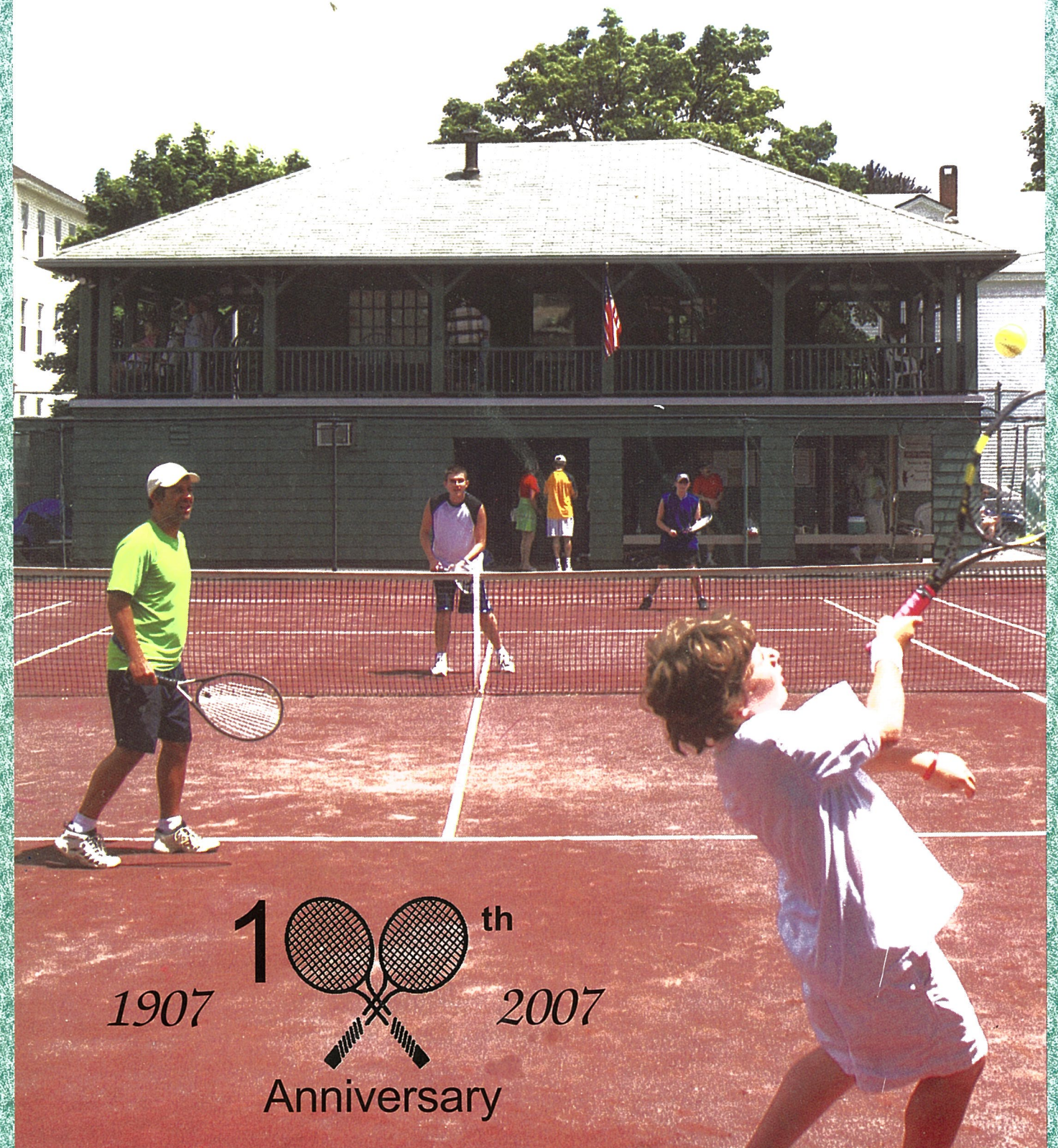


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Worcester Tennis Club



1907  2007
Anniversary



For seventy-five years, the Worchester Tennis Club has been the grooming and proving ground for the Sharry family. From 1934 through 1974, members of this tennis-playing family earned a combined total of 35 local tournament titles in Men's singles, doubles and mixed doubles.



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Joe

Richard W.
Bill

John A.
Bud

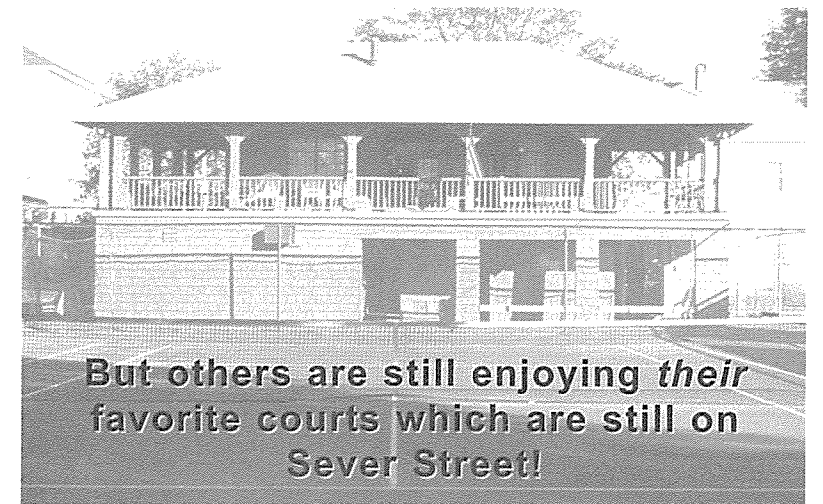
Francis P.
Bat

Nicholas B.
Chick

Earlier generation Sharrys passed their love and passion for good tennis down to today's generation of family players. This life-long enjoyment nurtured and matured at the Worchester Tennis Club. For that gift, we all express our congratulations and thanks to the WTC on its 100th Anniversary.



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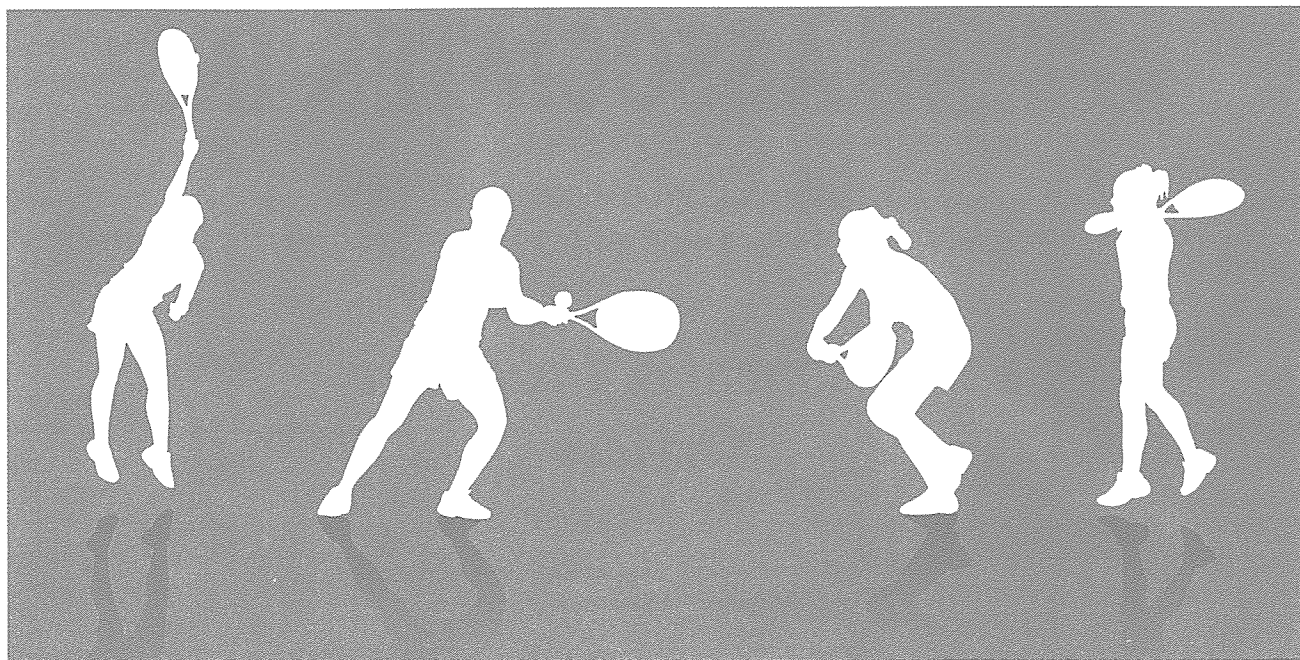
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— President's Message —



We are entering the second century of the life of the Worcester Tennis Club. This year, 2007, "life" is the most fitting word that has described our green-shingled, red-clay tennis oasis in a long time. Presidents and boards of directors for most of the club's 100 years had maintained the status quo and a holding pattern. These past two years have been the opposite force. To ensure the future vitality of the club, we have web-sited, inter-netted, marketed and met the community around us so that more tennis playing individuals and families would know the club and join it.

The amount and nature of this responsibility came as a surprise to myself and the board of directors. We have done our best to set the next 100 years in forward motion. It will take all of us — members, board members, officers and club manager working together each season to continue the momentum set in place this last two years.

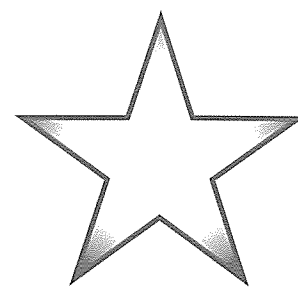
I believe that we will always remain a tennis players' club. Members are the heart and soul of its success. I'd like to thank our predecessors for establishing such a wonderful place. More importantly, I'd like to ask the membership of today to continue our success so that future generations can enjoy our club as we have.

Kim McCrohan

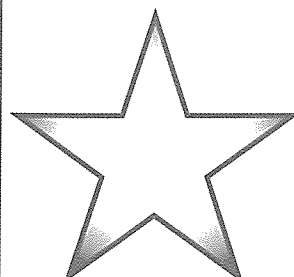
Proud and Honored President, 2006-2007

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Rockwood Bullock	1919-1921	James S. Gratton	1966-1967
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Eveleth V. Hill	1927-1928	George B. Taylor, Jr.	1970-1971
Louie E. Stockwell	1929	William Sullivan	1972-1973
Albert Palmer	1930-1936	O. Bradley Wood	1974-1975
Guy Woodward	1937-1938	Sumner Tilton	1976-1977
Robert S. Bowditch	1939-1941	Kenneth A. MacNutt	1978-1979
Edwin Higginbottom	1942	Chester F. Caswell	1980-1981
Leland Remington	1943	Dorothy N. Power	1982
Edwin Higginbottom	1944	Thomas Dolan	1983
Everett M. Hicks	1945	Dr. Alan Kurlan	1984-1985
Eric H. Smith	1946	Warren C. Lane	1986-1987
G. Edward Menzel, Jr.	1947	Patricia Chandley	1988-1989
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Dr. Elwood O. Horne	1950	Mary Maloney	1992-1993
William Wadsworth	1951-1952	Jim Umphrey	1994-1995
Harry Person	1953	Dan Goldman	1996-1997
Frank W. Karol	1954-1955	Sheila Killeen	1998-1999
James Faron	1956	Fran Paquette	2000-2001
William Power	1957-1958	Dick Pentland	2002-2004
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Harry Powel	1960-1961		



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Worcester Tennis Club



Anniversary

Worcester Tennis Club History

By Shaun Sutner

After a century of existence, the Worcester Tennis Club remains essentially as it was when it was founded in 1907 — a player's club.

Without fancy amenities or extras, the club has survived and prospered by offering a rarity in today's hard court era, red clay court tennis.

Its seven exquisitely maintained courts harken to the early days of tennis in this country and are reminiscent of the great European red clay venues. Easy on the feet and pleasing to the eye, the red clay is set against the distinctive backdrop of the shingled green clubhouse. The historic building, with its shaded balcony and veranda, was built in 1923 and designed by architect Sam Pitcher after the Newport Casino.

When the great American Grand Slam champion, Don Budge, spoke at the club's 75th anniversary in 1982, he capped three quarters of a century of incremental improvements to the club's successful formula.

The member-owned, non-profit club has been able to finance a full-time teaching pro and manager and modest upgrades to its facilities while keeping member dues low. The club's popular no-reservation drop-in policy has also remained unchanged.

In 1907, an adult member paid \$10 in annual dues. The rate in 2007 is \$300 for a senior membership, which allows for unlimited tennis. The club, which opened at its current location at 69 Sever St. on April 9, 1907, was the successor to the old Salisbury Tennis Club, which operated from 1901 to 1906 on Institute Road. The incorporators bought the land for \$9,126, as the late Anne Morse Lyell wrote in her definitive history of the club's first 75 years.

Today, the club's property is assessed at well over half a million dollars and has a membership of about 335 individuals and families, equal to its peak popularity in the 1980s, when there was a long waiting list, as there had been for decades.

Membership dwindled somewhat in the late 1990s and the early 2000s as the golf boom, the Internet and cable television lured members to other pursuits, and retiring members were not replaced as quickly by younger players. The club has made a strong comeback in its centennial year, with 120 new memberships in the past year.

The club's leadership has several times explored moving the club to a different location, partly to solve the perennial parking shortage. But the decision has always been to stay at its convenient home near downtown, which allows members to drop by quickly after or before work.

A few years ago, the membership was also asked to vote on whether the red clay should be replaced by faster-drying green Har-Tru courts. The decision, a resounding "no," was a nod to tradition and the club's unique character.

In the 1970s, women shed their second-class status and were allowed for the first time to stay on the court without being displaced by male club players when the courts were busy.

In 1982, the club got its first female president in Dottie Power. Under club president Alan Kurlan in 1984 and 1985, the club revamped and standardized its waiting list procedures to eliminate unfairness and favoritism.

Over the years, the club has made steady, small improvements, including the addition of a seventh, east-west facing teaching court, to complement the six north-south playing courts. One of the two original staircases was removed in the 1930s when the men's locker room was enlarged. And the main entranceway, which was patterned after the famous Newport club, was closed off in the 1950s and a new entrance created to the sidewalk through the fence near court one.

The current setup, with a sliding glass door separating the pro shop from the small refreshment area, was created in 1978. An ice machine was added in 2002, the same year the women's locker room received a major upgrade and all the courts were laser-graded. Also that year, a modern sprinkler system was installed to replace the old watering equipment.

Until the 1980s, the club usually went without an on-site professional tennis teacher, though outside teaching pros gave lessons on its courts. Since the 1980s, the practice has been to employ a seven-day-a-week pro-manager. A constant for three decades was George Nicklin, who served as groundskeeper, manager and racket stringer from 1950 to 1980.

Among the best known members have been pro tennis great Bill Power, his doubles partner, Nicholas "Chick" Sharry, and Boston Celtics basketball legend Bob Cousy, a formidable doubles player with quick hands and acute court vision. Current touring pro and the former top-ranked world junior, Kristian Pless of Denmark, trained at the club in the 1990s with his coach at the time, Jim Hayes.

In recent decades, pros have included Dennis Prinos, Michael Coleman, who was on hand from 1985 to 1996, and Michael Zatsiorsky, a former top Russian player. Worcester native Dave Sobel, a former junior member of the club, has been the resident pro since 2001.

In addition to Power, Sharry and Pless, the club has spawned tennis standouts such Dick Herbst, Jerry Johnson and Steve Ethier; former touring pro Lisa Doherty; the late Karen Dudley and her sister, Ann; Ned Eames, founder of Boston's Tenacity inner-city tennis organization; and successful juniors and college players such as Chris Anderson, Nick Barbera, Peter Guterman, Michael and Jay Goldman, Amy Harper, Borko Kereshi, Pam Jeppson, Tommy Mott, and Ross Pytko.

Another tennis Hall of Famer, tennis writing great and commentator Bud Collins, is commemorating the Worcester Tennis Club's centennial at Tuckerman Hall, another historic Worcester site.

The century-old club and its members look forward to another 100 years, and more, of red clay court tennis in Central Massachusetts.



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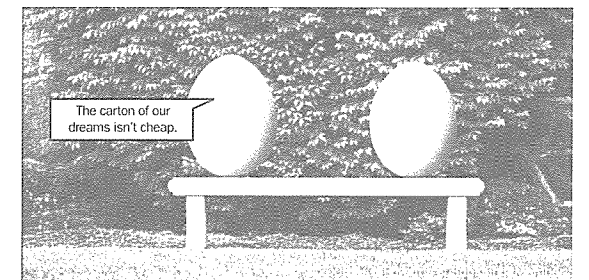
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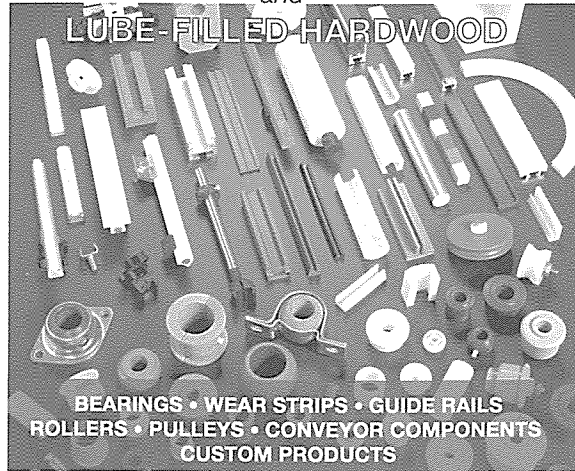
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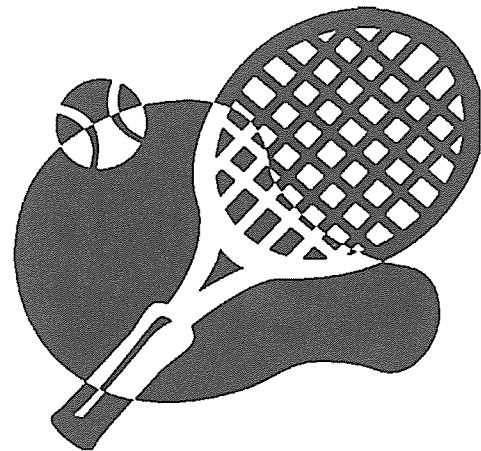
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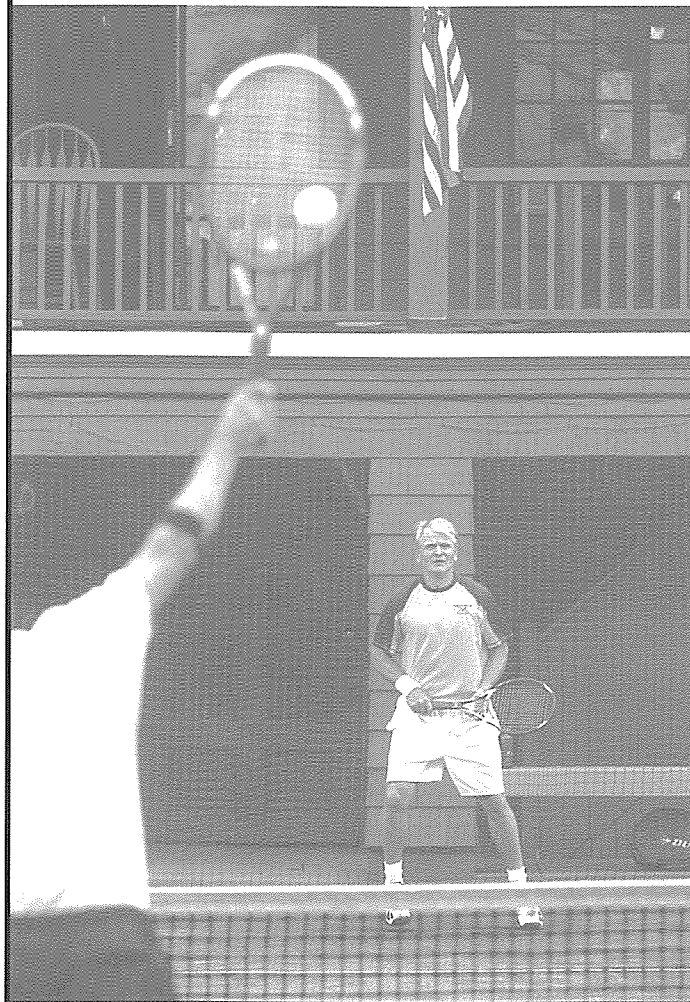


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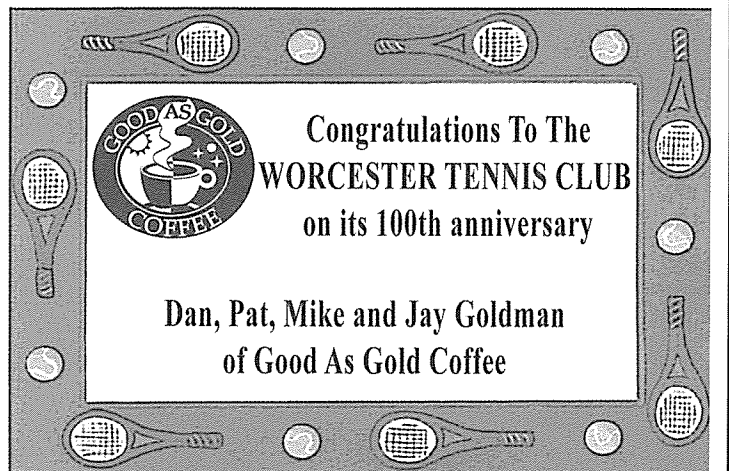
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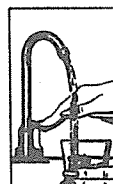
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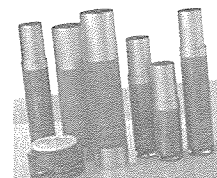
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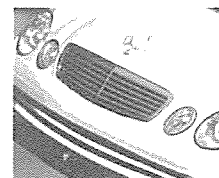
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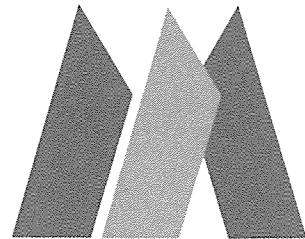
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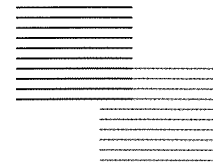
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— Anonymous

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Jo-Anne Cronin

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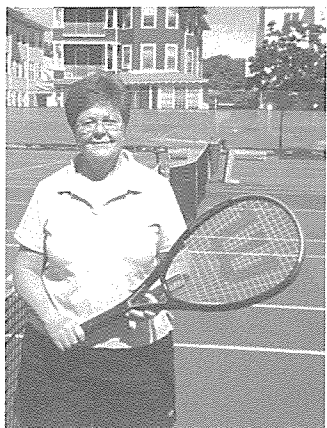
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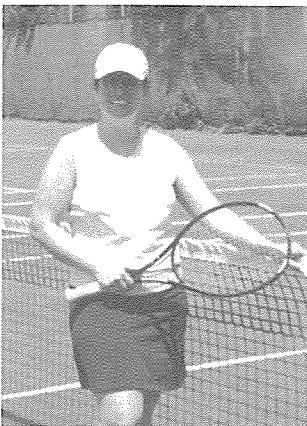
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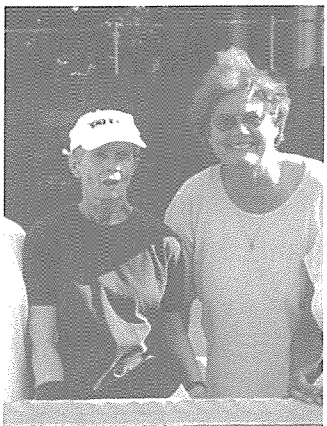
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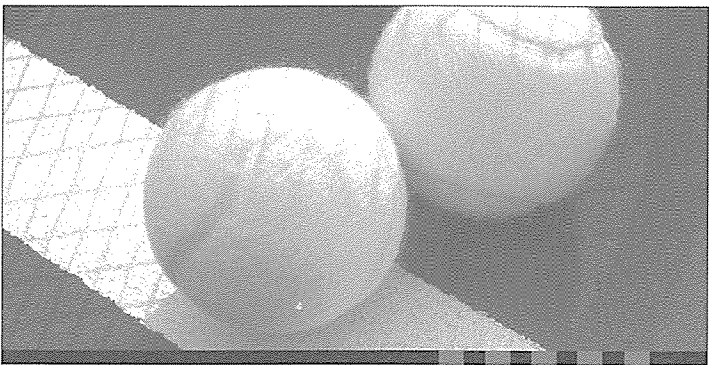


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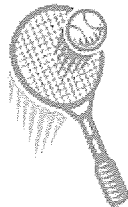
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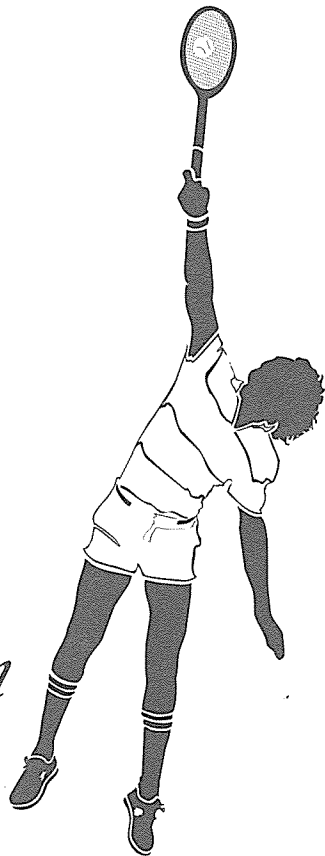
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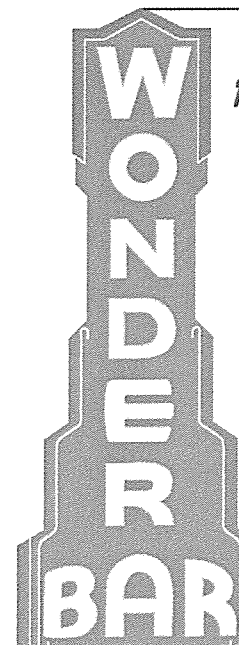
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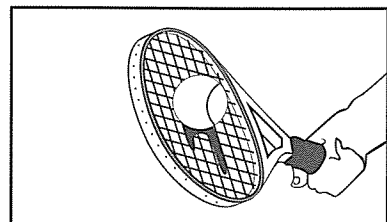
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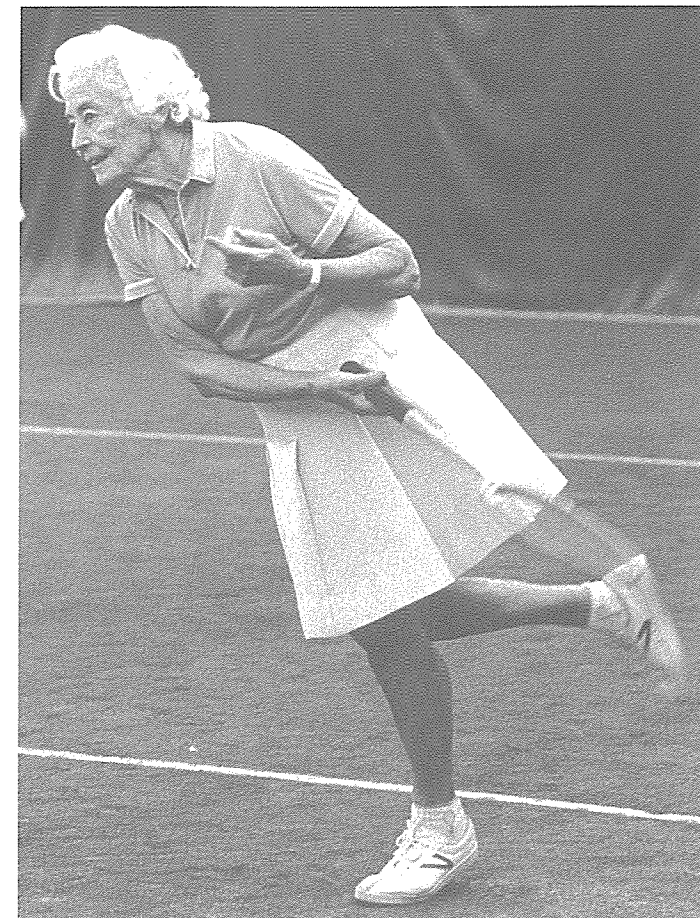
Congratulate the Worcester Tennis Club on its Centennial

One person can lay claim to the title, "Grand Dame" of the Worcester Tennis Club". That one person is Frances "Fran" Jennings. As daughter of WPI professor and WTC founding member (and club president its first ten years) Walter L. Jennings, she learned the game's skills and strategies at an early age.

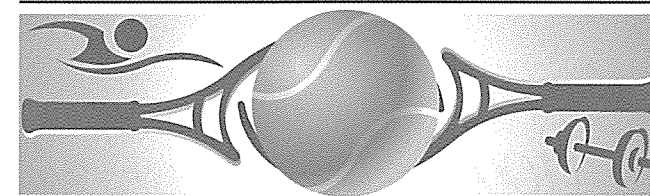
Her teacher-father also instilled a love for teaching and teaching tennis to the young and not-so-young people she encountered. Fran brought equal parts of dedication to public school children's clinics as she brought to WTC beginner adults.

Over the years, she won more Worcester titles (14) than any other female member. For over 70 years, Fran was a vital part of the tennis scene, teaching countless individuals and participating in many programs throughout Worcester and the county. She received many awards, including the USTA's Annual Community Service Award and the NELTA Williams Freedman Award for the greatest contribution to junior tennis development. (Worcester Tennis Club's 75th Anniversary History, page 14).

This ad is sponsored by long time WTC member Mark Cote. It is not a tribute to Frances Jennings' awards, titles or tournament wins. For without Ms. Jennings, Mark would have never known tennis or the Worcester Tennis Club. At our 100 year juncture, this tribute is not only for himself, his two children who are now learning the game at the club, but all those deserving youngsters who received junior membership scholarships (Fran Jennings Award) and every fledgling adult player whom she helped, taught and encouraged to play and love the game that she loved so deeply.



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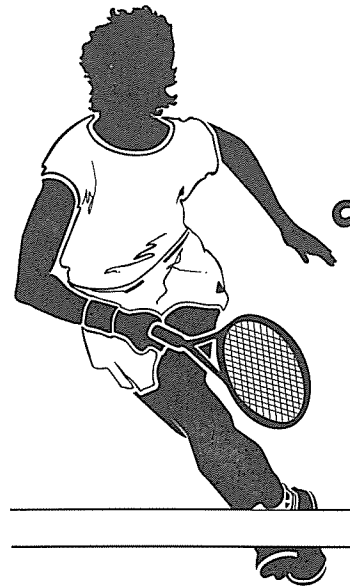
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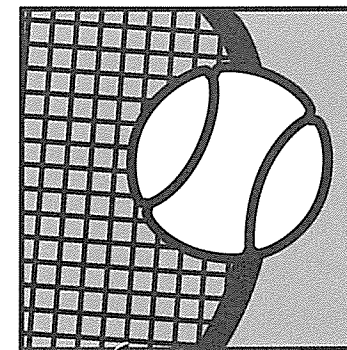

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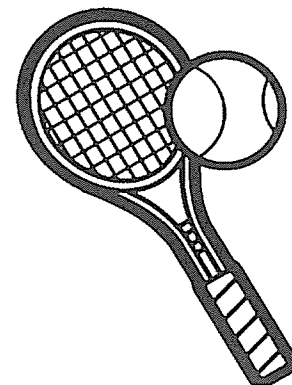
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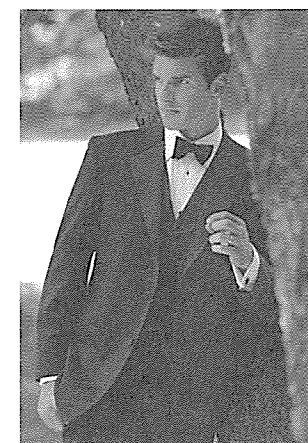
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