Fessenden Elected Western Golf Ass'n President

Maynard G. (Scotty) Fessenden was elected pres., Western Golf Assn. at the annual meeting of the WGA directors. Fessenden succeeds James L. Garard who headed the WGA in 1946 and 1947. Garard's administration got the WGA postwar caddie service program for member clubs and the Evans Scholar Foundation operations underway as a standout energetic and effective job. Civic and educational authorities outside the golf field consider the Western association's work for and with caddies the most valuable work any sports organization is doing for American youngsters. The program has scored effectively in golf.

The caddie program has benefited tremendously from the work of John C. Kennan, executive vp of the Western and for 10 years personnel officer at the University of Chicago. Theodore C. Butz, veteran official of the WGA, has maintained close association between the WGA and its Evans scholar graduates for years.

Fessenden comes into WGA presidency with a deservedly high reputation as a vigorous factor in golf progress. He served as Chicago District GA president, establishing that organization as a major tournament circuit city when the tournament circuit needed bracing. Fessenden, more than any other amateur, was responsible for quick action that kept the pro tournament circuit from folding at the start of the war. As a combat veteran of World War I the realistic and aggressive Fessenden didn't subscribe to the feeble theory that golf was so weak it needed tournaments to keep it alive during the war. But he did see in continuance of tournaments a very practical opportunity for raising war benefit funds, providing out-of-door entertainment for war workers and presenting purses that enabled tournament pros to get a very hefty chunk of the wartime money. Fessenden is chairman of the PGA Advisory committee and in that capacity has been of inestimable value to tournament pros in herding and activating a group of "angels" to whom the playing pros are indebted for rich favors.

Garard continues as a director of the WGA and a trustee of the Evans Scholar Foundation.

Serving with Fessenden as officers are vps: Jerome P. Bowes, Jr., Roy W. Walholm and John W. Coffin. Treas. is Cameron Eddy; Secy., Hunter Hicks and Charles S. Connell, General Counsel.

New Directors elected at the annual meeting include: John G. Searle, Skokie, Ill.; E. P. Allis, Milwaukee, Wis.; Harold O. McLain, Chicago; Harry L. Robinson, Jr., Minneapolis, Minn.

Re-elected Directors are: Bing Crosby, Fred L. Dowd, Fred R. Dowd, David L. Harrington, Stuart Smithson, Charles Evans, Jr., Lewis Rodgers, David L. Griffith,
Maurice Luxford. Trustees of Evans Scholars Foundation are: James L. Garard, Jerome P. Bowes, Jr., Carleton Blunt, Theodore C. Butz, Maynard G. Fessenden.

In 1948 WGA hopes to increase the number of member clubs who are actively working with the association in improving their club caddie service and assisting in selecting caddies who are sent to college on full tuition scholarships. WGA now has 20 caddies in college at Northwestern University, Loyola University (Chicago), Michigan State and University of Michigan.

Caddies Get Cash and Fun At Edgewater Party

"Chick" Evans, left, Edgewater's favorite son, pins WGA Honor Caddie Badge on Norbert DeFilippo at Edgewater GC (Chicago, Ill.) annual caddie banquet. DeFilippo is also winner of meritorious service plaque presented by Caddie Committee Chairman, T. R. Claffy, right. Caddie-Master John Sertic stands with arm around Norbert.

Fine job of putting Western GA club caddie service program into practice, as recommended to member clubs in WGA's Caddie Committee Manual, is being done by Chicago's Edgewater GC.

At the close of 1947 season, Edgewater's members were hosts at a tournament and a dinner for caddies that placed a premium on every caddie's pride in his work and created a keen desire for him to be back on the job next season.

Edgewater uses a bonus system where the caddie is paid the regular $1.25 a round. Each player is given a rating card to grade each caddie on each round with spaces for excellent, very good, good, fair and poor. A rating of excellent nets the caddie a 15c bonus, very good represents 10c to him, and good brings him an extra 5c.

At the time of the annual caddie tournament and dinner, the caddies receive their bonus checks, along with generous prizes of the tourney and all they can eat.

In the past, many of the tournament prizes have been won by caddies who are excellent golfers but have not worked nearly as much during the summer as others. In order to offset this, Edgewater changed its plan this year and gave a trophy for the winner of the tournament and his first choice of the prize selections. Additional prizes were awarded on a handicap basis, with every caddie competing in the tournament earning an award.

The collection of prizes for the caddies was made possible by the women members soliciting funds on the first tee one day a season. This year they collected more than $500.

Award of the prize caddie of the year is based on service, attendance and deportment. Winner of the honor this year for the second straight time was Norbert DeFilippo, who also was awarded one of the ten WGA Honor Caddie badges presented to each of the Western GA member clubs for reward to their caddies.

In addition to his WGA Honor Caddie badge, De Filippo also had a first choice of the prizes at the dinner and selected a $50 savings bond to be used in helping obtain a college education. His bonus for the season came to $156 and he also was the recipient of a plaque for meritorious service, awarded by Caddie Committee Chmn, T. R. Claffy. De Filippo aspires to be a WGA Evans scholar. The Foundation was established by Charles "Chick" Evans, Jr., Edgewater's favorite son, and seven caddie boys from Edgewater have been winners of these prized scholarships.

SPARLING RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS

Retiring after 40 years as Brooklawn CC (Bridgeport, Conn.) professional, George Sparling is feted at testimonial dinner at which he is presented with a check for $2,500, a sterling silver cup and announcement of a nice pension. Among those attending were, first row, left to right: Archer C. Wheeler, Sparling, Gene Sarazen; standing: Robert D. Pryde, sec'y, Conn. GA; Alpheus Winter, Sr., toastmaster; Judge Sidney A. Johnson and Al Cioc, Fresh Meadow, L.I., professional.