

Jacksonville Organizes Business Men

By CHARLES W. ZAUN

IT had always been my wish that a business men's golf association, similar to the usual women's golf associations found in every city of any consequence, could be established in our town—Jacksonville, Fla. One day late last fall, I called up a few of my friends and made up three foursomes to play golf one afternoon, during the early part of December. After the twelve of us had completed our round, I outlined to them what I had in mind, and was most happy to find considerable enthusiasm among them for my idea. A meeting was held at the 19th Hole, and the result was the formation of an organization to be known, temporarily, at least, as the Jacksonville Business Men's Golf Assn.

The twelve of us began immediately to pass the word along to our other friends, and a second meeting was held at the Hyde Park CC two weeks later. About 35 Jacksonville business men showed up for this meeting, and all were enthused over the idea. At this meeting we organized and elected permanent officers. This was just before the Christmas holiday, so we decided our best opportunity for playing would be the first Sunday in January, and arrangements were made for a tournament on January 5.

Twelve Charter Members

Those who placed their membership applications with us and paid the initiation fee were eligible for the tournament and became charter members of the organization. To our pleasant surprise we played 65 men that day, and our roster was 95 members. We decided to hold our next tournament at the San Jose course on Thursday, Jan. 16, and here, in a downpour of rain, we played 55 and our roster was 115. The next tourney a week later at the Municipal golf course drew 75 players—and we have

been continuing this healthy growth at our regular tournaments right up to the present.

Here are principles underlying our organization. I have insisted from the beginning that the association be set on a high plane whereby golf and golf sportsmanship are being constantly promoted, the rules and regulations of golf obeyed, and our membership kept free from entanglement. We are never to become affiliated with a golf course, but are to play wherever we please, where green fees are paid for that privilege. We ask no golf course to improve its condition, nor do we dictate to them how they should operate their club. We feel that in doing this the clubs will be only too glad to do the things we want done without our asking. We forbid our officers or committees to ask for any concessions from any club.

We have not as yet limited our membership, but are using every precaution in our selection of members. We have set minimum yearly dues, as well as a minimum initiation fee—which will give us ample funds in our treasury for prizes, etc. We have always been liberal with prizes, and it is our intention to continue this practice. At each of our tournaments we have given away about 4 dozen golf balls.

We have extended honorary memberships to our five golf professionals here in Jacksonville. We ask these boys to participate in our weekly tournaments, and we award a prize for the low gross in their play. The pros are only asked to play, and we don't burden them with any work in running our tournaments.

We have received invitations from several out-of-town courses asking us to play our tournaments there, and it is our intention to take train, auto or bus trips to these out-of-town courses from time to time.

Officers of the association for 1941 are: Pres., J. Rae Simpson; vice-pres., Roy Agard; secy-treas., Bob Mason, and myself, chairman, board of directors. We believe an organization such as ours has considerable merit, and that some day business men golf organizations will be common-place from coast to coast.

Fourth annual Poland open will be held July 20-21 at the Poland CC, Youngstown, Ohio. New tees have been installed and it is planned to use them on the second nine to simulate 'new' holes. Winner of the first Poland open in '38 was Ted Luther; Sam Parks won in '39, and Reggie Myles last year. Jack Miskell, Poland CC pro, is in charge of the event.