

## Club Crime Wave Stymied by Gang Captures

**G**OLF CLUB crime wave in Chicago district, which ran up a string of one murder, several beatings and 12 robberies and caused a special meeting of the Chicago District Golf Assn. with state's attorney Tom Courtney, came to a sharp halt with the apprehension of two bands of bandits.

Busiest band was one from a section of Chicago supplying many caddies. The band had been previously picked up and identified but was turned loose, due to the usual operations of the criminal-politician alliance. Courtney detailed a special squad which eventually nailed the bandits. Another band beat, then murdered, a watchman at a golf course, and was caught when an alarm, sent over a wire the bandits had failed to cut, brought police in time to prevent a getaway.

The CDGA in its special meeting approved an award for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the criminals. Details of burglar alarm systems were described by club officials at the meeting. At least one telephone wire not clearing through clubhouse switchboard and fencing allowing only one night gate to grounds was advised. Courtney and Tom Walsh of Chicago Fee Course Assn. agreed that forbidding "ball hawks" or other unauthorized persons entry to grounds prevented bandits surveying the scene and planning successful raids.

Three young gunmen, one of them an ex-assistant caddiemaster at an adjoining club, confessed to robbery of a fivesome on the Ridgewood (N.J.) CC, in which a player was shot. A hat dropped on the course provided the clue by which the gunmen were apprehended.

### Irrigation Expert, Wendell Miller, Dies at Tulsa, Okla.

**W**ENDELL MILLER, one of the most widely known men in course maintenance work, died at Tulsa, Okla., Aug. 14. Miller was in Tulsa on the new Southern Hills job when heart trouble from which he had suffered since childhood finally got him. Funeral was at Columbus, O., Aug. 17.

He was a man of such tremendous enthusiasm and energy that none of his many friends suspected that he suffered from a heart ailment. To him, more than to any other man, fairway watering owes its wide recognition and it was Miller who

constantly pounded away on drainage as an essential to good maintenance until the old haphazard drainage systems were revised.

Miller's first golf job was on the Columbus (O.) CC course in 1920. He was responsible for putting down more than 500 miles of drainage at the nation's courses, installed more than 400 miles of fairway watering system piping, designed and built more than 100 golf course pumping plants, and did a vast amount of work on airports and at estates, parks and cemeteries. He invented the one-man hoseless system of fairway irrigation and was responsible for pushing fairway watering eastward from the Pacific Coast where he first became acquainted with details of this work in 1926. He made an extensive study of prevailing winds in working out his hoseless system. He was associated with many famous courses in a construction and engineering capacity.

He was a great worker and wore himself out untimely, but he never was too busy to write or lecture, or to otherwise help to educate men in the work to which he devoted himself so unstintingly. The tragedy of his career of valuable service to golf is that his end came when his strenuously and sacrificing pioneering had been completed and he was on the threshold of collecting some of the reward due him in cash that he could mark up as net profit.

Wendell Miller was born near Columbus, O. in 1896. He attended Ohio State university and at one time was a member of its faculty. He was a member of several engineering societies, social organizations, and the Shrine. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Emma Smith Miller and a son, Wendell Smith Miller.

His passing is mourned by hundreds who will keep him in memory as a fellow of high talents and inspiring enthusiasm and sincerity.

**S**UNDAY night entertainment feature at Mohawk CC (Chicago District) is a floor show with Lew Waldron, pro, as master of ceremonies. Members and guests supply the talent. Lew leads them to the mike and gets them warmed up for the performances.

There are a million laughs in these amateur floor shows; and unsuspected talent. Several radio stars play at Mohawk and they with their professional guests join in the show.