

About Caddie Problems

THE caddie situation this year is receiving more attention than ever before. One of the main features of the caddie plans this year is closer cooperation with school authorities. Charles Mayo, now pro at Hackensack (N. J.) CC, relates that last year when he was at Cherry Valley the club had an unusually good situation in having its caddie chairman the local superintendent of schools.

Al Lesperance, pro at Shaker Heights CC (Cleveland district) tells how that club has been minimizing its caddie problem. Says Lesperance:

The Caddie committee at Shaker Heights CC is composed of three members who have been for the past eight or nine years on this same committee. They are very much interested in the welfare of the boys.

Eight years ago they hired a man whose previous training and experience was in handling boys.

The above two items are in my judgment the important factors in the successful operation of any caddie department.

We have two grades of caddies. Beginners are paid \$1.25 per round of 18 holes, and the Class A boys are paid \$1.50 per round.

The boys have a nice clean playground. They have table tennis tables, paddles and nets furnished by the club. The balls are sold to the boys at cost. There is a space for softball. A set of boxing gloves also is furnished with all boxing matches held while the caddie master can be on hand.

The club furnishes a clean room in the caddie house where the boys can read, eat their lunch, or rest. A music box and games are provided for them, and there is talk of installing shower baths. The boys have a club with their own officers, and they are starting an orchestra.

The caddie master keeps daily records of attendance and deportment, and the grades turned in by the members on the boys' work. At the end of the season at the annual dinner, prizes are given the boys having the best grades. The top prizes for the past two seasons have been a set of eight irons, a set of four wood clubs, two bicycles, sweaters, leather jackets, shirts and many other items.

At the beginning of the season each boy is given a light weight shirt with a monogram of the club on the front. In the fall, each boy is given a heavy sweat shirt. Rubber capes to protect the boys from rain are kept at the caddie house.

Funds to pay for all of the above are

donated by the club members, through the efforts of the three committee members.

The boys are allowed to play golf on Monday mornings during school vacation.

PGA manuals are used by the caddie master to help train the boys. He also has taken a number of motion pictures on the way we wish the caddies to work.

During the past two seasons we have not had all the boys we could have used, but there were very few times when the members have had to carry their own bags.

Probably the most successful caddie-master in the country is the veteran Tom O'Hara of the Denver (Colo.) CC. Tom has codified his chief operating policies, which are:

"Caddie's name, age and address should be registered in a book.

"Each caddie should be numbered and placed in the class they belong, according to their experience as a caddie. First class from No. 1 to 100, second class No. 101, etc.

"First-class caddies are paid more than second-class caddies according to the rates prescribed by the club.

"Caddies disobeying rules are laid off for one week to one month, according to which rule they disobeyed, and placed in second class; for third offense discharged.

"Caddies are placed in class according to reports from members and as caddie master judges the improvement of the caddies.

"Caddies should be taken out on golf course once a week and instructed by caddie master what to do and where to stand.

"Caddies should be taught politeness and manners by the caddie master.

"The instructions to caddies should be read and explained to all caddies every morning.

"Caddies should be told to address members by 'Mr.', 'Mrs.' and 'Miss' and should answer 'Yes, Sir,' and 'Yes, Ma'm,' which will help the game and the boy.

"If a caddie takes a ball or golf club he should not be discharged, he should be told where he is wrong and given a chance to do right. I have had a number of boys do wrong and turned them on the right way in my experience of boys in my 50 years as a caddie master.

"Caddie masters should cooperate with school authorities by not employing school boys during school hours; and school authorities should cooperate with caddie masters by excusing caddies for special occasions."