

over into riding trails, jumping fields, etc. The first nine holes, after a brief existence, gave up the ghost.

Cheviot Hills, formerly the very popular California Country Club, found a bonded indebtedness of \$480,000 too much—reorganized with the bondholders agreeing to more than cut the figure in half—and still could not make the grade. The club was taken over by the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company which closed both course and field house—but at the moment a new group, with the mystery man golfer, John Montague, at its head, has taken an option on the property and proposes to open it as an exclusive motion picture club in the near future. It will be called Rolling Hills.

In the San Diego area an interesting situation developed when the San Diego CC, at Chula Vista, in financial difficulties, sold golf course and club to the Rohr Aircraft Company as a recreation center for employees Ralph Guldahl, former Open champion, is the professional—and business is booming.

The old Rancho Club, owned by the United States Government and operated as a public links by the late La Verne Nichols, "blew up" when Nichols died a few months ago. Today the City of Los Angeles is negotiating with the Federal

government and expects to purchase the property and operate it as a public links. It is close in and good property—but Uncle Sam has a million dollar tax lien against it.

There, in a rambling sort of way, is the golf picture in Southern California. Clubs that are doing well are doing wonderfully—but most of the food served is of the non-ration variety. Professionals in many cases devote eight hours to war work and perhaps four hours to golf instruction. Caddies are, largely, in military service and an acute shortage prevails everywhere. The golf ball situation isn't bad. Players purchasing golf balls are required to turn in old balls.

The clubs that have failed seemed destined to fail anyway, as in every case their downfall could be attributed to top heavy bond issues against them. It has, actually, been surprising that those that are closed held on as long as they did. Today both clubs and public links are in excellent financial condition and will, assuredly, weather the storm.

But—

The most frequent topic of locker room conversation you hear is the question: "When is Washington going to let us have a little rubber for golf balls?"

Washington Courses Jammed All Season

By WALTER McCALLUM

GOLF around the nation's Capital went into a sharp nose dive on the competitive side during 1943, but where the solons of the game early in the year decided competition was no go, the golfers themselves tossed the challenge back at them with more friendly rounds than ever before played on overcrowded courses.

Early in the year the Congressional CC, one of Washington's largest links organizations, with a membership of around 800, was taken over by the War Department as a base for military training on Congressional's nearly 400 acres. That threw hundreds of golfers out of a place to play. They flocked to other clubs. The net result: long waiting lists at several of the dozen clubs around the Capital, a frenzied rush to get in, and many forced to forego the game entirely because of crowded country clubs.

Public links concessionaire S. G. Loeffler, operator of 5 public courses

within the circumscribed limits of the District of Columbia, closed his East Potomac Park course, center of public activity and the Navy took over the West Potomac Park layout, building dormitories on the course. That shunted public course play to Rock Creek Park and Anacostia Park for whites, and Langston for colored. Play at all courses was heavy, but lacking in competition.

Two periods of no-pleasure automobile driving cut down private club play, but despite the gasoline edict the golfers thronged all courses, and on lifting of the pleasure driving ban the game returned to above normal activity. So far this year all clubs around Washington report much higher play than for the same period a year ago.

Washington is crowded with service officers who get an afternoon a week off for exercise. During the long days of summer they slipped out late in the afternoon.

Transportation restrictions naturally affected play to some degree, but in the face of crowded bus and streetcar facilities golf showed an upturn in total rounds played at all clubs.

Congressional is the only club around Washington which has closed its doors to golfers. That club has a favorite contract with the War Department which will aid in reducing its outstanding debt when the property is returned to the club. Service men were welcomed, free of charge in the case of enlisted men, and with reduced fees to officers, at most of the clubs around Washington. Woodmont, located near the great Naval Medical Center, took in around 40 Navy officers Washington G&CC's service roll has a waiting list, and Chevy Chase and Columbia have long civilian waiting lists. Kenwood took some of the Congressional members left out when their club closed, and Manor took others, while some went to Indian Spring, but on the whole all clubs were crowded.

With the membership at peak all clubs are in good financial shape, and expect to remain so for the duration of the war. When the war ends and Congressional returns to the private club fold many old members will return, but Washington could absorb another big private club without losing many members from other links organizations.

The Women's District GA, a lovely outfit, carried through a 12-event tourna-

ment schedule, with smaller fields than in past years, due to transportation restrictions. Neither the women or the men held a championship tournament.

The pros, lacking sales of clubs and balls in the volume of other years, report diminution in business over pre-war years, but are carrying on, hopeful conditions will improve, particularly on the golf ball side. Wiffy Cox, veteran Congressional pro, went to Hempstead, L. I., when his club closed for the duration.

Columbia, Chevy Chase, Kenwood and Manor planted victory gardens last spring, with Columbia making more than two-score plots available for its members. Vegetables raised in the gardens, in some cases, were used in the clubs themselves.

Around Washington, which is sure to be overcrowded during the war, golf needs more room and more courses. Outlying clubs are sure to suffer from lack of transportation, but the clubs which are on street car or bus lines will far exceed normal peace time play, and their business operations are sure to show a better situation than in pre-war years.

Early this year some took the attitude that a man carrying a bag of golf clubs might be a target for finger pointing, as a war effort obstructionist. During the period of gas rationing that was particularly true. But now the situation has changed. Golfers no longer fear they will be called war obstructionists by carrying their clubs openly.

Atlanta District Has Fine Year

By O. B. KEELER

TAKING it up one side and down the other, I'd say the golfing situation in the Atlanta district is decidedly more up than it is down, as compared with the performance last year; that is, in 1942, the first year of the War Years. That goes for the private clubs and the public courses as well.

East Lake, Capital City, Druid Hills and Ansley Park report a somewhat startling influx of new members in our town, and special provisions are made for officers and enlisted men in the Service to pay dues for the period they are to be in this vicinity, rather than the usual initiation fees for membership. Play at Old East Lake, which closed its No. 2 course nearly a year ago, has picked up to where they are contemplating reopening that layout. It is up around 200 on Saturday and

Sunday, with 35-45 on week days. I have not heard of any clubs in Atlanta or the neighboring towns closing, though some clubs, as the Coosa CC at Rome, have shut off nine holes.

The physical condition of all the layouts around here is emphatically better than usual; not only better than last year. The favoring weather had a lot to do with this, but the fact remains that most of our courses are in as fine condition as they ever have been.

The general attitude toward golf is somewhat complicated. The age-trend of course is toward golfers of 40 years and up; and the interest is in golf as a recreation—not as a tournament competition. The ladies (God bless 'em), also, are carry-

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