

## Greenkeeper Low Salaries Threat to Golf

AN EASTERN golf maintenance authority comments on GOLFDOM'S frequent references to the value of greenkeeper short course and other educational meetings:

"All the research in the world is no good if the man who is supposed to apply it cannot understand it, and all the golf maintenance educational facilities are of no particular value if the men who are supposed to apply it are not encouraged by earnings and security to have ambition in their jobs and results. The man who is satisfied with a low living standard cannot possibly understand the reasons for expecting a high standard of course maintenance.

"Golf clubs often are luckier in the calibre of their greenkeepers than they have a right to be, considering the generally low scale at which greenkeepers' salaries have been during the war. Now clubs are paying far more in proportion for inexperienced and unsatisfactory course labor than they are, in numerous cases, paying their greenkeepers. At one club I visited recently caddies carrying double are making \$8 to \$9 a day with tips. Laborers with their overtime pay get more than the greenkeeper, as are waiters.

"Yet the basis of the club's entire operation is a course kept in fine condition by the genius and hard work of a man who has been with the club many years and knows and loves every inch of ground on the course. No wonder many good men have left greenkeeping, although some of them expect to return after the war when their former clubs will need restoration and are willing to pay adequate salaries.

"Considering the club's financial stake in the greenkeeper's job, \$65 a week and a livable house, on a yearly basis, is about the minimum that an 18-hole club should consider paying. Now farm papers carry advertisements seeking grounds foremen for \$60 a week, and tree climbers for the same money.

"One 27-hole course in my state is paying its greenkeeper \$1800 a year and use of a tumbledown house. It is the same gross pay the club paid 20 years ago, but now it's minus state and national taxes and social security, and the remainder buys less."

**WATCH CADDIE INTERESTS**—Harvey Penick, pro at Austin (Tex.) CC, is of the opinion that among the pro's many duties now, caddie control is one of the most important. Penick points out that although it's hard enough to get caddies that shouldn't allow any lowering of the standard of conduct of the youngsters

brought into association with the game. Prevention of gambling and other undesirable activities call for pro and club official attention to supply attractive and wholesome recreation facilities, Penick reminds. He also says that much more attention than usually is given should be devoted to food and beverage supplies for caddies at clubs. He points out that Selective service physical examinations have revealed serious extent of nutritional and other deficiencies that might have been partially corrected by concerted and correct planning for caddies.

**OFFERS BALL TRADE**—John Sproul, U. S. Rubber golf ball sales mgr., relays from a Boston newspaper a letter to the editor. A U. S. Army flier's mother wrote:

"My son, Lt. John C. Van Arsdale, who was formerly somewhat well-known in golfing circles and Boston and Cape Cod, where he was junior champion for some years, has managed to get in some playing at the game while a lieutenant in the 9th Air Force in England. He has just sent me a pretty wonderful letter which he received from a 9-year-old English boy in reply to an advertisement which Lt. Van Arsdale put into a paper there trying to locate some golf balls, which are apparently as scarce as they are here.

"Here is a copy of the English boy's letter:

"The Laurels,

"Gringleford, Norwich.

"Dear American Officer:

"I am Peter Turner, aged 9. Will you like to swap my 4 golf balls for 2 pkts. of candy or chewing gum. Please write or phone. I get home from school about 4:30.

"Sorry I haven't got more. If you fly a B-17 or B-24 you can have them for nothing.

"From Peter,

"With lots of luck to you."

**HEAT WAVE**—For your records you'll probably want the hole-by-hole world record best-ball score of the Les Bolstad-Joe Coria team in making the 59 that took seven points from Chick Harbert and Mike Turnesa in the July 8 fourth round of the \$10,000 Golden Valley best-ball tournament. Les and Little Joe blew to a 71 in the fifth round. The Nelson-McSpaden team won the event with 13 points. Here's the Bolstad-Coria round:

Out—

Par ..... 5 5 4 4 3 5 4 3 4—37  
Bolstad-Coria 3 4 4 3 3 4 4 2 4—31

In—

Par ..... 5 3 4 5 3 4 4 3 5—36—73  
Bolstad-Coria 4 2 4 4 2 3 3 2 4—28—59