



View of Interlaken's scenic clubhouse, where smart landscaping and use of shrubs add considerably to the attractiveness of the structure. A few of the club's caddies are lined up for inspection in this photo.

Pro's Mrs. Carries On

When Pro Amel Lentz joined the army, his assistant got his job—that was Mrs. Lentz

AMEL LENTZ, who used to be pro to the Interlaken GC, Fairmont, Minn., now is Pvt. Amel M. Lentz, 37197923, Antitank Co., 322 Infantry, APO 81, Camp Rucker, in case some of the fellows who knew him well in pro golf want to write him. Like all other soldiers Amel likes to hear from the fellows.

But in case anybody wants to write Amel asking if his old job is open, you'll get the answer here. It isn't!

Amel's assistant got the job and is doing very well at it.

His assistant is Mrs. Amel Lentz. The business affairs of many successful pros are handled back stage by their wives, but, so far as GOLFDOM knows, this case of the Lentz' is the first one in which a pro's wife stepped into his job when the pro went into the army. There may be other cases that we don't know, and it's a cinch that there will be numerous similar cases in the future.

Everything Going Smoothly

Well, how's the case at Interlaken worked out? So far, very good and with excellent prospects of the club making the necessary readjustment to wartime conditions with the utmost of economy and smoothness. The Lentz pair, Amel and Irene, thought of Interlaken as a career.

It's one of those attractive and ambitious smaller town clubs where conscientious, capable pro service really counts. The population of Fairmont is about 7,000, and even with golfers in surrounding communities and visitors to add to the revenue, smart pro department work and thrifty management are essential. The Lentz' were doing right well and the club was coming along in good shape when the war came.

The problems of the club they had discussed, and together they had planned many moves that resulted in the advancement of the club and the satisfaction of its members.

So when Amel went into the army the logical successor qualified by knowledge of what the club needed, was his wife. The club's board always had been very cooperative with Amel and had seen that his wife was a business woman of ability, energy and good judgment. They gave her the job of managing the pro department in her husband's absence.

Delicate or tough problems that come



Mrs. Amel Lentz



August Hilmer (r.) and son Victor whose principal work is maintaining the course.

up while Mrs. Lentz is getting the knack of handling the job on her own are taken up with board members who are keenly interested in helping Mrs. Lentz make good in this experiment of protecting the job of the pro who's away in uniform. An official of the club recently commented to Mrs. Lentz, "The board feels that while there is always room for improvement regardless of what any situation might be, that affairs of the club which now are in your hands are being handled satisfactorily and if the season continues as it now is going the club no doubt will end its year successfully."

Along with invaluable teamwork received from the club officials Mrs. Lentz has had the earnest cooperation of Greenkeeper August Hilmer and his son Victor who have maintained the course in excellent condition and who, despite their own crowded schedule of duties have cheerfully extended help to Mrs. Lentz.

Merchandising in the pro-shop has continued on the same basis it was conducted before Amel left for the army, and stocks are good for a club of the Interlaken class.

Club events are being conducted about the same as last year except that this year Red Cross and Army and Navy Relief get proceeds from the tournaments. The only change in the club's entertainment plan has been to eliminate two of the dinners on the 1941 schedule.

More golf has been played this summer at Interlaken than was played last season. Mrs. Lentz partially accounts for the increase by wartime daylight saving.

She has been able to provide a good number of caddies and has supervised their training and performance. The caddie supply at Interlaken always has been a problem but this year the problem is no more serious than usual. She has a shop helper who issues and checks in the bags, cares for the clubs and assigns the caddies.

The instruction of course won't be what it was when Amel was there but the golf spirit is kept bright, and recreation and a sound American pattern of such relaxation as is fitting in wartime is maintained at this club.

Winter Feeding of Wild Life—The value of bird life to turf betterment has been demonstrated over and over again. The bird population is being reduced faster than it is being replenished. Winter feeding is one of the most practical measures that can be taken to assure their continued existence. Contrary to popular notions, most starvation of birds is cumulative, the result of short rations over an extended period rather than for a few days only. This fact should be fully appreciated in planning for a winter feeding program. While intermittent feeding does some good, systematic feeding will be more helpful.

The small, winter, ground-loving birds can be fed by providing food for the game birds, but the tree-inhabiting kinds, including the downy woodpeckers, nut-hatches, and creepers can be attracted near dwellings and into groves by placing suet and other foods on and among the trees. The seed from ripened flower blossoms will attract certain birds onto the edge of the lawn, if the dried stems are left standing in the flower border. Certain trees and shrubs including privet, snow-berry, juniper, American elder, bayberry, honeysuckle, and barberry will greatly benefit bird life.

A growth consisting of buckwheat, wheat milo, kafir, sunflower, and soybean if allowed to stand unharvested over winter in a food-patch reservation will furnish excellent food and shelter for a variety of birds, rabbits, squirrels, and other wild life.—*Timely Turf Topics of USGA Green Section.*