

Part II

Following the acquisition of the land and the Club House by the U.S. Government in 1938, the Club purchased five acres of land adjacent to the property which Major Mathews had purchased for his new Riding Academy. It was on this five acre parcel that the Club constructed new kennels and runs for the hounds. A small cottage, which was included in the purchase, was first rented, and then later turned over to the kennelman for his living quarters. At first the Board of Directors considered the possibility of converting the cottage into a club house, but because of its poor location and size they decided that the new club house would be constructed on a portion of the property owned by Major Mathews and an equal piece of the club property to be turned over to him in return so that the club house could be closer to the Riding Academy and reservation.

And so with the money from the old club house property, together with \$3,000.00 raised through subscriptions by the membership, the new club house was constructed and ready for use for the opening hunt in the fall. It was also decided by the Board the same year to draft 2 ½ couples of hounds from Mr. Newbold Ely's pack in Pennsylvania. The new hounds proved a great asset and the following season the club was hunting 13 couples, which included 6 ½ couples of young hounds. Blondie, one of the new bitches, became the leader of the pack. Spurred on by her drive and enthusiasm they accepted her leadership and gave the field some of the best runs they had experienced. Her puppies, which were entered the following season, proved to be as good as their mother. The fields were increasing in number and began to turn out in more formal hunting attire. Live fox scent was introduced which resulted in more music from the pack. Everything was done to simulate a real fox hunt, starting the drag in a covert, casting the hounds some distance from it and letting them hunt for the scent. Huntsman and hounds also skirted the wooded areas so that the field could short cut and thus watch the hounds work.

In 1939 the club elected its first woman President, Mrs. Joseph Gilpin, who served two years. Under her leadership the club resumed its custom of holding a Hunt Ball. In October the club put on its first horse show in Major Mathews new arena, which could seat 600 people. The stable, which was attached, could accommodate 60 horses. A hunt was held the next day especially for the show guests.