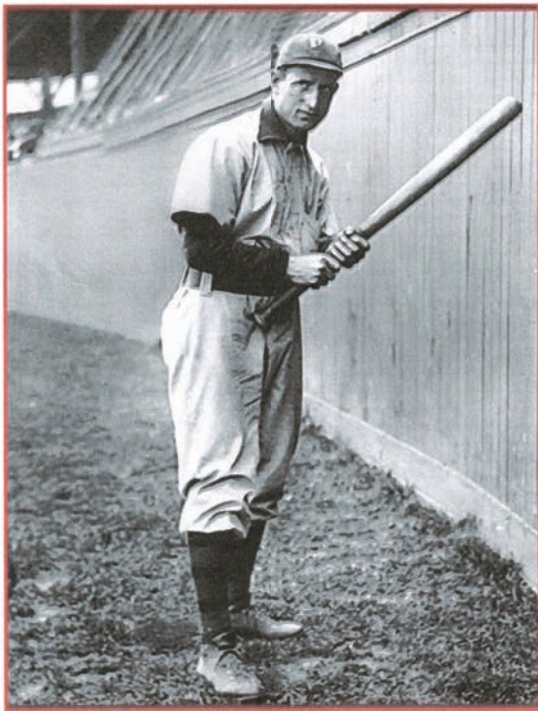


A Brief History of the Winfield Country Club

By Chris Jarvis and Bill Taylor Jr.

The Constitution and By-Laws for Winfield Country Club were written in 1917, the founding date of the club. Although records range from scanty to non-existent concerning the establishment of the Winfield Country Club, there seems to be uniform agreement that the driving force in forming the club was Fred C. Clarke, who was the club's first President.

Clarke came from Pittsburgh, Pa., where he had been manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates. During his career there and at Louisville, which was also a major league baseball club, his teams won a total of 1,602 games, losing 1, 179. Clarke ranks 9th overall in lifetime records for major league managers.



Clarke played in the first World's Series in 1903 against the Boston Pilgrims (now the Red Sox), batting .351 that year. He hit two doubles in that series. Later, in the 1909 series he hit two home runs and batted in seven runs as the Pirates defeated the Detroit Tigers 4 games to 3. Clarke is a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Joe Trees of Pittsburgh, one of the earliest and most successful oilmen of his day, sent Clarke to Winfield, where the Trees Oil Company was establishing an office employing Joe Trees' brothers, Paul, Clyde and Charles. Clarke purchased a ranch, naming it the Little Pirate Ranch, near the junction of K-15 and US-77, 10 miles north of Winfield.

Clarke was a golfer and an entrepreneur, so he decided to see about getting a golf club started here. According to Jim Koons, in about 1914 Clarke approached James Lorton, president of the Winfield National Bank, concerning purchase of the short 160-acre tract owned by Lorton. The land was later purchased, Koons recalls, for \$8,000, although records at Barbour-Collinson Abstract Co. indicate that the land was transferred by James and Stella Lorton to the Winfield Country Club on Feb. 11, 1919, for a consideration of "up to \$10,000".

Clarke, incidentally, played golf both right and left-handed, and owned complete sets of both right and left-handed clubs.

Shares of stock were issued at \$100 each, with 150 shares authorized. Clarke personally made