



Not many clubs can boast facilities for caddie control as fine as this layout at Oakhurst.

CLUB MEETS CADDIES

... and receives back the utmost in trouble-free service and loyalty

TO often caddie trouble is put down with some kind of compromise, grudgingly given, with vague promises as to what might be expected in the future, and with no real solution to a problem that will probably bounce back again in a few weeks, or months. So when we hear a real-for-sure success story on solving a caddie disturbance at a club, it's a real pleasure to pass it on to other clubs who might profit should similar trouble occur at their clubs in this year—or the next.

Dave Powell, an official at Oakhurst CC, Tulsa, Okla., tells the following story of what happened at his club because of a caddie strike, and most of what follows is in Dave's very words:

Oakhurst was hit by a caddie strike last year, and believe me, it caused plenty of trouble around the club for a while. There was trouble brewing on every side, unrest and squabbles galore, and things seemed to be going from bad to worse. Something had to be done, and I was elected to help do it.

The first thing we had to do was to gain the boys' confidence. We finally persuaded them to go back to work at the amount of money they had been getting—and to leave things up to us as to what would be done about the situation in the very near future. Our committee went before the board of directors with a plan, and because the board was made up of a bunch of live wires, the plan was approved. We not only got a raise for the caddies but an appropriation of \$1,000 to build the boys a real home—with the thought that if we could keep their spare hours filled with clean sport and happi-

ness, it would improve their morale, and their attitude toward work.

Construction was begun immediately on the caddie house and it was soon completed. The house measures 60x18 feet, is completely insulated, well ventilated, of modern design, and finished in knotty pine. Book racks contain all of the popular magazines and it would surprise you to see how much time the boys spend reading. A large table across one end of the building furnishes ample space for checker and domino games. A radio furnishes music and news, and in another corner is a complete kitchen grill where all kinds of sandwiches, milk, pies and cold drinks are served for a nickel.

The caddiemaster is constantly on the job and the boys have been educated to treat their caddie home the same as they would their own. The boys keep it spotlessly clean and not a pencil mark or knife cut mars its finish. At the south end of the house is a shed 50x18 feet, and is equipped with permanent benches where the boys may rest during the summer.

The house is enclosed by a six foot woven wire fence, 200x200 feet, and the boys are asked to stay within this enclosure. Here horseshoes, baseball, basketball, and golf are always in session. Incidentally, the boys have formed a soft ball team, and they have been entered in a

league, furnished all equipment and expenses underwritten.

Our pro, Marion Askew, mingles with the boys every day, discusses golf and caddie etiquette three times a week and takes them out on the course for instruction every Saturday morning. He knows all of their peculiarities and shortcomings.

Our club encourages the caddies to be neat and clean, and next month will see them all dressed in khaki uniforms, which they have paid for themselves. The club buys them wholesale and the boys pay for them as they can, usually at the rate of 25 cents per day.

We are trying to build for the future, and we try to know the boys' personal problems. Many of them have been kept in school by our members seeing to it that they were properly clothed. Our membership, when they learned what was needed, contributed shoes, underwear, suits overcoats, hats, shirts, and altogether, I believe we outfitted 75 boys who really needed help. In one instance, a boy had a bad hernia, and a surgeon, one of our members, operated on him free of charge. A little collection made while the men were playing the '19th hole' provided the money for his hospital bill, and today the boy is all set to meet life's trials.

In another instance we had several complaints that a particular caddie was constantly losing balls. Investigation proved the boy had eye trouble. He was treated by an eye specialist (again one of our members) without cost, and it was found he needed glasses. There was more '19th hole' doings and today he is one of our best caddies.

The boys got a big turkey dinner last Christmas, and the clubhouse was turned over to them for the evening. Waiters were members of the board of directors! Some professional entertainment was provided and then the boys put on a show of their own—which was a dandy. There were mouth harps, jews harps, guitars, tap dancing, quartettes and what have you—for which prizes were given. The boys finished the evening by singing Christmas carols, after which the membership furnished cars and every boy was delivered to his home.

We are constantly reminding the members to be patient and tolerant of the boys, and to encourage them to do their best at all times. It's a happy family that we have, and some day, maybe, the Governor of Oklahoma may have been a former Oakhurst caddie.

Upholds Honor of Greenkeepers by Catching Taunter of Fellow Worker

THE big one didn't get away when I. V. Martin, greenkeeper at the Sarasota (Fla.) CC, hastily converted one of the greens-whipping bamboo poles into tarpon tackle. He caught the 4 ft.-8 in., 35-lb. tarpon in Bowlee's Creek right off the fifth green at the famous Whitfield Estates course.

According to F. S. Hodge, sec. of the Sarasota CC, the fish flirted around, flipped briskly out of the creek, and yelled at



Can you blame Martin for being proud?

Martin, "Yah, yuh can't ketch me. Neither can Charley Dempsey over at the Bobby Jones Course. Youse guys gotta work, and look at the fun I'm having."

Cool, but infuriated internally, Martin went to work to avenge the tarpon's insult to the neighborhood's greenkeeping fraternity. The result shows Martin, his youngster and the mocking tarpon.

Hodge says that Martin performed a masterly feat in reclaiming the Sarasota course from the jungle between May 17 and December 15, and that last season the Sarasota greens were among the best in the state. The fairways also are coming along quickly in response to expert treatment.