

## “War Workers Earn Gas for Golf”; Nicholas

**WILLIAM N. NICHOLAS**, park supt. of Pasadena, Calif., is quite positively of the opinion that workers who have earned the right to play golf for maintenance of health and spirit on the wartime production job should be allowed to use some of their limited amount of gas for golf.

Nicholas is not alone in that conviction, arrived at after considerable study. Others in position to know the facts say that work inside a blacked-out defense plant is developing an acute need for outdoor recreation such as golf provides. Lack of a balanced program of outdoor recreation is a noticeable factor in increasing absenteeism.

The Pasadena park authority, an expert on properly fitting recreation into community and national welfare, expresses his opinion in the following letter which he sent to George W. Blossom, USGA president, and Ed Dudley, head of the PGA.

Nicholas' letter:

“I am taking the liberty of writing to you as head of a national organization vitally interested in the future of golf—and also due to the fact that I happen to be one of those persons who, during these trying times, is charged with the responsibility of endeavoring to make municipal golf self-supporting. Even with the high salaries for maintenance and increased cost on every hand, I am confident it can be self-supporting with good management, providing we have a little cooperation from certain agencies in the federal government.

“No one is more interested in the welfare of this nation than the writer; no one is more willing to meet all sacrifice necessary in an all-out effort to win this war. But it irks me no end to see golf classified in the “Amusement” column along with theaters and other entertainment centers when I do not believe it rightfully belongs there. It has been referred to as such by the OPA, also by those interested in the rubber program, but I believe your organization is one which can see to it that this be eliminated and no longer referred to in this category, and that it be placed in the one where it properly belongs—

which is, to my way of thinking, Health and Recreation.

“I feel confident that the reference made emanates from pure ignorance and lack of first-hand information, as in our particular city a great portion of our play is either by service men or those in defense work, giving an all-out effort and using the golf courses for wholesome recreation and relaxation.

“If the right group presented this problem, this erroneous impression could be corrected. In view of the fact the military group is spending tremendous sums to build up the men physically before they are assigned to active duty, and knowing the far-reaching health benefits golf affords in such a health program—I am sure we should be able to have golf taken out of the amusement classification and placed in its proper category.”

## Turn in Old Balls or Else . . .

**BILL GRIMES**, Boston American sports writer, warns that golf faces a dead end not distant unless “golfers turn in an old ball for every new one they purchase.” Even on that basis, Grimes writes, need of using some of the turned-in balls to provide ball restoration material and inability to restore some of the badly used balls that are turned in, means that the supply will diminish.

Grimes quotes Matt Kiernan, Spalding sales executive, in telling about the situation of rapidly developing seriousness. Matt says it's no longer a matter of selling golf balls, but of trying to get enough balls to keep the game alive. Grimes maintains that pros or stores that don't insist on taking in a used ball for every reconditioned ball so'd are going to compel closing of many courses.

**It's a Long Walk**—Bill Loeffler writes from his location with an anti-tank company at Camp Shelby, Miss.: “As a golf pro and greenkeeper I thought I'd always done a lot of walking, but I have found out what walking really is since I entered the army. I sure hope that something will be done on gas rationing and labor for golf so the game can continue. There isn't any other sport today that deserves greater consideration.”