

Cleveland Has Unique Caddie Plan

THE Acacia Country Club of Cleveland tried an experiment last year. Considerable expense was incurred in the construction of a caddie house which might be termed a miniature club house for the boys. A club room was provided along with showers, lavatories, etc. Place was provided so that the boys could bring their lunches, could keep their lunch package safe and intact and clean, or they could obtain their lunch at a nominal figure from the caddie club house lunch room which was part of the caddie house construction, says C. W. Colby in telling of the work in the Cleveland District Golfer. Good wholesome food was provided in cooperation with the main club house kitchen organization. The candy and refreshment facilities were regulated and supervised for the boys' benefit.

Play ground facilities were provided, also, with competition constantly under way in the form of horse shoe tournaments,

ball games, and other outdoor sports. Checkers, sometimes chess, and other indoor sports for rainy weather use were arranged. The right kind of reading matter for those boys interested along that line was also in evidence.

"Caddie City" Is Formed

An organization of the caddies known as Caddie City was developed. In this miniature city government the boys, under intelligent direction selected their mayor, their city manager, and councilmen, etc. The judicial branch of such a government was, also, set up so that misdemeanors and violations of the simple code of procedure could be handled through such a tribunal.

In other words, an attempt was made by the Acacia Country Club to really benefit the boys who spent their summers in the employ of the club organization either directly or indirectly. An attempt

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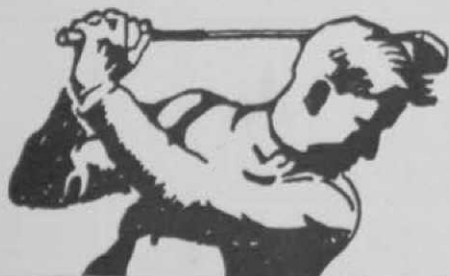
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was made to put intelligence, kindly co-operation and sympathy into the relationships that are set up in the boys' contact with the club members. This activity was under the direction of Mr. G. I. Kern, Director of the Department of Physical Education, East Technical High School. This was in co-operation with Mr. Floyd Rowe, Director of the Department of Physical Welfare, Cleveland Board of Education.

This whole scheme was tried out last year as an experiment so that it could be determined whether or not the boys' reaction to such an arrangement would justify the club in going further with such a development. The results were sufficiently encouraging to warrant the club in extending this activity during this 1927 season.

As soon as the Cleveland schools closed for the summer vacation Mr. Kern was on the job at Acacia, assisted by Herman Ryel, caddie master, and by Clarence Demming, assistant caddie master. Both of Kern's assistants were selected with considerable care so that the success of the plan would not be jeopardized by an unsympathetic attitude on the part of the club's personnel in constant contact with the boys.

A letter was sent out, over the signature of the Chairman of the Green Committee, addressed to the principals of various schools in the eastern section of Cleveland and in the suburbs east of the city. This letter called attention to the fact that the Acacia Country Club offered to boys between the ages of eleven and sixteen years an opportunity to enjoy a Summer in supervised recreation and games. The letter stated that each boy will be called upon to take his turn caddying. This means that the youngsters can earn from \$1.50 to \$2.50 a day, as the regulation fee for caddie service is paid by the club members. The club is naturally desirous of having some choice in the selection of caddies, and the principals of these schools were requested to recommend a certain number of boys whom they thought would appreciate such an opportunity for Summer employment and recreation. Application cards were sent along with the letter so that the boys interested could formally apply for admission to Caddie City.

The boys from whom cards are received met on notice from Mr. Kern at the gymnasium of the East Technical High School where the arrangements for the Summer

were detailed to them. By the time the season began immediately after the close of the schools, the caddie personnel of the Acacia Country Club was quite definitely determined.

"Brain Storm" or Business

Of course, all this activity might be considered by some people as "just another" brain storm on the part of some individuals or group of individuals. It touches on boy scout work. It has some tinge of Summer camp work. When you realize that in the Cleveland District nearly 5000 boys are listed on the rosters of the various golf clubs, and that among those names nearly 75 per cent are either foreign born or the children of foreign born parents, it might even be said that this activity encroaches upon Americanization work.

Back of it all, however, are practical considerations.

It costs money to develop turf which makes the playing of the game of golf a pleasure. Every bit of turf that is lifted or destroyed by the careless player represents money taken out of the treasury of the golf club. If the caddie organization can be so developed that each boy takes a conscientious pride in doing all the things that a caddie can do to preserve the course on which he is employed, the saving to the club over one season's play, will offset the expense of a very comprehensive caddie personnel.

Aside from this practical phase of the situation there enters the increased benefits, all the way along the line, which are realized by co-operative organized effort on the part of every element that goes to make up the game of golf;—the club member, the executive staff, the greenkeeper, the course maintenance personnel, the club house service personnel, the professional and his department, and last but by no means least, the caddie organization.

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