

GOLF WRITERS SPONSOR SAN FRANCISCO OPEN

Courses Are Congested in Bay District

By RAY HAYWOOD

THE SHOUTING (and near shooting) has died away in the San Francisco Bay area, where two winter tour tournaments are scheduled instead of last year's three, and where it appeared for a time there would be no tournaments at all.

Ultimate result of irate statements and cries of anguish is that the "on again, off again" tournaments are on in San Francisco and off in Oakland.

The San Francisco tourney, abandoned, by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, was resurrected with the aid of San Francisco golf writers and Bill Kyne, race track operator, who guarantees \$15,000 in War Bonds (maturity value) for prize plus an additional \$5,000 as door prize, providing the event is held as a benefit for the California Veterans' Rehabilitation Program, which Kyne heads.

The sports writers will stage the event with the American Women's Volunteer Service unit in San Francisco, which includes many prominent women golfers. The betting is that for the first time in its history, the San Francisco Open will make money, come January 10th to 13th. The sports writers and the AWVS are working at it, at any rate. The Veterans' Rehabilitation Program should benefit as well as San Francisco golfers, who once again will have an opportunity to witness the Nation's talent.

The hubub started in Oakland when the Junior Chamber stated it was "tired of raising prize money for professionals whose only interest was money." In 1944 the Oakland tourney was underwritten by a lone individual, whose sole stipulation was that profits go to war relief.

The second annual Richmond Open, the Bay Area's second event (January 17th to 20th) was always on insofar as the Richmond GC and Pat Markovich, its promoter, were concerned—provided dates could be obtained.

While last year's \$7,500 war bond event was a slight financial failure, it was a distinct artistic success. Markovich and his club members staged it without outside aid in order to advertise the club. The plan paid long-range dividends in club interest.

City and County officials were so impressed with the publicity received that ample financial aid has been offered and received this year. Due to this happy

combination of factors, the total prize in bonds has been increased to \$10,000.

Death of Eddie Fry, 20, U. S. Marine and son of Earl Fry, professional at the Alameda Municipal golf course, is regretted deeply by the Ray Area golfing fraternity. Young Eddie was killed in action on Okinawa. With his death, golf lost one of its potential stars.

The Bay Area has lost another golf course. Through subdivision brought on by court condemnation, what is left of the El Camino property at Lomita Park will be subdivided after the San Mateo School Board takes the 22 acres it won in court.

Dr. S. J. Leider, who held the controlling interest in El Camino, still remains in the golf business, however. He traded his El Camino interest for the 118 acres which comprise the La Rinconada course near Los Gatos. The approximate cash value of the property involved was \$190,000.

La Rinconada, established in 1928 as a private course, will be operated on a fee basis, with Phil Jefferson and Bill Braun, pro and greenkeeper, respectively, remaining at their posts. Loss of El Camino will further congest both public and private courses in the Bay Area, where starting times already are practically by reservation only, and long delays at the tee are common week days and holidays alike.

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