

GIRL CADDIES PROVE BETTER THAN BOYS

By VICTOR SOITZ

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WORK OF WOMEN in wartime industry often was so well done that management learned the women made better and more dependable workers than men formerly engaged on the jobs. Now management wants to retain such women. That's a fact generally recognized by many men who belong to golf clubs.

But what these same men don't appreciate is that the same development may have taken place in caddying. As a result of the difficulty of getting boys and having them do satisfactory jobs of caddying during wartime we at Edgewood Valley in the southwest section of the Chicago district were compelled to engage girl caddies. With the carts now in use the work is light enough for young girls.

We found that the girls' interest in the work and the satisfactory character of their work is a vast improvement over the boy caddying we got during wartime. The possible effect on the future of golf of an extensive switch to girl caddies is something to be seriously considered. But if the girls show themselves to be so decidedly better than the wartime standard of boy caddies we were able to get it's inevitable that hundreds of thousands of girls become preferred caddies.

Boy Supply Gets Short

Our caddie situation became acute last year.

A number of our members play other courses in the Chicago district, and discussed the shortage of caddies at every club they visited. During the 1944 season we had that trouble, too, and at the beginning of this season we had to do something.

Last year we started with fifty male caddies. As the season progressed we added a few each week. However, we also lost a few each week, and more as the weeks rolled on.

The result was when August came around we were down to 20 caddies, and what a job that was to support a membership of 170 golfers! It was a panic. When the season ended it was the best relief ever to come my way. In the spring of this year the committee and myself got together to find a solution to this head-

ache. To get boy caddies was impossible. Our visits to the boys' homes seeking their help were futile. They just said they "might" come out, regardless of the increase per round.

Well, there we were with nothing to depend on, and was told to try something else. I suggested to the members to try girl caddies and was turned down. I begged to try a few to see what would take place, and our members agreed. We put ads in several papers, running for weeks, seeking girl caddies. We mentioned certain stations where they were to wait and at certain hours we would pick them up. After they would arrive we got them into a group and explained caddying to them.

The way of carrying the bag, the place at the tee, the keeping up with the members, no rattling of clubs, raking sand traps, the watching of flag on the green and other details were explained. We would do this every day for weeks. Each day we added a few more and after two weeks we had a total of 55 girls. Believe me they were a godsend. At first, a single for the girls was simple and as our play increased we had to double them; on carts, of course.

Although they doubled on the carts, on some of our hills the idea didn't suit them so well. The carts would turn over and time was wasted.

Girls Get the Idea

Some of the larger girls wanted to carry the two bags, and, of course, there was an objection by the members. We let a few do this and then the rest wanted to for one reason alone. It was much more comfortable up and down those hills. The result was that most of them carried doubles and the large bags, too.

The girls did such a fine job that the members became reluctant to have boy caddies. They could depend on the girls for uniformly excellent caddying; much better than at other clubs in the district. The girls' wages were increased to \$1.75 single and \$3 for a double. That was the price but the tips received were outstanding. For example, a double carried by a girl often got \$5, and sometimes more.

Single with a large bag received \$2.50.

Why such wages? Well, when we had an event we would ask the girls to be sure to arrive as we had to have them. We would ask 50 to be here and believe me 50 would arrive. Do you think that after 18 holes they would leave for home? Not on your life. They would stay for 36 double and after finishing 36 they would chase balls for members' late practice.

At this day and age show me a boy who would go another 18; very few, and then chase balls afterwards. The girls became "pets" here and were usually called by their first names. A number of them were in demand so that we had to cut out the steady business to keep the other girls from harping on this subject. We ended with 40 girls and up to November we still get around 35 on Saturdays and Sundays.

We have suitable facilities for them. They are kept in a certain section away from the few boys we have here. They dress well, are neat and clean, are willing to do anything that is asked of them. They sweep walks, rake paths, wash windows around the shop, and we don't ask them for this aid. They just want something to do to pass the time until play arrives.

As long as I am employed here I shall continue here with them and will try to increase it up to 100 next year. As a matter of fact the members don't want boy caddies, so that is that. I would suggest to other clubs to try this solution and will wager that after two weeks they will be surprised. It can't be beat.

That is our solution here and hope this might help some other pros who have had a devil of a time with this problem.

Andy Invents Club-Gripping Gadget for GI Amputees

By SID VAN ULM

THE GUY COULDN'T cut a straight line, or bore a hole or build a chicken coop, but he is an inventor and as a result of his knack of making gadgets a lot of disabled veterans are going to be able to do many things better when they get out of the hospital.

The guy referred to is Andy Anderson, half-pint sports editor of the Houston Press who has toured more than 70 hospitals on his own organized rehabilitation plan. His first gadgets concerned his first love in sports, fishing. They worked—a special handle to allow a boy minus his right arm to use his prosthesis in winding a reel and a belt-and-rod attachment to

allow a boy minus his left arm to handle a rod as good as a two-armed man.

Andy has been the father of the 9-hole golf course recently dedicated at McCloskey general. Sam Snead and Vic Ghezzi helped dedicate the nine hole layout. While helping build it Andy watched some of the one-armed kids plodding over the course and decided then and there that they could hit with two arms if some sort of an attachment was devised. So he went devising. Assisted by Sgt. Norman Bromel, who lost his left arm in Germany, Andy worked out a special grip with a thong attached that allowed the boy to get his "working hook" into the

Private Dick Grasser, who lost his left arm, examines the gadgets with Andy Anderson in the center while Norman Bromel, who lost his left arm, shows how the gadget is attached and prepares to use it. In the case of boys who were right handed and lost their right arm Andy encourages them to learn to play left handed for eventually they have to learn to do everything else left handed.

