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# ORANGE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

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1880-1980

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SOUTH ORANGE, NEW JERSEY



# A HISTORY OF THE ORANGE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

## THE BEGINNINGS

On October 4, 1880, thirty young men of the Oranges banded together to form the Orange Lawn Tennis Club at the intersection of Montrose and Berkeley Avenues in South Orange, near the Orange boundary. Here, on a level ten acres were built eight grass and two "earth" courts, which, reportedly, were "maintained in beautiful condition" for the next 36 years that the Club was located there.

This was only six years after the game of lawn tennis was introduced to the United States by Mary Outerbridge, who brought the primitive equipment from Bermuda to the Staten Island Cricket and Baseball Club at St. George. In fact Miss Outerbridge had trouble getting her tennis equipment through customs as no one knew what it was and, consequently, could not classify it for duty.

Several other now-famous tennis clubs originated at about this same time. Merion Cricket Club decided to supplement cricket with tennis in 1876. Longwood, started in 1877, built its first grass court in 1878. Newport opened in 1879 and the Meadow Club in Southampton in 1883. The West Side Tennis Club was formed in 1892 in upper Manhattan and moved to Forest Hills in 1914.

The origins of the game of tennis have been much discussed. The consensus is that Major Walter Clopton Wingfield "invented" the game at Nantclwyd, Wales in 1873, only seven years before the founding of Orange Lawn Tennis Club. Tennis equipment was unstandardized at first and held back the



*Originally this was a sepia picture of the Montrose courts used as an illustration by W.P. Snyder in Harper's Weekly for July 10, 1886. The original is owned by the New Jersey Historical Society. It has been used in various publications, including New Jersey Bell's Tel-News for June 1964. A copy in sepia also is hung on the Club walls.*

development of the game. The court had been converted from Major Wingfield's hour-glass shape to rectangular in 1880 but the balls were made of India rubber or sewn cloth, not perfectly round and, of course, bounced unevenly. In fact, pioneer champions Dr. James Dwight and Richard D. Sears refused to play in an 1880 Tournament in Staten Island because the balls were only two-thirds of the size to which they were accustomed. Racquets were square or oval, some were bent like shovels and others described as "exaggerated fly swatters."

Harper's Weekly of September 1878 put the height of the net at five feet at the posts, sagging to four feet at the center. Two, four or eight (!) could play at the same time. The cost of a complete tennis outfit of four racquets, net, poles and balls was fifteen dollars. Service was side-arm or underhand.

In order to standardize the tennis equipment and the rules of the game, representatives of 19 tennis clubs, including Orange Lawn Tennis Club, met in May 1881 at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York City and formed the United States Lawn Tennis Association. At that time there were 51 member clubs nationwide. The number grew to 107 by 1893 and to 2500 in 1971.

The development of tennis strategy had been held back by the lack of uniformity in rules as well as equipment, but now more aggressive styles of play developed.

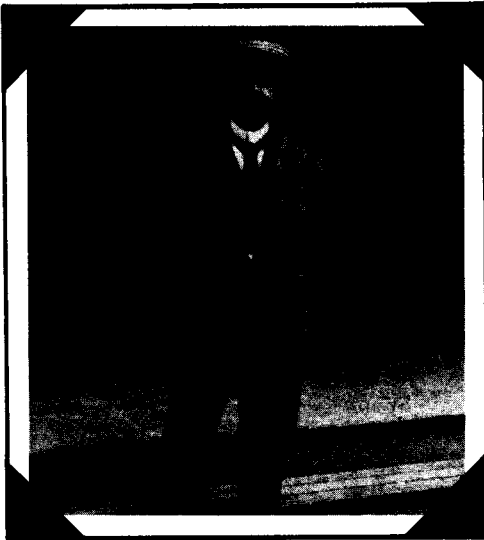
The overhand serve started in 1882. The first sagging nets encouraged much volleying because most returns were aimed at the lower center of the net. Lobbing developed as a

counter-measure. In a memorable match at OLTC in 1882, between Richard D. Sears, first U.S. singles champion, and Dr. James Dwight, who became the first President of the U.S.L.T.A. in 1882, it took Sears two days to defeat Dwight. In this match OLTC members had their first exposure to expert lobbing and overhand service. A more nearly level net led to the development of all-court ground stroke strategies.

Tennis Tournaments—intra-club, inter-club, regional, national and international—were a natural development. The motive behind the first Wimbledon Tournament in 1877 is reputed to have been the need for funds to buy a new roller. An ad in the London Times drew 22 entries and Spencer Gore won. The first U.S. Nationals were played at Newport in 1881. 25 players were entered in singles and there were 13 doubles pairs. The total gate was \$250. and the expenses were \$245.68.

The first national championships to be held at the Orange Lawn Tennis Club were in 1886. It had been decided that all national singles championship matches at Newport would be best of five sets. Because this lengthened the time taken by singles and exhausted the players, it was decided to transfer the doubles to Orange and play them three weeks later. But it didn't work. Players preferred the combined singles and doubles format and didn't come to Orange. The draw was weak and the experiment ended.

Frank Satterthwaite, in Harper's Weekly of July 4, 1886 described the scene at Montrose and Berkeley Avenues at that time as follows:



*Dr. James Dwight, first President of the United States Lawn Tennis Association.*

"The drive which encircles the beautiful turf courts was lined with handsome equipages containing the fair patronesses of the game.

"The OLTC enclosure is on the crest of the high ground and on the East side of the Orange Valley. It is hemmed in on all sides by groves of chestnuts and oaks. On the turf terrace there is room enough for ten courts. The ladies' clubhouse and balcony is on a terrace to the westward while a gentlemen's substantial and well-appointed clubhouse is fronted by two earth courts on the far side of the turf platform. There are few spots in the country where ladies and gentlemen assemble for the enjoyment of outdoor sports that can compare with the secluded and peacefully rural grounds of the Orange Lawn Tennis Club."

The first officers of the Orange Lawn Tennis Club in 1880 were: Richard J. Cross, President, Edward Winslow, Treasurer and Richard M. Colgate, Secretary. The Directors were Henry F. Hitch, Samuel Campbell, E.F. Sanford and A.M. Wood. Among the 30 Founders were:

Frederick Almy      Henry Barrill  
Frank Arnold      D. L. Bennett

Henry Coolidge      J. Montgomery Hare  
John P. Gillis      A.D. Palmer  
John C. Heald      Richard Pancost  
S.Y. L'Hommedieu      Frederick H. Snow  
J.H. Kelly      Henry A. Page  
N.B. Martin      R.W. Hawkesworth  
A.D. Smith      Charles F. Watson  
Charles A. Munn      John C. Wilmerding  
Henry N. Munn

The *Newark Sunday Call* reported in the spring of 1883: "The beautiful grounds of the Orange Lawn Tennis Club at Montrose Station presented a picturesque scene yesterday afternoon when the season's play was fully open. ...On the low terrace on the west side were groups of stylish belles and spruce cavaliers of the Oranges chatting merrily, watching the players and listening to music by the Fort Hamilton Band. The lively stepping of the players and the dashing of horsemen along the borders gave motion to a pleasing picture. From a tall staff floated the orange and blue flag of the Club ... which now has 138 members."

A later issue reported interclub play: "The visit of the OLTC team to Elizabeth for matches was an interesting event. The

Elizabethans are expected to return the visitation ... and no doubt will resort to the use of a tally-ho coach as did the Orangeites on their initial trip."

In the same issue, it reported "the East Orange Tennis Club (soon to be opened) will undoubtedly be as excellent an institution for outdoor divertissement during sultry weather as that which characterizes the brilliant assemblies at Montrose (OLTC)."

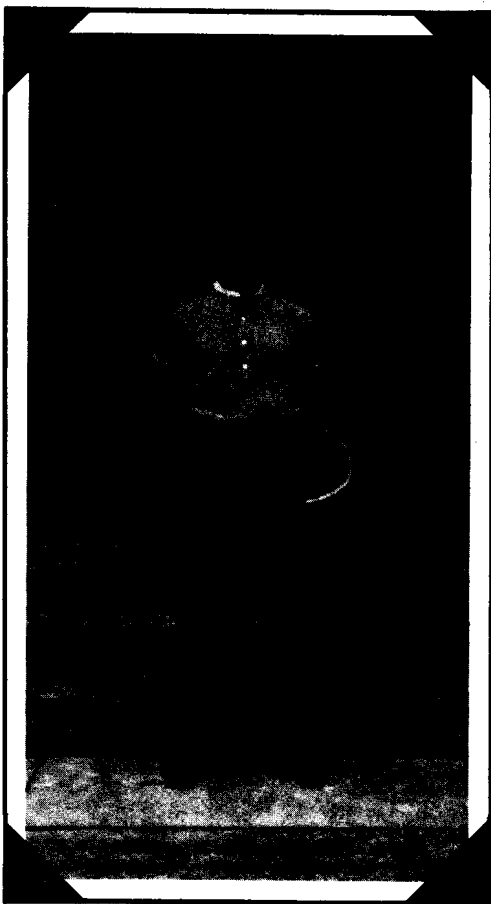
Recommended apparel for the well dressed male tennis player in the 1880's was blazer, knickerbockers, belt, cravat, woolen stockings with club colors and a cap or round hat.

## THE WORLD AT LARGE

1880-1890

*Invention of safety razors, fountain pens, Ladies Home Journal, Kodak box camera and "Casey at the Bat." Dedication of Statue of Liberty and Brooklyn Bridge. John L. Sullivan heavyweight champ. Major gold strike in Alaska. Dances were waltz, polka, galop, portland fancy and quadrille.*

## THE GAY NINETIES AT OLTC



Bill Larned—Nationally ranked 19 times.

Orange Lawn Tennis Club had more nationally ranked players among its members in the nineties than at any other time in its history. In 1897 William A. Larned was number #2, J. Parmly Paret number #13 and 19-year old Holcombe F. Ward number #18.

William A. Larned was nationally ranked a record 19 times between 1892 and 1911! He was national champion eight times!

1894	2nd	1900	3rd	1906	2nd
1895	2nd	1901	1st	1907	1st
1896	2nd	1902	1st	1908	1st
1897	2nd	1903	1st	1909	1st
1898	5th	1904	3rd	1910	1st
1899	3rd	1905	3rd	1911	1st
		1912	2nd		

Maurice McLoughlin, the California Comet with the big serve, came out of the West in 1912 to end Larned's supremacy. Larned played 15 Davis Cup matches and won ten of them. He won the Longwood Singles Bowl 13 times, retiring it five times. He was elected to the Tennis Hall of Fame at Newport in 1956.

The Middle States Championships were played at Orange Lawn from 1891 through 1925. They attracted most of the top Eastern players and some of the world's best. Larned won the event eight times between 1901 and 1909.

In addition, each year there were two

Handicap Tournaments restricted to Club members. The New York Tribune of Sept. 12, 1892 reported that "The great surprise of the day was in the gentlemen's doubles when George H. Miles and Holcombe Ward, two little lads of fourteen, beat the veterans Robert M. Miles and Stanley Ward. The boys were given a handicap of fifteen and one bisque\* and they gave their antagonists a hard tussle ... They were given an ovation when they finished."

Invitations to members to play in these Tournaments read: "Play will be called each day at 3:30 p.m. or upon the arrival of the 2:30 train from New York. Fifty cents entry fee to be paid to the janitor."

In 1898 the event was enlivened by a runaway horse: "After four quick double turns, the two men in the buggy found them-

\* Handicap Tournament winners were decided by the number of games won in three sets with each other member in the Tournament. Handicaps were as follows: Bisque means one stroke claimed at pleasure during a match. 1/4th of 15 means one point in the second game of each set. 2/4th means one point in the second and fourth games. 3/4th means one point in the second, fourth and sixth games, etc. 15 means one point per game.

selves in the middle of the street with the buggy on top of them."

The South Orange Bulletin of August 25, 1881 reported that a brass band played at the courts on Saturday but does not report what the players thought of the idea.

There were six tennis clubs in Essex County at this time, namely, Montclair, South Orange Field Club, East Orange Tennis Club, Orange Athletic Club, Nutley Field Club and OLTC. The Morris and Essex Tennis League was formed in 1894. Its charter members were Morristown, Casino Club, South Orange Field Club and OLTC.

In early December 1893, the clubhouse burned down and on December 8th, members received a card reading, "During the recent destruction of the Clubhouse by fire, personal effects of some members were damaged by smoke and water ... Mr. H.F. Hitch has, in conscience, been appointed a committee of one to make what he deems a just settlement of each member's loss."

The USLTA reported a drop in member clubs from 106 to 44 during the nineties, probably caused by the rapid development of golf. Davis Cup International play and its publicity helped to revive tennis. OLTC was not seriously affected by this temporary sag in tennis interest.

## HOLCOMBE F. WARD

One of Orange Lawn Tennis Club's most illustrious members in its hundred year history was undoubtedly Holcombe F. Ward, both as a player and as one of the game's finest administrators.

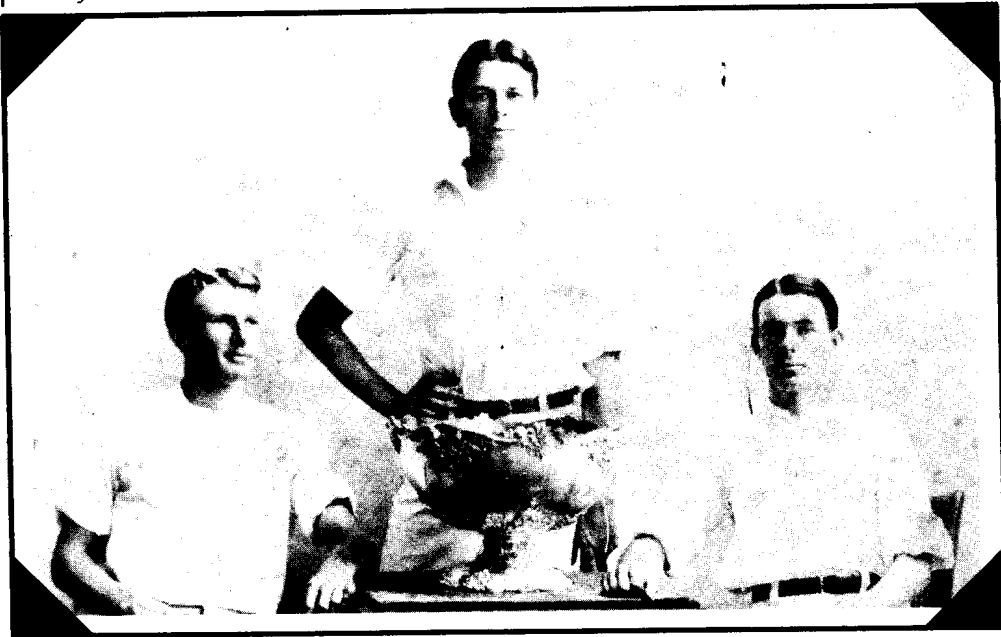
His rankings as a singles player nationally were:

1897	18th	1900	7th	1903	2nd
1898	12th	1901	7th	1904	1st
1899	9th	1902	4th	1905	2nd



## THE WORLD AT LARGE—THE GAY NINETIES

*Introduction of the automobile, the zipper and the income tax. Dorothy Dix began her advice to the lovelorn. Early film studio in West Orange constructed by Edison Labs. Hugh Duffy batted .438. Popular songs were "Bicycle Built for Two"; "Sidewalks of New York"; "Maple Leaf Rag"; Favorite dance: the "Hootchy Kootchy".*



August 1900—Malcolm D. Whitman, Dwight Davis, Holcombe Ward played against the British team of A. W. Gore, E. D. Black, H. R. Barrett. The match was won by the U.S. 5 matches to love.

With Dwight Davis as a partner, Ward won the National Doubles Championships for three consecutive years from 1899 through 1901, and with Beals C. Wright as partner from 1902 through 1905. In 1901, he and Davis were runners-up in the doubles at Wimbledon, losing in the finals to the famous British Doherty Brothers.

Ward played fourteen Davis Cup doubles matches from 1900 through 1906, all with Dwight Davis, and won seven of them. In 1900 in the first Davis Cup matches ever held, Ward and Davis won over the British team of E.D. and H. Roper Barrett. Barrett described Ward's twist serve as "coming at you like an animated egg plum. It not only swerved in the air but, on hitting the ground, broke surely four or five feet." The British also had this to say about the playing conditions at Longwood: "The courts were abominable, the net a disgrace to civilized lawn tennis, held up by ropes that were continually sagging; and the balls were awful soft and motherly looking."

In 1898 Davis and Ward, while still sophomores at Harvard, went to Chicago to compete in the Western Championship Dou-

bles and won. Their innovative tactics caused much interest. Ward's twist service, although not his invention, was uncommon and effective. The press said "Ward's style is a violent one, running up to the net after each twist serve. Unless his opponent passes him, his subsequent strokes are usually deadly." The Chicago press also said "Easterners Ward and Davis are a new combination different from any team that has visited the West before. Every stroke taken is delivered with a decided cut, making the ball difficult to handle and a very unsafe article to drive hard." The immortal Walter Camp wrote in Collier's Weekly on Sept. 3, 1898 "The most noticeable feature of the winners' play was their formation while serving. Instead of the netman's changing sides from left to right, the net man remains constantly on the right hand side of the court."

As early as 1897, Ward was much sought after by Tournament directors all over the East as an attractive addition to draws. Among his memorabilia is a note reading: "I am still counting on you. We have done all we can to make it attractive: good courts, a good crowd of fellows, a fine hotel with lots of

pretty girls, all for nothing. What more can you ask?" It is not known what Ward's decision was.

One of the admirers of Holcombe Ward's American twist service when he played at Germantown was ballboy Bill Tilden.

The public attitude toward tennis as then played may be judged from this excerpt from the "Harvard Crimson" in 1878: "The game (tennis) is well enough for lazy or weak men, but men who have rowed or taken part in nobler sport should blush to be seen playing lawn tennis."

At Orange Lawn, Holcombe was Club

Singles Champion in 1902 and won twice more, the last time in 1915. He was Doubles Champ twelve time between 1898 and 1915 with various partners.

He was selected Davis Cup Chairman for the United States in 1932. He was an officer of the United States Lawn Tennis Association in the years from 1933 through 1947 and its President from 1937 through 1947 during the difficult years when amateurism, "shamateurism" and player expense accounts were a big problem. In 1956 he was elected to the Tennis Hall of Fame.

## THE WORLD AT LARGE—THE EARLY 1900's

*The Model T cost \$850 ("in any color as long as it was black"). First Wright Brothers flight. Casey Jones died at the throttle of the "Cannonball". Shop-girls averaged \$5.00 to \$6.00 per week. Fashion: the suntanned outdoor girl replaced the softer, white Gibson girl. Enormous "Merry Widow" hats kept in place by huge dotted veils. Jack Johnson heavy-weight champ.*

## THE MOVE FROM MONTROSE TO RIDGEWOOD ROAD— FROM EAST OF THE VALLEY TO WEST OF THE VALLEY

In 1916 OLTC was flourishing in its original location at the corner of Berkeley and Montrose Avenues. The opposite west side of the valley was little developed except for a few large estates which ran from the valley up over the mountain.

But a substantial part of the membership was dissatisfied with the small number of courts and, especially, with the meager facilities for social events. The men's locker room was a one-floor wood frame building with limited space. The ladies had a similar separate structure just large enough to serve tea to a small group.

So, a group of four members—George H. Miles, Ira A. Kipp, John J. Boyd and Charles H. Jewett—was assigned to search for a new location. They found the Redmond Estate known as "Hillside". The property came available suddenly and the Board of Governors had to act fast. The membership was assessed and a large mortgage secured. Also, financial help was available to them for many years by selling building lots on the periphery of the property.

Another faction in the Club at the Montrose location wanted its tennis to remain local and of a neighborhood type. The more

social, larger club across the valley did not attract them. This group, led by Russel B. Kingman, who became an important tennis official and eventually the President of the International Lawn Tennis Association, split off and opted to build a six court en-tous-cas club at Tremont Place and Tremont Avenue which became the Berkeley Tennis Club. Berkeley is still flourishing at that spot.

The interesting story of the Redmond property is a history of the whole area in miniature. Edward Riggs, one of the three brothers of a family of first settlers in Newark that came from Connecticut in the middle 17th century with Captain Robert Treat, seeking greater religious freedom, ventured out to the Newark Uplands, later to become South Orange and Orange. He appears to have been the owner of the present OLTC property as early as September of 1680. It is recorded that he sold the area of 45 acres to a Thomas Luddington in April of 1686 and it became known as the Luddington Plantation. Most of these emigrants from Connecticut to Newark were strongly anti-British from their experiences there and Luddington was a Captain in the Second Regiment, Essex, of the Revolutionary Army.

The next owner of the property in 1797 was Henry Squier (Squire) who built a farmhouse in 1774, part of which is still standing at 167 North Ridgewood Road near Redmond Road. Henry was also a captain in the Revolutionary Army. The Squier Family was prominent in town affairs for many years. Henry's son Nathan was High Sheriff of Essex County in 1816 and a judge of Inferior Court. He owned a distillery and was renowned for his fine corn and rye whiskies. Certification of his whiskies' popularity is one order with a local grain store for 135 tons of rye! Nathan and his sons also owned the South Orange



The William Redmond family on the lawn of its "Hillside" home. In 1916 it became the Clubhouse of the Orange Lawn Tennis Club.

Hotel in the center of town. Tradition has it that George Washington drank from the well in front of the Ridgewood Road farm when marching from Montclair to Morristown. Nathan was the largest contributor (\$150) to the construction fund for the new Columbian School of South Orange and one of the Trustees who paid their women teachers \$48 for a six month term.

As commutation to New York City became easier and more pleasant, the entire area became a more popular one in which to build. Among those attracted was a William Redmond. "The Founders and Builders of the Oranges" by Whittemore says of him; "William Redmond was born in County Antrim, Ireland, in October 1806. He came to this country at the age of seventeen and settled first in Charleston, S.C. and removed thence to New York City, where he carried on a successful business (importing linens) for some years and acquired a competence. After spending two summers in Orange, he purchased in 1850 a large tract of land fronting on Ridgewood Road, and extending over the top of the mountain ... Mr. Redmond came to South Orange to enjoy the quiet life of a country gentleman. He was fond of good horses, and was the first to introduce Jersey cows to this section of the country. He made many improvements on the place, and built the

large brownstone mansion which, in its day, was considered one of the finest in this part of the country ... Mr. Redmond married Sabina Hoyt of Norwalk Conn. (who bore him five sons and six daughters) ... He was a man of great liberality. He gave \$10,000 to the (Holy Communion) Episcopal Church. He died September 13, 1874."

The property acquired by William Redmond was over 175 acres in size and extended from the present Erie Lackawanna railroad tracks, adjacent to Cameron Field, west over the mountain to what is now the Reservation area. Its width approximated the present area between Redmond and Forest Roads. Redmond rented the area now known as Meadowland Park, plus the Squier Farmhouse, to a Mr. Flood who pastured his cows on the slope between Ridgewood Road and the railroad tracks. Mr. Flood conducted a home-delivery milk service.

In 1881, a son-in-law, Richard James Cross, a New York City banker, and his family, took over the "Hillside" property. Mr. Cross first married Redmond daughter Matilda and, after her death, married another daughter Annie.

In 1889, Herman C. Hoskier, who had married a grand-daughter of William Redmond, Harriet Amelia Redmond, bought the property and was the owner approached by

the OLTC Search Committee in 1916.

Agreement was complicated by the fact that Hoskier was in Europe actively fighting for his country in World War I. The agreement covering the sale was eventually made but because of the distance involved, much had to be left to a "gentlemen's understanding." A deed was finally executed by Mr. and Mrs. Hoskier at Bordeaux, France, and title to the property became vested in the Orange Lawn Club in November 1916.

## THE WORLD AT LARGE— 1910-1919

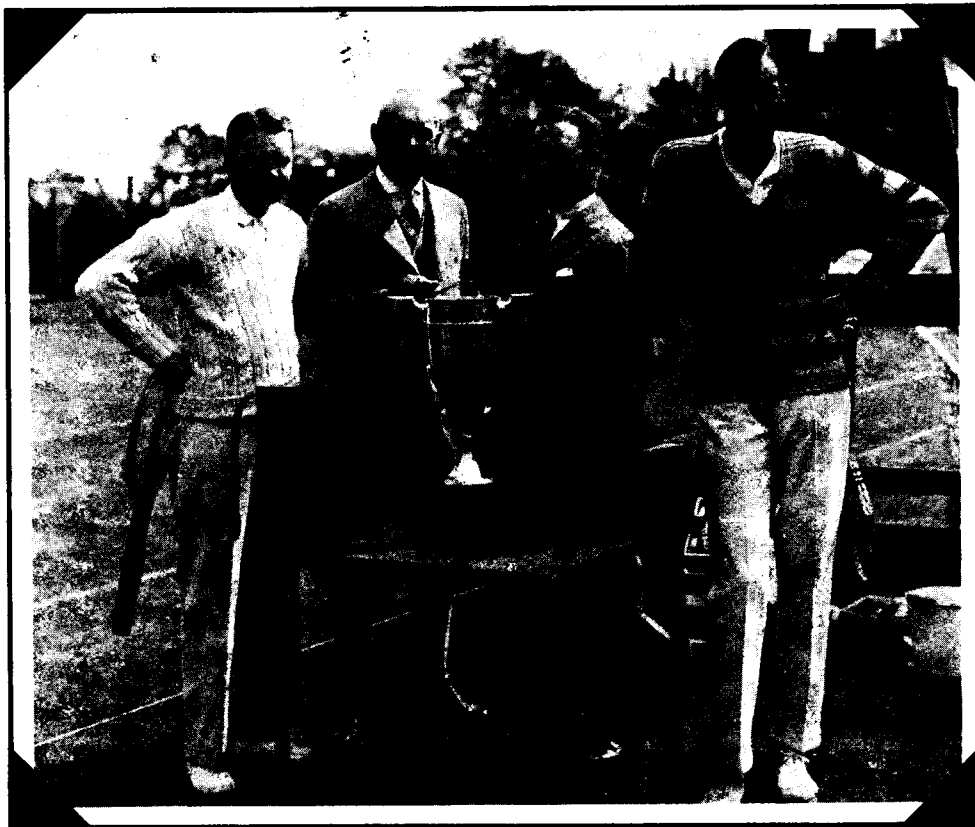
*Halley's Comet reappeared. Madame Curie isolated radium. Air mail initiated. Titanic sank. First aerial combat in World War I using pistols and rifles. Pancho Villa raided our southern borders. Income tax on \$20,000 was \$160. Popular cars were Hupmobile, Hudson, Maxwell, Overland and Franklin. Stutz Bearcat introduced. Milk 9¢ a quart. Sirloin steak 27¢ a pound. Charlie Chaplin featured in "Tillie's Punctured Romance." Einstein formulated his Theory of Relativity. Cost of Model T down to \$600.*

## THE ROARING TWENTIES AT OLTC

In 1920, the Middle States Championships, which had been held at OLTC since 1885, were transferred to Philadelphia. During this span W.A. Larned had won the singles five times and the doubles three times. Holcombe Ward had won the singles once and the doubles three times.

The Middle States Tournament was then replaced by an Annual Invitation Tournament which lasted from 1920 through 1940. From 1930 through 1940 the players competed for the Gillespie Challenge Cup, presented to the Club in 1930 by Thomas H. Gillespie. The winners of the Invitation Tournament were:

- 1920 Ichiya Kumagae
- 1921 William T. Tilden
- 1922 William T. Tilden
- 1923 William T. Tilden
- 1924 William T. Tilden
- 1925 Vincent Richards
- 1926 Manuel Alonso
- 1927 Manuel Alonso
- 1928 John Hope Doeg
- 1929 Frederick Mercur
- 1930 John Hope Doeg
- 1931 John Hope Doeg
- 1932 David N. Jones
- 1933 Wilmer Allison
- 1934 No Tournament



1925 Annual Invitation Tournament—Left: Vincent Richards, Winner, Robert P. Bennett, Thomas H. Gillespie, William Tilden, Runner-up.

1935 No Tournament  
 1936 " "  
 1937 " "  
 1938 Elwood T. Cooke  
 1939 Wayne Sabin  
 1940 Frank J. Bowden

The lineup of Tournaments held by OLTC in 1927 was:

May 28 New Jersey State Women's Championships  
 June 9 Club Championships  
 May 30-June 3 Invitation Tournament  
 August 9-11 Davis Cup Preliminary Round  
 August 26 Men's Singles Invitation Tournament.

From 1930 through 1935 an Annual East vs. West Tournament was staged at O.L.T.C.

for two days in August. In 1934 the entered teams were:

<b>East</b>	<b>West</b>
Sid Wood	Roderick Menzel
Greg Mangin	Vernon Kirby
Berkeley Bell	Robert Bryan
John Van Ryn	John McDiarmid
Frank Parker	Jack Tidball
Fred Perry	Don Budge
Jack Crawford	Gene Mako
J. Gilbert Hall	
Manuel Alonso	

Budge, 19, and playing on grass for the first time, beat Sidney Wood, and Parker defeated Mako. The matches were tied at five each.

## THE WORLD AT LARGE—THE ROARING TWENTIES

*Prohibition gave us speakeasies, bootleggers and bathtub gin. Flappers and sheiks danced the Charleston and Black Bottom. Crazes were mah jongg, ouija boards, crossword puzzles, and flagpole sitting. Introduced were Eskimo Pies, Rudy Vallee and the Holland Tunnel. Sports heroes were Red Grange, Johnny Weissmuller, Gertrude Ederle, Babe Ruth and Sonja Henie. Ladies' hair was shingled or bobbed, hemlines were above the knees and waistlines at the hips.*

## HORSE SHOWS

The Annual Orange Lawn Tennis Club Horse Shows originated in 1921 and continued each October through 1939. They were held on the Club grounds in the area below the Clubhouse toward Ridgewood Road. There were as many as 43 classes judged and a maximum of 393 entries.

The first Horse Show officers were C.H. Jewett, A.B. Squire and P. Sanford Ross Jr. The first years had 21 classes of competition, including Jumpers, Saddle Horses, Troopers' Mounts, Officers' Chargers, Saddle Ponies, Road Hacks and Hunt Team Hunters.

In 1927, under the Chairmanship of Chichester C. Kerr and Committeemen David L. George, Robert A. Howard, George H. Miles and Roland T. Ross, there were 38 Classes, now including Horsemanship (child's and lady's), polo mounts, teams of three polo ponies and "Touch and Out" Sweepstakes.

By 1930 there were 40 events of which the Essex Troop entered in five and won three. In 1934 there was Military Team competition among the Montclair Mounted Troop, the Junior Essex Troop and the West Point Horse Show Team. "Good Hands" competition had also been added, with a Cup to the winner

from the ASPCA. A gala Horse Show Ball was held the Saturday evening after the show.

In 1935 Courtenay Overman was Chairman and Neil P. Overman was secretary. In the final two years, John J. Cronin Jr. was Chairman, Courtenay Overman Secretary and James B. Dickey Treasurer.

## DOG SHOWS

On June 3, 1934 the first Dog Show of the Orange Kennel Club was held at Orange Lawn Tennis Club with 455 entries "benched". The show was held in early May each year through 1942.

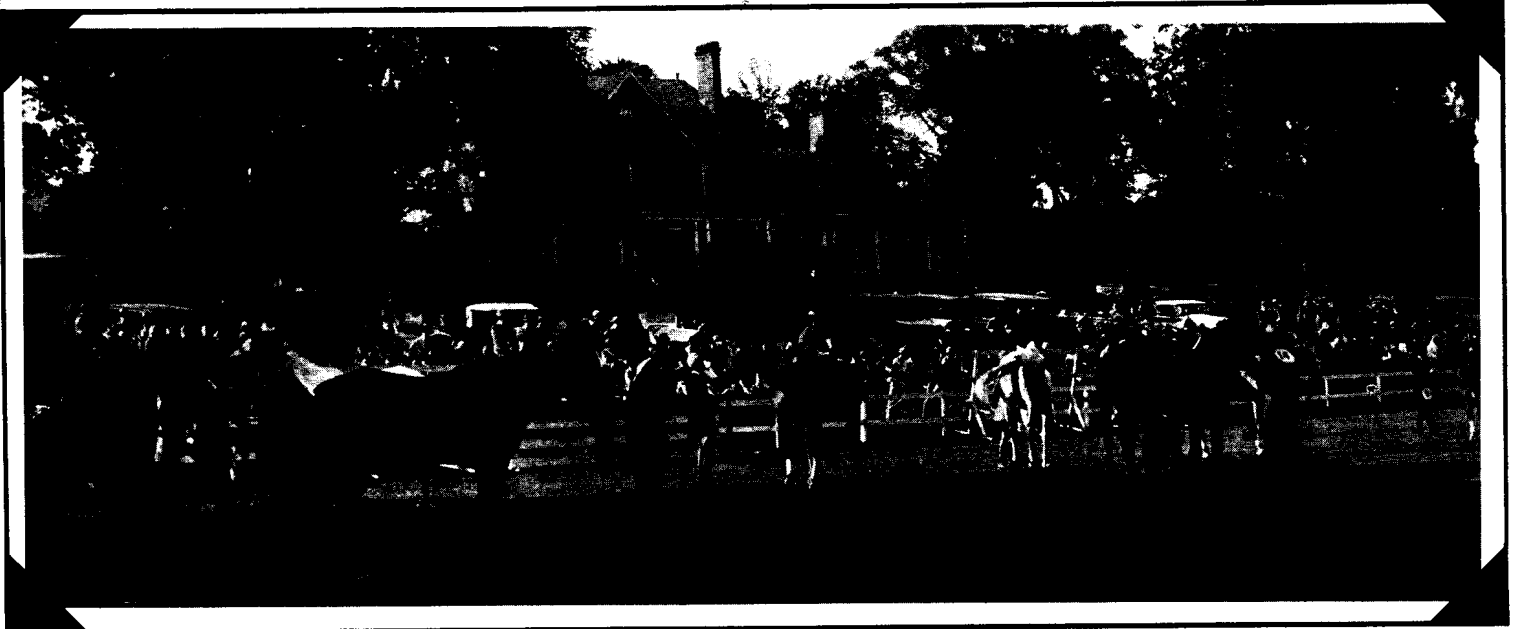
Neil P. Overman was the first Chairman and entries included a "mutt class" for dogs without pedigrees. A Dog Show Ball followed the event in the evening.

The numbers of entries by year, as recorded by the Official American Kennel Club Record Book, were:

ded by the Official American Kennel Club Record Book, were:

1935	569	1939	701
1936	569	1940	733
1937	677	1942	750
1938	639	1943	Event scheduled but canceled

In a typical year, there was competition and judging of 54 different breeds of dogs, plus obedience test trials which began in 1938.



## THE DEPRESSION YEARS— 1930-1939

The 1935 Tournament ran into weather and scheduling problems. Because the National Doubles at Longwood were played earlier in the same week and those matches were delayed by rain, the expected draw did not materialize because the best players were still at Brookline. The Orange Tournament was saved by the availability of Fred Perry and Manuel Alonso, Spain's Davis Cup captain, who had beaten Bill Tilden earlier in the year. They played an exhibition singles match. In the regular Tournament Bitsy Grant, "the pintsize Georgian midget" defeated Charles Harris. Because these matches had disappointing draws for several years, 1935 was the last year of the East vs. West format.

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In 1934 a new bar in the Clubhouse with a red and black motif was completed in time for a Flower Show of the Oranges on May 18th.

Unfortunately, the new bar was quiet during Thanksgiving holidays that year because the Town Trustees suspended our license after members were found imbibing there prior to the closing of the polls on Election Day.

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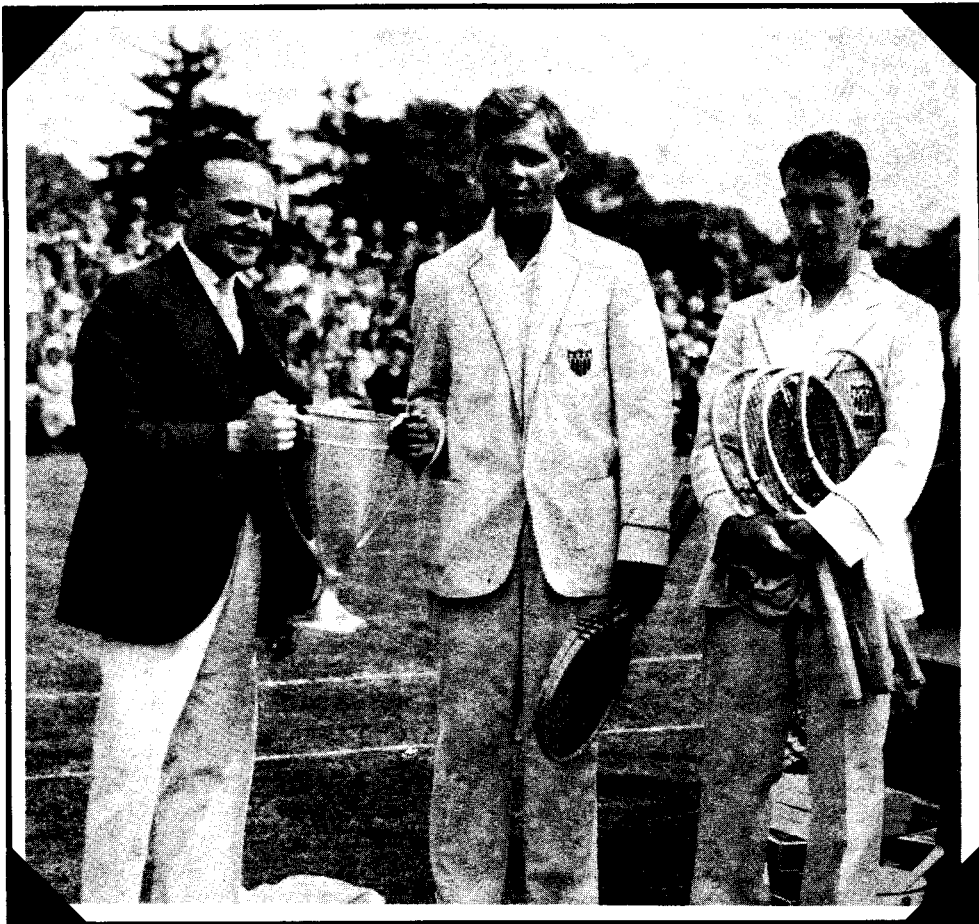
In 1935 John W. Strahan of OLTC was elected President of the New Jersey Tennis League of nine active clubs. The OLTC team was Strahan, Kenneth D. Appel, Rex Morford, Walter Kottman, Henry M. Kennedy, Steve Hagerman and John Moore.

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In 1936 the new format for a summer Tournament at OLTC was to hold exhibitions by selected top players in late August for two days. Players expected that year were Fred Perry, number #1 in the world, Don Budge, number #1 in the U.S., Gene Mako, John Van Ryn, Gregory Mangin, Frank Parker, J. Gilbert Hall, Bobby Riggs and Bitsy Grant. The presence of all these players was advertised by Chairman Malcolm Pierson.

However, on three days notice the USLTA withdrew the top four French players for another tournament, sent several of the players to a Canadian tournament, requested Don Budge not to play again until the Nationals at Forest Hills and broke an agreement made on May 30th not to schedule the Davis Cup matches that same weekend. Yet the ELTA had requested OLTC to hold these exhibitions.

J. Gilbert Hall, an OLTC member and ranked 8th nationally in 1935, sprang to the rescue, refused to go to Canada as ordered, and "brought" with him to Orange Bitsy Grant, Joseph R. Hunt, and Wayne Sabin.



*Annual Invitation Tournament, May 31, 1930—Malcolm G. Pierson presenting the Gillespie Challenge Cup to John Doeg. John Van Ryn, Runner-up.*

Kay Stammers, England's number #1, and Gracyn Wheeler also appeared. OLTC charged the USLTA with "double crossing" because of "tennis politics" and the disagreement took many months to resolve.

The 1937 Tournament was again affected by bad weather at Longwood which kept eight of the sixteen players longer than had been anticipated.

Bill Tilden brought his pro troupe of Stofen, Vines, Barnes and Lott to OLTC for two days in June 1936.

In 1938 OLTC held an Invitation Tournament on Memorial Day weekend, returning to a type of tournament it had held for 25 years prior to 1933. The Club in recent years had been repeatedly frustrated in its efforts to attract the best players by playing second fiddle to the Longwood National Doubles and counting on players completing their commitments there in time to come to Orange. The 1938 entry of 29 players included Bobby Riggs, ranked second nationally, Wayne Sabin, ranked sixth, Don McNeill, ranked eighth, John McDiarmid, Seabright Champion in 1936, Elwood Cooke, J. Gilbert Hall and John Doeg. OLTC entries were Lou Dailey and Henry Kennedy.

The 1939 Invitation Tournament had in its draw Frank Shields, Cliff Sutter, Hall, Frank Froehling Sr., Chauncey Steele, Fritz Mercur,

Ladislav Hecht, Kenny Appel and Frank Bowden. Rex Morford was Chairman and James Dickey, Vice Chairman. Best of all, there were *no* defaults!

\*\*\*\*

Women's OLTC Singles Champions in this period were:

1935 Mrs. Ceres B. Sackett  
1936 Jean Haddow Hibberd  
1937 Emily French  
1938 Mrs. James B. Dickey  
1939 Mrs. James B. Dickey  
1940 Isabel Roche

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## THE WORLD AT LARGE—THE DEPRESSION YEARS

*The 30's gave us repeal, miniature golf, Amos and Andy, bread lines and apple-selling, Social Security, the Rockettes, Monopoly, "Gone With The Wind", Sally Rand and her fan, singing telegrams, Snow White and knock-knock jokes. Dancing was to the music of Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Glenn Miller and Harry James, who had a skinny singer named Frank Sinatra. Ford Model T cost down to \$585. Potatoes 2¢ a pound.*





Gardnar Mulloy Frederick Schroeder Vincent Richards

## THE WORLD AT LARGE— THE WORLD WAR II YEARS

*Introduced were rationing, Savings Bonds and aerosol sprays. Pearl Harbor bombed on December 7, 1941. Songs were "Jersey Bounce," "Chattanooga Choo Choo" and "Buckle Down, Winsocki." Whirlaway won the Triple Crown. Joe DiMaggio hit safely in 56 consecutive games. GI's chose Betty Grable as their pin-up girl. A-Bomb dropped. Japan surrendered.*

## THE 1940'S AT OLTC

In the Annual Tournament of 1940, played on the July 4th weekend, Walter Kottman and Lou Dailey were the finalists. Kottman had beaten Ogden Carter in the semi-finals and Dailey had won by default from John Strahan. Joan Dickey reached the ladies' final by beating Elga Roche. Isabel Roche beat Emily French to become the other finalist, and Mrs. Dickey won the final.

In the 1941 Invitation Tournament for the Gillespie Cup, the draw had Sidney Wood, Frank Shields, Frank Bowden, Pancho Segura, Ladislav Hecht, Chauncey Steele and J. Gilbert Hall. In the semi-finals, Wood beat Segura and Bowden defeated Steele. In a five-set final, Wood beat Bowden on very wet grass, agreeing that he was a "better muddier."

Church Cup matches were played from time to time at OLTC. This Cup, first put in play in 1918, was for competition between teams representing areas of the East Coast. Until 1932 it was contested for by teams from New England, Eastern and Middle States sections. Between 1932 and 1946 there was no play. Play was resumed in 1946 with a Middle Atlantic section added. In 1948 the Church Cup matches were held at OLTC and won by Middle States over the Eastern section, seven matches to two.

## OLTC 1946

The Eastern Grass Court Championships were played at the Orange Lawn Tennis Club for the first time in 1946. Now began the "glory years" of tennis at OLTC when all the world's great men and women players sought invitations to Orange as the second most prestigious tournament in the United States, second only to the Nationals at Forest Hills. Prior to 1946 the Easterns had been played at the Westchester Country Club in Rye, New York, beginning in 1927. The Easterns usually followed the tournament at Merion and were followed by Newport and Longwood prior to Forest Hills. All were part of the "grass court circuit." Orange was a vital stop for competitors looking ahead to the national championships and rankings. Too, the Davis Cup Committee, pondering its selections for the American team, was usually in attendance observing the play closely.

The Easterns at Orange sometimes had to compete with Davis Cup preliminary round play at the same time; and Wightman Cup play occasionally took some of the top women players. But the calibre of the remaining

players was so high that a great Tournament always took place. If the top Americans were involved elsewhere, the Australians were available and vice versa. If the women's draw was a little weak, the strength of the men's draw more than made up for it. Because of the depth of quality, the occasional withdrawal or default of a key player because of injury, rest from "overtennis" or a possible late decision to stay a little longer in Europe was only a slight disappointment. There were usually 100 or more competitors and as many as 150 players were turned away.

Over the years the smooth management of the Easterns in these amateur years under such directors from the Club's roster as Jim Dickey, Karl Koeniger, Lou Dailey, Russell Kingman and Don Hobart was much appreciated by both players and spectators. Financially, the Tournament usually netted a very small profit but not always. Break-even or better was only made possible by the great work done by dozens of OLTC members and their families, who volunteered their services in such areas as taking players into their

homes, transportation at all hours of the day and night, ticket-taking, entertainment, ushering, clean-up, ball-boying and many other chores. Standing room crowds of 3,000 to 4,000 usually appeared for the semi-finals and finals. The seating facilities were adequate and gracious. And the grass was as excellent as the weather permitted. In fact, Orange-raised Dick Savitt said in 1951 when he was international champion: "The courts at Orange are as good as anywhere in the world. You really get a true bounce."

In this first year the men's draw included, in order of seeding, Billy Talbert, Tom Brown, Pancho Segura, Gardnar Mulloy, Don McNeill, Bob Falkenberg, Elwood Cooke, Herbie Flam, Seymour Greenberg and Frank Guernsey. Great tennis names-to-be that were entered were Vic Seixas and Dick Savitt, who played his first tennis as a boy on Cameron Field. Dick survived the first round. Old-timers Sidney Wood and J. Gilbert Hall, 46-years old and an OLTC member, also played.

The entire ladies' top draw of Margaret

Osborne, Louise Brough, Pat Todd and Doris Hart was wiped out by default. The group, returning from seven exhausting weeks of European play, were all sick from a rough ocean trip and withdrew. Shirley Fry was the finals winner over Virginia Wolfenden Kovacs.

In the men's finals, Don McNeill lost the first two sets to Gardner Mulloy but stormed back to win 3-6, 4-6, 12-10, 7-5, 6-3.

\* \* \* \*

OLTC was the host for the Davis Cup matches between Mexico and the United States in June of 1946. The U.S. won easily five matches to none. Billy Talbert won over Armando Vega, Frank Parker defeated Rolando Vega and Gardner Mulloy and Talbert beat Vega-Vega in the doubles. Then Parker defeated Armando Vega and Mulloy beat Pancho Guerrero.

\* \* \* \*

Betty Rosenquest, New Jersey State Women's Singles Champion, Rollins College star, South Orange resident and OLTC member, was the first woman ever to play in the New Jersey Tennis Inter-club League. She played number one on the OLTC team against the Racquets Club in 1946.

## THE WORLD AT LARGE—1946

*Introduced were automatic transmissions for cars, electric clothes dryers and strapless wired bras. Nuremberg Nazi war crime trials. Coeds wore black flats and sweaters tucked into knee-length skirts. Crew cuts standard for men. W.C. Fields, the hater of Christmas, dogs and children, died on Christmas Day. Academy Award winner was "The Best Years of Our Lives."*

## OLTC 1947

The Westchester Country Club made a strong bid to recapture the sponsorship of the Eastern Grass Court Championship in 1947 but OLTC won after considerable bargaining. The Club's greater accessibility to the tennis public and the fine all-out effort made by the OLTC membership in 1946 were the deciding factors.

The draw again was outstanding. The men, in order of seeding, were Ted Schroeder, Gardner Mulloy, Bill Talbert, Don McNeill, Bob Falkenberg, Eddie Moylan and Pancho Segura. Unseeded rising stars were Dick Savitt, Herb Flam and Earl Cochell. Stars of declining ability also present were Frank Shields and Sidney Wood.

Unseeded Bob Falkenberg, former Wimbledon Champ, defeated Don McNeill in the

quarter-finals, averaging two aces per service game. When Don was able to return serve he won most of the points but that wasn't often enough. But Gardner Mulloy beat Falkenberg in the semis after being down two sets. Falkenberg tired badly in the third set, "rested" in the fourth set but still didn't have it in the fifth.

Ted Schroeder won the other semi-final over Billy Talbert in another five-setter. Then Schroeder went on to beat Mulloy in straight sets in the finals. By the time Ted had completed a 76 game doubles win with partner Jack Kramer over Mulloy and Talbert, he had played a total of 149 games on that one day!

Margaret Osborne defeated Louise Brough in the women's final. The ladies' draw had several new names. Beverly Baker, 17-years old with no backhand (she transfers her racquet to her left hand for backhands) made her debut and defeated fourth-seeded Virginia Kovacs. Gussie Moran of lace pants fame beat Charlotte Lee of Short Hills in the first round but lost to Shirley Fry.

## THE WORLD AT LARGE—1947

*Introduced were the tubeless tire and credit cards. Juke boxes flourished. Henry Ford left \$600 million. Favorite songs were "Tenderly", "Open the Door Richard" and the "Too Fat Polka". Christian Dior introduced the New Look. "Gentlemen's Agreement" was the top movie. Bebop was the jazz sound. Howdy Dody dug in for a long TV run.*

## OLTC 1948

In its third year at OLTC the Easterns had a draw of 92 men and 50 women. 150 applicants were turned away!

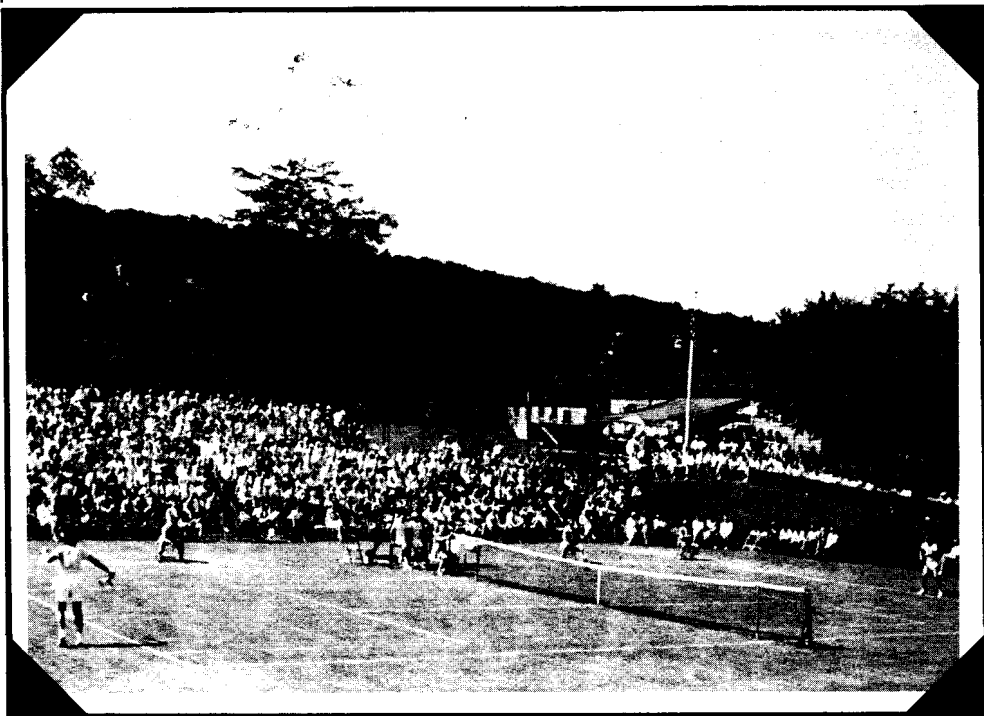
In order of seeding the men were Frank Parker, Ted Schroeder (1947 winner), Bill Talbert, Gardner Mulloy, Bob Falkenberg, Earl Cochell, Budge Patty, Eddie Moylan and Vic Seixas. The ladies' seeds were Louise Brough, Margaret Osborne, Doris Hart, Pat Todd, Shirley Fry and Gussie Moran, who had just won at Seabright.

An unusual number of New Jerseyites were entered—Don Hawley, Frank Bowden, Barclay Kingman, Dean Mathey, Bruce Johnson, Dick Savitt and Charley Oliver. New Jersey women residents entered were Betty Rosenquest, Noreen Haney, Pat Stuhler and Betty Coumbe.

Henry Bassford Jr., present member of OLTC, lost in an early round. Savitt had the bad luck to meet the favourite Frank Parker early and lost. Gussie Moran, nationally ranked number four this year, had five match points over Helen Pastall but couldn't make the winning shot. Barc Kingman took a set from Sidney Wood before losing. Charley Oliver of West Point and the Oranges gave Pancho Gonzales a tough match before folding 15-13, 6-2.

The Australian Davis Cup team players arrived late from a victory in Davis Cup play over Mexico with bad cases of "Montezuma's Revenge". Only Colin Long played singles and the other Aussies restricted themselves to doubles.

Several new names reached the semi-finals.



Frank Parker 1948 winner, Frederick R. Schroeder, Jr.—runner-up.