

the elder amateur players were continuing in the game to keep in good war working condition and as a deserved reward for war effort. It may be that some of the combat troopers who had met or read the stuff of GOLFDOM'S editor as an alleged golf authority did not want to hurt a sensitive old man's feelings. They preferred to talk about the courses where they had played, or where they had caddied, or the stars they'd seen or heard about.

Sports Publicity Touchy

The delicacy of homefront sports problem in wartime was probably most vividly crystallized in remarks at an advanced area when copies of Stars and Stripes, the soldiers' daily newspaper, were brought up by the amazing distribution system the paper has worked out. This particular issue happened to carry a story that the pro tournament circuit would have record prize money this year. That definitely is not news of great headline or morale building quality in the minds of the young men who are under fire and wondering whether they'll live the day out. Their comments on this, the horse track betting volume, the record football and fight crowds and similar items which seemed to the lads to reflect calloused detachment from war effort, were something for sports

officials to think about more seriously.

It's a complicated and very tender subject which must be viewed realistically, and considerably more from the viewpoint of some embittered and toughened kids who don't think they are getting shot at to liberate prize money in any sport. What makes the situation especially difficult from the conscientious and informed golf officials' point of view is the great achievement of golf in promoting sale of war bonds and stamps and war benefit fund raising. The public temperament is such that the sports circuses in wartime are tremendously effective in raising war money the public wouldn't otherwise pay out in recognition and support of the efforts of men who are being killed or maimed in maintaining, among other things, the enjoyment of American sports at home in wartime.

One clear idea that GOLFDOM'S editor got for himself out of talks with combat troops was that golf in continuing its fine wartime job must increase its tie-up with war effort and allow its performance to be recorded mainly as its showing in competition to see which of its clubs and players can do the most, rather than permit itself to do any bragging about its contribution in winning a bloody war.

SECTIONAL REPORTS ON 1944

California Golf at Record Volume in 1944

By CHARLES G. LATHROP

President, Southern California Golf Assn.

Secretary, California State Golf Assn.

★PRIVATE GOLF CLUBS of California's southern counties, some 24 in number, which comprise the Southern California Golf Assn. have carried on despite all obstacles. The clubs of the Los Angeles Metropolitan district in particular are in more prosperous condition than ever before. Full membership lists, waiting lists and starting times necessary on many courses for Wednesday, Saturday and holiday play, are the rule rather than the exception. Bond issues have been paid off, mortgages burned and many clubs are creating reserves for repairs and rehabilitation of club houses and water systems against the time when materials and labor may become available. Clubs which dropped association membership during the depression have revived and are being reinstated.

Play has reached an unprecedented volume on both public and private courses. Interest in tournaments and inter-club team matches, the latter an important feature on our calendar, has been well sustained.

The annual championship of this Asso-

ciation brought an entry of 478 players. To minimize travel players were permitted to qualify on their home courses and scores were equalized to adjust for differences in the playing difficulty encountered by entrants. This idea, in use for two seasons, has proved satisfactory to all. John W. Dawson of the Lakeside GC, Hollywood, won our association title in finals against Bruce McCormick of the same club at the 37th hole.

The condition of the California State Golf Assn. also is very satisfactory. Sixteen clubs were added to the roster during the year making a total of over ninety.

The annual championship of the State Association held at Pebble Beach, as usual in September, brought an all-time record registration of 706 players. The state amateur championship was won by Ernest O. Peiper, Jr., of the San Jose CC, who had been the title holder in 1941. Pieper earlier in the year won the Open championship played at Sacramento.

The state event included the simultaneous play of a handicap tournament at the Monterey Peninsula CC. In 1944 we had 19 flights of 16 players; a record. The numbers attending in spite of all wartime travel restrictions were swelled by a new division of Senior golfers—100 players—who competed for two days of medal play at Cypress Point. Frank S. Lindsay, age 55, of the Riviera CC, Los Angeles, with a

score of 156, became the first Senior Amateur champion of California.

Most California clubs have special concessions for the play of men in uniform. It is their pleasure to extend courtesies, either free or at low cost, to players vouched for by service organizations.

We look forward to increased activity for 1945. We shall need greater facilities to handle it.

Connecticut Clubs Solid Despite Wartime Drop

By ROBERT D. PRYDE

Sec. Connecticut State Golf Assn.

★ LAST YEAR THE Connecticut State Golf Assn. held but one State Victory tournament. The players qualified at their home clubs on a Saturday or Sunday for two low gross, four low net, and four in a Senior Division. These qualifiers played off together on a Sunday afternoon at a centrally located club to determine the winner. The events, all Medal Play, were most successful.

For 1945 we will possibly run two of these State tournaments, along similar lines. We do not think it best to run any championship events, nor do anything to encourage men to take time away from their work or to use gas traveling.

The membership of our clubs is at present reduced on account of war work. The help on golf courses and clubs is very much restricted. But "it's an ill wind that blows nobody good." The clubs, because of reduced expenses, show fine financial statements for 1944. The clubs have been well patronized and have done a good volume of business, also the members are very active in playing golf.

We have now 46 clubs in the State association. Four have closed for the duration. The gas situation was the deciding factor in closing, as these clubs were at a distance from bus lines.

The play at Shenecossett CC, near the New London submarine base, has been very active—both by the workers and the trainees.

I feel quite sure that we will have a reaction as in the last War, and for 10 years afterwards we will have a real live interest amongst the golfers. Steady positions, shorter hours, and good pay are all factors that will encourage men to play and get the exercise, as well as the sociability, of golf.

Our colleges and schools are concentrating to a great extent on training young men for military service and the activities in sports are of necessity curtailed.

It is to us a noble purpose to keep our courses functioning, even on a restricted basis, so that our boys now in the war will find the conditions they expect to find when they again return home.

Buffalo Play Large But Tournaments Curtailed

By CHARLES F. GOULD

Buffalo District Golf Assn.

★ I CAN SAY that 1944 was a better season generally in our District than 1943. Most all of our District clubs are in much better financial condition, and have invested some of their increased earnings to the point where the courses are in beautiful condition. Clubhouse patronage was good in most clubs. Tournament activities were very limited, our association holding only one of our usual five or six District affairs, the Junior and Boys Championship. Play on all clubs was better than 1943, in fact in some places better than pre-war. Until the European situation clarifies itself, I do not see much chance of any great tournament activity in 1945, but there will still be a large amount of recreational play.

War Pressure Boosts Arkansas Golf

By JOHN M. HARRISON

Sec.-Treas. Arkansas State GA

★ SINCE THE DEPRESSION of the early thirties clubs in Arkansas have consistently accommodated a good number of golfers. It is my opinion that there has been very little, if any, decrease in play in this section since the beginning of the war, especially on the weekends. True, many have gone into the service, particularly the younger ones, who played a lot, but it's hard to notice any numerical difference in the past few years. This is explained, I suppose, by the stimulated war prosperity and the increasing need of persons who have been working hard during the week for relaxation on the weekends and sometimes in the late afternoons. It seems that the hour gained on war time has increased, to some extent, play during the week.

The golf ball shortage is, of course, very acute, but everyone seems to be getting along just about as well with the reprocessed balls and playing a lot longer with each ball, and hunting a lot harder if a shot inadvertently strays into the tall and uncut. Incidentally, speaking of the roughs, they are generally thinned out and cut down pretty well in this section because of the golf ball shortage and probably due to the fact that one not only runs a much greater risk of losing a ball in high grass but having found it therein is much more likely to chop it up beyond recognition before again attaining the fairway. Perhaps the caddie situation also has something to do with the widening of the fairways and the cutting down of the roughs. There are not nearly as many caddies as there used to be, and