

Golf Meets War Demands

(Continued from Page 12)

ing on gallantly. A lot of them have enlisted in various Service branches and Red Cross work; a lot of them are canning, or were during the season; yet the gals played their Georgia State and Atlanta City championships, with fairly representative fields, while the boys have called off their formal competition, and confined their tournaments to club championships, compressed as much as possible into week-end affairs.

Some of the clubs went in for Victory gardens. East Lake reports 50 bushels of excellent sweet potatoes, scaling up to 5 pounds, and a flock of turnips. Capital City had a Victory garden, but lost most of the produce during the nights—which, of course, means that the vegetables went on somebody's table; East Lake produced worthy supplies from a garden near the No. 4 green, and used them for the club service.

The rapidly increasing Bell Aircraft population at Marietta, 20 miles from Atlanta, has boosted play at the famous old Marietta CC; and North Fulton, the last course laid out by the late Chandler Egan, and a truly great layout, reports at least 200 regular players from the Bell plant.

There are 7 public courses in the Atlanta District, five city and two county, and it is rather significant that under the regime of George Clayton, president of the Atlanta Public Links GA, three of our public courses, North Fulton, Adams Park and Bobby Jones, recently have joined the USGA.

"And we should like it to be generally known," adds Mr. Clayton, "that we are grooming North Fulton for the National Public Links championship, to be played there the second year after the War is over. Denver has the first turn; and North Fulton the second."

It may also be noted with a modicum of pride that the Atlanta Public Links GA got Bing Crosby and Bob Hope down here to play in an exhibition four-ball match with Johnny Bulla and Ed Dudley, president of the PGA, for the Red Cross—and the biggest gallery that ever followed a golf match in Atlanta, at the the Capital City CC, turned up \$5,220 for the Red Cross fund.

The private clubs all are encouraging Service men to play, with half-rates where indicated; the public course rates are so low as not to make much difference—

25 cents for the nine-hole layouts; 50 cents for the 18-hole courses, on week days, and up to 50 cents and \$1 on Saturdays and Sundays.

The transportation problem in and around Atlanta is not acute, because of rather good service by the street car and bus lines.

On the whole (again) the 1943 golfing situation is a lot better than it was in 1942, when everybody was pretty much up in the air and not always with the right end up. The main problem right now is golf balls. One big, private club recently was down to one type, a 50-cent ball, and still is dealing only in reprocessed balls. I beg to record that inquiry from one and all—what about the golf ball problem? They would adore to get some inside information from you fellows who know what there is to know about it.

The caddie problem of course sticks out like a sore thumb; but a lot of more or less stalwart addicts are toting their own clubs; and the program of play is being staggered so as to fit the situation as well as possible.

But no clubs or courses are closing up, so far as I can learn; and financially the private clubs seem to be going very well; the membership maintenance really is remarkable. Our folks down here seem sensibly inclined to keep on golfing for the relief it brings from the strain of work and worry; and at this writing it seems a reasonable conclusion that they will keep on playing, for the duration. And there again, what about them golf balls?

Transportation Bothers West Pennsylvania Golfers

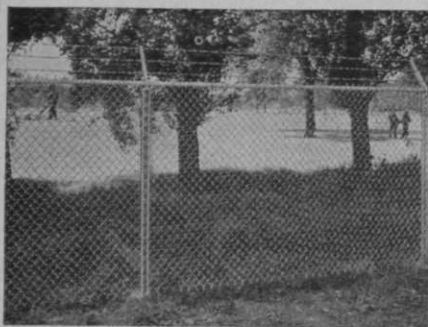
By CHET SMITH

WESTERN Pennsylvania golf was down noticeably this year, but to quote Mr. I. W. Danforth, president of the West Penn GA, "There was no damage at all to the basic popularity of the game or to the organization structure of the individual clubs or the ruling organizations—which will make for a quick return to normalcy when the great day dawns."

During the ban on pleasure driving, play at both private and public courses was off about 50 per cent, but when the ban was lifted Sept. 1, there was an immediate 25 per cent rise all around, so

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it may be deduced that the war has lopped off about one-quarter of the number of golfers hereabouts. Clubs that cater to younger membership were hard hit, but most of the years' resignations were due to members leaving for the services, rather than other causes. Not a single major club closed in Western Pennsylvania; the only one that closed up shop was Wildwood, a former private course that had been taken over by a professional operator, who sought to turn it into a semi-private venture.

In the pay course league, Schenley, city-owned, and located immediately on street car and bus lines, had an almost normal season, while the county-owned North and South parks courses, which lack good transportation facilities, were reduced to about half their usual play.

Servicemen were given almost a free hand. They were welcome everywhere but, because Pittsburgh is near no large camp and thus has no more than a handful of 'permanent resident' soldiers and sailors, this was a negligible factor in the game here.

The clubs did well financially, heavily supported the dime-a-round program, but didn't do much in the Victory Garden line. They found for the most part members preferred their own gardens nearer home—although the employees of many clubs did garden on the grounds.

The Women's GA called off its inter-club matches and all district tournaments, but women's play remained at a high level, and the girlies, as usual, saved the day.

Nearly all the district professionals spent only week-ends at the clubs and worked during the week in defense plants. Sam Parks, Jr., the former open champion, was an example. He could be found at his club—South Hills—only on Satur-

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TIMELY TURF TIPS

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Greens and tees should not be neglected. They should get enough fertilizer to ward off disease and maintain dense turf. We expect to furnish Milorganite in limited quantity for this purpose and hope before long chemical nitrogen will become available again for use on these vitally important areas.

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day afternoons and Sundays. He is with a local steel company and doing a good job. The PGA held its open championship but extended it over some three weeks, with the matches being played whenever the participants could arrange to get to the course on the same day. Parks copped the duke in this one.

The West Penn GA dispensed with its one-day tournaments and held only the amateur championship and the junior. The latter was held early in the season and nearly half the field that took part is now in uniform.

The feeling here is that golf has taken only a mild beating and will be ready to come back strong when the war is over. What will happen next year depends, of course, on how many holes-in-one the absentees score in Europe and the Pacific, but all organizations are keeping the wheels turning. All they will have to do when the resume play order comes through is throw 'er into gear and move off.

Help Lt. Horton Smith Bring Golf to Army Fliers

Lieut. Horton Smith of the Army Air Forces at Seymour Johnson Field, Goldsboro, N. C., reports that there's a demand and need for a practice driving range and putting green at the field where he's stationed. It looks like Horton has, as an after-hours duty, the job of getting these facilities planned, installed and equipped.

Horton has been so completely at work as an Army airman he hasn't been able to keep in touch with what the situation is about getting equipment for the proposed facilities. So, in answering his letter of inquiry to GOLFDOM, we told him that these Army and Navy installations generally are supplied by collections of

A Job to Do

You're an important guy right now, Mr. Pro. You must meet a lot of problems to keep your members playing, and have your course in good condition. Many of you work at war jobs, yet do double duty at the club so that your players may continue to gain healthful relaxation through their golf.

Yes, you Pros have a job to do, and you are doing it.



ADDRESS FOR MAIL—LENEXA, KANSAS

Kenneth Smith