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AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Saturday, September 16, 1972


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Sax



Mrs. Sax



Mrs. Kunselman



Mrs. Tolbert



Kallis



Mrs. Holderbaum



Montee

Final Putt-Out Time For Breathnach

By CHARLES E. MONTAGUE
Times Journal Staff Writer

CUYAHOGA FALLS — The faithful are playing their last 18 at Breathnach Country Club today.

The golf course — where the American Golf Classic was born as the Rubber City Open — is closing after 44 years.

The 100 acres of gently rolling fairways straddling the Falls-Akron line just west of the Chapel Hill area are slated for future development.

Breathnach — a private club in name only since 1928 — has been "home course" for hundreds of Akron area golfers since 1928. Its clubhouse has been the meeting place for many Falls goings — some have never met anywhere else.

"WE WANTED to have a big farewell bash—get all the old members and the regulars (of recent years) back for one day," said Bill Sax, course and pro shop manager the last 18 years.

The actual final day of public play is Sunday. It's doubtful, though, that those who participated in today's nostalgic-filled program of golf, dining and dancing will be in shape for one last round then, Sax said.

But, he added, the course and 12 club employees will be back for the final day.

EMPLOYEES' FEELINGS about the closing?

"After this many years in a place, it's like a second home," said Mrs. Sax, who started at Breathnach with her husband in 1958 and has been club manager the last 14 years. "There's a lot of sad hearts" among the employees.

Several employees are students working part time, others are working wives and two others are ready to retire.

The Saxs plan to travel to the West Coast and Hawaii. The couple live at 807 W. Pringle tr. ext. Northampton Twp.

"IT WILL TAKE me six weeks to get my house cleaned — and I haven't had my ironing done for three years," said Mrs. Alta Kunselman, 87 N. Arlington st., Akron, a waitress at Breathnach 17 years. "It's just a funny feeling, that's all."

Mrs. Johnie Tolbert, 446 Pine st., Akron, measured her starting date at Breathnach by the age of her son. "He's 32 and I was here for a while before he was born, so it must be about 1940," she said.

Mrs. Tolbert said "It's kind of sad for me to see the place developed, but I'm about ready to retire and I don't think it bothers me that much."

Ann Kallis, 761 McKinley av., a real estate newcomer with five years at Breathnach, said she feels like "I'm losing a good friend."

THE CLOWN prince of Breathnach the last eight years is 69-year-old Charlie Montee, 1202 Big Falls av. in Akron, whom Mrs. Sax said once worked for six weeks with a hip fracture before entering the hospital. "It didn't hurt after I got going," Montee said.

Breathnach was built in 1927 by George Greenleaf and Fred Cronin. Its original nine holes were expanded to a full-sized course in 1932.

In 1951, the course was purchased by the late Anthony Hiel of Northampton Twp. just before the first Rubber City Open. In 1953, the last year the tournament was at Breathnach, a gangling young amateur named Arnold Palmer finished fourth.

THE COURSE was purchased in May from Mr. Hiel's estate for a reported \$1.2 million by Herb Polk and Saul Jacobs, two Akron developers who form S & H Investment Co., 1717 Brittain rd.

"They've been very nice — letting us finish out all our obligations," said Mrs. Patricia Holderbaum. Mr. Hiel's daughter, who, along with her husband Thomas, maintains ownership of the other Hiel property — Falls Recreation bowling lanes.

Polk and Jacobs are the developers of the Tallmadge Oaks, Brittain Towers and Aphada apartments and the Brittain Square office and shops building.

Also involved in Breathnach development plans, Polk said are Clevelanders Richard and David Jacobs and Dominic Visconci, who, as another firm, developed Belden Village Mall near North Canton.

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Fri, Apr 6, 2018