

construction come in from the ambitious pros in the smaller towns at a rate to identify these men as one of the most promising factors in the progress of golf outside of the metropolitan territories. There are a lot of fine, ambitious young fellows being developed as small town pros right along, and a lot of mighty good, but sadly discouraged and underpaid, boys in these situations today. Of course, there are some of the small town pros who are temperamentally hopeless and valueless, but the survival of the fittest takes care of them.

If the smaller town club is to make the most of its splendid opportunity in golf it might as well make up its collective mind now that money must be invested in a carefully selected and competent pro. The club will save money over a two or three-year period and get ahead in flourishing fashion by picking the right man and giving him enough to make the job and the opportunity attractive. There are plenty of good boys, studious, energetic and conscientious, to supply this crying need. Some of them have small town jobs right now, but have about abandoned hope and interest because of the short-sighted policy of under-paying that too generally prevails.

I've talked over my observations and conclusions with club officials, manufacturers and professionals and find that they check with me. So it looks from where your correspondent sits now that the slogan for advancement of good golf in the smaller towns should be "More Dough for the Pro."

## Bike Rangers Speed Up Course Traffic

TODAY, due to the greatly increased popularity of the game and the apparent increase in ardency on the part of the players, the expediting of heavy week-end play has become a more pressing question than ever before.

Vincent X. McGuire, head of both the Old Westbury Club at Garden City, L. I., and the Clearview Club at Bayside, L. I., working with his Green committee chairman, seems to have hit upon an ingenious solution of the problem with uniformed rangers equipped with bicycles.

These rangers are given roving commissions and are furnished with a set of easily readable course rules. Whenever there is hold-up on the course they speed to the point of congestion. If slow players or lost

balls are responsible for the clogging, the ranger approaches the offenders and, in a nice way, tells them that he is acting for the Green committee and that golfing manners demand that slower players give way to the faster ones. He shows them the rules and his authority for approaching them and asks if they don't want to let the players behind them go through. "At all times the duty of the ranger is to interpret the club rules to the members rather than enforce them. Of course, the ranger must be a neat appearing, courteous young man with more tact than authority," says President McGuire, commenting on his latest innovation.

"However, this is purely a matter of proper supervision and schooling by the caddy master or some other duly constituted authority. In our case I thought, and our Green committee heads agreed with me, that the approach and contact of the ranger, or traffic man, was so important that we personally took a hand in his education and instruction. Our rangers not only look to the speeding-up of play but also to violations of playing procedure. By this I mean if impatient players are driving into the match ahead of them, which sometimes happens in the best of regulated clubs. The ranger takes up the complaint of aggrieved players and adjusts it with those responsible. If players are taking divots and not replacing them, the ranger's job is to take up the violation with the caddies, not the players. All of which makes for better club spirit and adds to the golfing pleasures of our members, in my opinion. Carrying criticisms back to the locker room is hardly conducive to club camaraderie.

"We impress upon the rangers and the members that these men are there to make things pleasanter for all and not for policing purposes. They suggest and inform and can never demand anything. They are asked to report to the Green committee cases where members are not open to reason, and this precludes members making charges with possible consequent ill-feeling. Our members also tell me it is nice for them to know that when they are a half-mile from the golf house or club house that there is always within beck and call an employee ready to render them a service.

"Unless the system shows some marked weakness not yet revealed, the Green committees at both Old Westbury and Clearview, I am quite sure, will continue it in force."