MORE THAN 7,000 BEAT BEN HOGAN

A total of 7,511 of the first 55,015 reported scores for National Golf Day, May 31, sponsored by Life magazine and the PGA, on basis of handicaps at their respective clubs beat Ben Hogan’s par 71 shot over the Northwood course at Dallas that day. The $1 entry fees will go to the USO and the National Golf Fund which is being established. The picture shows Tom Martin, Charles Conley, Jack Traster and John Marques paying their bucks at Fox Hills CC, Los Angeles, to the club’s pro and Southern Calif. PGA pres., Harry Bassler, with Miss Robin O’Hara as cashier. There should be a bigger crowd to play with Robin. Many notables played in the nation-wide event. Gen. Omar Bradley with a net 74 and Sen. Robt. A. Taft with net 78 were among many who didn’t beat Ben. Pros’ kids, Diane Wilson of Kansas City and Lloyd Syron of Pontiac, Mich., were among those whose nets beat Ben’s gross. Bing Crosby beat Ben with a net 69 and Sam Urzetta got a 70 in Rochester. Best score was by Andy Sword, a Dallas policeman, who got a net 64 on the Dallas Tenison Park course.

Then there is the citizen who should receive the noble prize of having hot lead poured down the back of his neck. May his tribe decrease, even though the beverage department run up an operating deficit. He is the firehouse laddy who never has time to guzzle his drink before leaving the first tee. His hurriedly emptied glass will be found on the edge of the fairway, where, if the tractor operator mowing the grass is quick on the clutch, the mess will require only five minutes and a cut finger to pick up. Good tractor operators who can save such glasses intact are worth more than a buck-fifty an hour. The unmentionable bottle tosser in the rough remains unmentionable.

The Exceptional Caddies

The generally popular opinion that caddies are human beings should remain unchallenged. Being human, they must be considered in a different light than simply animated bag carts. With a few exceptions they are more aware of maintenance problems than their employers, but those exceptions can and will do some remarkable things. Assuming a measure of intelligence in said employers, it is reasonable to believe that cooperation with the caddy master will pay big dividends.

The exceptions are a headache to the caddy master too. He has attempted to explain that a flag pole is not a javelin to be heaved at the putting cup. He has explained the function of a sprinkler and pointed out that such article is not in need of further scientific testing by the caddy. He has patiently explained the diversified duties and sterling qualifications of a good caddy, and has even tried to convince the kid that a golfer is also a human being, regardless of all contrary evidence. Helping the kid have faith in those teachings may also help to develop in him a sense of respect for property that will help conserve the physical assets of the club.