Valuable Book Group, LLC Specialists in Rare and Antiquarian Golf Books Newsletter and Golf Book Review

## The Creek Club Histories

The Creek, located in Locust Valley on Long Island, published its centenary history in 2023 and it is a beauty.

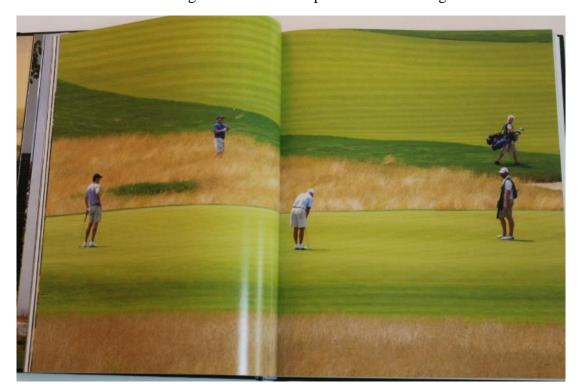
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The Creek's founding members (limited to 100 men) included Vincent Astor, Marshall Field, J. P. Morgan, Frank Crocker, H. L. Pratt (the president of Standard Oil), Charles B. Mackay (whose father discovered the Comstock Lode mine) and Harry Payne Whitney. When it opened, the *New York Times* called it the "Millionaire Golf Club."

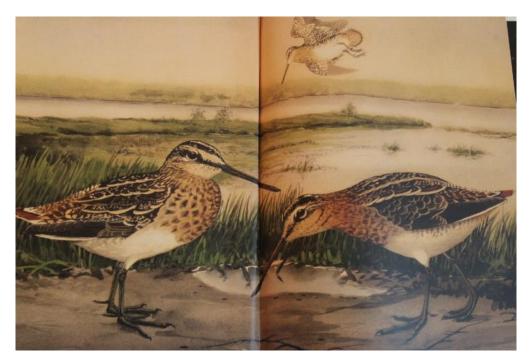
The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* described The Creek in 1923, shortly after its opening: "Recognized as one of the most exclusive country clubs in America, it commands one of the most magnificent views of Long Island Sound, the golf course sweeping away to the Sound shore, where even one of the holes is located on an island." The antithesis of another great course located on Long Island, Bethpage Black, there was no waiting in line and no crowds for the members at The Creek. The club and its privileged members took advantage of the location. As noted by the Eagle, "The property includes a shore casino and private yacht landing, where the big steam yachts dock in the summer, discharging their owners, who can tee off from the island hole and proceed around the course without ever touching a highway."



The book was written by Thomas M. Dunne and runs 272 pages. It might be the most meticulously research and detailed club history we have ever seen. It includes a detailed hole by hole analysis with images of each hole at the Creek, and for those inspired by other courses—Macdonald-Raynor template holes—it has a picture of the original hole as well. The book includes chapters on each of the recent restorations of the course, one done by Tom Doak in 1992 (a partial restoration) and the other done by Gil Hanse in 2018 (a full restoration). The photography in the book is world class. It was done by a trio of photographers: Matthew Septiums, Evan Schiller (drone photos) and Richard Schwab (archival photos). Images taken by drone really have transformed the genre, they add so much to our understanding of the course and provide breathtaking views.



In his original limited edition *Confidential Guide* Tom Doak selected The Creek as one of his Gourmet's Choice, one of only thirty-one courses in the world to make the cut. He selected it over other Raynor-Macdonald courses because it possesses "a couple of terrific holes the others don't." These include some creatively named non-typical, non-prototype holes named "Inferno," "Squirrel Run," and "Hunch Back." Doak is a big fan of the number one handicap hole (as am I), the downhill 450-yard par-4 sixth, named Sound View. The hole plays down into the valley, the second shot is an uphill one to a "Punchbowl" green. The hole was patterned after a Punchbowl hole at Raynor's Mountain Lake course in Florida.



The Creek's logo is the local gull that frequents the beach along the lower part of the course

This is The Creek's second club history. Their first was written by William Quirin and was titled *The Creek: A Pause along the Way 1923-1998*. The book is 160 pages, done in an oblong format with decorative leatherette. It is highly sought after by collectors, much like we anticipate this centenary history will be.

