



Bag carriers have become so popular at some courses that 'garages' have been built to house them. This one's at the Sportsman's course in the Chicago district.

Carts For Caddie Shortage

By JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN

"CADDIES are scarce." "Caddies are small." "Caddies are untrained." "Caddies are arrogant, which is natural when their services are in demand." "They insist on carrying double or won't work." Many golf clubs over the country report caddie problems similar to the above.

Caddie prospects for the immediate future do not look too bright, with more boys going into the army and defense industries.

There are 70 days in the spring and 60 to 70 days in the fall where there is a caddie shortage. There are only 80 days (during school vacation) when the club gets by without trouble.

How long will members of private clubs continue to support a club where they cannot play unless they carry their own clubs? For the first time members have found out that their big leather bags packed with clubs, balls, etc., are really heavy. On ladies' day, with no caddies around, will women continue to support a club that does not serve them? There will be other activities less trying on the nerves and clothes that will hurt golf if something is not done quickly.

Several of the private clubs in desperation have installed a number of Kaddie Karts and have been surprised to discover that their members welcomed them whole-heartily. Often a concern of the private club is that if the members take to them with too great enthusiasm it will

discourage use of caddies. Elmhurst CC in Chicago, however, solved this by purchasing a fleet of 40 of these carts. In renting these to the members at 50c a round they found that the member would prefer a caddie for the difference in fee. At the same time it offered a very satisfactory substitute when there were no caddies available, and enough members used the carts to relieve the shortage. Many days this fall at Elmhurst every cart was in use, and the women at the club are their greatest booster.

Following Elmhurst came Midlothian, Flossmoor, Old Elm, and many more 'best' clubs of the Chicago district—fully 40% have been equipped at the present time. One club will not allow a small caddie to go out without a cart. It is furnished by the club and the member is charged a small fee for its use, which is credited to the purchase fund. This club finds that by this method they can use many smaller boys who otherwise would be ruled out because of their size.

But club members are finding out that sometimes even small caddies are not available—except on weekends. Schools that formerly were willing to accommodate near-by golf clubs have had so many calls for releasing boys from school for caddying purposes that they are now refusing to do this. Bag carts, for those clubs, would solve their problem speedily—and efficiently.