Chick Evans Honored at $70 A Plate Dinner

More than 1,000 people, including 500 ex-caddies, attended the testimonial dinner held July 18th in the grand ballroom of Chicago’s Conrad Hilton hotel for Charles G. (Chick) Evans, called “the greatest friend a caddie ever had.”

The occasion was Chick’s 70th birthday and persons attending the gala affair paid $70 a plate for the privilege of paying tribute to one of the great amateurs of U. S. golf. Fittingly enough, proceeds of the dinner were turned over to the Evans Caddie Scholarship Fund.

A total of 984 boys have earned college scholarships since Chick and his mother established the plan about 40 years ago. It is administered by the Western Golf Assn.

Of the 500 ex-caddies who attended the Evans dinner, about 400 have finished their schooling and the remainder are enrolled in undergraduate or post-graduate schools throughout the country.

Chick Evans was born in Indianapolis, July 18, 1890 and moved to Chicago as a youngster. He won his first tournament in 1907 — the Chicago Amateur. In 1916 he won the National Open with the then record score of 286. Five years later he finished fourth in this event. Chick won the U. S. Amateur in 1916 and again in 1920. He was Amateur runnerup in 1912, 1922 and 1927 and a semi-finalist in five other years. Evans won the Western Open in 1910 and the Western Amateur seven times after finishing as runnerup in 1910. He was on three Walker Cup teams — in 1922, 1924 and 1928. He still competes in the USGA Amateur.

Tremendous Gesture

In acknowledging the thoughtful turnout of hundreds of his friends, Evans said: “The idea of this tremendous gesture on the part of so many wonderful friends gives me the first tee jitters. This will mean a significant contribution of sorely needed money for the caddie scholarship program. It is the finest birthday present a man could receive.”

Gifts received by Chick included a coffee service inscribed with the names of all Evans scholars and alumni and a portrait of himself done by Thomas Stephens. The latter has painted portraits of Bob Jones, Francis Ouimet, Glenna Collett Vare, Walter Hagen and Gene Sarazen, all of which hang in the Golf House gallery of the USGA in New York.

Carlton Blunt, past pres. of WGA and largely responsible for the building of the Evans Scholarship headquarters in Golf, Ill., presented the Evans portrait to John D. Ames, past pres. of the USGA for hanging in the Golf House gallery.

Betsy Rawls, four times winner of the Women’s Open, has been named to the Ladies PGA Hall of Fame. She is the 12th woman to be so honored, joining Glenna Collett Vare, Joyce Wethered, Alexa S. Fraser, Virginia Van Wie, Beatrice Hoyt, Margaret Curtis, Dorothy C. Hurd, Babe Zaharias, Patty Berg, Louise Suggs and Betty Jameson.

PGA Press Booklet

For press, radio and TV, the PGA recently released a booklet, “Golf and the PGA Professional,” which explains the principal activities of the organization, what it does for the pro, the amateur and the game in general. It was prepared by the PGA public relations dept. in cooperation with the present officers.