



THE BEGINNING OF TRAVELERS COUNTRY CLUB ON THE MISSISSIPPI

Travelers Country Club on the Mississippi was incorporated on December 16, 1977 by John Olson, who was president of the corporation. Harry Osvold and Dan Person were also partners in the development.

John Olson was the owner of Der-Kel Employment Agency; Dan Person was a Senior Building Inspector for the City of St. Paul and Harry Osvold was the owner of H. C. Osvold Co. manufacturing plastics. They had previously established success with building the Airstream Park and Travelers Country Club of Clear Lake.

Travelers Country Club on the Mississippi was anticipated to be a 4 year project but was completely sold out in 20 months. New members were given blue jackets, caps and name tags from the developers. Dues started out at \$190.00 a year and at that time even included electricity, taxes and free golf for everyone including friends.

Gordy and Ruth Nelson were the first managers. Harold and Lana Wargin were the assistant managers on the Nelson's 2 days off. At that time the managers worked from 7 AM to 10 PM and the office was open from 9 AM to 10 PM seven days a week.

Things happened fast in 1978. The 299 sites started to be laid out. Mostly they were 40x75 feet in size. The Welcome Center, Maintenance Building and the golf course were the first to be completed. The golf course was 1830 yards with men's par being 31 and ladies par 33. The fun part was the cups started out being 8 inches. As the greens got better they were dropped to 6 inches and finally in July of 1982 the cups went to the standard 4 ½ inches. Next the Clubhouse with the Managers living quarters, laundry, showers, washrooms, library, sauna and swimming pool were completed. Also completed were the horseshoe pits, tennis court and Activity Building.

June 3, 1978. The developers entertained a picnic. Over 200 were in attendance. The wives of the developers, Lois Olson, Gladys Person and June Osvold arranged a fantastic meal of broasted chicken, potato salad, cole slaw rolls, ice cream cups, lemonade and coffee. Everyone enjoyed walking around the park seeing how it was being developed and of course looking over their lots.

Each site was equipped with electric service, water and sewer hookup and telephone connection. The first lawn buildings were purchased from J. C. Penney's. The small 5x9 ft. building was \$89.00 and the large 9x10 ft. building was \$129.00.

In June of 1978 there was a nursery auction at the park put on by Nelson Nursery from Zimmerman, MN. There were evergreens, shrubs and fruit trees auctioned with many being sold. July 15, 1979 officially opened the park with an open house. About 500 people

attended. The Clubhouse was beautifully decorated with floral arrangements sent by contractors, builders and friends of Travelers. Over 1500 cookies, 48 gallons of lemonade and 300 cups of coffee were consumed. Many guests enjoyed the hayride with Louie Hansen, Lot 405, driving the tractor. Ten clock radios were given as door prizes and Gwen Aldrich supplied beautiful organ music.

Knitting, crochet and latch hook classes started on August 11, 1979. Also in August, other park activity committees were formed. Some were Youth Activities, Golf Tournament, Arts & Craft, Pot Luck Dinner, Dancing, Ice Cream Socials, Etc.

The 1st Annual Golf Tournament was held in August 1979. There were 105 players. Of all the winners that day the only one still in the park is Betty Johnson, Lot 414. A tennis clinic was held with instructors being Bucky & Shirley Olson who had a lot in the 200's.

In October 1979 all lots had been sold and on October 9th the interior roads were paved. Personnel Election & Advisor Council Committees were formed prior to the election of board members.

In December 1979 the 1st Trim-A-Tree party was held in the Clubhouse. 175 attended. Christmas carols were sung and a nice luncheon served.

Notice was given on March 15, 1980 that the dues would go up \$25.00. The amount to be paid May 1st would be \$215.00.

On May 3, 1980 at the General Membership meeting the elected Board members were installed as Directors. They were: President Del Webster, Vice President Jim LaSota, Secretary Bill Hedberg, Treasurer Don Ross, Dave Cartwright, Ray Ehrlichmann and Lloyd Luckman. Don Ross, the Treasurer, was given a check for \$64,285.00, the amount of the dues starting May 1, 1980.

John Olson turned over the property deeds, insurance papers, equipment titles, bylaws, and budget for the coming year and an inventory of all property. THE PARK NOW BELONGED TO THE MEMBERS.

After the Board meeting the developers had a Turnover Celebration Party and over 500 members attended. They served 273 bottles of pink champagne and had a delicious luncheon.

AND THAT WAS JUST THE START!