



Highlands Historical Society



Summer 2023

To preserve and promote the rich heritage of Highlands

Highlands, N.C.



Golf in Highlands

The growth in golf's popularity mirrors the growth of Highlands. But the beautiful courses you see today did not come easily! The timeline of golf in Highlands reflects many struggles:

TIMELINE

1905

By this date, George Inglesby built the first golf holes in Highlands, some on land by the current Highlands School and others near the corner of First Street and Main Street.

1920S

Hall House operated a nine-hole golf course located between the Catholic Church and Chestnut Street in Highlands.

1927

Work to clear part of the forest for the Highlands Estates Golf Course (eventually renamed the Highlands Country Club). The first nine-holes were built by 75-125 workers making \$1.50 per 10-hour day. The workers used hand tools and teams of horses and oxen to clear the dense forest of rhododendron, laurel, azaleas, and timber.

1928

Bobby Jones played the first round of golf on the nine-hole course.

1929

In May the first clubhouse burned to the ground. Work quickly began again by local masons and skilled tradesmen to replace the structure.

The unofficial slogan of Highlands Estates was "Summer golf in the Autumn weather." The club donated a hemlock slab cut from the property which remains on display in the Nature Center at the Highlands Biological Station.

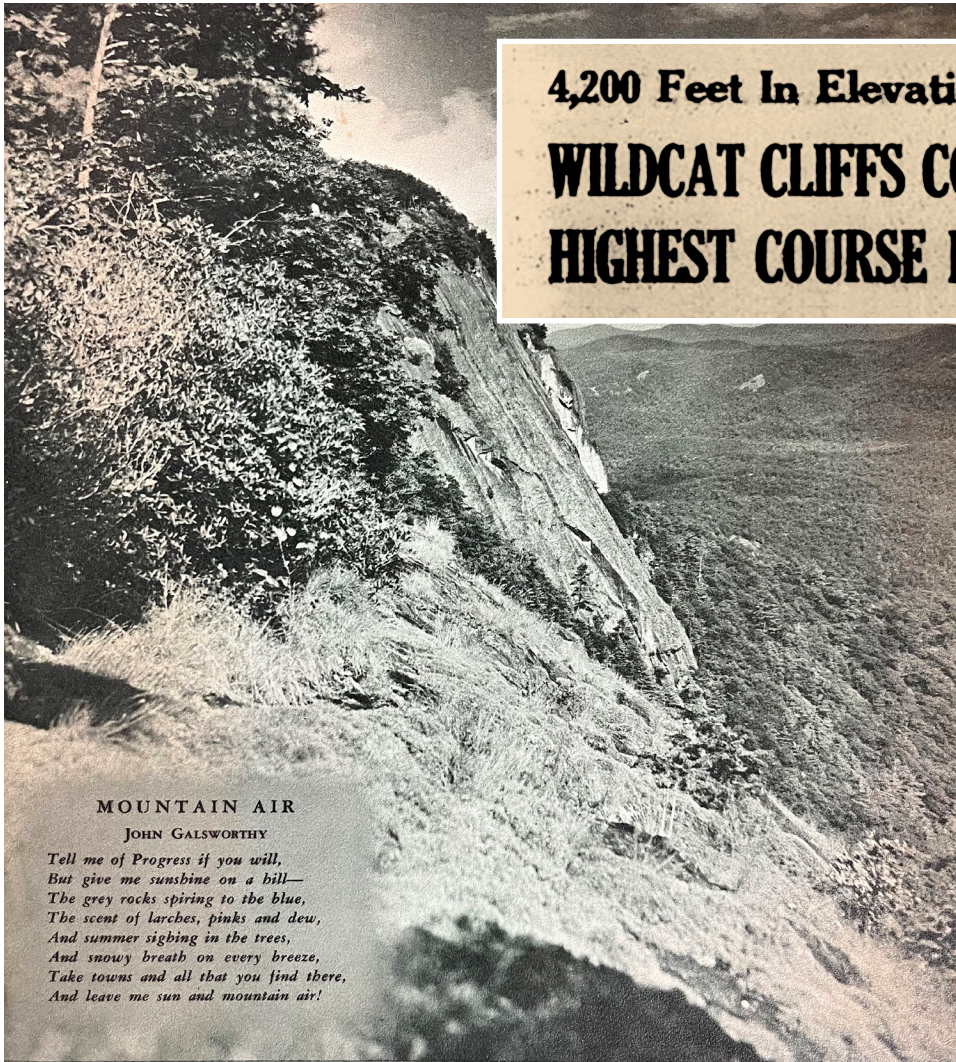
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HIGHLANDS FUTURE NOW ASSURED BY CONSTRUCTION OF GOLF COURSE

Franklin Press
June 23, 1927



Highlander Newspaper June 4, 1965



4,200 Feet In Elevation

**WILDCAT CLIFFS COUNTRY CLUB OPENS:
HIGHEST COURSE IN EASTERN AMERICA**

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1930

Highlands Estates Golf Club opened the full eighteen-hole course. In a laborious process, two streams were diverted during the construction of the second nine holes. The workers' wages were reduced to \$1.00 per 10-hour day due to the start of the Great Depression. Bobby Jones won the golf grand slam—all four major tournaments in one year. By 1930 a Tom Thumb mini-golf course was built by Joe and Willies Hays on Main Street.

1931

Bobby Jones held a benefit game at Highlands Estates Golf Course for the Hudson Library. He scored a record 64 on the par-70 course and raised \$600, a significant amount at the time. This benefit kept the library afloat through a tough year early in the Great Depression.

MOUNTAIN AIR

JOHN GALSWORTHY

*Tell me of Progress if you will,
But give me sunshine on a hill—
The grey rocks spiring to the blue,
The scent of larches, pinks and dew,
And summer sighing in the trees,
And snowy breath on every breeze,
Take towns and all that you find there,
And leave me sun and mountain air!*

THE CLIFFS Club and Lodge

1958

Founders of the Highlands Falls Country Club purchased 275 acres for \$45,000.

1959

Shady Lane Miniature Golf course opened on Helen's Barn property with nine-hole Hi-Ho Chip n' Putt course and horseshoe court.

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THE CLIFFS Club and Lodge

FISHING • GOLF • SWIMMING • HORSEBACK RIDING • HOME DEVELOPMENT • REST • WINTER SPORTS

*A complete year round resort facility!
Planned and designed for the group and family of the man
of the professions and executive echelons!*

The Lodge A complete club layout adjacent to golf course!
Built for year round use!
Motor lodge and cottage units designed for privacy for the group and family!
Private and exclusive!

The Club The cliffs club is being developed on 900 acres of mountain plateau and cliff top lands!
Complete 18 hole championship golf course by the eminent golf course architect, George W. Cobb.
Layout on ideal rolling contours!
Bent greens — blue grass fairways.
Fishing ponds and lakes.
Winter sports in the planning.

Homesites Unexcelled view properties.
Frontages on cliff tops and ridge slopes—lakes—golf course!
Some 500 large wooded tracts.Restricted and exclusive!
Roads, water system, power lines and telephone service to sites!

THE CLIFFS LODGE
Henry D. Nozick, AIA
The noted American Home Architect

Nestled atop the cliff country amidst the finest mountain resort area of the Southern Appalachians.
4200 Feet Elevation
(Midway between Highlands and Cashiers, N. C.—5 miles from each—on U. S. Hwy. #64)

Highlands Country Club

Invitational Pro-Am

SEPTEMBER 20, 1982



Robert Tyre Jones Jr. at Highlands Country Club

FOR THE BENEFIT OF
*Highlands-Cashiers Hospital
Endowment Fund*

AND
Jones Memorial

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1961

Wildcat Cliffs Country Club founded, and original equity memberships with a lot were sold for \$4,000. Local students were hired for \$1 per hour to clear rocks and roots for the course.

1963

Highlands Falls Country Club opened as Sky Lake Golf Course. The original layout was a 275 acre nine-hole par-36 public golf.

1969

All 18 holes were completed at the Wildcat Cliff Country Club.

1972

Clubhouse completed at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club and the founder Dr. Matthews passed away.

1972

Sky Lake Country Club was sold after the tragic death of golf pro and owner Bill Meyers and renamed Highland Falls Country Club.

1974

A ladies golf association was formed at the Wildcat Cliffs Country Club.

1979

Highlands Falls Country Club went into default and was taken over by the Eastover Corporation. It had struggling financially since its inception.

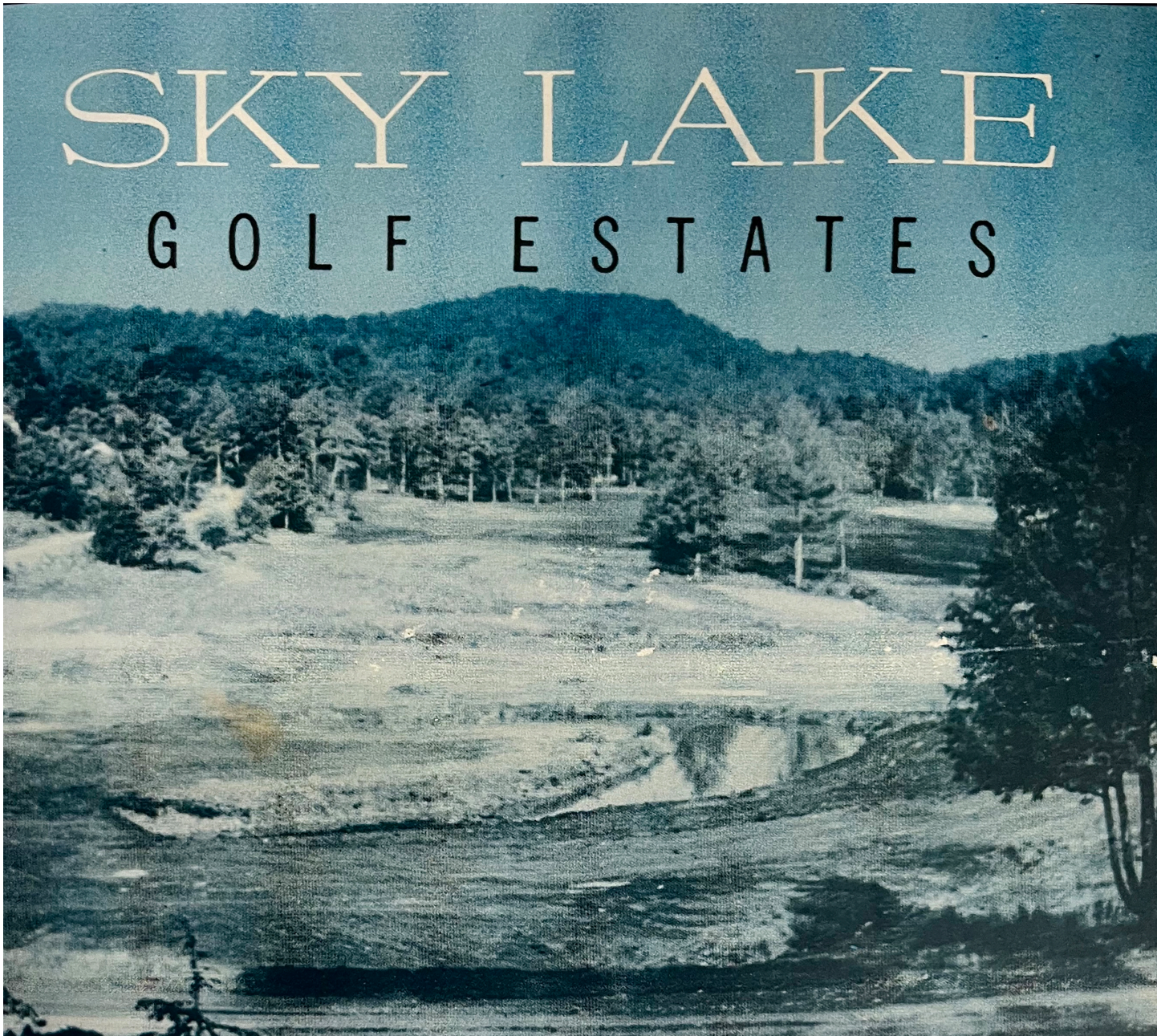
1982

The first annual Bobby Jones Invitational Pro-Am at Highlands Country Club is held to benefit the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

1985

To balance finances the Highlands Falls Country Club sold 543 acres to the owners of the adjoining Cullasaja Country Club for \$970,000.

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1987

Cullasaja Country Club opened with an Arnold Palmer designed eighteen-hole course.

1990

Cullasaja Country Club added a clubhouse and amenities including six tennis courts, a heated pool, and private roads for jogging, walking, and biking.

