

Pros Report Smooth Progress in '40

Quiet 24th conclave displays notable teamwork and unity in PGA activities.

ANOTHER PGA convention on the constructive side went into the records as the pro association held its 24th annual meeting at the Morrison hotel, Chicago, early in November.

Tom Walsh was re-elected president. Only change in the official batting order was retirement of Capt. Charles Clarke for Frank Sprogell, Kent CC, Grand Rapids, Mich., as sec. The old political extravaganza was displaced by the themes of how to make a living and how to strengthen the game and the clubs.

The only controversy worthy of note concerned American citizenship as an essential of PGA of America membership, and it was handled calmly and impersonally. The matter was highlighted because some old-timers are partially dependent on British war pensions, therefore an ironclad rule could be an edict unbecoming to sportsmen in passing judgment on unfortunate colleagues whose torsos might be ballasted with slugs, whose lungs might be shrivelled by gas, and whose incomes might be puckered by the vicissitudes of pro golf.

An educational session at which pros and amateurs reviewed pro business and education progress and suggested lines for future work was a feature of the convention's concluding hours.

The President's dinner again was one of the highlights of the meeting, with 309 dinners being served. Master of ceremonies was Frank T. Sprogell, who introduced an impressive list of local and national golf officials, and radio and newspapermen. Tom Kelly's kids put on some swell entertainment as part of a show staged by the Illinois section, with Alex Cunningham acting as chairman of the entertainment committee.

High spots of various reports:

President Tom Walsh—PGA ball deal being ironed out in accord with Federal Trade Commission opinion.

Silver anniversary of the Association to be celebrated at the 1941 PGA Seniors championship.

Recommended cash award to medalist in PGA championship, in addition to Alex Smith memorial medal.

PGA sections have been responsible for approximately \$50,000 to American Red Cross. The Detroit match netted over \$12,-

000. Acting on suggestion from Jack Fox, pres., New Jersey section, PGA of America also contributed a Red Cross ambulance to Britain.

PGA caddie educational program lauded by USGA officials and many club officials and members, and the press.

Educational conferences of PGA in collaboration with various colleges and universities were inaugurated with great success and promise of tremendous potentialities.

Advised planning for PGA members to cooperate in government's physical fitness campaign.

Suggested assistance, when needed, to drafted PGA members.

Senior PGA Committee—Field in 1940 championship 50 per cent larger than 1939. Sarasota, Fla., is to have 1941 Senior PGA championship Jan. 10-12.

Section Boundaries Committee—Propose neutral zones of 40-50 mile width at present boundary lines. Members living within such neutral zones permitted to select section most suitable for him.

PGA 1941 Officers

Pres., TOM WALSH, Westgate Valley CC., Worth, Illinois.

Sec'y, FRANK T. SPROGELL, Kent CC., Grand Rapids, Mich.

Treas., WILLIE MAGUIRE, Houston CC., Houston, Texas.

Hon. Pres., GEORGE R. JACOBUS, Ridgewood CC, Ridgewood, N. J.

Hon. Vice-Pres., ROBERT T. JONES, WALTER HAGEN.

Vice-Pres., Howard Beckett, Capital City Club, Atlanta, Ga.; Capt. Charles Clarke, Willowick GC., Willoughby, Ohio; Charles Congdon, Tacoma G&CC., Tacoma, Wash.; Alex Cunningham, North Shore CC., Glenview, Ill.; Jimmy Hines, Lakeville CC., Great Neck, L. I., N. Y.; Larry Nabholz, Lakewood CC., Dallas, Tex.; George Schneiter, Ogden G&CC., Ogden, Utah; Ernest Smith, Ely Park GC., Binghamton, N. Y.; Eugene Wogan, Essex County CC., Manchester, Mass.

Golf Promotion Committee—Great impetus given golf in schools and colleges in 1940 by PGA sectional, national and individual efforts and coordination with National Golf Foundation. High school and college student group of 7,000,000 studied as market for tripling number of American golfers within next decade.

Class lesson methods being made more effective by study and exchange of experiences of pro leaders in this work.

Junior competitive events encouraged by pro attention and development of entrants.

Propose closer cooperation with inter-collegiate championship.

Cite Michigan PGA formation of state school golf extension program.

Secretary Charles Clarke—Total membership: 1,900. Increase of 44 from 1939. Secretary's office received 12,258 letters and 200 wires during the year.

Board of Trustees—Proposed benefit match fund-raising for maintaining PGA insurance policies of drafted members.

Loans and other payments from Benevolent fund for the fiscal year were \$4,622.25.

Publicity Committee—Senior's championship, golf clinics, golf "weeks," annual "get-together" dinners of pros, amateurs, sports writers, reported as having produced especially large volume of favorable publicity for pro golf.

Manufacturers' Relations Committee—Policed misuse of PGA label on store-sold goods.

Wrote officials of companies whose purchasing agents were buying golf goods "wholesale" for employees.

Asked discontinuance of store demonstrations during tournaments by players on manufacturers' staffs. Contracts with some players whose names are on goods also sold at stores prevented complete discontinuance of practice. Legal and public relations angles make the situation delicate for PGA. Curtailment of demonstrations was agreed upon.

Expressed appreciation for manufacturers' advertising pushing pro golf instruction and other services.

Proposed study and report on golf manufacturing and distribution problems to be made by committee of 3 neutral businessmen.

Tournament Committee—Suggested national pro-woman tournament with sectional qualifying rounds.

Proposed publication of booklet of PGA tournament rules and regulations.

Proposed naming of honorary Ryder Cup team for 1941, notwithstanding probable inability to play the matches.

Expressed pleasure at visit of Argentine pros.

Announced renewal of Tournament Bureau Manager Fred Corcoran's contract for 1941.

Tournament Bureau Mgr. Fred Corcoran—Renewed every 1940 tournament for 1941. Conducted 26 tournaments in fiscal year; purses totaled \$160,000.

Suggested that PGA-sponsored tournaments allow free admission to boys and girls younger than 16, also free gate for groups of school-age children.

Educational Committee—Based 1940 work on study of member questionnaire. Clinic and magazine educational publicity was featured.

Declared for further study of educational needs of members and recommended that each section conduct its own business clinic.

Boys' Camp Solves Wheeling's Caddie Problem

CADDIE shortage that became acute in several districts in late summer 1940, revived interest in caddie recruiting and training. A notable job in this field is being done at Oglebay Park, Wheeling (W. Va.) municipal course.

Homer Fish, supt. of Oglebay Park, tells that the caddie camp was started because it was noticed that many of the caddies were under-privileged boys who left home as early as 4 and 5 a.m. Many of the boys went without breakfast or lunch. Their activities enroute to the course and at the course awaiting employment frequently were ruinous to property and made discipline difficult.

The Oglebay Park GC raised \$1,000 for setting up and operating a caddie camp. A kitchen and dormitory were put in two buildings formerly used as a CCC camp. A camp director was employed and 40 boys were enrolled for the camp's first season. The boys paid sufficient amount from their earnings to make the camp self-supporting.

The kids chosen were those who were regulars in week-day and week-end caddy-ing. They became educational and control influences on the kids who were en-