



Sandee Gerbers / The Forum

The clubhouse at Edgewood golf course in north Fargo faces structural flaws that will require immediate attention.

# Slip sliding away

Edgewood members realize their popular clubhouse is not up to par

By Dave Kolpack

It was birds, not golfers, who were intended to take asylum in the Edgewood clubhouse when the north side Fargo building went up in 1938. These days the once warm and cozy lodge hardly seems fit for any living beings.

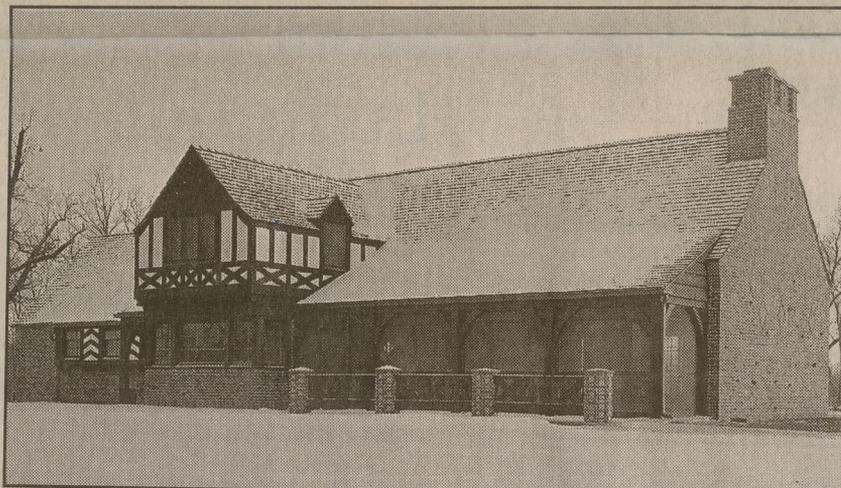
Chicken Little would've checked out long ago.

Not that the sky is falling, yet. But the angels in the architecture are sliding ... into the Red River.

"It makes me nervous," said Fargo Park Board member Barb Johnson, who toured the clubhouse Friday. "I think the community needs to know as much as we know about this."

The largest open house of the golf season will be held today and Monday at Edgewood, the Roger Maris Celebrity tourney. Although there's evidence of stress throughout the clubhouse, the problem can be summed up with a quick trip around the southeast corner of the building.

What used to be a level cart path has dropped nearly a foot and now



Forum file photo

The original building at Edgewood, as shown in 1938.

borders a ledge to the river bottoms. "Ten years ago this area was flat and went out about 20 yards at least," said Park Board member Tom Barnhart.

The river wasn't a factor more than 60 years ago when a \$20,000 donation from the Sara H. Manning estate led to the construction of the building. It was reported

that the Manning family, saddened to see trees torn down to make way for the golf course, wanted a shelter for birds and bird lovers.

The city's biggest bird house has evolved into the city's biggest boat house.

"I don't think it's an emergency," said Brad Wimmer, president of the Park Board. "But I think we

need to get it on a plan and I think it's something that should be enacted within the next six months to a year."

The subject is not new. In the mid '80s the Park Board paid for testing of the bank erosion. The issue has since been revisited every couple of years, including a ballot measure four years ago that made a new clubhouse part of quarter-cent park improvement sales tax.

That proposal was blown out of the water by Fargo voters.

But there have been dramatic shifts in the clubhouse since the great flood of 1997. Not to mention flaws that have become visible in the last few months.

Local engineer Jim Heyer, a structural consultant, led a guided tour Friday morning that included Parks Director Roger Gress and Park Board members Wimmer, Johnson, Barnhart and Linda Inniger.

The most obvious areas of deterioration have long been in the southeast corner of the building — specifically the women's locker room — and the cart path outside that area.