

# What Is The Caddie Outlook?

By JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN

**A**RE there going to be enough caddies? Can we use girl caddies? Can we get caddies from the schools? Can we get caddies by paying more? Is the lack of caddies going to hurt our membership? What shall we do?

I have heard all these questions, and many more, during the past year. Since Pearl Harbor the problem has been acute. What to do? Let's look at this from the standpoint of Uncle Sam. Let's forget our own pleasures for a moment and see what the picture is.

War production needs every boy of 18 or over who is capable of development. They will be the producers and the fighters of the future. Boys 16 to 18 have many places just as important. They take the place of older boys in our local stores, shops, industries and on the farms. Sometimes boys even younger are used.

The other day I received the following letter from the Dept. of Agriculture:

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
U. S. D. A. DEFENSE BOARD  
Standard Office Building  
Decatur, Illinois

March 13, 1942

Associated Golfers of America  
82 West Washington Street  
Chicago, Illinois

Gentlemen:

*There appears to be a great shortage of labor in the vicinity of Chicago on the vegetable producing farms. The type of labor required on these farms could easily be handled by boys of grade school age. This is the same age group which acts as caddies on golf courses.*

*I would like to suggest that if your organization feels that they could make some contributions to the labor shortage around Chicago that you get in touch with Mr. Carl M. Bormet, Chairman of the County USDA War Board, 2414 W. Grove St., Blue Island, and arrange for a conference.*

*I am sure that every patriotic American is willing to do his part in this war effort.*

Very truly yours,  
LEE M. GENTRY, Chairman,  
Illinois USDA War Board

Here is an appeal to our patriotism to do what we can to release these young men for needed work. The vegetable gardens need the boys. But the cost of labor cannot be high. Yes, there are other places where our present caddies are needed desperately—and one of them is on the farms.

Is it good policy for private clubs to compete for these boys' labors? Is it possible, as I have heard many times, to bid the caddie fee up to make it attractive? Some clubs can do that. Most of them cannot.

A certain caddiemaster last fall stated that he was fortunate in having all the caddies he needed because he paid much higher rates than any other club could afford and he had no trouble. Another club hires caddies by the week for individual members. If the member plays, the caddie works. If he does not play the caddie does nothing but sit and loaf. These situations are nothing unusual. They exist all over the country. But the time for change has come.

Last fall as soon as school opened many courses received a sudden jolt from a real shortage of caddies. Even at that time the older caddies had begun to disappear. Since then we have had Pearl Harbor and the step-up in war production. Every week the shortage will increase. What will it be this spring? We will know very shortly about that.

What about girl caddies? Yes, it makes good publicity, but let's be sensible about it. Even if we could get some Amazons to tote our bags and even if we cut them down to three clubs and a Sunday bag, do the officials want to run the danger of injury and physical strain to the girls?

Then there is the question that they are girls, after all. Pictures show them

in shorts. Why? Can the boys keep their minds on the game that way? The shorts mean attraction, don't they? Who dressed them that way? And how about taking them back to town? No, I think the careful club will avoid the employment of girl caddies.

Clubs and their officials must plan carefully, and prepare the membership for the idea that they may have to do a little "lugging" of those clubs themselves. We can't afford to have anyone point to golf as a consumer of necessary labor. We don't want the finger of "hoarder" pointed at us.

We will have to give up many of our caddies to war work. Regardless of how "soft" we may be, or how much money we possess to hire someone to do our undesirable job, many of us will either give up golf, or do the job ourselves—or use a bag carrier on wheels.

## USGA Urges Clubs To Provide Golf For Army Camps

**A** USGA announcement dated March 26 tells that the association is now urging local and sectional golf associations and golf clubs to assume responsibility for the establishment of golf practice facilities for men in the Army within the bounds of their camps and training stations. Official USGA action on the practice range idea for training centers to help promote wholesome recreation, physical fitness and morale continues the planning begun last fall when GOLFDOM circulated among officials of men and women's district golf associations a proposal that the associations consider a plan to collect used clubs and balls to be turned over to servicemen for golf practice ranges.

The USGA, with the cooperation of Army officers, has compiled a list of larger camps where installation of golf facilities might be most feasible and desirable. Accordingly, members of the Executive Committee and certain sub-committees have drafted a list of recommendations under the general head, "Golf for the Armed Services," which they are sending to golf organizations located near these camps.

The highly successful golf practice range project at Camp Gordon, Ga., described in March GOLFDOM, and the realization of the popularity of the game at other camps where golf facilities al-

ready existed, was a motivating factor in the USGA move to get organized golf to provide our servicemen this type of recreation on a much broader scale. Clubs, or golf associations who have not received the USGA release outlining these recommendations may obtain same by addressing the USGA, 73 E. 57th St., New York City.

## Heavy Winter Play Spurs Golf Promotion Classes

**I**T'S been a good year for winter golf play in the Kansas City district, according to recent word from that section. Players who were 'out' whenever weather permitted missed only two weekends this past season. This heavy winter golf play in the district has also worked in very well with a golf promotion idea originated by Harry Railsback, supt. of K. C. muni courses, who worked in conjunction with John Moore, president, Board of Park Commissioners.

An indoor golf school was held each Tuesday and Friday during the month of February at the K. C. Municipal Auditorium. Two classes were handled each of these nights—a beginners class from 7 until 8:30, and the advanced group, from 8:30 till 9:30. From 200 to 250 students attended each of these sessions. All were required to register at each session, and the entire series was conducted on a very efficient and workmanlike basis. Nearly all the Kansas City pros attended these classes, offering free instruction.

Considerable enthusiasm for the classes was plainly evident among the students, and it is expected this 'pepping-up' will transform itself into actual play when the regular outdoor season gets under way. About 80% of the students were women.

## Nearly Sixty Attend Iowa Greens Short Course

**B**ETWEEN 55 and 60 turfmen attended the recent annual greenkeepers short course at Iowa State College, Ames. This total, while considerably under the usual attendance for this course, was equal to the average of the other short courses being held at ISC this year.

Dr. K. A. Welton, agronomy dept., Ohio Agricultural Experiment station, got the program under way with a fine presen-