



Altadena Historical Society

From our Files

Hidden Altadena

June 16, 2011

Miniature Golf -1930 Style

From Mariposa Street, east of Lake Avenue, walk north up the alley behind the Two Dragons Martial Arts Studio until you are standing behind Lifeline Fellowship Christian Church (2556 Lake Avenue). Look west, peek over the fence and you might be surprised to see this tiny mission-style church along with some time-worn concrete "greens" – relics of **Altadena Golf Gardens**. As indicated in the newspaper advertisement below, the first miniature golf course (perhaps the only one in Altadena, although we've been told there was another) opened August 27, 1930.

Cheaper than a picture show and fun for the whole family, midget golf was all the rage in the 1920s. There were more than 150 pocket size golf courses on the roofs of New York City skyscrapers in 1926. In small towns across America, entrepreneurs used weed-filled lots and scrap material to install these compact efficient money-makers.



One of more than 25 thousand such courses, Altadena Golf Gardens filled a lot near the southeast corner of Lake Avenue and Foothill Blvd (now called Altadena Drive) and featured a live orchestra, "broadcast to all parts of the grounds through Michael's public address system." (We don't know who or what Michael's was.) Although the miniature golf craze thrived during the depression, Altadena's course closed about 1932.

To learn more about Altadena Golf Gardens and other local historical sites and events, set aside Sunday, October 23, 2011 for AHS' history tour. Mariposa Street, between Lake Avenue and Maiden Lane, will be featured including a scandalous mystery about a copycat Lindbergh kidnapping scheme. Stand by for more information!

*We're in the Altadena Community Center,
730 E. Altadena Drive, Altadena, CA 91001.*

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AltadenaHistoricalSociety.org

Miniature Golf De Luxe

You are cordially invited to

OUR OPENING

WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUG. 27

Of Altadena's first Fine Miniature Golf Course at
North Lake Avenue and Foothill Boulevard

Altadena Golf Gardens

An orchestra will furnish music which will be broadcast to all parts of the grounds through Michael's public address system

FREE PARKING

For patrons of the course at all times.