

# CODE and REPEAL Are Managers' Meeting Features

WHEN THE Club Managers' Association of America opens its eighth annual convention at Hotel Kansas Citian, Kansas City, Mo., March 5, there promises to be plenty of action for the dough of the fellows who travel to the affair. The session will run three days and will have an exhibition of equipment, food, liquor and supplies in a hall adjoining the convention arena.

Barney O'Grady, cherub-panned and wise young man who heads the association, has a program he intends to bring to definite and profitable conclusion at the Kansas City sessions. O'Grady, manager of the Hamilton club, Chicago, hopes by that time to have the clubhouse code approved by the NRA so the boys can work out their budgets on the basis of actual facts.

The club code business, has been the source of some very dignified sassy words back and forth on a high and gentlemanly plane between the Club Managers' Association and the USGA. The USGA has taken the stand that the private clubs, not being operated for profit, don't come within the scope of the NRA. The Club Managers' Association members, many of whom are city club managers, had too much heat put under them by their bosses to wait and take a chance. Budgets had to be prepared. Some of the city clubs were in keen and direct competition with hotels and restaurants, and the H & R gents having been laid over a barrel and paddled plenty by the code, were going to see to it that the clubs didn't get away with any edge. Private country clubs, competing with each other and daily-fee courses on a basis that was poisonous to the pay-as-you-play plants had dropped their guards. Some of the fee fellows figured they would get even—and how—when there was an NRA showdown on the amateur status of the private clubs.

Chances are that the USGA plea for private club code immunity will be granted by the government. If it is, it will mean that the private clubs will have to go back to the private basis of operation instead of running on a "come all ye" basis as some of them have been doing. This enforced

change will be a good thing eventually as it will remind private clubs to concentrate on private membership solicitation for their financial salvation.

There has been a minimum of publicity put out by the managers' association on the code developments. Maybe the excuse is lack of money. Those who are especially interested in the various phases of the code can find out what the score is by attending the Kansas City meeting.

The 10 per cent club dues tax is coming in for a concerted slug at the convention.

Another live idea that will come to the front at the Kansas City meeting is the prospect of the organization changing its name to "The American Club Association" and permitting club officials as well as managers to join. Officers will be managers of the clubs. This hunch is brilliant and comes from the O'Grady youth. He figures, and correctly, that if the managers can get club officials interested in the association a lot of the managers' troubles will be ended.

O'Grady believes this proposed change in organization would:

1. Make club officers more aware of the value of a good club manager.
2. Make the club officers come to the association for new managers, which will enhance the value of the association in the minds of the managers who belong. ("Make" is O'Grady's own word, but you can't rule a racer off the track for trying.)

Country club managers will have their customary conference, with A. M. Tousley, manager of the Hillcrest CC, Kansas City, in charge.

Naturally, the hot topic will be liquor. What brands, what service equipment, what prices and what the hell, will be discussed in detail. The managers already have enough to talk about on the subject of liquor to keep them exchanging ideas for far more than the maximum code hours.

Some of the managers are suggesting "corkage" charges on liquor brought into clubs by members; in fact some of the clubs are applying this charge. Other clubs have gone to the locker system with

the club doing the wholesaling so high license fees won't have to be paid. Effect of repeal in bringing back to the clubs the food business that formerly went to the speakeasies and roadhouses, changes in eating habits, financing of long-needed improvements with liquor profits, winter operation of country clubs as private taverns and hundreds of other slants having important bearing on club business in 1934 will engage the serious attention of the managers.

Liquor added income may be somewhat offset by the sharp rises in food costs during 1934, an incline that troubled the managers no little in 1933. Clubhouses that need to be restored to prime condition because of the intense and growing interest of women in golf is another major problem with which the managers will cope at Kansas City.

The way these gentlemen will labor away gives a definite promise that the fellow who is anxious to learn is going to get a dividend out of attending the Kansas City rodeo.

It would be a good thing for clubs if their house chairmen could sit in on those sessions. O'Grady's proposal to this end seems due for favorable consideration. Anyway, it's an idea that the PGA and NAGA had better consider for the pros' and greenkeepers' bodies. Issuing associate memberships to the club officials in charge of these departments probably would do something to strengthen the organizations and extend their fields of usefulness.

### Sports Goods Show Gives Signs of Big Year

**E**XHIBITORS at the annual convention of the National Sporting Goods Distributors association this year did more actual business on the dotted line than at any of the previous exhibitions during the four years' history of the event.

There were only a few exhibit spaces vacant at the Hotel Sherman, Jan. 29-31, and golf goods were prominent among the displays. Among leading golf goods manufacturers exhibiting were: American Fork and Hoe; Buhrke; Burke; Crawford, McGregor & Canby; Hillerich & Bradsby; Horton; Kroydon; Schavolite; Spalding; Vulcan; Worthington Ball; Wilson-Western; and L. A. Young.

Among new golf items shown for the first time were the Vulcan equilibrated

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