How Olympia Fields Handles Its Caddies

By TOM ELLIS

Supt. Golf, Olympia Fields Country Club

OLYMPIA Fields Country club has planned that 1928 will be the best year in its history for the caddies.

In 1927 we had 1468 caddies registered for the season, and expect more in 1928. In the past Olympia has partly uniformed its caddies. This year they will be furnished with a complete uniform. The caddy pays less than 20% of the cost of the uniform, the balance being pledged by the members. This gives the caddy a more businesslike aspect. It is quite a sight to see over a thousand caddies in uniform.

George F. Anderson, chairman of the caddy committee, has ordered a large supply of equipment for baseball, basketball, soccer, horseshoes, etc., for the caddies' pleasure. Enough of this equipment has been ordered to give each caddy a chance to be in some game or play during his spare moments.

This year, as in the past, the caddies will play golf every Monday. They will also have their annual caddy tournament.

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absorbed in his work, who works harmoniously with the chairman, the two holding daily consultations and inspections.

"A determined endeavor to have the golf course in pink of condition if possible every day, weather permitting; always looking out for a chance to better and improve. This tends to keep players in good humor.

"Willingness to listen to advice and comments; talking over matters with the committee, and using own judgment afterwards; trying not to be disturbed by criticisms, but not always succeeding.

"Cordial coöperation by the officers of the club with Green committee and its chairman; most of the Governing Board are hotel men and active business men. The hotel men realize that the golf club is a big asset to their business.

"Upkeep expenses are looked after all the time, and labor saving machinery investigated carefully before adoption.

"A Boy Scout caddy system that after five years' experience is well established and has found to be indispensable.

"We have a beautifully situated golf course, with many natural hazards, and not too many artificial ones."
DOES YOUR CLUB PAY THE CADDIES BY TIME?

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and field day. For the events on this day donations amounting to about $1,000 are made by the members for the purchase of prizes.

Considering the large number of caddies in service, discipline is a simple matter, in that each boy is kept busy in his spare time.

Caddies meet in a school for training purposes four mornings each week. About two hours of each session is spent teaching the rules of the game and the duties of a caddy. This gives him not only an understanding of the game, but also makes plain his obligations to his player.

Our registration and classification system is made as simple as is possible. When a caddy reports for duty April 1st his name, address and such data as is necessary is entered on an individual merit card. His merit record of the previous season denotes his classification for the current year. We have 50 Honor caddies who have reached this designation by experience, proper conduct and native ability as caddies. There are 250 Class A caddies whose individual numbers run from 51 to 300, paid at the rate of 30c per hour; 300 to 700 of Class B at 25c an hour, and 700 and up Class C caddies at 20c an hour.

Caddies register as they report for duty and are assigned according to this registration. The caddy is graded on his time card by the player at the completion of his daily service. This card is turned over to the caddy-master and the grading is transferred to the caddy merit card. We give prizes each month for the best grade in each class. If B and C caddies have a very good mark they are transferred to the next higher grade, likewise if Class A caddies make a poor showing they are demoted to Class B until such time as they have earned the right to advance to their former grade. The caddy merit card is checked by the caddy-master every week and promotions made accordingly. All caddies are confined to the caddy shelter until the members register for them. A checking service is established at the caddy house for lunches, etc.

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