

GOLFERS HONOR F. J. WECKESSER AT IREM PARTY

SILVER MINIATURE OF IREM
CLUB GROUNDS GIVEN TO
DONOR OF NEW NINE
HOLE COURSE.

The annual golf dinner of Irem Country club was held at the clubhouse on Saturday evening following the opening of the additional nine holes for play on the beautiful and picturesque side at West Dallas. Nearly 300 Shriners and friends were in attendance, coming from



FRED J. WECKESSER

every point in Irem's jurisdiction. The inclement weather kept the number of competing golfers to around the 175 mark.

On former occasions of this kind the entertainment was made up of skits, burlesque, black-outs and comedy bits that were originated by the nobles, but on Saturday night it took the form of a testimonial to Fred J. Weckesser, Irem member, as a mark of appreciation from the membership for the many kindnesses he has shown the country club. Among his benefactions are the new nine holes just added, the swimming pool and numerous other things in the form of equipment of the club.

Affair a Surprise.

The affair was a surprise event for Mr. Weckesser, who on former occasions had always refused to be a party to any testimonial.

Seated at the speakers' table were Fred J. Weckesser, Evan C. Jones, Fred M. Kirby, J. Henry Pool 3d, C. H. Laycock, Ben F. Williams, E. Foster Heller, Rev. Henry H. Crane, Rev. H. F. Randolph, Charles W. Laycock, Lewis P. Mitten, Charles W. Honeywell, George Z. Keller, Jerome B. Marshall, Willard S. Goode, Daniel J. Morgan and P. D. Maxwell.

Rev. Henry F. Randolph, of Central M. E. church, offered grace and Evan C. Jones as toastmaster sounded the key-note of the dinner as he said:

Fellow Nobles, our honored but most unwilling to be honored, Mr. Weckesser, and our other distinguished guests, I bid you a hearty welcome. Before assuming the role of toastmaster I must appear as counsel for the defense and you golfers are the defendants. And with no hope of reward, for that would be a futile hope with you as my clients, I proceed to the jury, our honored guest.

Turning to Mr. Weckesser the toastmaster continued:

To give a dinner in your honor, sir, without any consent or foreknowledge on your part, may seem lacking in grace and courtesy. But we feel that we have a true, just and complete defense.

We have tried hard and long to respect your feelings. Over a period of years you have again and again overwhelmed us with your generosity. And as our debt of gratitude has mounted with each succeeding gift, every son of Irem has wanted to give some public utterance of his appreciation. But against the wishes of our hearts, and out of respect for the wishes of yours, we have long restrained our enthusiasm.

But, Noble Weckesser, we boys are only human. Don't you see that you can not go on year after year opening up your heart to us without filling our hearts to overflowing? That time has come. We can stem the tide no longer.

We feel that for a short while this night we must in some small way give voice to the gratitude which fills our very souls. We are not going to embarrass you with fulsome praises, because we know you do not need it. We are going to make this just as easy for you as we can.

George Z. Keller read an original poem, "A Tribute To Fred," which epitomized the career of the guest of honor in verse.

An engrossed copy of the poem, suitably framed, done by Frank B. R. Sahn, was presented to Mr. Weckesser.

Dr. Crane Talks.

The only address was delivered by Dr. Henry H. Crane, pastor of the Elm Park church, Scranton, who was dramatic and sincere in his serious moment and relieved the tension with stories which applied to the points he wished to make. He alluded to the fine attributes of the guest of honor not directly but by means of a symbol, a half dollar he said he had borrowed from Mr. Weckesser. He carried out the symbolism from the inscriptions on the coin to the use of money and what good it could do when properly spent, especially for the betterment of mankind.

Toastmaster Jones then presented to Mr. Weckesser a large piece of silver plate on which was engraved to perfect scale the entire golf course of twenty-seven holes as laid out by the architect of the links and in their proper setting the swimming pool and other large buildings on the ground.

Mr. Weckesser in accepting the gift from his friends and admirers said he was embarrassed and overwhelmed with emotion but he said he appreciated the good will represented.

Interspersed with the speeches was the mass singing led by Daniel J. Davis and numbers by an orchestra of ten pieces led by David John Williams.

The Rippard quartet, made up of Willard Goode, cello; Ralph Raedenbush, first violin; Edward Venzel, second violin, and Bruce Wallace, viola, gave a number of selections, and the Temple quartet, composed of Hayden G. Jones, first tenor; George Frey, second tenor; Rullison Evans, first bass, and Reese Meredith, second bass, had to respond to repeated encores.

The winner of the Weckesser cup on the first play of the complete course was announced as Bruce Bennett, whose gross score was 95 and, with a handicap of 26, the re-

sult was a net of 69. The best score of the day was made by Francis Clayton with a gross of 83 for the afternoon's play.

The committee in charge of the dinner: C. W. Honeywell, chairman; Evan C. Jones, George Z. Keller, Willard S. Goode, Harry W. Montz.

The golf committee: Walter Oliver, chairman; Jerome B. Marshall, captain; George T. Hughes, James R. Oliver and Elwell P. Dietrick.