

PLAYERS DENY RYDER CRISIS

By HERB GRAFFIS

AMERICA'S victorious Ryder Cup team returned July 20 on the Berengaria and after being officially welcomed at the dock was greeted by an informal dinner at Hotel New Yorker on the evening of arrival. Non-playing captain Hagen did not return with the team. Walter plans to hunt in India before he comes home.

Newspaper stories that certain players complained of treatment they had received in England found returning players themselves embarrassed by great magnification given to casual comments made concerning conduct of enthusiastic galleries. Players questioned explained that the "breaks" caused by British galleries were of the same nature they had experienced many times with American galleries, so there was no reflection on the British spectators' sportsmanship intended in the honest comment made.

Players who drew official fire for remarks showed good judgment and sportsmanship in not going for the old alibi of claiming to have been "misquoted," and by such convenient falsehood impugning the accuracy of experienced British and American reporters who covered the stories.

Veteran British golf writers consider the American players' comments are no more inclined to disturb harmony of the international pro matches than the absolutely truthful unreserved remarks of British Ryder Cuppers about the unfairness of hellish American mid-summer weather they experienced prior to switching the American date of the affair to temperate weather of late summer.

Horton Smith, interviewed by Bob Harlow for a widely used newspaper syndicate feature, restored the situation to balance in his characteristically calm manner. Smith declared that the British PGA did far more than could have been expected in the matter of extending courtesy and paying bills for the American Ryder Cup team during the players visit in England.

British officials met the team at Plymouth when the Manhattan docked and had first-class reservations for the 10 members, 5 wives and manager on this 4½-hour journey to London. Dinner was provided on the train. The party of 16 was registered into the Savoy Hotel for a day and all bills paid by the British.

Sixteen berths on the fast sleeper from

London to Southport were handed the Americans and upon arrival in the English resort city the party was taken to the best hotel on the front, the Prince of Wales, where for a week the British again paid all bills, including food. A fleet of automobiles carried the players from hotel to links and return, as needed.

Caddies used for the week of practice and in the Ryder Cup matches were paid for by the British, and as a finishing touch, a farewell dinner was served.

"This record," said Smith, "speaks for itself. There can be no question as to the sort of reception and treatment the responsible parties in Great Britain wished to accord to the American players. I hope we do as well by their men when they visit America in 1939."

Cowboy Entertainment—Chuck Abbott's band of cowboy singers and cooks again is making a tour of country clubs putting on the campfire barbecue steak suppers and cowboy entertainment Abbott made famous at Palm Springs, Calif. The Abbott bunch has a fine entertainment and feeding novelty for golf clubs and has been booked by many of the leading clubs.

BR-R-R-R!



On June 9 snow was scraped from the greens of the Lead (S. Dak.) CC, high in the Black Hills, to permit planting of stolons. Harry Anthrum, Lead CC greenkeeper, is at the left. R. R. Bond of the Old Orchard Turf Nurseries is second from right in the group at work planting.