

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

WB 8

UNIQUE SITE NO. 10305.000707
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip/SPLIA DATE: February 1990
Town Hall, 655 Main St.
YOUR ADDRESS: Islip, LI, NY 11751 TELEPHONE: 516.224.5450
ORGANIZATION (if any): Dept. of Planning, Housing, and Development

IDENTIFICATION

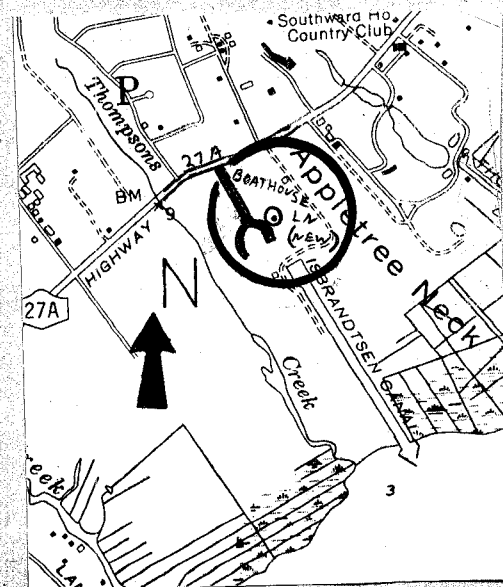
1. BUILDING NAME(S): Bay Shore Golf Links/South Shore Field Club
2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: West Bay Shore
3. STREET LOCATION: 2 Boathouse Ln. East
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
5. PRESENT OWNER: Mrs. Neil Reising ADDRESS: _____
6. USE: Original: golf club house Present: residence
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain private residence

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: _____
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints
(if known) b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

12. PHOTO: Neg. KK VI-22, fm. SW

13. MAP: NYS DOT Bay Shore West Quad



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
 d. developers e. deterioration
 f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
 a. barn b. carriage house c. garage
 d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse
 g. shop h. gardens
 i. landscape features: _____
 j. other: golf course grounds developed with low-rise
 board fence
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary): condominiums
 a. open land b. woodland
 c. scattered buildings
 d. densely built-up e. commercial
 f. industrial g. residential
 h. other: attached and clustered condominiums
17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
 (Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)
 The former Golf Club House is located south of South Country Rd. amidst a residential condominium development built in clusters to simulate single family homes. The level lot includes a multi-bay shed to the south and a wood board fence arrangement.
18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):
 The Club House is a 1½ story, shingled, rectangular, gable roof building with wide overhangs and decorative exposed rafter ends. A deep subsumed porch extends across the main facade and contains large braced posts with elliptical arch bays. The motif is repeated above in a large clipped gable dormer filled with nine pairs of casement windows under a wide SIGNIFICANCE overhang with large, heavy timber brackets. (see continuation)
19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: _____ c. 1895
 ARCHITECT: _____
 BUILDER: _____
20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:
 This remarkable building is unique in its design, in its original use, and in its fine state of preservation. The golf course, known as the South Shore Field Club, was built by Richard Hyde (that Hyde family owned and operated theatres) for his daughter Lillian, who became a golf champion.
 Refer to continuation sheet.
21. SOURCES:
 Photograph by H. Fullerton "Herbert Gunnison of Brooklyn at #2 Hole, 1901". Coll. Suffolk County Historical Soc., Riverhead.
 Starace, Carl A. "Historic Long Island", Islip Bulletin, 11/17/1977.
22. ~~THEM~~ Byrnes, Horace W. Pictorial Bay Shore, c. 1901.
 Wittlock, Lavern A. Sr., "Hyde & Behman, Theatrical Producers", L.I. Forum, 2/1/1989.
 Research by the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities - KEK



1912. Mrs. R. Barlow wins the Women's Eastern championship.



1913. H. Alexander at The Homestead's course.



1913. Mrs. Eugene Meyer Jr. drives at The Greenbrier.



1913. Julia Whitney practices putting at The Greenbrier.



1914. Yes, replace divots! Elizabeth Kendall at The Greenbrier.



1914. Semifinalists in Women's North and South. From left: Mrs. J.R. Price, Mrs. R.H. Barlow, Mrs. E.B. Elkins, F.J. Harvey.



1914. Mrs. Henry C. Phillips at the oldest course, The Greenbrier.



1915. L. Hyde, Women's Metropolitan champion, in Palm Beach.



1915. Florida champion Crosby Gaige.



1915. Mrs. A.J. Drexel Jr.



1915. Mrs. G. Smithers in Florida.



1916. Mrs. Stephen Peabody, Piping Rock Club, N.Y.

18 - (continued):

The projecting entrance bay contains a double leaf front door flanked by sash windows that extend onto the facade of the main block.

20 - (continued):

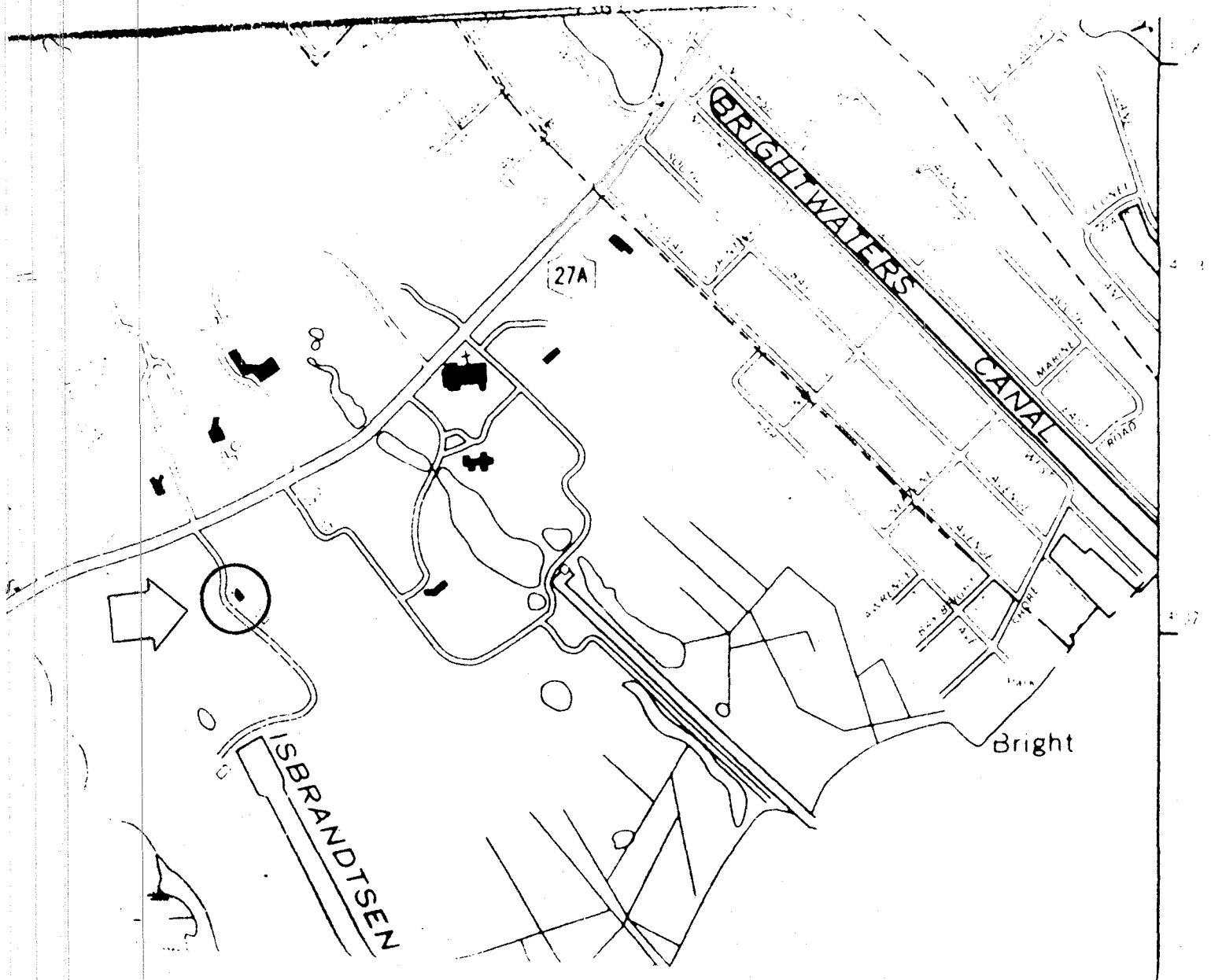
The Hyde property was sold in 1944 to Mr. Isbrandtsen who raised prize Black Angus on the club grounds. The club house remains in Isbrandtsen family ownership.

Hans Jeppesen Isbrandtsen, the Danish-born owner of a steamship line, died in 1953. A 67-acre wetland parcel of his 118 acre estate was purchased for preservation in 1973 under the wetlands program.



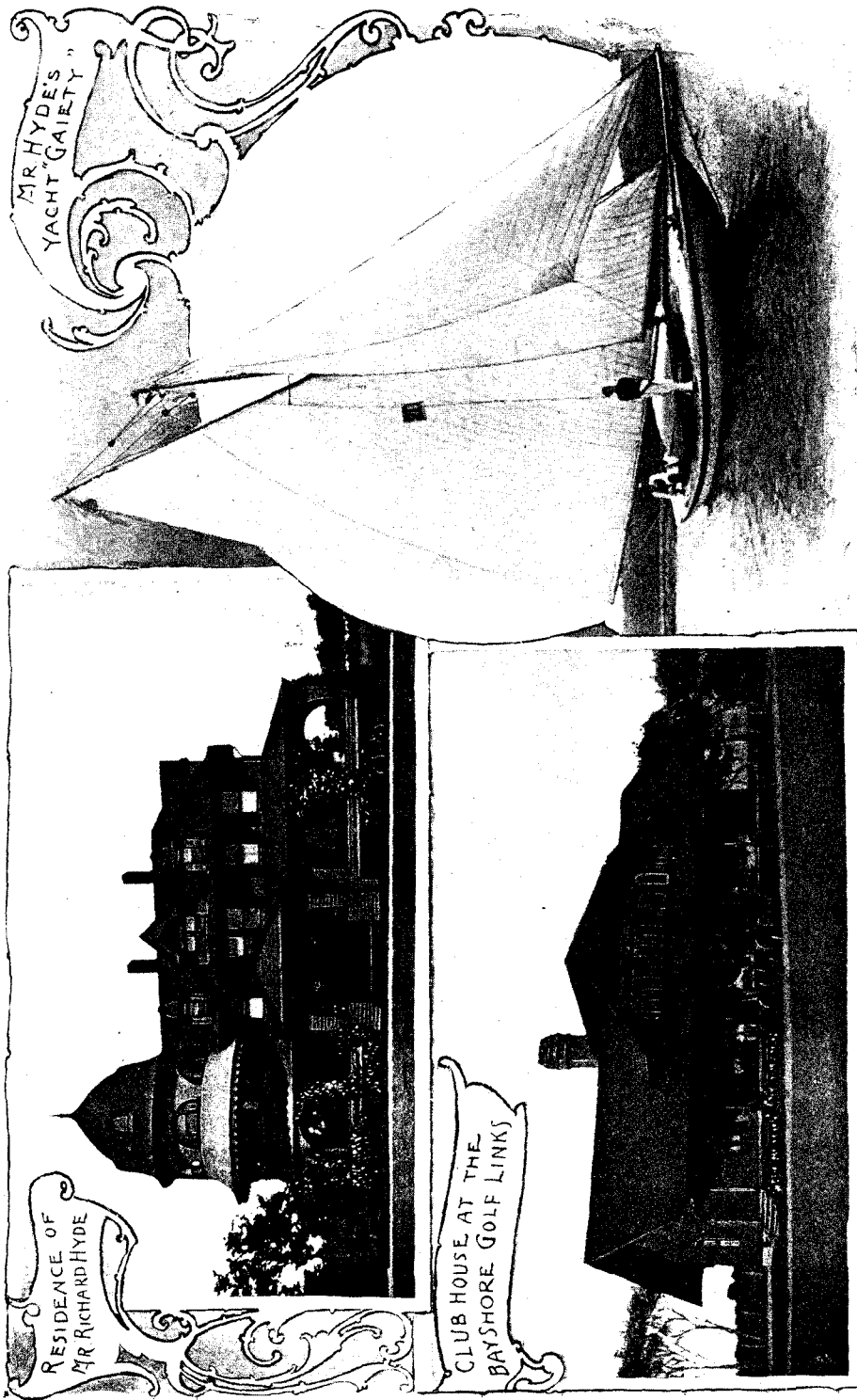
Neg. KK VI-24, fm. NW. Club House, grounds, fence, and shed.

Richard Hyde bought in the mid 1880's about 400 acres, mainly from the Turnbull estate, and built a large house. He had the 2,000 foot canal dredged for his yacht the "Gaiety". The boat house still exists. He built the golf course and the commodious club house. The well maintained club house is owned by Mrs. Neil Rising, a daughter of Hans Isbrandtsen.





Neg. KK VI-23, fm. W. View of building showing dormer.



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Out Main Street—West

Byrnes, Horace W. Pictorial Bay Shore, c. 1902.

A Day on the Golf Links

Byrnes, Horace W. Pictorial Bay Shore, c. 1902.

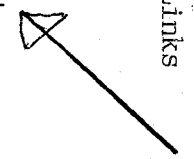
Having retired before ten o'clock you should be fit for golf by eight o'clock next morning. You have breakfasted on a little fruit and cereal, an egg or chop and a bit of toast, and if you drank coffee and were wise you took it weak.

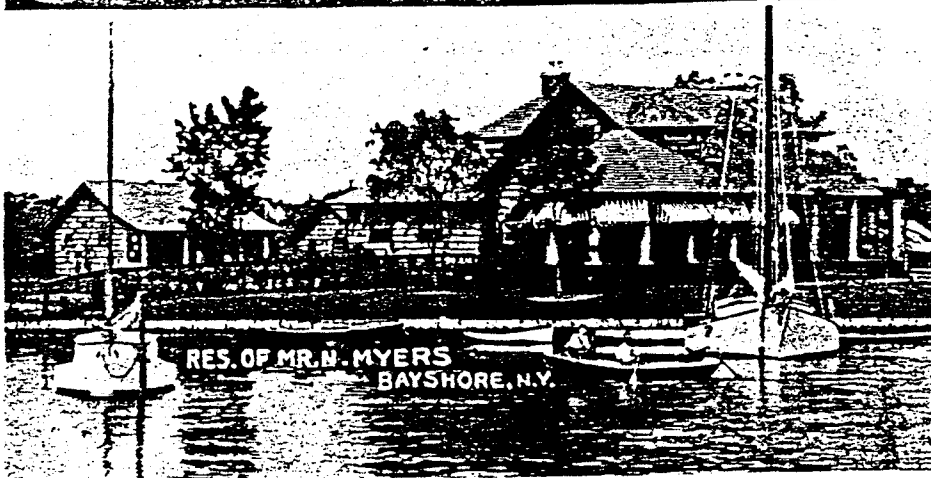
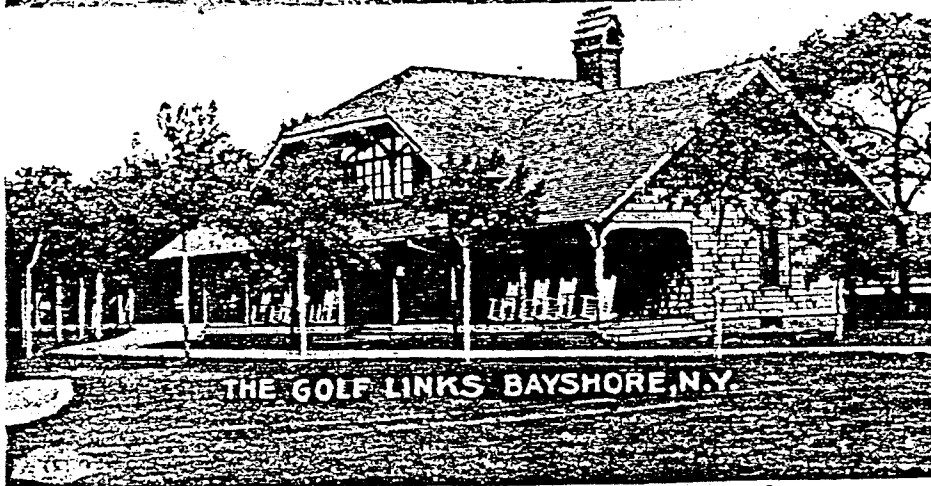
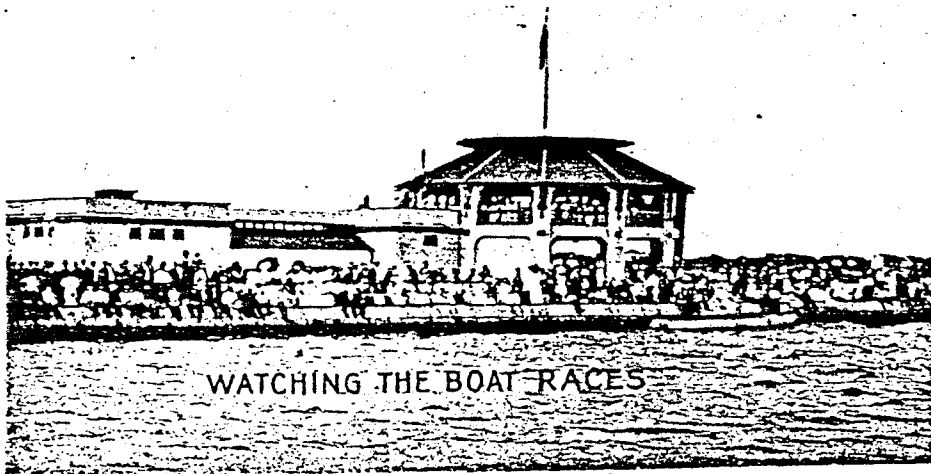
Now before you tee your ball you note the iridescence of the myriad dewdrops on the fair green, and the myriad spider webs, too, and you listen to the meadow lark's matin, and you breathe deep and fill your lungs with ozone and thank the good God that you are alive and out on the links in the dewy morning. Then you make a tiny sand-pile, set your ball lightly upon it, get a firm deft grip on your driver, make a full, loose swing or two with your arms, address the ball "twice thrice" while the whole nervous energy of your body flows to your forearm, and then, while you listen to the ball sing as it flies low, and then gradually rises and bears true as a

homing pigeon toward the first hole, you pity the laggard who does not know the luxury of early morning golf, and you determine to put Colonel Bogie in a hole.

Only two miles from the post-office the Bay Shore links have proven one of the allurements of the place. Level as the bay out yonder they would seem fast links, and yet their record is only 42 for the nine holes. There is a pretty clubhouse; there are two elevated tees to relieve the monotony of an otherwise flat course, and there is a spring of excellent water at the seventh hole, way down by the bay, and there is the fresh breeze from the Atlantic—and it is getting dusk.—Why, bless me, it is seven o'clock and I promised my wife I would be home at six, and there's to be company for dinner.

What niblick will get me out of this hole?





"Bay Shore, Long Island, NY", C of C, c. 1910-20.



Fullerton photograph, 1901, Coll. Suffolk County Historical Society, Riverhead.



Fullerton Collection, Suffolk County Historical Soc., c. 1902.

Hyde and Behman, Theatrical Producers

Lavern A. Wittlock, Sr.

THEY HAD been boys together, Richard Hyde and Louis C. Behman, at the old Public School No. 1 in downtown Brooklyn. Richard was apprenticed to a hatter, while Louis clerked in his father's store, but they shared a mutual interest in the stage. The United States Centennial of 1876 offered many business opportunities and although Hyde (1856-1912) was only 20 and Behman (1855-1902) a mature 21, they opened a stage in Philadelphia, then the center for Centennial activities.

Success with that venture prompted their opening a stage in Baltimore. Flushed with a second success they prudently returned to Brooklyn to consolidate and better organize their burgeoning operations as the Hyde and Behman Amusement Company.

In 1877 they started presenting vaudeville at the Brooklyn Volks Garden which was so well received that they were able to purchase the property

the following year. They enlarged and improved it to such a degree that the Brooklyn Daily Eagle said it was "the best in the world." When it burned in 1890, an \$80,000 loss covered by less than \$25,000 insurance, they promptly rebuilt it as a model playhouse at a cost of \$125,000.

At this point they decided to expand on a nation-wide scale as the H. and B. Comedy Company. Their good fortune persisted and five touring companies were put on the road the following season. "Muldoon's Picnic" was a particular money-maker in their repertoire. The Strand Theatre on Fulton Street was only under their management but there were show places that they now owned. When Booth's Theatre in Manhattan was being demolished in 1883 they purchased the interior and with it furnished their New Park Theatre on Broadway at 35th Street, Manhattan.

The Grand Opera House on Elm

Place, Brooklyn, was acquired and in 1886 they bought the Prospect Park Fair Grounds (not the public park) at Gravesend which extended in area sufficient to build the Brooklyn Jockey Club. They also built a theatre on their property at Broadway, Throop and Middletown Streets in Brooklyn. They named it the Gaiety, as Hyde was later to name his yacht.

The most memorable personality they were to promote was George Michael Cohan (1878-1942), the "Yankee Doodle Boy." They helped him develop his early skits into full stage shows. George, with his father, mother and sister, Josephine, were billed as the "Four Cohans" and became one of the most popular acts of the day. Some of their numbers were, "Give My Regards to Broadway", "Mary's A Grand Old Name", "You're A Grand Old Flag".

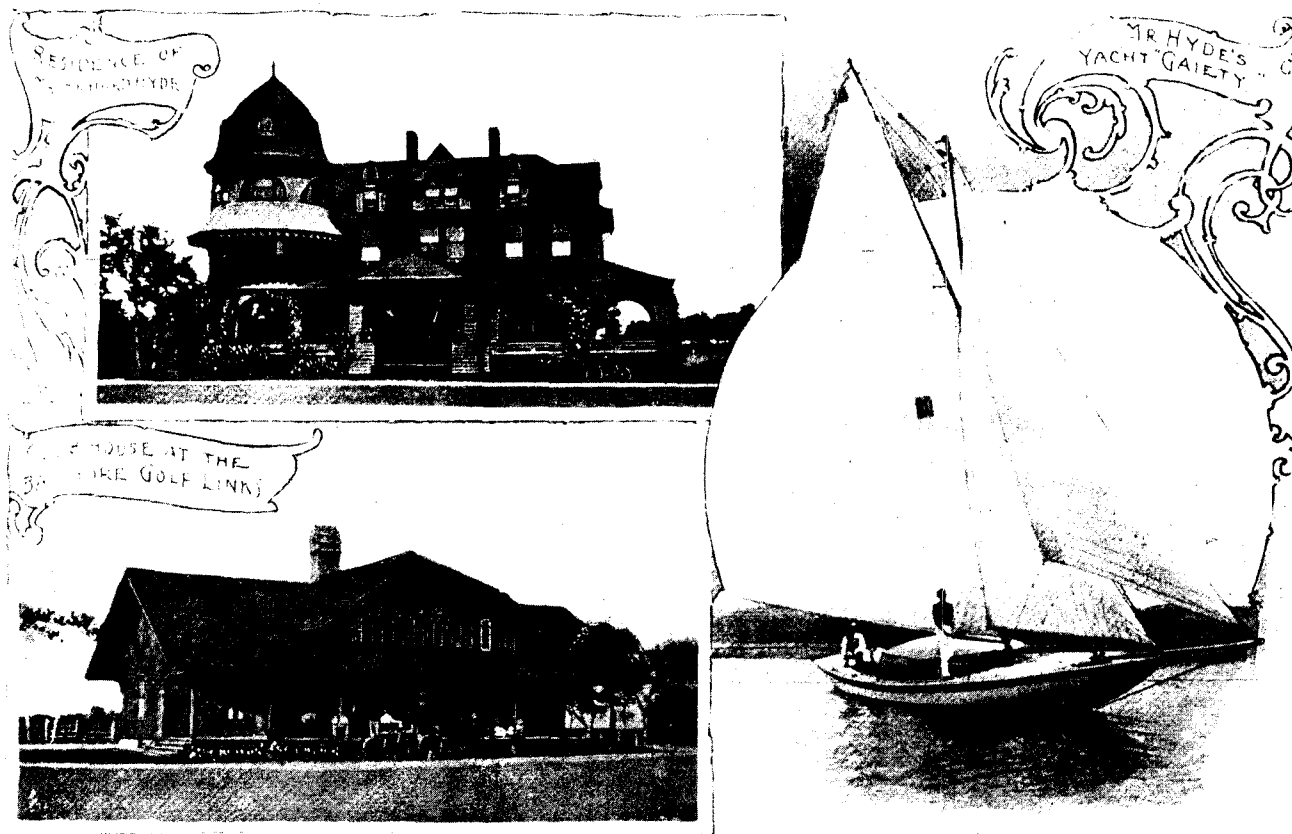
Staged as comedy-dramas by them were "Get-Rich Quick Wallingford", and "The Seven Keys to Baldpate."



Louis C. Behman



Richard Hyde



After Behman's early death, Cohan as a partner with Sam Harris built the George M. Cohan Theatre.

As Hyde and Behman prospered they, as many other affluent Gothamites, sought to establish their country seats out on the open lands and waters of Long Island. Hyde found a long tract in western Bay Shore, which ran from Great South Bay north about two and a half miles beyond the present Sunrise Highway, comprising about 400 acres. He made the purchase in the mid 1880s and it was mainly from the Turnbull estate upon which, on the north side of South Country Road,

today's Montauk Highway, he built an ample residence a seemingly distance back from the road. A smaller house was built later, closer to the highway and near the east line of the property.

To accommodate his yacht, the *Gaiety*, a 2,000-foot canal was dredged north from the bay, its center in a direct line with Fire Island Lighthouse, to a boat facility and boathouse which still exist. As W. Bayard Cutting had done at his Westbrook Estate in Oakdale, Hyde built a golf course, the South Shore Field Club, on the south side of the highway, using the canal as a water hazard. The balls lost in the hazard,

incidentally, were often salvaged by the baymen who regularly came into the canal for crabs and eels until they were spotted and driven off. This sometimes led to confrontations as the baymen protested that they had the right of all waterways.

Hyde's daughter, Lillian, became a regional golf champion, while her Islip neighbor, Marion Hollins, became a national women's golf champion. The commodious clubhouse, still well maintained on its own acre of ground and with private access to the highway, is an occasional guest house for Mrs. Neil Rising, a daughter of Hans Isbrandtsen, X

Saks Fifth Avenue

Garden City, Long Island