



NICHOLAS L ZINGARELLI
2937 DELCOURT DR
DECATUR GA 30033-2446

BUDDIES:

Our commander, Jack Lyon, ask that I give you a brief history of the purchase of our clubhouse. If I seem to be a bit running off at the mouth please bear with an old man for he has nothing to do but talk.

I was elected commander in 1943. Most of you were in World War 11 at that time. Realizing when you returned that you would need a place where you and your buddies could meet, and the members of our post having a burning desire to have a Legion Home, I gave an interview to the papers that the post would build a \$40,000 clubhouse to be finished by the time you returned. We received publicity from the newspapers greater than expected. We were committed, The next question was how to get the money.

I called our treasurer, Waldo Cagle, and asked him how much we had in the advertising fund. He said about \$260.00. I told him we were going to give a free supper at the Candler Hotel to our members at our next meeting. Our membership was about 60 or 70. Waldo thought I was crazy, but the notice of a free supper brought out nearly every one of them.

If my memory serves me right we had 59 members at this dinner meeting. When the meal was gobbled up and every one

seemed happy I got up and told them we were going to build a clubhouse at a cost of \$40,000, and they, the members present, were going to be the first to chip in towards that goal. We received money and pledges to the tune of \$2,400.00 give or take a little.

The campaign was in full swing. The next thing was more publicity, and having some experience as a newspaper man I had a little advantage. We were going strong in that field. The following week Mr. Guy Rutland, Sr. called me on the telephone and wanted to know where I was going to get all that money. I honestly told him I didn't know, but we would get it one way or the other. Mr. Rutland told me to meet him at the East Lake Country Club for supper one evening and wanted to know if Scott Candler could come along. Scott and I showed up. Guy had assembled a group of contractors like himself, and after dinner asked me to explain what I wanted. Scott came to my rescue for I was a very poor speaker. When that evening was over I came away with \$6,200.00 in my pocket from these gentlemen. That made us about \$9000.00 we had towards our goal of \$40,000.00.

The next day or two I was called by one of our legionnaires, and a member of our post at this time but who was a member of another post at that time, Mr. Norman Elsas. He wanted to know if the publicity he saw in the newspapers was true, and if so, did we have anything in mind towards a clubhouse. He then asked

if we would consider the purchase of the Ingleside Country Club in Avondale Estates. To be frank, I almost dropped the telephone. Our Judge Advocate, L. R. Billups, and I used to ride past these grounds and comment that this was a perfect site for our clubhouse.

The executive committee met and I placed the proposition before them. They all fully agreed that how to get the money was the next step. We then opened an office on the east side of the courthouse and placed a temporary building on the sidewalk leading to the entrance, and the Ladies Auxiliary stayed in this house during the daytime, and the legionnaires stayed at night, all requesting donations towards the building of the clubhouse. We begged, pleaded, and with more publicity until there wasn't a week that Decatur and Atlanta did not know that Harold Byrd Post was going to build a clubhouse. Substantially everyone who stopped gave us a donation. Most of them gave us \$25.00 or an \$18.75 war bond. With each donation the commander gave a card which provided that their son or daughter, or neighbor's son or daughter, who was in the service upon receiving his or her honorable discharge was automatically entitled to one year's membership in Harold Byrd Post 66.

As we saw the money coming in day after day Mr. Elsas contacted me again and said the stockholders were ready to sell and we could have the club for \$25,000.00. We paid what money we had and bought all of the stock in the Ingle-side Country Club by giving our notes, and the stockholders surrendered the certificates and accepted these notes.

Here I would like to mention some of the names of the members largely responsible for what we have today. I may overlook some, but if I do it will be that age is taking its toll and not intentional. Scott Candler should be first because of his work in ~~presenting the club to the~~ reorganizing our post after it had been dormant some eight years; Noah J. Stone, our present Judge Advocate; Bubber Smith, deceased; Ernest P. Johnson, deceased; Lanier R. Billups, Judge Advocate at that time; Claude W. Blount who was our building treasurer and a member of this post until two years ago; Roy P. Tull Sergeant -at-Arms, deceased; Armand J. Schlirf, Adjutant, now deceased; C. W. Mitchell; Paul Mack, one of our charter members; B. Hugh Burgess; Vernon R. Frank, deceased; Frank Thomas; Frank Cagle; Waldo Cagle; and Roger H. Bell. There are scores of others whose names do not come to me at the present time.

I would like to mention L. W. Morris, Walter Parris, Fay Robarts and Percy Plant, all of these not being eligible to belong to the legion.

There were about 20 or 25 stockholders in the Ingleside Country Club, and as money came into our headquarters I would go to each stockholder and present our check for the amount of his stock or to take up our notes. Almost without exception when payment was made the stockholder would give us a donation, and this reduced the entire cost of the Ingleside Country Club from the original price of \$25,000.00 to a mere \$19,000.00.

The entire amount was paid off during the year I was commander with the exception of one stockholder - - - Mr. A. J. Weinberg. When I went to him with our check, he showed me the stock and a \$1000.00 war bond he had just purchased for his son who was in the service overseas at that time. He said "it is a souvenir, I won't miss it" and refused to take our check or to surrender the certificate of stock. To this day he has not asked for payment and that is approximately 20 years ago. Other than that I have here the stock of all the shares if you should care to examine them.

We took charge of the club on April 1, 1944 and it became Harold Byrd Post 66. We had to do some organizing, but little did we know the cost, trouble, and details of maintaining a club. In the sale of the club to us the stockholders of

Ingleside Country Club asked our pledge to keep Pop Livingstone as pro as long as he lived or we owned the facilities, and to this date I am happy to report that we have kept our pledge and are pleased with having him. He is respected and honored throughout the entire golfing fraternity of this state. This is another instance where people relied upon the oral promise of the American Legion and we have kept our word.

We experienced a fire in the kitchen which required considerable repairs, and later on we had a real fire and it was necessary to reconstruct a substantial part of the building. This put us in the hole again, and through conservative management we are once more out of debt. Our clubhouse, as it stands today, is free from debt, and we are in a position to go forward with our legion work.

The expression in 1943 and in subsequent years by the Veterans of World War I was that we desired a legion home, and to provide it for our sons who returned from World War II, and we are here tonight to help celebrate the turning of a new leaf in the black and not in the red any longer. Let's try to keep it that way.

R. K. Whiteford
Past Commander 1943-1944

May 11 - 1962
meeting (4173) JAN-2009