

# Airplane Hazards at the North Hempstead Country Club

By Mitchell M. Schwartz, Village Historian, March 2022

On March 20, 1968, water hazards were not the only type of hazard at the North Hempstead Country Club.

On that day, a small plane made an emergency landing on the club's golf course. Piloted by Reuven Jerzy and carrying Leonard Caplan as a passenger, the aircraft suffered an engine failure over Manhasset Bay when Jerzy and Caplan were practicing stalls. After unsuccessfully attempting to restart the engine, Jerzy and Caplan began following the procedures for making an emergency landing. They began surveying the surrounding areas for an open, safe place to land the aircraft, and spotted the open, grassy fairway at the North Hempstead Country Club, which they ultimately identified as the best location for landing.

A few moments later, they landed the plane on the North Hempstead Country Club's golf course, ahead of (and avoiding) a group of four golfers. Upon landing, the front landing gear collapsed, and the plane soon came to a halt.

Fortunately, nobody was hurt in the incident, and the plane, a Piper PA-28-140 Cherokee owned by Flushing-based Speed's Flying Service, was dragged off of the fairway.

Source:

-"Safe Landing." *Newsday*, 21 March, 1968, p. 11.