

reported that 58 of its 90 member clubs made some form of new arrangement.

Fourteen public courses in and around Los Angeles give free golf to men in uniform from Monday to Friday, and lend clubs gratis; thirty-five clubs give complimentary privileges at any time to a service man with a club member, and games are arranged through USO centers. Members of clubs in the Southern California Public Links Golf Association have made their playing equipment available to service men during the week.

On the civilian side of golf's war picture, President Blossom said:

"The civilian men and women of this country are just as necessarily a part of the war effort as our fighting forces. No man or woman, either in the armed forces or civilian life, should work seven days a week without some form of relaxation.

"Golf plays a dual role for those who find it their form of relaxation. It is a participation sport where one has the benefits of physical exertion outdoors, coupled with the pleasant companionship of one's friends.

"The USGA would like to make it very clear that it is our firm conviction that

golf is a patriotic and proper form of exercise for the men and women of this country and that one should not have the feeling that it is in poor taste to play a game of golf in serious times like these—provided, of course, that it doesn't interfere with the war effort.

"It is my considered opinion that all who can afford it should continue, financially and otherwise, to sponsor their clubs—private, semi-private and public—thereby making them available for the men in the armed services as well as for themselves.

"As the months and possibly years roll by, the men and the women at home are going to be under more and more of a strain, and I think we would be derelict in our duty to our country if we failed to carry out some program of relaxation at intervals.

"We are going to need all the enthusiasm, vitality and stamina we can muster to get through this trying period, and I can't help but feel that we will all be better able to carry on if we do plan on a few hours each week for recreation and exercise. It is surprising how morale is benefited and troubles dissipate on a golf course."

## BRIEFS FROM USGA COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Rules of Golf:** Committee has received and answered somewhat fewer inquiries than normal. Some novel questions indicate possible need for rules changes, but these must wait until after the war, when the R&A can be consulted. Meanwhile, footnotes to the rules will clarify many of these situations.

**Implements and Ball:** Golf ball testing machine has been dismantled and stored at Illinois Institute of Technology for the duration of the war, but not until after the USGA had had an opportunity to test the "carry" of reprocessed balls; they are reported almost as long on carry as new balls. Sixteen various types and designs of clubs were presented for approval; few met the specifications set forth under the rules.

**Amateur Status and Conduct:** Only 32 requests for amateur reinstatement were received during the year (as compared with 51 in 1941 and 57 in 1940); of the 32, approval was given to 23 applicants.

**Membership:** 1942 losses outnumbered

gains, with the result the USGA roster dropped from 835 on Nov. 30, 1941, to 779 on Nov. 30, 1942. The latter figure include 21 clubs in the new \$5.00 per year Public Links Section membership classification, which carries all privileges except voting at USGA meetings, Green Section services and eligibility of members to compete in the National Amateur and Women's National

**Museum:** During the year, 16 donors augmented the golf museum and library of the USGA with an assortment of relics, including clubs and balls of early vintage, prints, photos, books and clubs used by famous golfers. The museum fund to buy items not otherwise obtainable now stands at \$370.45.

**Sectional Affairs:** Larger than ever before, with 55 members, this committee had much to do as the major link between the executive committee and the member clubs and sectional associations.

**Handicap:** Worked to develop a sound method of handicapping. Decided the first

step must be to establish a uniform course rating system. A preliminary proposal for such a system is now being tested in a limited way and the committee hopes to be able to make a final report at the next USGA meeting.

**Finance:** Income for the year was made up of \$19,615.60 from dues, \$761.00 from sale of literature, excluding sales by the Green Section, and \$858.58 from interest on investments and savings accounts, for a total of \$21,235.18. Expenses for the year amounted to \$39,051.50, breaking down into \$22,859.06 for administration and general expenses, \$14,099.83 for net Green Section expenses, \$603.09 for committee expenses and \$1,489.52 for research on balls and clubs. The excess of expenses over income reduced the USGA's surplus account from \$89,833.31 on Dec. 1, 1941, to \$72,016.99 on Dec. 1, 1942. Nearly all of this loss could be attributed to the USGA's war activities

*Report of the Green Section committee of the USGA will be found elsewhere in this issue.*

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## Camps May Aid in Caddie Problem

This year the training and supervision of caddies undoubtedly will take on many aspects of pre-military training and application of Boy Scout work to wartime duties, such as British Boy Scouts have admirably performed.

Consequently the caddie camp idea promises to be adopted where facilities are suitable. One of the most successful pre-war caddie training establishments was that at Poland Springs, Maine, described in the following article.—Editor's note.

EVERY morning during the pre-war summers, 75 tanned youngsters wearing yellow and green uniforms which are numbered on the back, emerged from a spacious yellow barn at Poland Spring, Maine, to take up their caddie duties at the Poland Spring 18-hole course. They were all boys from Boston's South End House, earning a vacation and possibly starting a career.

Of the twenty-odd caddie camps throughout America, perhaps the Poland Spring camp is the one best known, for many famous golfers of today were broken in here as caddies. Notable among these are Elmer Ward, amateur New England champion of 1930, Walter Phipps of Scarborough, Mass., George Corcoran of the famous Corcoran brothers, Art Wedgeworth of Merrimac Valley, Jimmy Dolan of Hillcrest in Worcester, the long-driving Carl Nettelblatt of Framingham, and Bill and Walter Cosgrove of Green Hill in Worcester and Wachusett, respectively.

Thomas J. Turley has directed the Poland Spring caddies ever since 1927, and is regarded as a cross between a Santa Claus and a Dutch Uncle. "We do not feel that we are doing our job here," he said, "unless we give the highest grade of caddie service. A strict oral examination is required after the eight-weeks' training course in Boston under leading pros and members of the state clubs. There's also a rating system on the golf course. The golfer gives the boy an A, B or C, and adds any pertinent remarks. In this way, we hear about any negligence.

"The boys are chosen as much for their physique as for their conduct rating in school. They submit to a rigid physical examination before going to camp. Last year we had 300 dentistry cases and 11 tonsillectomies, all performed without charge. The evening before they leave for camp the boys are given a superficial examination, which protects the golfer as much as the boys themselves. Each boy takes a shower every morning, there is daily inspection of both his person and room, and every lad has a change of uniform. They each pay \$6 a week room and board, and usually bring back a little pin-money in October."

The first caddie camp was pitched in Bretton Woods in the White Mountains. It was the late Robert A. Woods, pioneer of settlement house workers, and John P. Whitman of the South End House in Boston, who in 1907 concocted the idea of turning underprivileged street gamins out to pasture. The police station in the South End makes more adult arrests than any other station in the country, and yet delinquency has been cut down 50% since these camps have been organized. That 21 of the caddies at Poland Spring have entered the priesthood suggests its wholesome effects.