

Golf is "Play-Therapy" for War-Blinded

By RAY HAYWOOD

WHEN golf makes a man forget personal troubles to the extent he becomes exasperated by a shanked iron shot this exasperation is proof that far more serious worldly worries have been forgotten for the moment at least.

When the man who becomes irritated over a mere golfing mishap has other worries so great they appear insurmountable, the exasperation in itself is proof that the game is serving as a balm to a harried mind.

When the man who swings the club is blind, convalescing in an Army hospital, it is proof that the game is offering more than relaxation, its usual and also highly important function.

This is exactly what golf is doing at Dibble General Hospital near Menlo Park (Calif.) where doctors use it as part of a "play-therapy" designed to convince those who have lost eyesight in the service of their country that they can still live a life of action and movement.

The psychiatrists found that former golfers who were blinded immediately relegated the game to their memories of a distant and happy rest. In their cases

the clean "click" of a club against hard rubber had in a second a subconscious effect far more salutary than normal psychiatric procedure applied over a period of months—and more certain.

The Stanford University course is the laboratory in which this new and successful experiment is being conducted. The setting is so beautiful in itself that companions of the blind golfers are humbled by the realization that those they guide over the fairways sacrificed much when they lost the ability to see the multi-colored pattern of green grass and trees against the bluest of skies.

Other physical recreations, including water polo, swimming, bowling and wrestling, are offered by the hospital. But to a golfer there is only one main recreation—golf.

The hospital's golfers include Capt. Claude Garland, Jr., of Pinedale, Wyo., who led one of General Patton's tank companies through France until the day before Christmas—when a German 88 mm. shell struck the tank. The crew all crawled out alive. Garland was the only one hurt—his eyes.

Capt. Garland had played in the 80's

L. to R.—Cpl. Seyman Ketchen, Pvt. Mickey Creager, Pvt. Joe Auster (putting), and Lt. W. Sullenger. All except Lt. Sullenger are blind. The lieutenant was blinded in New Guinea but recovered his sight. The enlisted men were blinded while fighting in Germany.





Capt. Claude Garland, Pinedale, Wyo., takes his grip and stance as Fritz Wilcox, director of physical rehabilitation, holds the clubhead behind the ball. Capt. Garland was blinded the day before Christmas when a German 88 mm. shell struck the tank he commanded.

before the war. He was willing to try again. He is not shooting in the 80's now, but believes he could if he didn't shank a shot here and there. When they told the doctor that Garland slammed his club down when he missed a shot, the doctor smiled. Doctors always smile when patients forget big troubles for little ones.

Others who take almost daily advantage of the Stanford course include Cpl. Seyman Ketchen, Pfc. Mickey Creager, Pfc. Joe Austera, all blinded in Germany, and Lt. Wilbur Sullenger, who was wounded on New Guinea but has recovered his sight.

Fritz Wilcox, former freshman football coach at Stanford, now director of physical rehabilitation for the blind at the hospital, instituted golf as a recreation for the patients. Wilcox, a low handicap golfer, often accompanies the groups.

"Seeing eye" companions describe the shot which is to be made, place the clubhead behind the ball, and the blind golfer is on his own.

No emphasis is placed on scoring. The doctors want that to be spontaneous. It is proof that the old competitive spirit has been revived in minds which have received severe shocks . . . proof that the game is offering more than relaxation to men who suffered physically and mentally in order that golf survive as one phase of the American way of life.

Leonard Tufts, Pinehurst Developer, Dies

★ Leonard Tufts, developer of Pinehurst, N. C., and son of James W. Tufts, founder of the internationally famed resort, died, aged 74, at the Moore County hospital, Pinehurst, following a seven weeks illness.

It was Leonard Tufts who made Pinehurst the outstanding golf resort of this country, and whose fine strong personality cast its sunshine over the Sand Hill domain in making Pinehurst a favorite residence and resort for gentlemen sportsmen in other sports as well as golf.

He left Massachusetts Institute of Technology in his senior year to join his father's business. In 1902, when James Tufts died, Leonard took over the management of Pinehurst and was active head of the establishment until 1930 when he retired to be succeeded by his son, Richard S. Tufts, pres., Pinehurst, Inc.

Leonard Tufts built a lovely and unique community. One of his great services to the Carolinas and to the entire nation was in his research and achievements in developing fine herds of cattle. He also was a vigorous pioneer in establishing good roads in the Carolinas.

He was one of the original members of

the Tin Whistles and was an honorary member of the celebrated organization for 41 years. He also was an enthusiastic hunter and a bookman of wide delights and learning.

In the passing of Leonard Tufts golf loses one of the grandest of the splendid gentlemen who popularized the game in the United States.

Wayne Miller Re-Elected Club Managers' Chief

★ TEN DIRECTORS of the Club Managers Assn. of America met at St. Louis, March 5 in a wartime emergency session replacing the organization's usual annual convention.

Wayne D. Miller, Cincinnati (O.) CC, was re-elected pres., CMAA; Eric G. Koch, North Hills GC, Douglaston, L. I., N. Y., was made a vice pres.; and Fred H. Bernet, Missouri AC, St. Louis, was elected sec.-treas., replacing William J. Conboy who has been laid up for months by an accident.

Directors for three years who were elected at the St. Louis session: Fred O. Gregory, Los Angeles (Cal.) CC; William W. Cook, Olympia Fields (Ill.) CC, and J. P. Tonetti, New Haven CC.