

Greenkeepers Lauded for Hospital Greens Work

APPRECIATION of the putting greens installed at the Downey hospital, Great Lakes, Ill., and at the Edward Hines hospital has been expressed officially to the Chicago District GA for financing these recreational facilities for hospitalized servicemen by the Victory National championships. The expressions of gratitude have been relayed to the Mid-West Greenkeepers Assn. by Lowell D. Rutherford, pres., CDGA for the greenkeepers' vigorous and unselfish sacrifice of time in constructing the putting areas.

Ray Gerber, pres., together with Bill Stupple, Frank J. Dinelli, John MacGregor, Gus Brandon and Fred Ingwerson of the Mid-West association have been sent copies of letters received from

Charles G. Beck, manager of Hines Hospital and Col. Delmar Goode of the Downey establishment.

"While the Mid-West Greenkeepers Assn. did not formally appear as a sponsor of the Victory Golf Championships," L. D. Rutherford stated, "their cooperation and assistance in providing golf greens at both Hines and Downey has been most noteworthy."

Among those participating in ceremonies conducted at Downey for the official opening of the greens were L. D. Rutherford; Col. Delmar Goode, commanding officer of the hospital; Ray Gerber; W. P. Kleuskens, Cook County Commander, American Legion; Mrs. Frank Yarlone, Bundles for America; Miss



This galaxy of golfing talent was part of the ensemble which opened the new golf green at Hines hospital, west of Chicago, one of the installations financed by the Chicago District GA and Illinois PGA, and constructed by Midwest Greenkeepers' Assn. members... L. to R.: Mike Stolarik, Lt. Patty Berg, Byron Nelson, Babe Zaharias, George Dawson, Craig Wood, Sam Byrd, Catherine Fox, Phyllis Otto, Marjorie Row, Dorothy Germain, Jeanne Cline, George Tainer.

Mary Lou Laird, American Women's Voluntary Services; Stanley Van Dyk, American Legion; and Eddie Bush, sec., Illinois Section, PGA. After the ceremonies, Chick Harbert, Babe Zaharias, Patty Berg and Johnny Revolta played an exhibition match for the hospitalized patients.

The afternoon following the Downey green opening a group of golfers including Sam Byrd, Byron Nelson, Chick Harbert, Craig Wood, Gene Sarazen, George Dawson, Mike Stolarik, Tommy Armour, Harry Cooper, Babe Zaharias, Patty Berg, Dorothy Germain, Catherine Fox, Jeanne Cline, Georgia Tainter and Marjorie Row gave a shot-making exhibition for the patients after opening the putting greens at Hines Hospital.

Charles G. Beck, manager of the Hines hospital, in letters to M. G. "Scotty" Fessenden, ex-pres., CDGA, declared: "I want to thank you and the Chicago District GA for the enthusiastic interest you have

shown in developing additional recreational facilities at our hospital. My contacts with you and others of your committee as well as the brief contact with the golf stars who were here the other day cause me to believe that there are a lot of swell people in the golf business. It was a good show and a number of patients have expressed to me their appreciation for having had the opportunity of attending. It gave them the first chance in their lives to see some of the top-notch golfers. They are also looking forward to the time when the putting green will be in use. I know it will provide many hours of pleasant recreation and diversion. I hope from time to time you will have the opportunity to get out and see us, and I know that after the green is in condition to use, you will be anxious to learn from our own observation the extent which the patients make use of it."

Plan Now for Season-end Golf Ball Collection

C CLUB OFFICIALS and pros are advised that today is not too early for beginning to plan end-of-season collection of used balls for remaking during the winter. It is pointed out by ball manufacturing authorities that in some areas now the shortage of well reconditioned balls is acute because used balls were turned in as late as May, June and July this year after being held in players' possession through last winter. Labor shortage at the plants of responsible ball makers has made it impossible to remake and return balls fast enough to care for the demand.

The 1945 season will be the fourth in which no new balls have been made. Salvage possibilities of the used ball stocks are diminishing rapidly. The overall salvage percentage has been reduced to about 80% of the balls turned in. Grading of the balls is being maintained on a firm basis by leading manufacturers with the result that the better grades of reconditioned balls are diminishing in percent faster than the general supply.

Failure of golfers to keep the stock of used balls in fairly good condition, going through the reconditioning process has been a factor in reducing the supply of the better grade of remades. Turning in the balls only after they have been hacked deeply requires use of much material in reprocessing. This material has to be obtained from other used balls, hence the badly damaged balls sharply reduce overall stocks that can be returned to the market.

What club officials and members usually don't know about the ball reprocessing procedure is that balls turned in through pros are graded carefully by leading established ball makers with brand reputations to preserve and that shipments of reconditioned balls are made in ratio to the grades turned in. This procedure usually assures the pro patron the best available reprocessed balls but he upsets the procedure when he is tardy in turning in used balls and wants a supply of reconditioned balls quicker than manufacturing facilities permit. Then he has to take anything that's on hand, and is lucky to get it.

What has messed up the used ball situation to a marked degree is the reprocessing done by hit-and-run reprocessors who have used string, yarn or other non-elastic material in rebuilding cores to size. The covers are moulded on and repainted and the victim doesn't know from the looks of the outside of the ball how he's been gyped. Now that discovery of such practice is becoming more extensive the golfers are seeing the wisdom of turning their used balls into pros for reconditioning and return by the reliable ball makers. A smart idea for the pro who wants to speed up ball collection and get old balls turned in for winter reconditioning would be to put in his shop a display sign showing the inside of one of the gyp-reconditioned balls and wording emphasizing the good judgment of turning in balls early for correct reprocessing by reliable companies.

Ball manufacturers assert they have been conducting the reprocessing business