

Experts Tell Answers to Wartime Problems

Difficulties Many and Tough But These Men Kept Golf Clubs Serving Members

Last Year Showed Us How to Get By in 1944

By JOHN ANDERSON

Supt. Essex County CC, West Orange, N. J.

THERE is no doubt that greenkeeper resourcefulness had to be keyed to a high pitch during 1943. The golf courses were not kept in playable condition the past season, by any hit or miss methods. Maintenance was a carefully thought-out program.

We planned during the winter months of 1942-43, and after much deliberation and inquiry came to the conclusion that labor was to be our biggest worry. Fortunately we were fairly well equipped with machines, as we had been installing labor saving machinery for the past two or three seasons, as finances could afford.

After seeing to it that all machines were in the best possible shape, we studied the labor situation and found that the best we could expect would be three of our 14 men to stay with us. The others were either in the army or in defense plants. However, another three who were on night shift volunteered to work at least three hours a day. That was equal to another man's full time. The remainder of the crew had to be school boys, but April 1st is a long way to school vacation, and about April 1 began the season for grass to grow and work to be done. I contacted many school boys and at length settled on four to come to work immediately after school, 3:00 P. M., and work until 6:00 P. M. That was almost equal to another man and one-half. Five and a half men for two 18 hole courses.

We were able to keep the greens and fairways mowed, and sometimes the trees. More often the tees would be missed for a week. Our sand trap brush harrow, which I mentioned in a previous GOLFDOM article, came in very handy, and we were able to keep the sand smoothed about once a week.

But the grass around the traps and bunkers was getting so long and dense by the time school vacation came around that some of the players were wondering if we could burn it off. That was out; green grass won't burn, and we had no gasoline to spare. However, after school vacation released the four boys for whole days, we gradually began to see some im-

provement in the condition of the courses, and we were able to do a few of the jobs that had been omitted, such as topdressing, weeding and scything.

That was our experience which probably set the procedure for 1944 too. I must take off my hat, both to the public links and private club golfers. They were very cooperative and appreciative at times when they had plenty of reasons to grouse.

Tough Years Are Good for Us

By CPL. WARREN ORLICK

(Formerly pro, Monroe (Mich.) G&CC)

GOLFDOM's request for information about operating ideas to keep golf clubs lively and helpful in wartime was forwarded to me at camp. Charles Stevens is taking my place at Monroe for the duration.

A pro in the Army doesn't forget his attachment to his club. He wants the club to keep going strong, not selfishly because it's postwar employment for him, but because of the very pleasant relationship he has enjoyed with club members and because he sees from a good perspective now how important an attractive club can be in maintaining the wartime zip and health of members.

In my case, the club is far more than a job that I always tried to handle to the best of my ability. When I entered the Army last year the club gave me a wonderful dinner and a very substantial purse. When I came home on a furlough the club gave my wife and me an open house dinner that was very well attended. Those things sure make a fellow feel like fighting twice as hard to make sure that those wonderful times at the clubs go on all over the USA after the war's over. I'm counting the days until I can get back and start in where I left off.

Our club, since I left Grosse Ile and Joe Devany and went with it in 1940, has had outstanding presidents who have operated it in the black every year since its re-organization. I think the most essential factor in successful wartime management of golf clubs is able presidents. Our heads have built up a \$10,000 fund in war bonds that will be used for improvements after the war. It is entirely debt-free.

One affair that has helped business at our club is something that might well be