on duty, who knew her well, was oversolicitous. He insisted on waiving the fine if she agreed to an on-the-spot lesson in meter operation. She became frustrated and started to cry. The officer became more solicitous; she became more frustrated. "Don't cry, Nellie, here's your dollar back," said the officer. Nellie quickly rejoined, "I'm not crying over that damn dollar. There's a bonspiel going on, and I have the pea soup boiling on my stove. It'll burn up if you don't let me go home." He hastily offered a police escort provided that she bring some soup to him, but the only reply was a slammed door as Nellie once again fulfilled her obligation.



For many years Wausau bonspiels followed the tradition originating in Scotland: participants were welcome guests (not paying participants), and prizes were incidental to the honor of winning. Perhaps it is unfortunate that this tradition has gone by the boards, and it might be fun to try to revive it, provided that too much is not expected.

As more bonspiels were staged and Wausau ventured out of the nest, the game and its participants changed. Special clothing, matched jackets, Glengarry caps, club badges, and patches came into vogue — all this in the name of identification and in proud display of past successes and excesses. Wausau designed its own badge and distributed it lavishly so that all curlingdom knew that Wausau was a hep club. George Landon is credited with designing the first badge in the mid - 1930s; those who have that badge consider it a collector's item. Landon was also instrumental in the redesign of the badge, which featured clasped hands opposite the rings, a unique symbol that emphasizes the fellowship generated by the game.

As this history began to unfold, Lee Duncan, one of its prime movers, asked for and received permission to add some unedited comments concerning the so-called early days. Here follows those comments:

#1 Our readers, and particularly our "young curlers," should understand that ice preparation in the "Golden Early Years" was nothing like the systems used by today's ice makers with their highly sophisticated theories and equipment. Seat-of-the pants methods were all that was available. Ingenuity of the ice-making amateurs was all there was, and results were not always the best — but that was all we had, plus a determination to produce the best in level ice in the shortest possible time.

Painting of the circles is an illustration of the state of the art in the early years. Scribing of the circles, back line, center line, tee line, hog line was done at first after the ice was level, obviously the last of the operations watched impatiently by those spectators awaiting the call, "Ice is ready. Let 'er rip!"

Some genius came up with the suggestion that the circles be painted on paper and the paper frozen on the ice. Time saving seemed possible. Roy Duncan made the top floor of a building he owned available. Lee Duncan and Doc Cuff volunteered for layout and painting. Cardboard-weight white paper of adequate width was conned from the paper mill. Red and blue paint was purchased, and the chore of painting six sets of circles began. The paper was in six-foot halves with the matching edges painted black to form the tee line. Painting in a warm building was easy. Laying the halves on the ice after light spray and getting the halves to match and lay tight to the ice was something else in the extremely cold temperature of the cow barn. With all that, the system worked and was somewhat of an improvement.

Painting the circles on the ice did not occur to us until years later. Finding a waterproof paint that would not bleed through to the surface

proved difficult. Painting circles on the floor as is done now was not dreamed of. Primitive determination and slavery prevailed.

#2 Around the table stacked broom conversations between the venerables, what few are left, and the new curlers always turns to reminiscences by the old-timers beginning with, "Why, I remember when." The beginners fill the glasses, roll their eyes, and whisper, "Here we go again." Then they settle back and feign attention.

Well, here we go again!

You young turks always complain about 9:00 p.m. shifts, 11:00 p.m. draws, 8:00 a.m. games, ten end games, back-to-back games, four games a day as if the curling and particularly bonspiels, with a minimum allotment for social time, are punishment. You should have been around in our day.

We went to a bonspiel to curl. What matter the time, early, late, or continuous. We were curlers devoted to the game, oblivious to the consequences.

Take the Medford Men's, one of the state's most popular. Theirs was a 32-team, 3-event, lose 3, played on 2 sheets—71 10-end games must be completed with finals late Sunday afternoon. The first draw was 8:00 a.m. Friday. Draws ran continually every 2-1/2 hours around the clock. Of course you might have to play at midnight, 3:00 a.m., 5:00 a.m., particularly if you were caught in the loser's brackets. Nobody cared, nobody complained, everybody curled and curled and curled.

Wausau's Men's was the same except the three sheets made schedules somewhat easier. Look at the truly big 'spiels—Hibbing with 128 teams, Superior with 164 teams on 13 sheets beginning on Friday. Glenn Harris's Superior team playing in Bemidji curled 7 games in 24 hours, winning 2 major events—2 trophies and 8 paralyzed hands.

And today you complain about ten end games and 9:00 p.m. draws—come now—we remember when men were men and a push broom was used in a warehouse!

THE FORTIES

The Wausau Curling Club learned in its early years that to become and remain a viable curling club it was necessary to have progress. In each year that went by some progress was made to improve curling and the facilities. These actions were neither rapid nor hastily conceived. Rather, they were slow but steady, always within financial means, and always developed with a thought to the future.

This progress was somewhat slowed during the years of World War Two and the loss of many young active curlers. Those who stayed behind (during those years there were 20 to 25 rinks actively curling) kept the veterans well in mind. (Some stories claim that America's entry into the war was hastened by the sinking of an English freighter carrying a full load of Scotch whiskey and a set of matched curling stones destined for Wausau. Unfortunately, we cannot verify this because the minutes of the years when this is alleged to have happened are missing. It makes a nice story, however, and we will do nothing to debunk it.)

The minutes of the early forties indicate that the primary discussions — other than those concerning day-to-day curling — revolved around matched stones, new facilities, and refrigerated ice. In an effort to increase interest in curling by newer members, a First Year Curler award was established in 1943. This honor is still awarded annually to the one who not only shows promising curling ability, but also appears willing to make a contribution to the welfare of the club. Also in 1943 some new stones were purchased from Glen Harris, of Superior, who promised to keep the price down to \$55.00 per pair. Originally, these were ordered by individuals, but as events later turned out, the club made the actual purchase. Dues were increased to \$10.00 per year, and a new bonspiel format that reversed the rinks was adopted for local participation. It was appropriately called the Leadman's Bonspiel.

It was about this time that the club recognized its facilities were just not adequate. With the return of the veterans, crowding would make curling difficult, if not impossible. Coincidentally, C.J. McAleavy, Youth Director of the county agent's office, came to the conclusion that the facilities for the show cattle of the Future Farmers of America were hopelessly outdated and asked for a new building. Fortunately, the park commissioner, Ing Horgen, was a curler; the president of the park Board was C.C. Yawkey; Harry Kieffer, secretary of the Marathon County Fair, was also sympathetic to the development of curling. They all had a hand in the program to make the new building a multipurpose one. A site was selected that adjoined the existing curling facilities. The proposed new building would run north-south and be large enough to house four sheets of ice with dividers and walkways and a warming room.

To embellish these bare facts we were able to contact Ing Horgen, who protested that because he was ninety years old, practically deaf and blind, he would not be able to recall the events leading up to the construction of the building. Ing was much too modest in his assessment of his role, giving most of the credit to C.C. Yawkey and Howard Morrison. It seems undisputed that Ing Horgen was, indeed, the one to outline the dimensions of the new building and go before the committees of the county Board. He explained that a multipurpose building like this, would be in use for more than just a couple of weeks of the year and that accommodations and stanchions could be changed easily without interfering with its stated use. Aware that the even freezing of natural ice would required the building to have outside openings, Horgen convinced the committees that cross ventilation would be beneficial during county fair time and plans were made to have openings at floor level cut into the outside walls. The group interested in the building even convinced the highway commissioner to give them his allotment of steel for the building.

The proposal sailed through the county Board in short order and formed the beginnings of a fine relationship between the curling club and county officials. The facilities were rent free and curling club responsibilities (and expenses), to be limited to interior maintenance and preparation of the building for the primary use as well as its own. Less than a year elapsed from the time the new building was proposed until the time when it was put to use, housing its first bonspiel in 1946.

With 4 sheets of ice available and 32 rinks playing on a regular basis, something again had to be done about stones. Thirty-two pairs were ordered at the end of 1946, and the club started a "stone fund." Members paid \$5.00 per year for three years into this fund, which was segregated and could only be used to purchase new stones. The program has changed since then. The fund is no longer segregated. Although new members do pay the \$5.00 per year for three years, a bookkeeping entry simply shows the total amount collected. Obviously the cost of stones today would warrant this program inadequate, and the club will have to devise a new method of pay for new stones when they are needed -- if, indeed, there are any available.



While really not a penurious lot, Wausau curlers were always trying to find ways to save money. Early on, the founding fathers thought that Marathon county granite, in great supply, could be fashioned into curling stones at much

less expense than their purchase from Scotland. They carefully shaped a stone from a block cut from one of the local quarries and tried it out. It looked pretty, ruby red, and drew to the house very well. When a takeout was tried, however, the Marathon county stone shattered into a myriad of pieces, and the noble experiment died aborning.



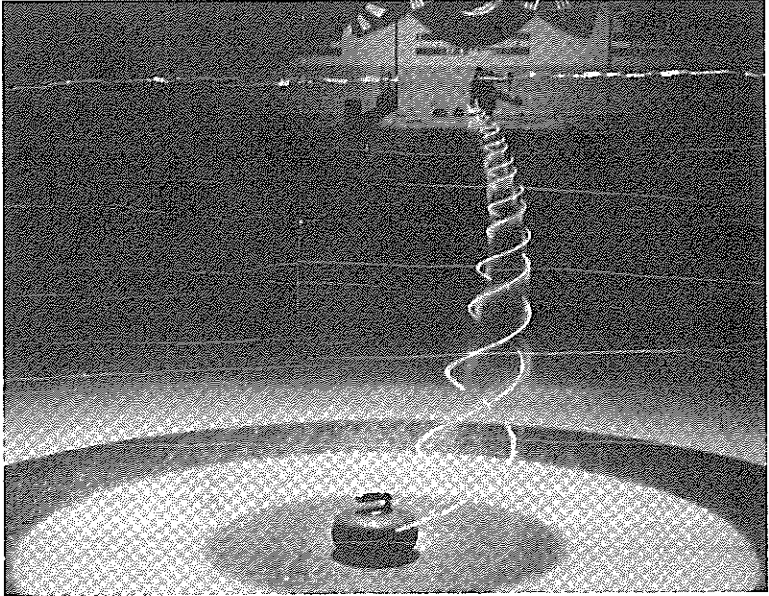
The year 1947 saw continued activity within the club. Serious discussions concerning refrigerated ice again surfaced, but according to the minutes, after a presentation by the Ideal Refrigeration Company, the club came to the conclusion that it was not affordable, and the program was delayed. It was at this time that the club joined the Midwest Curling Association and adopted its rules of play, and the Wausau Highlanders were invited — rather smugly, to be sure — to use the new facilities. At first the offer was limited to Saturdays and Sundays, except during bonspiels, which brought a determined Highlander delegation to the Board meeting. It was finally agreed that the Highlanders could use the ice during the day, and after 6:00 PM on Sunday.

The new stones arrived in time to start play in 1948. That year a glass partition was erected between the sheets and the warming room, and an honest-to-goodness furnace was added for the spectators' comfort. A small kitchen facility was built which was considered "Highlander's Country." The ladies did yeoman service in providing food for spectators and participants during bonspiels. It was always surprising to discover what they could do with such limited equipment.

The club voted to eliminate merchandise prizes at the Invitational; the event was to be a strictly trophy and medal one. Medals were awarded for four places in each of three events, the first sponsored by Perry M. Wilson, the second by J.L. Sturtevant and the Lumberman's (third) sponsored by the Alexanders. Lee Duncan suggested that as long as we had four sheets, we should have four events and involved all sheets in the finals. This meant a redesign of the draw, turning the fourth-event draw into a true endurance contest that some have likened to the present-day Triathlon. The event featured an 11:15 PM Saturday draw, which for many reasons seldom was called until well after midnight. The event was appropriately named the Lonesome Polecat, and the patches awarded to the finalists used a design lifted straight from an Al Capp creation. These patches have become highly prized in the curling fraternity. As we have heard many say, "I'm glad that I have the patch, but I'll be damned if I want to do it again!"

With the new facilities and increased access to the public, the club incorporated, without stock, but with strict membership requirements. It was obviously feared that there might be some individual liability as a volunteer organization.

And with visions of refrigerated ice still lingering, a long-range planning committee was established and a segregated building fund of \$5.00 per member proposed. It was never fully developed, however, for the dream of refrigerated ice came true much sooner than expected.



Denzil Wirt draws the button as Curly Weinhauf's photography shows the stone's curling path.



First bonspiel on refrigerated ice.

REFRIGERATED ICE

Whether you call it artificial, manufactured, or refrigerated ice makes very little difference. It simply means that there can be continuous curling regardless of the climate. We have chosen to call it refrigerated ice, following some few well-chosen words by Glen Harris, who we usually considered to be the last word when it came to anything involving curling.

The idea of refrigerated ice was not a sudden inspiration on the part of the Wausau Curling Club. It had been considered tentatively at least ten years before, and seriously for about four years before, it actually came to be. The original vision included a new and separate building, and even as late as the summer of 1950, this was still being considered. At the annual meeting Paul Dale reported regarding plans to erect an aluminum building for housing all club facilities and refrigerated ice. Burt Fulmer was to be in charge of producing a plan for financing. In the early fall Sid Lippin was given the unenviable task of soliciting for funds, and in September W.B. Cuff, as president, appointed a committee to study a plan of voluntary deposits for the proposed facility. The evidence of these minutes makes it clear that up to this point the club still hoped to proceed with a total project that included both a new building and refrigerated ice. But subsequent records indicate that the original plans were not feasible, and that only the refrigerated ice feature was retained. Sometime during the winter plans were consolidated to proceed with the project.

In May 1951, in a letter to the members, W.B. Cuff outlined the progress of the program, reporting that an order had been placed for the pipe and equipment. The equipment needed consisted of about five miles of 1-1/4-inch black iron pipe, a used Vilter compressor, and a new Heil oil burning furnace. Now that the statute of limitations has gone by, and the people involved can no longer be prosecuted, we can tell that A.W. Plier, president of Murray Machinery Company, ordered Lee Duncan, as purchasing agent, to use the company's high-priority numbers to obtain the pipe which was on the wartime critical material list. When the heating contractor advised the club that he could not get the furnace, because it, too, was on the critical material list and was available only with a priority certification, Lee called Henry French, a Milwaukee curler, at the Heil Company and advised him that the furnace, ordered by our contractor was actually for the curling club. The reply was short: It will be shipped tomorrow, but without the motor which was also on the critical list. Lee was advised that the motor was manufactured by the Marathon Electric Manufacturing Company, a Wausau company. One more call to Bob Kumlin, another curler, at Marathon Electric resulted in having the motor arrive at the curling club the following day.

The completion of plans and decision to go ahead received a strong

stimulus by the outbreak of the Korean Conflict and the fear that if the club did not go ahead promptly with its plans, installation of the new plant might have to be deferred for years. The program for financing was designed by George Landon. It called for issuance of stock at \$100.00 per share, mandatory for all curlers in their second year and beyond, and volunteer contributions that were to be secured by non-interest bearing notes. Each person was limited to one share of stock and a voluntary contribution not in excess of \$300.00. There were many curlers from Murray Machinery who simply could not afford these arrangements. To overcome the problem A.W. Plier guaranteed their respective notes at a local bank and they were able to participate to the fullest.

The dues structure was changed, calling for an annual \$20.00 building fund assessment, earmarked for the payment of the debt to be incurred in the purchase of equipment. Landon submitted a pro forma showing that with a modest increase in membership, the entire project would be paid for in fourteen years. The proposal hinged on the vote of the membership to create a stock corporation. The records show that 120 members attended the meeting, and with 83 ayes, 0 noes, and 37 abstentions, the planned program could proceed. Although never stated in writing, all concerned emphasized that it would take a lot of volunteer labor on the part of members to complete the job within the bounds of our financial resources.

Work actually began on the project on June 18, 1951, less than two weeks after the membership vote, and continued throughout the summer. W.B. Cuff, as president and dedicated curler, was in charge of the project and kept a diary of its progress. This fascinating account is printed in full in the appendix. The ice was ready for the 1951-1952 curling season. Although the membership had dropped to about 90, the project's success brought back some of the drop-outs and many new members. In a few years the membership was greater than it had been at the time the project began.

The notes to the commercial lenders were paid back in four years, and repayment of the voluntary contributions started two years later. In less than ten years the entire project was paid for, and the club had a surplus balance.

No words can describe the dedication of the membership. When digging the header pit, for example, it was found that the building had been constructed over a blacktop road. Those more used to wielding pens wielded picks instead to break up the material. A hot and muggy summer plagued by mosquitos in the airless building, frustrations with leveling the floor, coordinating the workload to minimize expenses — these were just some of the problems, all of which evaporated with the first flood that fall.

Note that we seriously considered laying the pipe across the sheets, rather than lengthwise. In a letter from Roland D. Thomson of

Schenectady to Glen Harris and then sent on to us, the procedure is outlined in detail. Although not positive, it seems that this idea was abandoned when the cost of a 150-foot header pit was considered.



It was during Bob Altman's term, that the circus came to town, complete with elephants and one large problem: where to house the elephants between show dates. Some unthinking person suggested the curling club

(obviously, he was no curler and had never cleaned up after an elephant sojourn). Word quickly got to Bob, who called for a meeting with the park director and the circus manager. As they discussed the possibilities, Bob could see that they were serious, contending that the curling club had no rights to the facility during the summer. But the possible damage to the fragile blacktop and piping with the onslaught on the ponderous pachyderms was appalling. Fortunately Bob's legal training was put to good use. Discussions ended in short order once he made it clear that both the circus and the park Board would have to post a bond against damage to pipes and file a hold-harmless agreement in the event that any of the elephants died from breathing the ammonia fumes which would leak from broken pipes. The circus manager blanched when he realized the potential dangers and quickly advised the park Board that he would find some other place to house his elephants.



Duncan, Wausau, Wins Midwest Bonsel Here

Zastrow of Medford Places in Heil Event

The Lee Duncan rink of Wausau scored a 11-7 win over the Frank Kleffman rink of Hibbing, Minn., Sunday, winning the All-American traveling trophy top award in the Midwest Curling Assn. bonsel. The Medford Curling club was host to 116 visiting curlers from Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota Thursday through Sunday at their rink-house here.

Only one of the three Medford rinks remained in the semi-finals of the four event spiel. Al Zastrow's rink took a third in the Heil fourth event. Curling on the rink was Skip Zastrow, Erv Thomas, Bill Scharschmidt and Al Schuster.

The Kleffman rink, beating Duncan last year, trailed by six stones going into the ninth end, but picked up four counters to come within two of knotting the score. Duncan added two in the final round for a 11-7 finish.

Walter Folski of Virginia, Minn., took third in the All-American event and fourth place went to L. A. Laffer of Madison.

Bud Akin of Eveleth, Minn., won the Twentieth Century traveling trophy for top place in the second event. He won over Elmer Fretag of Chicago in an 8-6 scoring final. Third place went to Ston Lemont of Virginia, Minn., with fourth going to E. V. Saranen, also of Virginia.

In the third event, L. W. Harmon of Madison was the top rink, taking the McGrath trophy by winning over Ray Sommerville of Superior. Paul McKahan of Wausau was third place winner and fourth went to L. Carlson of Madison.

The Heil trophy, for fourth event winner, went to C. C. Mul-

larkey of Clintonville who beat out W. Rhodes of Madison. Zastrow was third place winner and fourth went to H. Woodside of Stevens Point. Ben Way of Medford curled on Woodside's rink.

The 32 rink tournament was headed by Woodrow Hodge and Erv Pries, president of the Medford Curling club. It marked the first time Medford has played host to a major event of the Midwest Curling Assn. A. L. Papenfuss, Wausau, presided Saturday over a board of directors meeting held during the bonsel.

The more than 100 out of town curlers reserved all available hotel and motel accommodations in Medford, some of them stay-

ing at Abbotsford motels. The social highlight of the tournament was a smorgasbord served from 5 until 7 p.m. in the rinkhouse lounge. Mel Rief was in charge of the meal.

Other committee heads included Harry Allman, publicity; L. E. Pierce, games and draw; Ray Rief, reception; Al Pries, ice; Carl Sorenson, reservations; Bert Alm, rules, and G. F. Strcbig, prizes.

The Medford Curling club, which installed artificial ice last year, will hold its next major event January 10-12, the annual Medford Invitational bonsel. Carl Sorenson will serve as general chairman.



ALL-AMERICAN TROPHY winner at the Midwest Curling Assn. bonsel here last weekend was the Lee Duncan rink of Wausau. The top team included, from left, Skip Lee Duncan, Wayne Myers, Bob Wilson and Don Horkan. The unbeaten rink during the four day tournament defeated Frank Kleffman's rink from Hibbing, Minn.—Conan DOYLE Studio photo. Medford-Star News - Dec. 12, 1957.

FIFTIES AND SIXTIES

While nothing as dramatic as the installation of refrigerated ice occurred during this period, there was, nevertheless, a continuation of club improvement and innovative ideas.

It was during this time that the clubrooms we enjoy today became a reality. The curling barn was L-shaped with the ice running north-south and the leg housing the locker rooms and spectator area extending to the west from the south end. When the clubrooms were proposed, the facile minds of Wausau curlers saw a way to reduce cost by simply building two walls: one extending west from about halfway toward the scoreboard end (north) of sheet 1 and the other extending south from that north wall to meet the leg of the "L." The park department approved the addition and agreed to an enlarged locker room area. We finally had an honest-to-goodness place to sit after the game and swap the stories that are so dear to the hearts of all curlers. Virginia Miller donated a gas grill in memory of her husband, Charlie, which was installed at the north end of the clubrooms. A window was cut into the wall so that some parts of a game could be seen. While there was some talk of having the entire ice side of the room glassed off, the plan was vetoed because privacy seemed more important than viewing.

During this era club members concluded that a few rinks were too strong for regular league competition, and a movement started to "break up the Yankees." This became a reality with a rating system that gave each curler a rating from 1 to 20. Leads had a maximum of 5, seconds a maximum of 10 and thirds a maximum of 15. No rink could be formed which had more than 45 points. This did have the effect of breaking up the rinks and spreading the talent around somewhat, but as before the same rinks began to dominate league play. While this may have been a desired result, many voiced dissatisfaction with the system. Most curlers thought that part of the fun of curling was to participate with those you enjoyed, and some resented attempts to form rinks by random drawing. In order to placate those dissidents, the club started to use a handicap system whereby a team was allowed unlimited points, but the weaker of two competing teams received a handicap of one stone for each five-point differential. There were some bizarre results from this system. One night a team received a handicap of five stones and proceeded to lay a seven-end; by the end of the first end, they were already ahead 12 to zip. Both systems were abandoned and the club has been happy and prospered by allowing rinks to form themselves. While some less pronounced dominance still remains, it is doubtful that anyone would want to go back to the old rating system.

Wausau distinguished itself in this period when the Lee Duncan rink bested the Fran Kleffman rink in the Midwest Championships in 1957.

This was quite a feather in the Wausau cap and did a lot to spur members' participation in out-of-town bonspiels.

A system of selecting an All-City rink was established by which skips voted for skips, thirds for thirds, etc. The first of such rinks was composed of Lee Duncan, skip; Earl Hochtritt, third; Harry Johnson, second; Dean Livingston, lead. The rink was challenged to prove its worth by representing the club in the regionals of the first Midwest Championships. They won the regional in Clintonville and participated in the championships at Milwaukee. While not a winner, they did distinguish themselves by being the only rink to defeat the Mike Stewart rink of St. Paul, then considered the best rink in the country. The program was abandoned after club members became totally disinterested in the honor.

The Wausau Draw came into prominence during the fifties. Doc Cuff's 32-rink, 4-event draw starting on Friday received favorable publicity and has been adopted by many clubs. It has been refined in most cases, but the label is still used.



The chairman of the Wausau Invitational Bonspiel, decided that curling brooms were too expensive. In those days, the host club furnished brooms to all participants, and P-K brooms, from Canada were fine but costly.

He took one of the brooms to the local broom factory as a sample, and they assured him that a corn broom was a corn broom and that they could duplicate it with no problem. They dissected the broom to find out how the corn was bound to the shaft, measured the length of the straw, and even counted straws to make sure they had the right amount. The moment of truth came when the broom, looking exactly like a P-K was given to Wayne Myers to test. Wayne went six feet down the ice, made three passes, and on the third pass the broom literally exploded. So much for the theory of beating cost by imitating the experienced.



A visit of Scottish curlers to Wausau in the late fifties was an eye-opener to most. The use of the besom instead of the corn broom was new to us. We were amazed at the effectiveness of the instrument and arranged to have several shipped to us. As most are aware, the brush is now predominate and the corn broom almost extinct. This innovation is credited with extending the curling life of the participants.

We received our second set of matched stones during this period at the cost of \$77.00 per pair, and replaced the board hacks with the rubber hacks in use today.

Emil Wakeen and Bill McCormick, because of disabilities, could not use corn brooms. Instead, they developed a method of securing carpet remnants around the head of the Scot's besom. These were amazingly

effective and soon received the derisive title of "mops." Complaints after the gentlemen went to out-of-town bonspiels caused the adapted brooms to become the object of regulation. Suddenly "mops" were outlawed and only bristles permitted by USMCA rules.

In an effort to increase membership and the number of curling hours, many proposals (and their concomitant costs) to build our own facilities had been compared. But when Bob Wilson came up with the idea to add a fifth sheet to our existing ice at less than \$5000.00, all thoughts of moving disappeared. The header pits were adequate, and the piping had been laid without gaps; all that remained was to remove the walkways, add blacktop, and create the sheet. Bob supervised the deal, adding an extra layer of blacktop over all sheets to enhance the level. This was done in the summer and did not interrupt curling. Rather than buy a new set of stones for the new sheet and have uneven wear, the old sets were traded, and five new sets purchased at a cost of \$2750.00. We now had five sheets and a full set of new stones.



Bob Wilson likes to tell about the time when figure skating became popular in the area. With only outdoor ice and uncertain weather, the devotees looked hungrily at the curling club's smooth and sheltered ice. Reasoning

that this was on county property, they felt they should have some rights to the ice. Bob was called for a conference with their president. As the talks progressed, sometimes haltingly, Bob was asked why the dividers were necessary. Bob assured the skaters that without the dividers, there was no way there could be flooding and curling. The skaters reluctantly went their way and have never bothered us since. We have often wondered what they would have said had they known that two years later, Bob had the dividers torn out so that we could have five sheets!



Another of our innovative curlers, John Kuechle, read about a system that would freeze dirt out of water. He came to the conclusion that the freezing after flooding and reflooding forced dirt, impurities and residue of standard chemical additives to city water to the surface of our ice, creating an undesirable surface condition. Continued research convinced him that the only way we could eliminate that condition was to have "pure" water. John was aware that the purest water available was that used in steam-powered electric generating stations. John went to the generating station near Wausau and, to his delight, discovered that the manager was a former curler. The two agreed that the club would receive 1800 gallons of boiler feed water each month during the curling season. This type of water normally cost \$20.00 per gallon because of the complex eight-step procedure required to make it. But Kuechle and, by then, his curling buddy agreed that if the club could provide a method of delivery, then the plant would donate the

water to the club and consider it a public service. Kuechle scoured the yellow pages for sympathetic local milk dealers and finally found one who had an insulated stainless steel tank truck that we could use once a month for sixteen hours.

The pure (de-ionized) water was pumped into the tank truck at the power plant in the late afternoon. The tank truck was then taken to a heated garage and stored overnight. On the first trial, the temperature was below zero and this caused more than a little concern. The tank truck came to the club in the early morning, and about three hundred gallons of water was pumped through an opening in the men's lavatory into a plastic-lined holding tank. From there, the water was pumped into a glass-lined heater. When both the heater and the tank were full, the water was circulated between them until it was at 200 degrees. Additional water from the tank truck was blended with the hot water and the flooding began with 100-degree water. Each flooding took between six hundred and eight hundred gallons of water. Any water remaining in the tank truck was returned to the generating station. The entire system, including the method of blending the hot and cold water, was designed by Kuechle. The system is still in use today, although we now have our own de-ionizing system and do not have to rely on tank trucks or the power station.

It was also during this period that a larger kitchen became necessary. With the new clubrooms, it was increasingly cumbersome to prepare and serve food out of the Pullman kitchen in the spectator area. The Highlanders were a great help in this endeavor, assisting in the design and furnishing of the facility. They not only helped with the planning, but also gave freely of their limited funds for the purchase of new equipment. The kitchen was built, as were the clubrooms, by erecting two walls connecting the west and south wings of the clubrooms. At last there was adequate storage space and a refrigerator, stove, oven and triple stainless steel sink. The Virginia Miller grill was moved into the area and an exhaust fan installed. Len and Norm Peterson developed and donated a rotating spit for the grill that would cook three roasts at one time, and the Highlanders added essential utensils and stainless tableware. A window opening made the clubrooms visible and available, and a storage area built at the south end soon became our hospitality room.

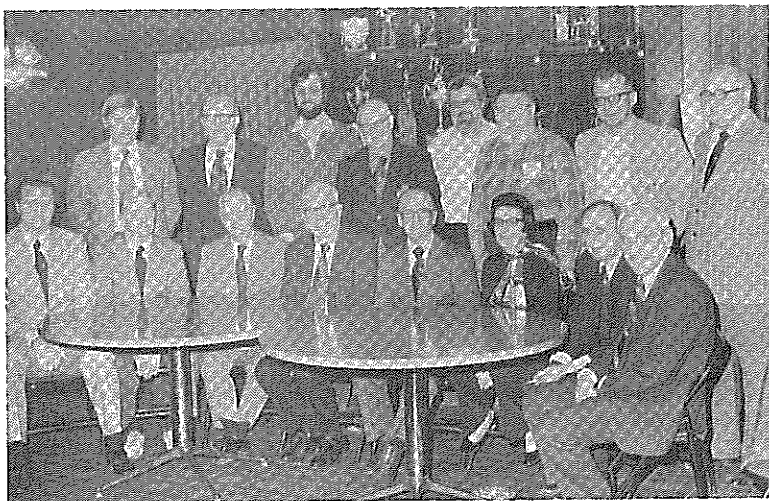
At this point in time the club served beer only, with members bringing in their own liquor, kept in individual lockers in the hospitality room. We tried several systems of dispensing the beer, including a fulltime bartender and then an honor system. Nothing really worked until Wibby Winetzki suggested an annual voluntary fee. This seemed to work well, and when the bottle beer was changed for tap beer, the hospitality room really became successful. Now each member has \$10.00 per year added to his dues statement for the hospitality room and receives, in return, unlimited tap beer, ice, soft drinks, or beverage mix. This charge also applies to the Highlanders. While the

state no longer allows us to bring in our own liquor and we must buy it from the club, the system survives — there has been no noticeable lack of after-curl activity. The new kitchen increased the popularity of the twi-lite leagues, with four now in full force. On most nights, after curling, two or more rinks are preparing their own food on the grill and otherwise using the kitchen facility.

During this era, the park Board came to the conclusion that they could no longer afford the luxury of rent-free facilities for curlers (especially when they discovered that the water we were using was on their meter). A fee system was set up with a lease that is renewable so that the club will always have ample notice of a cancellation and assurance of uninterrupted use during the season.

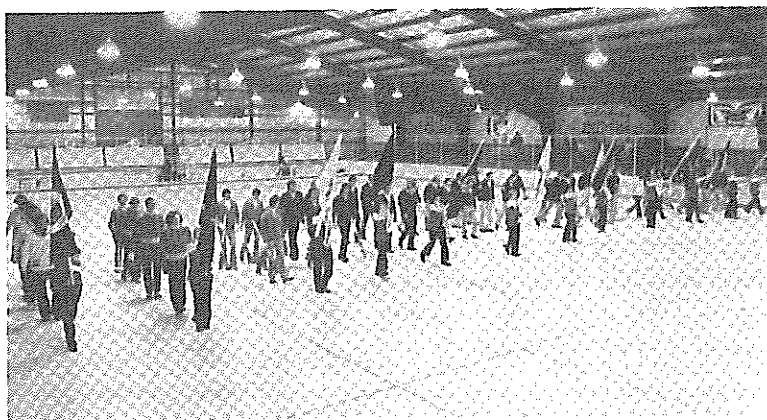
Shortly after the kitchen was built, a group spearheaded by Neil Collins, Clint Boone, and Guy Daniels decided that the clubrooms should be carpeted. When the directors nixed the idea for lack of funds, the group formed their own committee and raised sufficient funds to carpet the room. Then Bud Stone, of Stone Lumber Company, donated enough paneling to cover the entire room. He also arranged to have the large fireplace rebuilt preventing the down draft from filling the clubrooms with smoke.

All in all, this was an era of not-so-spectacular improvement that helped to make curling more enjoyable for all.



PLANNING GROUP - USMCA NATIONALS 1976

Back Row Left to Right: Guy Daniels, Frank Plano, Dennis Tietge, Lee Duncan, Doug Seeber, Denzil Wirt, Lee Jorgenson, Ken Kuernberg. Seated Left to Right: Paul McKahan, Bob Altman, Al Papenfuss, Ray Peters, Anne Altman, Jim Detienne and George Wolff.



Parade of the state champions USMCA National Championships 1976.

USMCA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 1976

With the exception of the transition from natural to refrigerated ice, no other single event served to unite the membership of the Wausau Curling Club as much as did staging the 1976 USMCA National Championships. The event was held in Wausau March 1-6, 1976, with ice being available in the Multipurpose Building in Marathon Park, about one hundred yards from the curling club facilities.

It started in October 1974 with a letter from Al Papenfuss to the president of the Wisconsin State Curling Association. This letter extolled the facilities Wausau had to offer and was followed by a letter in December expanding on the original information and replying to numerous questions from the site selection committee. Because it had been predetermined that the site would be in Wisconsin, the competition for hosting the event was somewhat limited. But several clubs vied for this prestigious event and, in February, the site selection committee sent its recommendation that Wausau be selected to the national organization. The final selection was made February 10, 1975, and Wausau went to work.

Ray Peters, president of the Wausau Curling Club was named as general chairman and Al Papenfuss as honorary chairman. Bob Altman was selected as treasurer; Jim Detienne, who followed Ray Peters as Wausau's president was named as the secretary; Paul McKahan as publicity chairman; Lee Duncan, curling and ice chairman; Neil Collins, games chairman; Ken Nuernberg, program; Bill DeVries, banquets and accommodations; and Anne Altman as the Highlanders liason. This group did the base planning and programming and countless others joined with them in making this the most successful National Championships ever staged.

The Highlanders ran an auction sale and flea market in July, raising sufficient funds to outfit all of the Highlanders in distinctive jackets worn as they followed their appointed tasks as ticket takers, ushers, concession vendors, and information givers. George Wolff headed a group to sell advertising in the program guide; sales exceeded our fondest expectations. Guy Daniels headed a committee to sell pins prior to the event. To point out the effectiveness of the campaign, 52 members of our club bought Century Club pins at \$100.00 each, 200 bought Patron's pins at \$25.00 each. His efforts were so successful that the following year the national committee decided to take over the advance sale of pins for themselves as their primary fund-raising endeavor. The pin program was based on the three-level program now being used by the national committee and featured a pin designed by Bob Altman with the help of B & B Distributors. The pins, each of which featured a small replica of the Wausau badge, were well received.

Employers Insurance of Wausau (now Wausau Insurance Companies) was induced to become a "sponsor," and their original donation served as "seed" money for the event. Their advertising department cooperated with us to design and produce the very effective cover for the program which traded on the theme " '76 and Shoot Out." Bill DeVries ran a refreshment and attitude adjustment stand in the clubrooms, which greatly added to the profit realized. The event raised almost double the amount for the national committee than had any other city previously.

While many extraordinary things happened to enhance the reputation of Wausau as "The Hospitality Club," none seemed to have as much impact as the efforts of the transportation committee under the leadership of Stu Rosemurgy, a local Ford dealer. Instead of using the usual format of having several people donate their cars and time as chauffeurs, Stu arranged to have a demonstrator available for each rink. When participants checked in they were given a set of keys and told that the car was theirs for the duration of the event. Special attention was given to the curlers at Howard Johnsons (then under the management of Bill DeVries). Every effort was made to make the participants comfortable and welcome, with no known failures.

This section would not be complete without special attention being given to the ice makers under the direction of Lee Duncan: Denzil Wirt, Doug Seeber, Dennis Tietge, Dick Shannon and the invaluable assistance of Lee Jorgenson, an architect who designed the Multipurpose Building. It was necessary for us to use this Multipurpose Building (primarily a hockey arena) because at that time the USMCA required six sheets of ice and seating for 2500 spectators (the requirements are more relaxed at this time).

The ice makers were given one week to eliminate the ice used for hockey, paint and inscribe rings for the six sheets, set up spectator areas, mount scoreboards, provide for maintenance so that nothing would go wrong during the event, and last but not least, create good, level, keen curling ice. The group took time off from their regular employment, rented a trailer, parked it adjacent to the building, and literally spent 24 hours a day on their appointed job to produce championship caliber ice. During their efforts the mechanical scraper broke down; Jim Popanz (recruited by Lee Duncan) rented a plane, flew to Madison during the night, picked up a new scraper, and brought it back in time for the start of a new day, with hardly a break in the activity. Special paint that would adhere to ice had to be used because we could not paint the concrete floor.

There were to be no dividers, which meant that the large expanse had to be flooded carefully and cautiously to ensure that the freezing was uniform. On the day before the participants were to arrive for practice sessions, the flood did not produce the required uniformity. The ice makers were understandably somewhat down in the mouth; as

they contemplated their failure, Lee Duncan, in an attempt to cheer them up, reminded them that it took the good Lord six days to create the world. A short silence followed this bit of profound wisdom, when a weary voice from the rear said, "Yeh, but He didn't have to make it level!" This broke up the group and back they went to the arena with renewed vigor. Two hours later they burst into the clubrooms, ordered a round, and triumphantly exclaimed, "We have level ice!"

Unfortunately the hockey arena was two inches short of accommodating six fourteen-foot sheets, and it was necessary to reduce the twelve-foot circle on one sheet to permit a biter to be in play. All skips were informed of the discrepancy; only one very minor complaint arose. J.R. Boatman, the chief umpire, designed magnetic boards on which the positions of the stones could be plotted by the umpires at each end of the sheets. There were no arguments about replacing inadvertently moved stones. The weather was horrible, with bitter cold and blizzard conditions, but participants were happy with the ice and spectators enjoyed the watering hole headquartered at the clubrooms.

Oh, yes, Bruce Roberts of Minnesota beat Bud Sommerville in a play-off for the championship.

Wausau ended up with a new set of stones (not a part of recorded expenses), a lot of new equipment, and over \$10,000 in cash, but most of all with the satisfaction of accepting a difficult job and doing it well. Just one more example in the Wausau Curling Club history that shows what a dedicated and enthusiastic group can accomplish. It is estimated that at least 85% of Wausau curlers—men, women, and high school—participated to some degree to make this event a success.



NATIONAL CHAMPIONS USMCA MIXED 1975
Roger Robarge, Neil Collins, Sandy Robarge and Elaine Collins.



NATIONAL CHAMPIONS USMCA MIXED 1979
Neil Collins, Jo Shannon, Elaine Collins and Rick Shannon.

LAST DECADE

After the Nationals, the Wausau Curling Club seemed to relax. Progress continued, but no major changes were made.

It was during this period that we realized our use of water was tremendous and our costs were getting out of hand. To cure the problem, we put up a cooling tower that took the heated water after it had cooled the brine, stored it, and when it had cooled sufficiently, returned it to the system to complete the cycle. The cooling tank quickly paid for itself and not only reduced the water fees, but also reduced the sewer charge that was metered on the amount of water discharged into the system. The tower, located on the roof, is heated just enough to prevent freezing in Wisconsin's rather unpredictable winter weather.

Humidity and condensation were the next obstacles to good ice conditions. On several occasions the humidity in the ice area would condense on the framework, then drop to the ice. Many may remember times we hand scraped the bumps to permit curling. To alleviate this problem a dehumidifier was installed. It seemed to work well except that edges of the outside sheets had a tendency to get soft. We came to the conclusion that the incandescent lighting installed when the fifth sheet was added was responsible. Originally we had ceiling lights over the center of each of the four sheets; when the fifth sheet was added, wall lights were mounted for the outside sheets. The heat produced from these lights was amazing, and tests indicated that the temperature of the surface of these sheets was at least fifteen degrees higher than that of the center sheets. Again, a rather simple solution was suggested: fluorescent lighting installed throughout the ice area. One more problem diagnosed and solved.

While our use of de-ionized water was continued, the method of delivery became more and more problematical. This was solved by installing our own de-ionizer. It is a small unit, capable of putting out eight gallons a minute, adequate for our needs. The days of milk truck transport have ended, and we can use the special water without fear of interruption.

New seats were installed in the spectator area after several near catastrophes occurred. The old seats had come from a theater in Eau Claire and served us well for thirty years. The new seats were mounted on two-by-fours for easy removal during the summer.

Probably the most catastrophic event of this era occurred just the day before the Invitational in 1982. It has been our practice to have a cocktail hour and steak fry at the club on Thursday evening before the start of the bonspiel. This was an innovation created by Dale Heath and originally was intended as a reward only for those rinks with an 8:00 A.M. draw on Friday. Popular demand soon had us extending this to all participants. This has been quite popular and is usually well

attended. That year Doug Seeber, chairman, had just unloaded his car. He was carrying the libation materials into the club when he was given the command, "Stop right there and don't take that liquor any farther!" Somewhat aghast, he complied. A man, identifying himself as a state agent, told him we were violating the liquor laws of Wisconsin and that he would confiscate the liquor and issue a criminal complaint against the club. He contended that because we advertised the event and entry fees were paid, this constituted the sale of liquor without a license. A quick trip to the D.A.'s office confirmed the problem, but we were assured that no warrant would be issued. Alas, however, the confiscated liquor was already on its way to Madison, forever lost. We were granted temporary rights to serve liquor during the bonspiel contingent on our applying for a liquor license. We now have the license, several member bartenders, including Highlanders, and we can no longer bring in our own liquor. It must be purchased from the club, and we are subject to audit. A temporary but rather traumatic setback.

For the balance of the decade there was nothing glamorous or exciting, just the standard and usual work and maintenance around the club. Wausau continued its tradition of volunteer help. There are only two people on the payroll: a man who comes in each morning and cleans the ice, spectator and locker area and a lady who tidies up the kitchen and the clubrooms. The ice makers do get a reduction in their annual dues, but all the rest is unpaid, often unsung, volunteer labor. The clubrooms are attractive and spacious. We could use additional locker space. The ice is clean and keen, with only the normal amount of runs. There is still a good feeling of camaraderie and with the exception of a few expected areas of disagreement, the club is a closely knit, active and viable organization. There is every expectation that the Wausau Curling Club will continue to be such for a long period of time.

EPILOGUE

As we concluded this history, we were struck with the fact that the amount of space devoted to more recent decades was considerably less than that given to the earlier years. Our champion conclusion jumpers immediately pounced on this and said, "You can see that we were right. The newer curlers don't appreciate the efforts expended by their predecessors—they've hardly done a damn'd thing for so long." But a bit of thoughtful introspection brought those jumpers back to square one when it was pointed out that the big, glamorous undertaking we are so fond of relating were already accomplished and that it was no longer necessary to perform back-breaking projects every year.

We realized that the more tedious, unglamorous job of maintaining what was already there was the function of the newer curlers, and that they had really done a good job of that. We started thinking about the number of men who have given of themselves so selflessly over the past decade and soundly concluded that there were just as many dedicated members as ever—only smaller percentages had made it seem like there were fewer. This history did one thing, then: it proved we were in error, and for that we are thankful.

How did we do on our other aims?

Did we accomplish the primary aim of telling our members, present and future, what had to be accomplished to make our club what it is today? We think so. It is quite possible that we got a little wordy and nostalgic about the early years. But we in our dotage ask forgiveness for that—those were great and unforgettable days.

Were we convincing in our advise that selfless dedication is necessary to maintain our club and curling as we know it today? Here we cannot be so positive. From the standpoint of our present dedicated members, yes; for the future, only time will tell.

Did we show the necessity of subordination of one's own desires to the greater good of curling? Probably yes. So many current members recognize this that it seems likely that they, in turn, will pass the lesson down.

Did we prove our original complaint that there was no dedication to the game, only personal gratification? No, but there are some disturbing elements starting to creep into the game that should be watched and curbed to retain the status quo.

We have become increasingly disturbed by some of the things happening in curling circles over the past few years that have required special rules or rule changes—rules like those designed to control or eliminate the extended slide (which theoretically reduces directional error) by specifying an allowable area of release; sweeping rules that try to eliminate the surreptitious dropping of debris to affect the

course of the stone, and an anticipated new rule that will restrict the angle of the handle on the brush's head to control the same kind of violation as snow-plowing. We enjoy competitive curling and rejoice in the expertise of the participants. But when they resort to gimmicks to enhance their chances of fame, we resent the win-at-all costs philosophy that is beginning to creep into this great game.

Cash bonspiels and subsidizing may be necessary to enable participants to prepare for long periods of competition on the way to a world championship. But we should all remember that club curling is the backbone of the game; without it, there would be no world championship. We deplore the fact that cash and professionalism is eroding the time-honored traditions of curling, a sport that features friendship more than cash. We do not want curling to be our source for living; instead we want our living to be enhanced by curling. We still believe that greeting old friends at annual bonspiels is a greater reward than depositing winner's checks in a bank.

To avoid turning this into a philosophical treatise, let us now get off our soap box and simply glory in the past, enjoy the present, and hope for the future.

MORE HISTORY

Highlanders

High School Curling

Special Events

Green Jacket



USWCA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS
1977

Left to Right: Virginia Morrison, Jo Shannon, Elaine Collins, Sandy Robarge.



BADGER BONSPIEL 1965
First one on 5 sheets.

HIGHLANDERS

The Wausau Highlanders, currently the largest women's curling club in the United States, began as an innocuous auxiliary to the males-only Wausau Curling Club: the servers of soups and barbecues. But after merely observing the "grand ol' game" for some time, twelve especially curious gals wanted to see what it was like to throw a rock and use a broom for fun. They were Norma McKahan, Vergie Nuernberg, Jean Duncan, Ethel Landon, Ruth Fox, Ruth Horkan, Fritzie Plier, Lucille Vorwalske, Arlene Ross, Patty Wirt, Rose Beifinger, and Gladys Erickson.

Some men, especially husbands of would-be curlers, were intrigued with the idea of women's curling; others were not. One rink participating in a Wauwatosa men's bonspiel observed women's curling there and was surprised at how well the gals took to the game. They came home supportive of the Wausau ladies' interest in trying the sport. With a bit of pressure from the women, men arranged for the use of ice, stones, and brooms and briefly explained the game, strategy, and turns. Soon the eager ladies began to throw the stones and beat the ice with brooms. Women and curling—it was a love affair from the beginning. The original twelve, soon joined by others, were allowed to use the ice at times that in no way interfered with men's curling.

"Female Stone Heavers, Broom Beaters Arouse Men's Fears." That was the headline for an article that appeared in the Wausau Daily Record-Herald on February 29, 1948. It began: "One of the harried male's last refuges in Wausau has been invaded by the encroaching female. Once upon a time the tavern, the club, the bowling alley were considered a safe and friendly haven for the harassed husband seeking relaxation. But no more. And now the curling club—vestigial evidence that this was once a man's world—has fallen." Later in the article, however, the writer goes on to say: "Observers say the women show an aptitude for the game and already the Wausau lady curlers, only at the game a month or so, are better than 30 percent of the Wausau male curlers."

An agreement allowing women to curl was signed by the Wausau Curling Club on November 17, 1948. Two leagues were formed; schedules established with eight afternoon rinks curling Monday and Wednesday afternoons. There were six evening rinks curling on Sunday. With only minor exceptions, the men's rules were followed and all games were ten ends. Dues of \$3.00 per year were assessed and collected before play was permitted.

The following year there were fifteen women's rinks ready to play, six during the day and nine at night. This added pressure on night schedulers made the club unable to assure the availability of ice during the evening to the women, so the ladies decided to strike out on their

own. Dick Jeske, the men's icemaker, encouraged the women and received permission from the park department for the women to curl in the old curling barn. He also agreed to prepare the ice for them (according to all reports the women's ice was superior to that used by the men). Volunteers, male and female, helped to renovate the old curling barn. Personal stones were begged, borrowed and purchased. Because there was not an equal number of black and red handles, blue and red yarn pompoms distinguished the stones instead. Winds blew through broken windows, birds sometimes flew overhead, but the Highlanders had found a home!

An article in the North American Curling News of January 1950, headlined "Wausau Women Claim Fame," noted that the Highlanders were the only group of female curlers having their own barn and icemaker and standing their own expenses.

Fritzie Plier and Ruth Horkan had been presidents of the original organization, each serving with only one other officer, a secretary-treasurer. Volunteer help was abundant, and the lack of structural organization did not hinder the ladies. William F. Krueger offered his legal expertise, and on November 8, 1949, the women unanimously approved their own Constitution and Bylaws and officially became known as the Wausau Highlanders, Inc. The first order of business for that fall meeting was the election of a Board of Directors and a slate of officers. Vergie Nuernberg became the first president of the Highlanders.

The number of curlers in the club grew and they became more active in curling outside of Wausau. Appleton, Medford, and Wauwatosa all hosted so-called Fun Days, which were set up like mini-bonspiels and are still popular today. The Highlanders started their own Fun Day program in 1952 with a 'spiel that included representation from five other clubs. Unfortunately, bad weather turned the day into a Wausau-Medford competition. The club continues to participate in these activities.

A club pin was designed bearing the inscription "Wausau" over a stone and crossed brooms. This pin has always been in demand among female curlers; to the Highlanders' delight, some women who never even threw a stone have used it as a scatter pin. A patch was designed that depicted a stone and crossed brooms backgrounded by a snow-covered mountain and pine trees and became the club emblem.

All of this activity, internal and external, required additional funds, and it brought the gals back to the kitchen again, their chores more enjoyable now that they had become a real part of curling. They took over the kitchen on a profit basis for the Invitational as well as the Midwest Bonspiels.

In 1951 the Wausau Curling Club invited the Highlanders to curl on their new refrigerated ice. Based on past experiences, many questions were posed: Would ice be available for evening play? Could singles or

women with non-curling husbands participate in mixed curling? What would the working and monetary responsibilities of the Highlanders be? A delegation from each of the clubs met and came to agreement: the Highlanders accepted the invitation, in writing, with terms outlined in their reply. At the end of the curling year, the Highlanders sent the Club a check for \$50.00 in appreciation for being able to use the new ice. This was only the first of many contributions over the years.

The two clubs continued to work well together, their mutual interests serving as a catalyst. The Highlanders made annual contributions to the club and even started a rock fund of their own. Virginia Miller, one of the first female curlers, donated a gas-fired charcoal grill (with about nine square feet of broiling space) in memory of her husband, Charlie. This welcome gift is still in constant use.

The Highlanders also continued their interest and participation in curling activities outside of Wausau. Patty Wirt became a member of the USWCA rules committee and skipped a rink in one of the first women's national bonspiels. Norma McKahan represented the Highlanders in the first state bonspiel (later to become the Badger) held in Appleton. Later the Highlanders made a bid to host the 1956 Badger Bonspiel and sent the Norma McKahan rink to make the bid and participate in the Badger Bonspiel in Portage, where her rink won the first event. The Highlander's bid was accepted.

By 1955 there were eighteen full rinks participating, some with as many as six members to accommodate all who wanted to curl. There was a flurry of activity preparing to host the Badger, and now, with adequate club rooms and kitchen facilities, the curling barn received a face lift. Additional chairs were purchased, worn-out cushion covers replaced, curtains hung at the windows, kitchen equipment updated and added. The ladies' enthusiasm spilled over on the men, and working as a team, produced a successful 'spiel. The Ruth Horkan rink which took the second event was the only Wausau winner.

To create greater stability, the Highlanders changed their Constitution so that it ensured a place on their Board for the immediate past president and provided for automatic promotion of the elected vice-president to the presidency. This election was by the entire membership rather than by the Board alone. It was also about this time that the women donated their rock fund of \$450.00 to the Wausau Curling Club and, typically, a new fund was started.

The Highlanders, with Medford, Waupaca, and Appleton, hosted the Scottish women's visit in 1958 and in 1959 became the host of the USWCA bonspiel. Wausau's reputation as the hospitality club became firmly established after these two events. The Highlanders' interest in out-of-town events had also become greater, and while in the past most entries went by default, the women found it necessary to stage annual playoffs to see who would get the prized invitations. The

Badger Bonspiel was the most attractive to the curlers, probably because of time and financial constraints. In addition, interest began to grow to host a mixed bonspiel, a dream that came to fruition in 1960. The Highlanders were responsible for establishing regularly scheduled mixed curling.

Wausau continued to sponsor mid-week bonspiels, and entertaining most of the clubs in Wisconsin, and soon became a power to be reckoned with in other cities as well — both on and off the ice. Then in 1965, Wausau again hosted the Badger Bonspiel. In anticipation of this event, a committee was appointed to investigate the possibilities of improving the women's lavatory facilities. When costs and problems became known, caution and prudence prevailed, and a decision was made to improve the clubrooms instead.

New tables and chairs were purchased for the clubrooms, and a substantial contribution was given to purchase stones necessary for the added fifth sheet. New kitchen equipment was purchased and installed, and much to the joy of Walt and Julie Baumgardt — our home grown entertainers — an upright piano was purchased. Many members spent many hours singing around the piano as Walt and Julie tirelessly played their unique duets.

The All American event was established by the USWCA in 1967. The Highlanders accepted the idea only halfheartedly, but supported the majority of members of the national organization after the votes were in. This award, which had no guidelines at its inception, was originally given to the Highlanders' champion. Now that the guidelines have been established, the standard format is followed.

When the fifth sheet was added, the Highlanders expanded their evening curling activities. They were now able to organize a full schedule on a twice-a-week basis. And after years of discussion, the Highlanders finally permitted eight-end games, provided that agreement was reached by all prior to each competition. The afternoon curlers soon went to eight-end competition, but the evening curlers continued to insist on ten-end games.

In prior years, Highlander Bonspiel winners had the unenviable task of hosting that bonspiel the following year. Naturally, there was some rebellion at being "penalized" for being a winner. The Highlanders developed a ladder system so that all club members could experience running a bonspiel. It took the men several years to recognize the merits of this system and adopt it, but they finally capitulated (somewhat chagrined that the gals had thought of it first).

With a view to hosting the 1981 USWCA national bonspiel, the Highlanders shifted into high gear and, with the men, spruced up the clubrooms so that they would be acceptable. The kitchen was decorated and refurbished, new drapes were hung, carpeting and paneling was installed in the expanded lavatory, and everything was painted. The clubrooms never looked so good.

With the trauma of the confiscation of the liquor for the Men's Invitational, an additional problem developed for the Highlanders. To keep the clubrooms open during curling, it was necessary that a licensed bartender be on duty. This caused some consternation in the ranks, but finally a couple of volunteers came forward, and the Highlanders remained legal.

Highlanders have always been active in state and national organizations. They were one of the charter members of the Badger Women's Curling Association established in 1958 for the purpose of promoting and conserving the best interests and true spirit of curling among women curlers in the Badger State. Norma McKahan was its first secretary. Since that time many Highlanders have served on committees for the organization. In 1971 Janet Kuechle was elected president of the association, Doris Eberlein served in that capacity in 1975, and Kathy Penn has just completed her term. The Highlanders had joined the USWCA in 1948, the year after its founding, and have continued to contribute talent to that organization also. Janet Kuechle and Anne Altman have each served as treasurer and Doris Eberlein has just completed her term as president. Estelle Wolff was a motivating factor in the development of the Senior Women's Bonspiel, which is now a firmly established competition after her two years as chairman of the committee.

In 1983 the Highlanders established two awards to recognize long and distinguished service. The first was a plaque placed in the clubrooms that lists the names of members with 35 years of continuous membership. The second was the gift of a Blue Jacket awarded to those who not only have been members for at least 35 years, but who have also provided distinguished service to the club above and beyond what would normally be expected. Since establishment of the Blue Jacket award, the following have been elected to receive this prestigious honor:

Ruth Fox
Gert Hogan
Ruth Horkan
Lucille Omholt
Betty Peters
Arlene Ross
Patti Wirt

Over the years the Highlanders have always performed well in state and national competition. For example, the Badger Bonspiel has produced the following winners:

1954 Norma McKahan	First event winner
1955 Ruth Horkan	Second event winner
1961 Norma McKahan	Second event winner
1962 Norma McKahan	First event winner
1964 Dorothy McCann	First event winner

1972 Dorothy Butterfield	First event runner-up
Val Heath	Fourth event winner
1975 Dorothy Butterfield	First event winner
1983 Donna Gratton	First event winner
1985 Susan Johnson	First event winner
1986 Kathy Penn	First event winner
Dorothy Butterfield	Second event winner

In addition, the Highlanders have produced two state champions under the new format of the USWCA National Women's Championships: Sandy Robarge in 1977 and Susan Johnson in 1984.

Probably the most outstanding performance by a Highlander was the victory of Sandy Robarge in the 1977 National Women's Championships. Joining her were Elaine Collins at third, Jo Shannon at second, and Ginny Morrison at lead. The event was held at Duluth, and the Wausau rink came through undefeated. The format of this event follows the USMCA championships, and the participants are from all clubs in the United States. Wausau rinks have won three national championships—and all three have involved Highlanders!

The development of mixed curling in Wausau is indelibly intertwined with the Highlanders and their efforts. It began in one form or another, almost as soon as the girls took to the ice. We suspect that it might have been pride in accomplishment that led the women to challenge the men to a contest on the Highlanders' ice. While records are lacking, female memories are sharp. It appears that the Nuernbergs, Horkans, McKahans, and Hennigs participated in this historic event. No one can recall the score, but all admit that the girls were the winners!

On a if-you-can't-beat-'em,-join-'em'' theory, a rather disorganized mixed curling program started the next year. They held their own bonspiel, and memories indicate that the McKahans and Nuernbergs were the first winners. This became an annual event, but still without much organization. Then, in 1954 a trophy and medals were obtained through the Wisconsin River Supply Company an organization run by John Weichmann, son of one of the original members and a new curler with Paul McKahan. This newly organized bonspiel was won by Stan Budil, assisted by Arvid Schwichtenberg and two comely high school teachers recruited by Stan. They defeated Bob Altman and Bud Stone, with Ruth Weaver and Millie Gahnz, in the finals. Note that after their respective wives saw how much fun Arv and Bob were having, Harriet Schwichtenberg and Anne Altman became members of the Highlanders the following year.

There was a great deal of agitation to host an invitational mixed bonspiel despite some rather vocal opposition from the men—or at least from some of them. But by this time Anne Altman was thoroughly hooked on curling. She and Bob, along with Bud and Jo

Stone, attended mixed bonspiels in Madison, Milwaukee, and Chicago, getting information, making notes of formats, and generally trying to see how others lived. Persistence paid off, and the men agreed to set aside time for an invitational mixed. Bob, Anne, Bud, and Jo chaired the event in 1960. It quickly filled up, was an immediate success and has been since that time.

As mixed curling grew in popularity and its events became more numerous, the Wausau Curling Club insisted on some organization to keep pace with growth. An informal organization was established with Ray Peters as its president. The following year Ken Nuernberg became president, and, with the able legal assistance of Clint Boone, the mixed association became incorporated. While independent of other organizations, the Wausau Curling Club wisely retained veto power over its activities. This power has been used sparingly, but it is comforting to know that it exists.

The minutes of the first seven years of organization are missing, and it is not certain when the current regulations went into effect. Today, men and women are equally represented on the Board and they alternate presidencies. Rules require that to be a member of the mixed association, one must be either a dues-paying Highlander or a member of the Wausau Curling Club. There are 24 full mixed rinks, curling in two leagues on Sunday afternoons. Wausau teams participate widely in mixed events throughout the United States, always giving a good account of themselves. In 1975 the Wausau rink of Neil Collins, Sandy Robarge, Roger Robarge, and Elaine Collins won the national mixed title sponsored by the USMCA. Neil and Elaine, with Rick and Jo Shannon, repeated the feat in 1979.

Contrary to original "doomsday" predictions, mixed curling has not been the downfall of curling in Wausau. There is no doubt that it has altered a lot of priorities, but we believe that mixed curling has cemented the club into a cohesive unit and made it stronger — more social, it is true, but just as enjoyable.

The history of the Highlanders has been one of dedication and enthusiasm. It is almost impossible to assess their contribution of money, time, and effort toward the betterment of the club. It is certain that the club would exist today without the Highlanders, but surely it would not be as pleasant. The constant upgrading of the facilities for apres-curling activities must be laid totally at the doorstep of the Highlanders. We take a lot of it for granted and do not always seem appreciative. May we express ourselves, perhaps inadequately, by saying, "Thank you, Highlanders, God bless you."

We have some members who, if they are not opposed to women curling, are at the very most only luke-warm to the idea. When we decided on a format for this book, one of those gentlemen submitted

his favorite anecdote concerning women curling. It is presented unedited:



It was in February 1959 that the hand that rocked the cradle rocked the male - dominated Wausau Curling Club. The Wausau Highlanders curling club was hostess to the United States Women's Curling Association's

National Championships (bonspiel). The hard - bitten men curlers took to the spectator seats to witness a display of curling never before nor since seen in this hinterland.

Historically, and sometimes hysterically, women have played the game as far back as 1821. A stipulation in the minute book of the Peebles Curling Club in Scotland reads: "When ladies come near the rink and are disposed to play, the skips (men) shall have the privilege of instructing them to handle the stones agreeable to the rules of the game." There is also a watercolor sketch showing "ladies enjoying a game of curling probably at Penicuik House in 1847." The ladies are dressed in full length plaids, shawls, and sunbonnets. (Had stretch pants and sweaters been available then, the game would have moved more rapidly toward becoming a spectator sport.)

So precedent there is in favor of women curling.

The 1959 event was a masterpiece in organization. Husbands of Wausau women curlers were coerced (read "powerfully persuaded") to assist with the games. One veteran male curler had finished preparation of the ice. He, following instructions, said to one of the skips, "Madame, here is your game card." The lady drew herself up to a towering, chilly five feet, withered him with a glance down her patrician nose, and cut him to ice level with this: "Put the card in my saddle bag, boy."



Women's curling strides daintily to domination ever since.

HIGH SCHOOL CURLING

High school curling (or junior curling, as it is known in metropolitan areas) started sometime in the mid 1930s in Wausau. The 1935 Wahiscan (the school yearbook) included pictures of the curling team and noted that it had won the Winter Frolic competition that year. One of the members of that rink, Art Kieffer, is still active, curling with the Experienced Curlers league on Wednesday mornings. Don Diddams, a biology teacher and member of the Wausau Curling Club in 1935, was the coach. There were twelve members of the organization, which was disbanded after that year.

High school curling resumed in 1947, with Harry Johnson, a member of the club and a chemistry teacher, as the coach. The organization has been active since that time. Harry was very enthusiastic about high school curling and served on state and national committees concerning the subject. It was his dedication that kept the program alive. He is often referred to as the Father of Wisconsin High School Curling. He was instrumental in having the WIAA sanction curling as a high school sport. Through his leadership the high school organization grew to a maximum of sixteen full rinks that curled twice a week after school. Harry retired from coaching in 1964, but not from curling. He continued to be a member until the late seventies.

Because the sport was WIAA-sanctioned, it was necessary to have a member of the faculty as a coach. Brian Bennett took over from Harry; Tim Hirsch (not a curler) followed. Bill Edwards, upon joining the faculty of Wausau East, became its curling coach, and Dennis Tietge became the coach of West. The WIAA withdrew its sanction in 1975, and interest in curling declined somewhat.

Bill Edwards left the Wausau East faculty in 1979, and that left the school without instructors having any knowledge or experience in curling. East was about to abandon the sport when Lee Duncan and Bob Wilson agreed to take on the coaching responsibilities, and are presently performing that duty. Miriam Burrows, a recently accredited Canadian Instructor and Cheryl Roe, an East grad have assisted in developing the neophyte curlers. Dennis Tietge remains as the curling coach at West.

Wausau teams, both East and West have always done well in local, sectional and state competitions, usually being the team to beat in any given competition. West boys have won six sectional championships, and were state champs in 1978 and 1979. West girls have won two sectional championships, were runners-up in the state in 1980 and 1985, and captured the championship in 1986. East boys have won many sectionals and were the state champions in 1959. East girls won the state title in 1980 and 1981. Wausau East boys established some sort of a record in 1957 when the three teams entered each won an event in a bonspiel sponsored by Portage.

After the Junior Nationals were sanctioned, Wausau participated without regard to school affiliation on four separate occasions. They achieved their best record in Seattle, tying for second place.

There has been a decline in interest in curling in the past few years. This decline is in numbers, not in enthusiasm from the participants. Most attribute this decline to the need for "after school jobs." Apparently this is true in all intra-mural activities.

The Wausau Curling Club has always supported high school curling enthusiastically and has furnished ice time and stones at a fee well below the cost to the club. Assistance is always available to the high school curlers. This is probably the reason for whatever interest there is in high school curling. We have found that a high percentage of boys and girls who have had their start in high school have continued their interest in curling and we know of several who are participating in clubs around the country as well as many who are now members of this club. High school curling is alive and well in Wausau, and this club intends to keep it that way.

SPECIAL EVENTS

We suspect that every club has its unique events, usually conceived and born around the tables after curling games are played. Some are one-time events and some are short-lived. Wausau has two events that have withstood the rigors of time and promise to be permanent fixtures of the club. The First Chance Bonspiel at the start of the season and the Silver Spoon held after the compressor has been turned off have been popular for almost a decade. The First Chance is open to all comers, and the Silver Spoon is for members and their guests.

The spring of 1975 was slow in coming, and despite the fact that the compressor had been turned off, the ice remained in good condition. With this in mind, John Peterman envisioned a little bonspiel. In honor of the World Championships, the Silver Broom, being played at that time, it was dubbed the "Silver Spoon." The first format was simple, comprising two-man teams and four ends. The event was so enthusiastically received that the following year a more formal program was adopted: two-person teams, two ends, two rocks per person per end. Warmer weather made the ice a bit sloppy, and there was some difficulty in scoring, but the event was again popular.

In 1977 Stu Rosemurgy made the Silver Spoon the first U.S. car spiel, donating a real clunker for the winner. The car was parked in the middle of the third sheet. Bill Edwards and Paul Schaeffer, the first to win a car, drove and towed it to the junk yard to be sold for \$50. They were greeted the following year with cries of "Professionals."

This spiel was open to men and women, and the following year the ice machine was left on a week longer. It was probably the keener ice that produced the first female winners, Elaine Collins and Carolyn Tauer. In 1980 Jack and Yvonne Flaker were the first winning husband and wife combination. There were many cries of "foul" as Jack swept his own rock from tee to tee, a feat that seemed almost grotesque to those who were not agile enough to do the same.

John Wiechmann, grandson of one of the original members, and who, with his wife, Mona, scored the first perfect four-end in the event, donated a new but hideous-colored toilet bowl to be used as a mixer for the punch consumed between games. This hallowed receptacle met an untimely end when it fell off the truck on the way to storage. Thunder Bucket Two has been assembled and still serves the bonspiel as intended. The feast following this one day event has been of the pot luck variety and the libations Dutch. No one has complained that this is not an enjoyable way to close out the curling year.



Bob and Anne Altman played in this event in 1981, after having participated in the Stevens Point Mixed in the afternoon, where they won the second event. They won

the second event in the Silver Spoon. We believe that this is the only time in curling history in which a rink has won the second event in two separate bonspiels, held in two different cities, all on the same day.



The First Chance was conceived and born in much the same way. Paul Schaeffer, John Peterman, Jim Detienne, and Bill Edwards were enjoying a quiet beverage and talking about curling during the early fall of 1977. John remarked that he had, on several occasions, practiced throwing rocks between the first and final floodings. Casual comment was made that if this can be done, why not a bonspiel to kick off the season? Why not, indeed! With the courage born of barley, the four set out to accomplish just that, even creating a name that was obviously borrowed from the popular Hibbing Last Chance. Denzil Wirt, the ice maker, gave his assent, and they were off and running. The first spiel attracted 18 teams from various parts of the state; today the spiel has grown to a solid 32, with a waiting list.

The format is unique in that it allows men and women, in any combination, to participate. We have had husbands and wives skipping separate rinks, fathers and daughters, entire families; you name it, the combination has been tried. The women, who have always accredited themselves well, have won events, though they have not captured the first. One state champion acknowledged that his toughest game was one he skipped against his wife. First event winners have been state, national, and world champions and have come back for successive years to participate. Trophies are now available, and the participation seems solid in an event that likely will be around for a long time.

GREEN JACKET — LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The institution of life membership in the Wausau Curling Club became a part of the bylaws when the club incorporated in 1942. The honor was established to reward and recognize those who contributed beyond the call of duty to the success and well-being of the club. Howard Morrison was the first recipient in 1948. He had left Wausau to take up residence in Oregon (where, incidentally, his wife, Stell, became the Republican National Committee woman).

No others were awarded the membership for the next seventeen years. At that time the fertile mind of Lee Duncan came up with the idea that the award was so prestigious that it should involve more than just a record in the minutes of the club. He suggested that along with all the other perks attending the honor, a Green Jacket be given as a symbol of distinction. He also suggested that the jacket be presented during the Wausau Invitational Bonspiel to give added luster to the honor and make it known to the entire curling fraternity.

The award was to be expanded to include those who contributed to the game of curling as a whole as well as to the club. Rules were laid down that required nomination by a committee and acceptance by 75% of the members of the club. The format was changed after Oscar Omholt was voted to receive the award, but died before its presentation. Now the annual meeting in the spring votes on the award, and its recipient is immediately informed of the honor. The formal presentation of the Green Jacket is made at the annual fall meeting of the club.

W.B. Cuff was the first recipient of the new award, followed by Glenn Harris, Charlie Smith, and Newell Johnson. Since the election of Johnson, only members of the Wausau Curling Club have been so honored. This is not an annual event, but rather selective, and the Green Jacket retains its prestige and distinction. It epitomizes the truism that no honor is as great as that which is bestowed on one by his peers.

The following are sketches of the curling lives of the club's life members. Their entire stories could not be told because of space restraints, but the reader will easily realize why these men have been chosen. There is also no doubt that there have been others who could have easily merited the award. Among those who are either inactive or deceased are Ray Peters, for his excellent work in the 1976 Nationals and his long representation on state and national boards; Harry Johnson, for his work in promoting high school curling; Dave Hogan, for his all-around efforts in the club, but especially scheduling; Paul Dale, for his all-around work and his tireless efforts during the installation of refrigerated ice; Ken Nuernberg, for his efforts throughout the years; Ing Horgen, for his part in the creation of our building and refrigerated ice.

First and foremost in our minds, however, is A.W. (Arnie) Plier. Arnie became a member of the club in 1937. At the time he was employed by the D.J. Murray Manufacturing Company and eventually became its president. He became enamored with the game and constantly sought methods to improve its play in Wausau. He was the prime driving force in acquiring new facilities, matched stones, and finally refrigerated ice. His enthusiasm rubbed off on the members, and he was elected to consecutive terms as president in 1945 and 1946. This enthusiasm also spread to his company: at one time there were eight full rinks composed of Murray employees. He personally guaranteed loans for these employees to insure the refrigerated ice program. Many of these curlers are still active, one way or another, in the club. He established a Murray employee bonspiel in memory of his brother, Frank, who was also a dedicated curler. This bonspiel was a one-day affair open only to Murray employees. They never had any trouble filling an eight team draw. Fittingly enough, Arnie was its first winner. Arnie was a well known curler and delighted in meeting business associates in other cities who were also curlers. He enjoyed doing the unexpected. Once he took a house trailer decorated with advertising for the Wausau Bonspiel to a Portage Bonspiel. Despite the fact that power had to be supplied to the trailer, the caper was well received and the trailer became the unofficial headquarters for curlers and spectators alike. Much of what we enjoy today throughout the club is a direct or indirect result of the efforts of Arnie Plier.

HOWARD S. MORRISON Wausau 1948

Curling Clubs are invariably started through the efforts of individuals transferred from towns where curling exists to towns where curling is unknown, barren areas in need of enlightenment. Such was the case with Howard Morrison. If anyone deserves to wear the mantle of Father of Wausau Curling, certainly it would be Howard. Without his determination, there would not be a Wausau Curling Club. We are indebted to Estelle Morrison for information on her husband's early years in Wausau curling.

Morrison came to Wausau from Gilbert, Minnesota, in 1922 to work for the C.C. Yawkey Interests. He had just won the Iron Range Curlers Bonspiel and he was disappointed that there was no curling in Wausau where he could use his bonspiel prize, a pair of curling stones. He met Roy Duncan, who remembered seeing stones like Morrison's on the porch of the John Schultz home and two more used as decorations on the tops of posts at the entrance to the B.F. Wilson home. With the appetite to curl now whetted, the two, with John Schultz's help, negotiated a loan of stones from the Portage Curling Club. Schultz an engineer on the Milwaukee Railroad, freighted the stones to Wausau, where curling was about to become a reality.

Morrison was designated the treasurer of the club upon its organization and with 49 members paying dues of \$5.00 each, curling had

indeed been organized. He continued until 1935, his dedication and enthusiasm reaching far beyond the keeping of the records.

WALTER B. CUFF Wausau 1965

Doc Cuff (Doctor in Osteopathy) joined the club in 1929, possibly at the urging of his bachelor friends, but more likely because he was a native of Portage, where curling had been established for some time. Throughout his years in Wausau, Doc could always be found in the thick of curling activity. He was the club's first corporate secretary-treasurer, a position he held until he was elected president in 1950 and again in 1951. In this capacity he presided over the installation of refrigerated ice. He continued to serve as a director during his entire time as an active curler.

Beyond his official duties, he was a tireless worker when each year the old cow barn was converted to a three-sheet curling club. This involved the erection of the warming and spectator space, preparation of the ice area prior to flooding, removal of the stanchions, and flooding of the sand base and final ice coating. This whole process was reversed at the end of each season. While he was not alone in these endeavors, it was Doc's constant direction and urgings that got things accomplished.

He seemed to make a hobby of compiling records of Wausau curling, and it is from this collection of memorabilia that much of our early history was developed. Of particular interest and value was his penchant for developing bonspiel draws that accommodated from as few as 4 participants to as many as 64, allowing for 3-or 4-event draws with a 3-game loss (except for semi-finalists). This draw, eventually known as the Wausau Draw, became a great favorite in the curling world. It was from his collection that our current draw system for five sheet competition was developed.

Doc attended bonspiels throughout the state on a regular basis and was a staunch supporter of the soft draw strategy. He never did become reconciled with the Canadian running game. He might have lost the strategy battle, but he did teach many a young whipper-snapper to respect the art of making a draw shot.

GLENN HARRIS Superior 1967

Harris, a long-time, highly regarded member of the Superior Curling Club, began attending the Wausau Bonspiel when play was still in the old barn north of our current facility. The date of his first attendance is obscure. Harris was intensely interested in promoting curling and was constantly visiting new clubs. In addition to his curling teammates, he invariably brought with him Joe Gregg, a dour and rugged Scotsman who was the ice maker at Superior and well known for his expertise. It was anticipated that Joe would help the ice-makers in new clubs, a chore that may have seemed simple to one who regularly cared for thirteen sheets.

Glenn won our bonspiel many times and took considerable interest in showing us how to improve our ice-making practices. He and Joe showed us how to scribe and paint circles and how to lay yarn in grooves that had been carefully cut with curved wood-cutting saw blades spaced on a radius board anchored to the "button" and swung carefully around the center point. Joe watched in dismay as his friends struggled with our hand ax-chopped hacks. Comforted partially with an ample supply of scotch, he would lament, "Look at me puirr lads, oot there, up to their knees in your goddom hacks." He showed us how to build hack boards and foot holds, saying "Gie your sel a two-by-four six inches wide and freeze it level wi the ice."

Harris was a master game strategist, as those of us who were fortunate enough to curl with him will attest. He was an excellent teacher of stone delivery and invented several devices to assist beginners in achieving a smooth, push-free delivery. He produced, at his own expense, several films still available to beginners. He founded and published the North American Curling News. This was hardly a money maker, but it was an illustration of his devotion to the game and its participants. His coaching ability and interest in young and new players culminated in the achievements of Bud Sommerville and Bob Nichols, who were quick to learn and benefit from this master of the game.

CHARLES SMITH Pardeeville 1968

Smith was given his award in acknowledgment of his consistent yearly attendance and support of our Invitational. In our early years, when we were trying to establish the Wausau Curling Club as a competitive entity in Wisconsin curling, Smith attended our bonspiels and urged others to do the same. In fact, he still holds the record for attendance at our Invitational, making an appearance at 25 consecutive bonspiels, both in the old barn and in the new facility. Every trophy awarded in this 'spiel bears his name. He was known — and feared — as a crooked ice genius and an alert game strategist who seemed to have a time clock in his head that told him when the bell would ring ending the game — usually to his advantage. He was a one-man advertising agency in Columbia County for the Wausau Invitational Bonspiel, and to this day, that area is always well represented.

In about 1935 he lost the sight of one eye, a result of a wood-splitting accident. This had absolutely no effect on his curling ability to draw delicately, shoot accurately, guard carefully, and promote from any angle. He and his teammates were formidable opponents, and he has several disciples still on the circuit.

NEWELL JOHNSON Exmoor 1969

Newell was a major mover in establishing curling at the Exmoor Country Club in Highland Park, Illinois. He soon recognized the need

to take his country club curlers into the hinterlands to meet their country cousins. While they were originally met with some suspicion, and quite often with disdain, Newell's affability and curling prowess soon ensured the whole hearted acceptance of his rink. He was really the ambassador of curling from Chicago, and his friendly and courteous attitude had a great deal to do with an acceptance of Chicago domination in the early USMCA. His hospitable attitude extended to those attending Exmoor events, and soon the country cousins and the city slickers became as one with the common denominator of curling.

It was this association that caused Wausau to enlarge its concept of bonspiel curling to make its event more cosmopolitan in style. Newell was also a big influence in national curling. His sportsmanship, enthusiasm, integrity, respect for curling's traditions, and pure love of the game as a game qualify him for election as a life member. He wore the Green Jacket proudly, and it fit him well. It is quite possible that he had an almost equal fondness for his Lonesome Polecat patches.

AL PAPPENFUSS Wausau 1971

"Pappy" is the club's oldest living member. He joined the club in 1927 on the invitation of curlers from Employers Mutuals and continued to curl both locally and throughout the United States and Canada. He and George Landon were the first Wausau curlers to participate in the Quebec City International Bonspiel. Later he toured Scotland and Switzerland with the United States teams and was responsible for bringing the Scot's teams to Wausau on their tours.

Papenfuss was a director of the Midwest Curling Association in 1950, becoming its president in 1958. He was president of the Wausau Curling Club in 1952 and was for many years active in the long-range planning program of the club. He was one of the organizers of the USMCA and a director in 1960. He was also a director of the Wisconsin State Curling Association becoming its president in 1975-1976. Through his affiliations, he sponsored and brought prominence to Wausau as the host city for the Nationals in 1976. He acted as honorary chairman of the event, and it was his leadership, constructive advice, and promotional efforts that created a successful championship.

While no longer curling actively, Al is a regular spectator at Wausau events and enjoys reminiscing with the Retired Curlers at their weekly sessions. He remains devoted to the game—past, present, and future—and wears the Green Jacket with pride and distinction.

GEORGE C. LANDON Wausau 1975

George started curling in 1936 at the urging of his firm's attorney, Rudy Puchner, an early enthusiast interested in attracting younger people to the game. Landon played with Puchner until 1940, when he

formed his own rink. In response to a need for new members, he recruited Paul McKahan, John Roang, and Fred Fox as his teammates. He reports that his success was minimal, losing nine in a row. This neophyte team entered the Invitational, and played more games than any other entrant. But, alas, they received only a "nice try" prize offered in consolation.

Landon was the club's president in 1943 and embarked on a long-range program with remarkable results. He designed the first club badge, redesigning it a few years later. The original is now a collector's item. He encouraged the wearing of tams and glengarries and the prominent display of club emblems. He successfully encouraged attendance at our own bonspiels and the attendance of Wausau rinks in others. This activity and dynamic leadership resulted in the club's growth in both numbers and prominence.

During consultations with the county park Board on construction of a new cattle barn adjacent to the old one, Landon's influence helped persuade the designer to build a structure that would accommodate a four-sheet curling facility. He also recognized the need for matched club stones and negotiated the purchase of 32 of them from the Canadian distributor of Kay's Excelsior curling stones at \$32.00 per pair.

When refrigerated ice became advisable, Landon developed a financing plan complete with proforma columns. He proposed the issuance of stock at \$100.00 per share, compulsory after the second year of curling, and limited to one share per person, and a no-interest loan of up to \$300.00 from any member. Repayment was conditioned on all payments to commercial lenders. It was projected that these loans would be repaid in fifteen years; they were actually paid back in less than ten. He proposed establishing a "rock fund" with a \$5.00 per person annual assessment for three consecutive years.

LEE L. DUNCAN Wausau 1977

Every curling club has its MISTER CURLER. When you use that sobriquet in Wausau, everyone knows you are talking about Lee Duncan. Lee was introduced to curling in 1926 by his father, Roy Duncan, one of our founding fathers. Because of his age, Lee was not permitted to participate in league games but did play in pick-up games at every opportunity. He was also accorded the dubious honor of being the official "go-fer." He spent countless hours listening to curling talk and developed an early passion for the game. He was not assessed any dues until 1931, when he became an official member of the club.

He fully participated in club activities, including ice making, barn preparation, long-range planning, and, of course, league play. He served in an official capacity on many occasions and was elected president in 1938 and 1942. He was in the fore of programs to expand

from two to three sheets in the old barn, to move to the new building, and to develop refrigerated ice and obtain matched stones. More recently he was contributed greatly to the setting down of this history. His curling exploits and successes would fill volumes. He was the club champion nine times, All-City skip six times, first event winner in our bonspiel five times, and won the other events several times.

He was, and still is, considered a master strategist, much in demand from the "young turks" for consultation and advise. He was the first in our club to recognize the advantage of the takeout game and was its advocate to his students. He credits Glenn Harris for his basic delivery and strategy and O.G. Blakeslee for strategy refinements. Slowly, somewhat reluctantly, he saw the advantage of the aggressive draw and, once converted, became a worthy exponent of the theory. He attended and acquitted himself well in bonspiels throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota, becoming quite well known throughout the curling fraternity. He views his greatest accomplishment as his win in the 1957 Midwest Championships (the forerunner of today's Nationals).

He suffered a heart attack while curling in St. Paul and is now a member of the Coronary Curling Club of America. He did come back to curling, still an active league player. He was the driving force behind the establishment of the Green Jacket award, the establishment and motif of the fourth event in the Wausau Invitational Bonspiel and proudly claims to be the only bonspiel chairman to give awards that no one could criticize: during the war years, he arranged for awards of American flags to the winners (the size of the flag denoted the event and the place won).

Lee has often been characterized as being against women curlers. Lee's standard reply is that he was never against women curlers, only against women curling. He has been known to say that he has no use for lady curlers — of either sex. He claims to maintain that position and yet is always the first to volunteer his services during Highlander bonspiels, even mixed bonspiels. And for the past several years he helped coach the Wausau East girls' curling teams, twice to state championships.

Lee was, and is, a fierce competitive curler — one who neither asks for nor gives quarter. His is not a win-at-all-costs competitiveness, however. He insists on fairness, and on adherence to both the written rules and the unwritten rule that curling is a gentlemen's game, played by gentlemen, in a gentlemanly manner. The handclasp between competitors is more important than the ostentatious clasping of hands over one's head when victorious. Lee is realistic, recognizing that on any given day a previously winless rink can beat a previously unbeaten one. Perhaps that is why he enjoys the following poem credited to the Rev. James Meirs, circa 1880:

No truly generous mind, you know
Exulteth o'er a fallen foe.
Tho' foolish pride hath laid him low.
Yet, all agree
Others may learn by his o'erthrow,
HUMILITY.

For all of his curling prowess and devotion to the game, Lee stands for a belief that, to us who have curled and discussed curling with him, is more important. He, who was trained in his formative years when camaraderie among curlers was dominant, has kept his determination that intense competitive curling, with its trend toward professionalism and pay-for-play shall not replace the selfless devotion that has made curling in the Wausau Curling Club — in all club curling for that matter — the enjoyment that it is today. With this sort of dedication and teaching, it is not surprising that some of his students have joined him in the Green Jacket club.

DENZIL WIRT Wausau 1977

Denzil Wirt joined the curling club in 1941 at the urging of his associates at the D.J. Murray Manufacturing Company where Denzil was employed as production scheduler in the foundry division. In fact, his principle motive to join probably resulted from pressure by Arnold Plier, general manager of the company.

While his club participation usually involved playing the game, Denzil also responded willingly to the call for hands on workers whose talents were sorely needed to put together and maintain facilities throughout the season. This included the myriad of chores needed to convert a cow barn into a curling barn. Denzil was a devoted leader in these preparations.

Ice making was his specialty. He learned the tricks of preparing for and making level natural ice from Dick Jeske and applied his talents originally in the three-sheet barn and later in the new facility. Denzil coerced many of his curling mates and friends into a volunteer working force. He spent untold hours directing his volunteer group in the onerous tear down-build up cycle of preparing ice, spectator space, and clubrooms, laying circles, marking lines, pebbling and maintaining the ice during the entire season. All this for the benefit of the rest of us, whose contribution mainly involved asking, "When will the ice be ready?"

Level, fast ice was Denzil's goal, and he achieved it sometimes under considerably adverse conditions. Whenever he attended bonspiels — which was quite often — he always talked with other ice makers, investigating their methods. The expertise he gained has made Wausau ice the envy of many visiting curlers. His crowning achievement was the successful conversion of a hockey rink into a six-sheet

curling area for the Nationals. To a neophyte's complaint that there was a fall on a given sheet, it was always amusing to hear Denzil's terse reply, "So, learn how to play it.!"

For all the time he spent acquiring ice-making knowledge, Denzil was also a good competitive skip and excellent shot maker. Many of us have said, "If you must make that draw, call for Denzil." To illustrate the turn of a stone, Curly Weinkauff, a news photographer, once tied a flashlight to the handle of a stone and took time pictures of Denzil making a draw shot. To no one's surprise, the stone came to rest at or near the button. These pictures can be seen prominently displayed at the club.

OSCAR OMHOLT Wausau 1979

Oscar, another employee of D.J. Murray Manufacturing Company, was introduced to curling in 1943 by A.W. Plier. He curled with Arnie for several years, before branching out on his own where he achieved better than moderate success.

Oscar and his wife, Lucille (Highlander Blue Jacket honoree), were early mixed curling enthusiasts and were considered as mainstays of the early organization.

Oscar was not one who enjoyed notoriety. He much preferred to have a job where he could work quietly and effeciently and get the job done with few persons realizing what had been accomplished until it was completed. No job was too small or mundane to receive his attention, for example, before we had kitchen help, it was Oscar who saw to it that cleaning supplies were always available; that kitchen supplies were plentiful; that lavatory tissue and towels were on hand, and so on. He took on the thankless chore of house manager and was instrumental in developing the hospitality room system we now use.

He served as a director for several terms, and was elected president in 1957. He was a motivator and planner, instrumental in the design and construction of today's kitchen facilities and was of great assistance as a mediator in discussions between the Highlanders and the club concerning matters of mutual concern.

Because of his penchant for anonymity, Oscar will probably be best remembered for his most visible position in the club — that of treasurer from 1973 to his death in 1979. Those were not the easiest years for the keeper of the purse strings, but Oscar came through with flying colors. His watch-dog attitude and style soon became well known to all, and it was a sure bet that if an expenditure was made, the club got value received.

For his devotion to the game, his constant creative attention to the chores of record keeping and, above all, for his constant desire to improve the club, he was awarded the Green Jacket. Unfortunately, he died before the formal presentation could be made.

ROBERT C. WILSON Wausau 1980

Bob Wilson started curling in 1950, one of few who became members without being urged to take up the game by another person.

Bob recalls that he observed curling during the winter of 1949, the year he moved to Wausau. The game fascinated him, and his appetite was whetted before anyone else knew him. He remembers reading an article about the annual meeting, and calling one of the new officers to find out how he, too, could become a member of the curling fraternity. He was cordially invited to participate, and curled the following season. After his first year of curling, which was less than satisfactory because of personality problems with his rink, he started to curl with Wayne Myers at the second position. He remained with Wayne for several years, advanced to third, and eventually started skipping. As a skip, he has an Invitational, two club, and several league championships.

Bob became interested in competitive bonspiel play, and joined the Lee Duncan rink at second. The rink enjoyed considerable success in competition in Minnesota and Canada, as well as Wisconsin. He considers the highlight of his competitive career the winning of the Midwest Championship in 1957. This rink which might have been destined for greater glory, disbanded when Lee had his heart attack on the ice at a St. Paul Bonspiel.

Bob Wilson served two terms on Wausau's Board and was elected president in 1963. His was a term of considerable growth and improvements. He insisted that by removing the wide walkways on each side and center of our facility that a fifth sheet could be built, adding 20% to the size of the playing field. He researched the project and estimated the cost to be \$5000. When the Board went along with his thinking, the 5th sheet came into being. This has added considerably to the playing time available to the club. Other improvements he promoted included rebuilding the clubroom fireplace, paneling the clubrooms, installation of a viewing window, enlargement and upgrading of the ladies lavatory, and the addition of an adequate stove in the kitchen. Since retirement, Bob, with assistance from Lee Duncan, has coached the Wausau East curling teams with more than modest success. Their girls' teams won two consecutive state championships.

In Bob's own assessment of his curling experience, he says, "The benefits I have received from curling are tremendous. The friendships that have developed among people from all walks of life are among my most treasured memories." It is obvious that Bob's curling friends find the association mutually rewarding, anecdotes about Bob and his rather large family are told throughout curling territory. A memorable one involves a visiting curler who boasted about the size of his own family. Bob quietly asked, "And how many do you have?" When the

reply was seven, Bob brought a quick end to the conversation by stating, "I have more daughters than that."



It was after a bonspiel game at Medford when Bob was being congratulated on having an excellent game at the third position.

His opposition asked, almost in awe, "How in the world can you make so many doubles?" Bob's reply was quiet and calm, "Well, first you have to have a second man who misses."



ROBERT C. ALTMAN Wausau 1981

A reader uninitiated in curling and the Wausau Curling Club, or a curler just entering the game, might well be forgiven for asking, "Honorary lifetime member? Altman? Why him? He's such a modest, unassuming, quiet person!" And so he is. But beneath that facade is the real Bob Altman. He uses an anecdote taken from Henry Kissinger to illustrate his own becoming humility. Kissinger, upon receiving a standing ovation, said, when quiet finally resumed, "I am happy the applause ended, for I am never able to appear humble for any appreciable length of time."

Bob Altman joined the club in 1950, during the natural ice years. He received his baptism of fire under the guiding hands of Wayne K. Myers and remained his third man for five years. Surviving that and, by then, love of the game turned him into a skip, a position he has held each year since.

Beyond serious participation in club curling and men's foreign bonspiels, he became a leader in the affairs of the club. He was secretary for five years, president in 1960, served three terms as a director, and has been committee chairman or member of every committee of the club. Awards for achievement were also his. He was chosen as Outstanding First Year Curler, and with his teammates has captured the title of many locally sponsored bonspiels. He was the club champion four times and chosen All-City skip four times.

Bob enjoyed competitive curling and was a member, at lead, of the Duncan rink consisting of Wayne Myers at third and Bob Wilson at second. Their hopes of National honors came to an end when Lee had his heart attack. That relationship did, however, produce an oft told anecdote which appears at the end of this section.

Ultimately finding other fields to conquer, Bob, in his search for domestic tranquility, turned to mixed curling. He promoted and chaired with his wife, Anne, the first Wausau Mixed Invitational Bonspiel, credited today with being one of the most popular bonspiels in the world of mixed curling. Bob and Anne continue to be outstanding ambassadors of Wausau in the many mixed bonspiels they attend.

If there is one achievement in his curling life that could be claimed the ultimate, it would be as finance chairman of the 1976 USMCA championships hosted by the Wausau Curling Club. Through his assistance and leadership of an army of devoted Wausau curlers, the event was declared the most successful in the history of the competition and has set a pattern for subsequent years.



The competitive rink of Lee Duncan, Wayne Myers, Bob Wilson and Bob Altman was a good rink and its members thought that they could win the State and go on to the Nationals. They probably had better than an even chance

— it being prior to the dominance of the Sommerville rink of Superior. Its hopes were dashed when Lee had his heart attack, and the closest they could come was the Midwest held in Medford in 1957, prior to Lee having his attack. Bob Altman had previously committed himself to playing a lead role in a charity revue on that weekend and was unable to attend. Don Horkan ably filled his position and much to Bob's chagrin, they won what was then the national championship. Eager to redeem himself, he agreed to be part of the team at the regular Medford Bonspiel a few weeks later. His high spirits were somewhat dampened when they reported to the bonspiel desk and Ray Blakeslee, the chairman said, loudly, "Well, Lee, you didn't improve your rink any, did you?"



ROBERT A. SEE Wausau 1984

Fortunately for the Wausau Curling Club and Bob See, there was J.R. Boatman, who persuaded Bob to see the error of his ways, give up bowling, and join the curling club in 1969. Hours of practice and chalk talks at Boatman's insistence helped Bob evolve into the fine curler and devoted club member that he is today.

Bob recalls the first rink he played with had Ray "Curly" Weinkauff at skip, Boatman at third and Frank Plano at second. Then the practice and strategy lessons paid off: with the rink in reverse order, Bob skipped the team to win the Leadman's Bonspiel. The club membership bestowed the 1970 First Year Curler award on Bob and that began a winning career to which his contribution as a player was outstanding. In 1976 he skipped the winning rink in the intraclub spiel in both the men's and mixed competitions. With Curly Weinkauff, Bob helped to win the club championship three times.

Bob's devotion to curling did not end with participation, but extended to the club itself. He served as treasurer for two years, vice-president for one year and then as president (1973) and since that time has been the club secretary. He is now in his fourth term on the Board.

It is quite likely that no curler plays more games in any week than does Bob. He is a much sought after substitute since most skips recognize real talent when they see it. Much of the rest of his time is spent in the demanding chores of record keeping. He is always available when the call goes out that help is needed at the club. As his patient wife, Doris, once put it, "His vocation is curling, his avocation is his work."

RAY "CURLY" WEINKAUF Wausau 1984

Thanks to a coffee conversation with Arv Schwichtenberg, Curly was persuaded to join the club in 1957. With that began years of active participation in the game he would come to love and more importantly, years of vital service to the club and its growth. Curly has served four terms on the Board and as the club president in 1978. For two years he acted as house chairman, a job well designed to discourage any but the most devoted.

Curly was, and still is, an avid student of the game — watching others, learning the peculiarities of the ice, and talking strategy, style, and gamesmanship with those whose skill he admires. He attends many foreign bonspiels and has won more than his share of trophies over the years. He was club champion three times and winning skip in the Leadman's, and he has been included on eight other rinks who won that 'spiel. He played lead for a grateful Bob Wilson the year they won the Invitational. And it is no small achievement that he skipped his rink to three Lonesome Polecat awards. He pridefully points out that this was done with a corn broom.

Curly enjoyed mixed curling, and with his wife, Marcie, a three time Highlander champion, took the championship on several occasions. They just missed winning the Triple Crown of Wausau curling (men's, women's, and mixed championships) in two separate years.

Curly is chief photographer for the local paper and as such has carried his talent over to photographing numerous curlers in competition. Thousands of photos, published and unpublished, attest to his skill in portraying the game and its participants. If there will be in curlers' heaven a niche for a photographer, it will be labeled "Ray 'Curly' Weinkauf."

DOUGLASS SEEBER Wausau 1986

Douglass Seeber became a member of the Wausau Curling Club in 1963, having been introduced to the game by Bill Jahsman, a fellow employee at the American Can Co. He credits Dutch Gerzine with developing his delivery and instilling the deep love for the game. Doug had a thirst for knowledge about the game and would often be seen talking to the more experienced about strategy. He enjoyed getting a few together and listening to the various points of view. He soon

recognized the need to be involved in club activities beyond the game itself, and joined the ice making crew when the fifth sheet was added. His mechanical knowledge and ability were welcomed by Denzil Wirt, and he soon became the second in command of the ice makers. He had a great willingness to work, and was an integral part of the crew that had the unenviable chore of creating a curling club out of a cow barn. Doug has used his mechanical knowledge and ability for other items besides ice. It has been said that if it is mechanical and it is at the curling club, Seeber has had something to do with it at one time or another.

From those days on, Doug has been a vital part in the operations of this club. He served on the Board of Directors for seven years, accepting any responsibility that was given him. He was elected as President in 1982. At the same time he served the mixed association as a director, and its President, and participated in the many decisions that formed the association into what it is today.

Doug, along with the other ice makers, were faced with their greatest challenge in 1976, when Wausau hosted the nationals. They produced curling ice - good curling ice - from scratch. This chore took the better part of a week. Doug, along with others, dedicated themselves to this task, even going to extent of taking vacation time and living in a trailer adjacent to the Multi-purpose Building where the event was held. Doug's knowledge and ability as an ice maker earned him an invitation to assist with the ice at the world championship held in Duluth. He has never tired of adding to his expertise in this field.

Doug has made a significant contribution to curling beyond the club level. He is presently Vice-president of the Wisconsin Curling Association, and is expected to be its President during the 1987 season.

APPENDIX

Original Members - Organization

Early Special Rules

W.B. Cuff Diary - Refrigerated Ice

Presidents and Champions

Presidents and Champions - Highlanders

ORIGINAL MEMBERS - ORGANIZATION

The original Wausau Curling Club was purely voluntary with no structure except the fellowship generated. The original dues-paying members according to the Treasurer's book were as follows:

Ben Alexander	H.J. Hagge	H.L. Scharbeau
Judd Alexander	I.S. Horgen	Joseph Schneider
Ben Anderson	Knox Kreutzer	George Schwitzke
Byron Brown	Fred I. Kuebler	J.L. Sturtevant
Jay Brown	B.E. Kuechle	Frank Timlin
Glen Champlain	George Leicht	Frank Welter
Charles Cowee	Fred Luedtke	F.G. Weichman
Roy Duncan	Russel Lyon	B.F. Wilson
Don Erickson	M.P. McCullough	George Wilson
P.W. Erickson	Fritz Manson	P.M. Wilson
A.M. Evans	Edward Morris	A.P. Woodson
D.C. Everest	H.S. Morrison	C.C. Yawkey
George Foster	Fred Nolte	Lee Yorkson
Walter Gappa	L.A. Pradt, Jr.	Bernard Zielsdorf
Jack Garland	R.E. Puchner	
H.L. Giesse	H.H. Robertson	

On January 15, 1942, the club was incorporated as a non-stock corporation. The incorporators were H.S. Morrison, C.O. Egdahl, L.L. Duncan, W.B. Cuff, G.C. Landon, W.F. Krueger, C.M. Robertson, Ed E. Zahn, and Wilbert DeBroux. This was probably proposed by Attorney Bill Krueger with a thought to limiting liability in the new and more accessible building. The membership was limited to males over the age of sixteen, grandfathered all previous members of the voluntary organization, and provided a method for expulsion of members. The Articles were amended on July 23, 1952, to provide for 175 shares of \$100.00 par value stock (this was part of the fund raising for refrigerated ice). According to the official records, 120 members attended the meeting at which the stock theory was proposed: 83 voted "yes", there were no "no" votes, and 37 abstained from voting. The number of authorized shares was increased to 300 on November 5, 1971.

EARLY SPECIAL RULES

The Wausau Curling Club adopted the rules as set forth by the Manitoba Curling Association. However, it was soon discovered that some special circumstances required special rules. These rules involve courtesy more than curling, for example:

RULE 4: If any player engaged or belonging to either of the competing rinks shall speak to, taunt, or otherwise interrupt any other player, not of his own party, while preparing to play a stone, and so as to disconcert him, one point may be added to the score of the party so interrupted, if he chooses to claim it, for each interruption, and the play will proceed.

RULE 8: All directions on a play shall be given by the person skipping the play, be he either skip or third. His directions must be followed without argument or without interference by any other member of his rink. And a skip of a well organized rink shall be entitled to call a game null and void and stop it before the final end if the actions of his opponents in the play are such toward their own skip or toward their opponents that there is no pleasure or sportsmanship in competing with them.

The next two rules are probably a direct result of the players owning their own stones and of having only two sheets of ice that on occasion would not be very similar.

RULE 10: Before any game with any visiting rink or rinks, it shall be the privilege of the visitors to have first choice of any stones owned by or temporarily in the possession of this club which are not the personal property of one of the local members himself to be curling at that time. Before any game between rinks of this club no member of either rink shall have the right to select more than one pair of stones, and these stones must be played by him. If any member should inadvertently or intentionally select more than one pair and set them aside for his teammates, such extra stones selected shall be considered as set aside for his opponents and any member of the opposing party may take such pair as he chooses; and any such stones not chosen by the opposing party shall be put off the ice and not used by either of these competing rinks in that particular game. The stones are now plainly lettered and numbered and those in which each club member has an equal right of selection are painted in red, C1 to W15, both inclusive.

RULE 11: When both sheets of ice are to be used, it shall not be the privilege of the rinks arriving first to select the most desirable sheet. At all times a coin must be flipped to decide. Any member of the club may flip the coin: "heads" for the north rink and "tails" for the south rink. No practicing shall be done immediately before a game except with the consent of the opposing skip.

W.B. CUFF DIARY 1951

- 6/18 Start digging trench for header pit. Storing planks, etc. above warming room.
- 6/20 Haul partitions to horse stables at fair grounds. Work on header pit trench.
- 6/25 Moving dirt and leveling ground for grade. Additional work on header pit trench making it longer to east wall.
- 7/2 Hauling out dirt to get grade. Raking preparatory to leveling.
- 7/5 Finish header pit trench so it is ready for laying concrete floor. Raking and leveling.
- 7/7 Ready-Mix Concrete Co. lays floor of header pit.
- 7/8 Using transit and driving stakes for grade.
- 7/9 Mason starts cement block wall of pit. Leveling floor and moving out dirt.
- 7/11 Helping mason laying blocks in pit.
- 7/12 Helping mason laying blocks in pit.
- 7/13 Helping mason laying blocks in pit (Radandt alone).
- 7/14 Mason and his helper work alone in AM to finish walls of pit.
- 7/16 Finish leveling for gravel fill and taking stone benches apart.
- 7/18 Kluever brings first gravel for fill. Leveling by raking and wheelbarrows.
- 7/19 More fill dumped in. Leveling and raking with grader and wheelbarrow, raking.
- 7/20 Leveling and raking with grader and wheelbarrow.
- 7/21 Leveling fill. Dale all day. Rest of crew afternoon.
- 7/23 Wanta hauls rotten granite in. Ulrich (on his vacation) works all day. Rest of crew evening with rakes and wheelbarrows.
- 7/24 Leveling granite with rakes and wheelbarrows. Tear apart old partitions to get 2 x 4's for header pit wall. Also laying plank on header pit which Horgen had cut from stone benches.
- 7/25 Granite won't pack down enough, so Wanta hauls in another inch and levels by machinery. Brings our floor base a little higher than plans call for. We have decided fill hauled in by Kluever too sandy and not enough crushed rock to roll down well. Hence we added rotten granite.
- 7/26 Wanta starts putting in asphalt blacktop. About one-third down and leveled by 8:00 P.M.

- 7/27 Wanta finishes blacktop by 5:30 P.M. and starts rolling it down. Two of his men finish cement block construction of header pit around water shut-off at west end of pit. Paul Dale down in bed so WBC puts in four hours in the afternoon helping men lay block.
- 7/30 Bring stanchions in from other barn. Driving pegs for stanchions. Finish planking for header pit. Start making plank ramps over pit.
- 7/31 Erecting center stanchions, dig holes for posts, and cementing posts in position. Driving stakes for stanchions along sides. Make concrete pegs for east ramp (permanent) and stanchion posts.
- 8/1 Driving pins for erection of stanchions along center.
- 8/2 Finish erecting stanchions. Also finish planking for ramp as needed. These will be taken up for use next year.
- 8/3 Horgen's men cleaning up warming rooms preparatory to fair which starts 8/7.
- 8/21 Sweeping floor so Wanta can make repairs to areas torn out and damaged by men removing litter from fair with power shovel.
- 8/28 Remove ramps to poultry barn. Move hay from fair from kitchen to hog barn. Clean kitchen and move contents of furnace room to kitchen. Start dismantling furnace room, oil tank, etc.
- 8/30 Start tearing down furnace room walls. Remove mortar from most of the blocks. Pipe, compressor, brine tank, etc. unloaded today by Steffke Freight Co. two of Horgen's men also help.
- 9/6 Finish cleaning mortar from cement blocks from furnace room walls.
- 9/11 Remove west wall of cattle washing room. Clean block of mortar. Clean warming room of debris from taking out furnace room. Move header pipes from warming room floor to platform over header pit. Wanta agreed to be there at 4:00 P.M. to repair floor but failed to show up.
- 9/13 Dig ground preparing for cement floor in machine room addition. Wanta tearing up high place in floor to lay new blacktop.
- 9/17 Horgen, Geo. Urban, and Al Sears running transit for Wanta, replacing high spot in floor.
- 9/18 Moving pipe from warming room floor to floor for welding.
- 9/20 Moving pipe from warming room floor to floor for welding.
- 9/25 Moving header pipes into pit.
- 9/27 Moving header pipes into pit.

- 10/1 Helping welder with pipes.
- 10/2 Helping welder with pipes, leveling headers, digging trench for water to machine room.
- 10/4 Helping welder and lowering header pit pipes into place.
- 10/6 Helping welder with floor pipe. Placing in place on floor to facilitate welding.
- 10/7 Sunday. Recruit four men to finish laying pipe on floor in order so welder may work Monday with only one helper and thereby finish job (floor part).
- 10/9 Leveling header pipes and placing concrete base under the insert ends of elbow pipe into headers. Digging under machine room floor for water pipe into machine room. Spacing floor pipes 2-7/8" apart on floor. Mr. Master from Madison Refrig. Co. here.
- 10/10 Straightening floor pipes and placing in position so welder can weld ends into header pipes.
- 10/11 Finish spacing floor pipes and digging for water outlet in machine room. Welder finished header welding.
- 10/16 Making forms for concrete base of compressor and floor of machine room.
- 10/18 Finish forms for concrete floor and compressor base. Start taking down heating system ducts.
- 10/19 Five of us move heavy condenser tank out of driveway so concrete mix truck can enter building from west (then found the next day they couldn't get thru door anyway). Also finish wood forms for pouring concrete base.
- 10/23 Digging trench from header pit to machine room. Placing machinery and tanks on floor of machine room. Move furnace to machine room. Installation engineers from Madison here today for one week.
- 10/24 Paul Dale and others work on pipes, getting ready for testing.
- 10/25 Testing pipes for leaks with air pressure. Finish tunneling under concrete for header pipes from header pit to machine room.
- 10/29 Mason showed up but did not start work due to lack of equipment. Radandt, Crooks, and Brabender there to help at 6:00 A.M. They started painting welding joints in pipe. Refrig. Equip. men finish as much as they can to this point.
- 10/30 Mixing mortar for mason, laying block in machine room wall. Painting pipe welding joints in pipes of floor and header.
- 10/31 Helping mason construct walls of machine room. WBC and P. Dale.

- 11/1 Finish painting welding joints in floor pipe. Too cold for mason to continue in machine room wall. Three above zero.
- 11/2 Use transit to check floor level (pipes). Start sweeping floor between pipes and along walks preparatory to laying top layer.
- 11/3 Helping mason mix mortar for blocks of machine room wall. Cold weather.
- 11/6 Straightening pipes and floor and spiking so Wanta can start laying blacktop as soon as warmer day arrives. Still cold (below zero in the A.M.).
- 11/8 Spiking pipes to floor and straightening pipes. Wanta supposed to lay top floor, but looks like cold weather will delay until spring.
- 11/12 Budil alone helping welder fit header pipes to machine room.
- 11/13 Tearing apart old partitions to salvage 2 x 4's and sash.
- 11/14 Budil, Schultz, and Cuff work with welder joining pipes from header to machine room.
- 11/15 Helping welder (Cramer) place pipes to machine room in place to weld. Also place cement blocks on north header pit wall and mark so Wergin can cut with mason saw.
- 11/20 Moving side board plank down from above warming room. Marking cement block again for cutting. (This time with crayon color so won't rub off.)
- 11/27 Cleaning up warming room, fit doors in north end of building. Make window cover for east warming room window. Chisel out cement blocks for pipe to enter machine room. Also hole for pipe from oil tank.
- 12/1 Installing oil tank for furnace. Punching holes thru concrete wall and fitting pipe to tank. Budil helping welder install thermostats (etc.). Budil, Cuff, Dale three hrs. Horgen men doing carpenter's work on partition for plate glass, walls of removal part of new room, cement floor, etc.

Ed. note: According to the diary, 58 members contributed 1253 hours of labor with Paul Dale (245) and W.B. Cuff (285) being the greatest by far. It was our observation that there were probably a great many more hours spent that Cuff did not record.

CLUB PRESIDENTS AND CHAMPIONS

Unfortunately, we are missing a great deal of information during the early years because of the lack of a written record. It was not possible to go back to the beginning and record all presidents until 1942, although we did find a few from news articles prior to that year. We were unable to find any record of the club champions until 1938. For this we apologize and ask your indulgence.

PRESIDENTS

1935 Perry M. Wilson
1936 Leslie Hoffman
1937 Ed Zahn
1938 Lee Duncan
1939
1940
1941
1942 Lee Duncan
1943 George Landon
1944 William F. Krueger
1945 A.W. Plier
1946 A.W. Plier
1947 George Jewson
1948 Neal Jones
1949 Lee Allard
1950 W.B. Cuff
1951 W.B. Cuff
1952 Al Papenfuss
1953 Paul Dale
1954 Rick Salvesen
1955 Don Horkan
1956 Ken Nuernberg
1957 Oscar Omholt
1958 Earl Edwards
1959 Bob Altman
1960 Harold Juneau
1961 Wibby Winetzki
1962 Arvid Schwichtenberg
1963 Bob Wilson
1964 Neal Rothman
1965 Dale Heath
1966 Stan Staples
1967 Neil Johnston
1968 Norris Gould
1969 Jean Boatman
1970 Clint Boone
1971 Frank Plano
1972 Roger Robarge
1973 Bob See

CHAMPIONS

Howard Morrison
Lee Duncan-Byron Brown
Byron Brown
Clarence Robertson
George Landon-Lee Duncan
Clarence Robertson
Lee Duncan
Clarence Robertson
Lee Duncan
Ted Hochtritt
Lee Duncan
Dave Obey
Paul McKahan
Ted Hochtritt
Norm Krueger
Lee Duncan
Norm Krueger
Dave Obey
Lee Duncan
Dave Obey
Bob Altman
Wayne Myers
Earl Hochtritt
Wayne Myers
Bob Wilson
Earl Hochtritt
Lee Duncan
Bob Wilson
Bob Altman
Lee Duncan
Bob Altman
John Kuechle
Udaire Allord
Ray Weinkauf
Udaire Allord
Lee Duncan

1974 Ray Peters
1975 Jim Detienne
1976 Tom Weiland
1977 Ray Weinkauff
1978 Bill Edwards
1979 Rick Shannon
1980 Lee Jorgenson
1981 Archie Towle
1982 Doug Seeber
1983 Terry Burton
1984 Dale Gerlach
1985 Gary Goetsch
1986 Ed Lutzow

Bob Altman
Neil Collins
Neil Collins
Bill Edwards
Neil Collins
Stu Rosemurgy
Doug Seeber
Ray Weinkauff
Ray Weinkauff
Dave McDonald
Dave McDonald
Tom Suthers
Ron Kopp

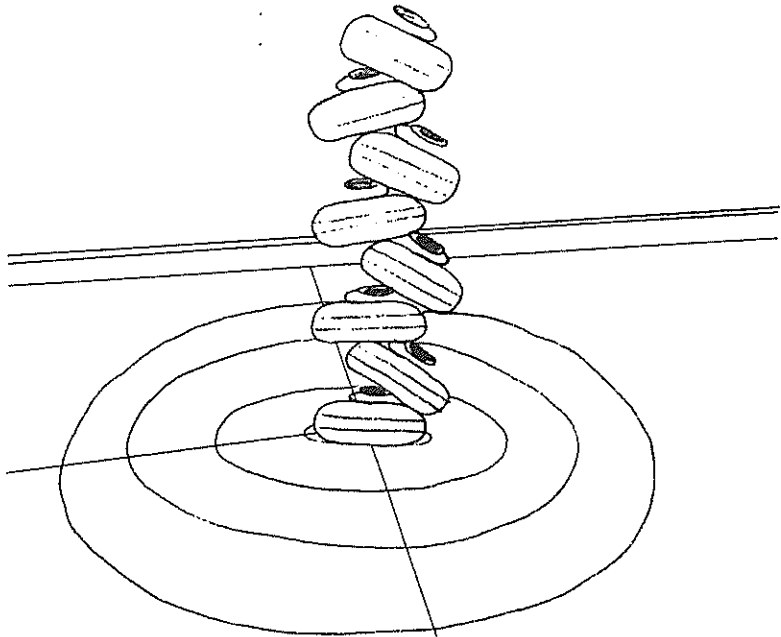
WAUSAU HIGHLANDERS

PRESIDENTS

1948 Fritzie Plier
1949 Ruth Horkan
1950 Vergie Nuernberg
1951 Harriet Sears
1952 Patti Wirt
1953 Lucille Omholt
1954 Marian Urban
1955 Norma McKahan
1956 Marge Wiechman
1957 Anne Altman
1958 Millie Gahnz
1959 Dorothy Porath
1960 Lora Broecker
1961 Marilyn Rock
1962 Hazel Stevens
1963 Harriet Schwichtenberg
1964 Ruth Horkan
1965 Dorothy Farrell
1966 Jo Stone
1967 Lu Post
1968 Marcy Weinkauf
1969 Venee Heimerl
1970 Lee Nelson
1971 Marge Reinke
1972 Betty Peters
1973 Vivian Green
1974 Duffy Verhoeven
1975 Sandy Robarge
1976 Marcie Block
1977 Mary Jane Peters
1978 Jean Donner
1979 Kay Dean
1980 Doris Eberlein
1981 Pat Bloomquist
1982 Nancy Roselius
1983 Pat Schultheis
1984 Donna Gratton
1985 Susan Johnson
1986 Peg Jarvis

CHAMPIONS

Norma McKahan
Norma McKahan
Vergie Nuernberg
Norma McKahan
Ruth Horkan
Norma McKahan
Norma McKahan
Norma McKahan
Ruth Horkan
Arlene Ross
Ruth Horkan
Ruth Horkan
Ruth Horkan
Marian Urban
Ruth Horkan
Harriet Schwichtenberg
Lee Nelson
Ruth Horkan
Lee Nelson
Ruth Horkan
Ruth Horkan
Lee Nelson
Patti Wirt
Patti Wirt
Mary Sturgeon
Dorothy Butterfield
Patti Wirt
Ginny Morrison
Joan Lind
Joan Lind
Joan Lind
Elaine Collins
Marcy Weinkauf
Joan Lind
Marcy Weinkauf
Marcy Weinkauf
Miriam Burrows
Harriet Schwichtenberg-Ruth Fox



The Perfect End

*Sketch by:
Bob Wilson*