

Will Combined Jobs Work Out?

By HERB GRAFFIS

AT THE graduation exercises of the Mass. State College 1942 winter school for greenkeepers, Gene Mosher, manager of the Toy Town Tavern Golf Course, Winchendon, Mass., read an interesting paper, "The Pro-Greenkeeper—His Obligation To Each Position."

Mosher's presentation of the situation was frank. It might be considered, by greenkeepers and by pros, an uncomfortable treatment of the pro-greenkeeping possibilities, but pro-greenkeepers themselves probably would endorse the Mosher address as a realistic recital of fact.

Gene told of the development of the combination job brought about by the necessity of curtailing expenses at clubs lavishly built and operated in the Twenties, and by the economies always required at the small community clubs, especially in the shorter-season territories of the north.

Forecasts More Combination Jobs

He forecasts more pro-greenkeeping jobs as the result of men being drawn from golf by wages in defense industries. He expected that numerous greenkeepers, because of their knowledge of machinery and their mechanical ability, would be leaving their club jobs for war-factory work.

It has been repeatedly observed that at clubs of fairly large membership and high class maintenance standards the combination job demands a rare type of man. He not only has to be good himself, but he must have an expert course foreman and a pro department assistant of above-average qualifications. Otherwise, if the man's a pro-greenkeeper, course maintenance may suffer, and if he's a greenkeeper-pro, pro department activities may lag.

Balancing the pro and greenkeeping work now that the combination jobs are becoming more frequent, looms as an imperative task of club operation in wartime. The greenkeeping job is certain to be tougher than ever before. So is the pro job. Notwithstanding the increased difficulty of handling each job, the pressure to combine the jobs will be stronger than ever. The pressure will

come mainly from the club's financial statement, then, probably, from pro or from greenkeeper, both of whom have greatly increased living expenses and urgently need more income than they generally get from golf club work.

While Mosher spoke of the wage appeal of factory work, he did not mention another factor that may push pros into other work. That is the possibility of shop sales being reduced sharply. This year the pro who has watched his credit will be able to get enough clubs and balls (new or reconditioned) to make a normal shop income. Signs now point to more golf play than ever before by the businessman and factory worker who has resolved to keep himself at top efficiency under wartime working pressure. It also is plain that there's a boom on, with many people who were just getting by before now having money that will be spent for recreation. Chances of spending for consumer goods are decreasing.

There has been some attention directed to the possibility of pros keeping shop sales up by more emphasis on accessory and apparel sales. How long stocks of these items will be available is anybody's guess.

Lessons May Be The Answer

Consequently, the pro job, either separate or in combination, is faced with a problem of adjustment. More lessons may be the answer in some cases. Certainly, a logical prospect is an extension of pro participation in the development of all recreational activities at the club, with an ensuing increase in club income that warrants a fitting salary for the work.

It's our hunch that pro-greenkeeping jobs will be increasingly hard to fill. We expected that pros would crowd the greenkeeping short courses this winter in view of the combination job opportunities in prospect. But attendance at most short courses fell off, and was comprised mostly of experienced greenkeepers anxious to learn everything they could in preparing for wartime emergencies.

Filling the jobs with combination men

Olin Dutra, pro at Wilshire CC, and several Wilshire members, have been tapped for the blood bank at Los Angeles. Olin gave a pint. Members, according to the Wilshire News, are wondering if a transfusion from the big Caballero wouldn't help to cure hooks and slices.

solely on the basis of reduction in payroll won't be the answer to the clubs. Any club in serving its community during wartime is going to have to be operated more energetically, ably and resourcefully than ever before. The pro who wants a pro-greenkeeping job because he needs the money rather than because he can coordinate and wisely economize operations of both departments is not an improvement in the situation at a club. The greenkeeper who takes over the pro department without being able to maintain member service on a competent and thorough basis, won't solve the club problem, either.

Quit Fighting Each Other

As the situation develops there are bound to be clashes and jealousies between pros and greenkeepers at clubs where harmony and intense cooperative work is required to keep the club going on a basis that will afford two good men in two exacting full-time jobs. That will be the major mistake of the men, and it probably will mean that both of them will be out of luck at the club instead of either one or both profiting.

This pro-greenkeeper adjustment is a delicate one at many clubs. Suspicions have smoldered among greenkeepers and pros as they have seen the number of combination jobs increasing

Now the men had better get together and figure out what's best for the club. This is no time to fight each other. The Japs, Nazis, and Italians should be the sole targets of fight now. The present pro and greenkeeper at a club, if they know what they should about the finances and membership of the organization, the club's prospects, and required work, are in best position to see whether a pro-greenkeeper job would be beneficial for the club. And if these two decided among themselves that the job should be a combination job, the fellow who considers himself least qualified or unwilling to take over the combination job responsibilities, might as well beat the gun and get himself a job in war work.

Otherwise the pro or greenkeeper may make the same mistake that was generally made by the nation, and find himself unprepared to meet the combination job problem brought forth by the inescapable dictates of wartime.

National Ringer Tourney Gets Under Way July 1

INVITATIONS are now being extended to golf clubs to compete in the second annual Peter Dawson National Ringer Golf Tournament, which will run for slightly over two months, starting July 1 and extending through Labor Day, September 7. Last year over 250 leading clubs throughout the country competed for the handsome Peter Dawson trophy, which was won by the Glen Oaks GC, Farmington, Mich.

The idea of the competition is to compile a composite score of the best 18 holes shot during the period of the tournament by each competing club's entire membership, including women players. Any club with a private, permanent membership and an 18-hole course of over 5,850 yards may compete. Scores made by women playing from ladies' tees shall be eligible for posting provided the ladies' tee is not more than 60 yards ahead of the regular tee.

The winning club is awarded the sterling silver Peter Dawson trophy, standing three feet high, for a one-year period. This cup is in perpetual competition. A smaller trophy for permanent possession of the winning club will also be awarded. In addition "Honor Award Certificates" will be sent to each competing club at the close of the competition, on which may be recorded the year's composite score as compiled by the members. A small engraved "Certificate of Perfection" will be sent anyone making a hole-in-one or double eagle.

Sponsors of the tournament, Peter Dawson Ltd., of Glasgow, Scotland, will supply each competing club with a scoreboard (size approximately 2' x 3') to be hung in the club foyer, pro-shop or locker-room. This board will have 18 numbered spaces on which individual scores may be posted. There is no entry fee. For further detailed information and entry forms address: Peter Dawson National Ringer Golf Tournament, 2 Park Ave., New York City.