

most of the older ones have either gone into the service or into some more profitable employment. There is a general indifference on the part of caddies to the finer points of caddying, although the boys are making about twice as much as they were making before the war, and we have observed that there is not only a scarcity due to war service or other employment but because many of these boys seem to make enough to take care of their wants by working only part time.

Except for their supposedly being made easier by the elimination of some of the high grass hazards, the courses are in pretty much the same condition, although there are not as many men available to work on them. The elimination of some of the hazards hasn't noticeably helped anybody's game, probably explained by the difficulty or impossibility of eliminating the main hazard in golf, i. e., the mental hazard.

Things are very active in most of the clubhouses. Most of the lockers are filled, and despite the difficulty with ration points and clubhouse labor, the managers are accommodating an unusually large number of dinner guests, etc.

Camp Robinson is near the Little Rock courses, and Camp Chaffee is near the Fort Smith courses. The Army has taken over all of the major hotels in Hot Springs, Ark., for recreation and rehabilitation purposes, and the two topnotch golf courses there at the Hot Springs G&CC are primarily being used by service men. Nevertheless the regular members are still using the courses, too. In addition to the foregoing, there are a number of air bases throughout the state that are located near golf clubs that belong to the Association, and all of these are available to the service men and are accommodating a good number of them. Substantial concessions to the service men on dues and fees are made at every course and every club in the state that we know about, and it is my opinion that this move has greatly stimulated play among them.

Our annual invitation amateur golf tournament was held at Hardscrabble CC, Fort Smith, during the latter part of May, and, as since the beginning of the war, it was an invitation affair. Many service men attended. Aside from the Association's annual invitation golf tournament, the larger clubs in the state have conducted annual invitation tournaments as before, except that the tournaments have been operated for war benefits and used as a means for selling war bonds. The prizes have consisted of war bonds and stamps, accompanied by some trophy of little intrinsic value, which could be kept as evidence of the achievement. During the war invitation tournaments have been held at Little Rock CC, Hardscrabble CC, El Dorado CC, and Texarkana CC.

The 1945 invitation tournament of the Association will be held in Texarkana. These tournaments, especially the Fort Smith and Little Rock tournaments, have for many years attracted topnotch amateurs from the Southwest and other sections. Some present titleholders are: Spec Goldman, who beat Wilford Wehrle in the last invitation of the Arkansas GA; Jimmy Wittenberg (formerly at L. S. U., now in the South Pacific), who beat Cpl. Earl Stewart, Jr., in the last Little Rock Invitation; Labron Harris, who beat Dale Morey in the last Hardscrabble invitation.

Whenever the officials were determining the advisability of having a particular tournament that particular year much interest was shown by civilians and service men in the continuation of tournaments. As a matter of fact, it was almost unanimous.

Enrollment in the Association has been very good for several years, and it has been so good that we are not necessarily anticipating or even seeking a great increase after the war; however, we do anticipate a bright post-war future for golf in this section, which embodies the belief that not only will more people be interested in the game but more courses will be worked in an effort to get them in Class A condition, and the Class A courses that we now have will be developed with needed improvements, such as watered fairways, better greens, etc. The Bermuda greens are excellent during the major part of the year but they are inclined to get too rough and wiry, especially in the summertime. We hope to develop a generally better type of green after the war.

Golf is an ideal sport for this section, because it can be played all the year round, and there are very few weekends during the year when it cannot be played comfortably.

GIs Share in Kentucky's Big Golf Year

By EARL RUBY

Sec. Kentucky State G. A.

★ GOLF CLUBS IN and around Kentucky enjoyed one of their best seasons in history during 1944. And if it weren't for the shortage of clubs and balls, the year 1945 might easily become the most successful in history. This may sound screwy, but it is a fact.

Play was better than normal at almost all country clubs, and the distance from the center of the community to the club seems to have very, very little, if any, effect on the play. In other words, the gasoline shortage did not hurt golf play in Kentucky at all. The club members found bus transportation, share-a-ride cars, and other means of travel.

Memberships at most country clubs closed long before the year was out, so

great was the demand for memberships, despite the increase in tax (which some thought might discourage membership).

Private clubs report a healthier financial condition, virtually no bad accounts, and great hope for the year 1945.

The public courses enjoyed an increase in play during 1944, and virtually regained their pre-war popularity. Memberships were up, too, at the muni clubs, and membership chairmen predict record memberships for 1945.

Despite labor shortages, condition of the courses seems to be as good as ever. Actually, there have been fewer complaints about the greens and fairways during 1944 than there were before the labor shortage. This may be due, however, to the attitude of the player, who recognizes the hardships under which the management is laboring, and refrains from voicing vain squawks.

You might say that golf in Kentucky is booming and everybody is happy—except the professional.

The pro's outlook for 1945 is very gloomy.

On top of the acute shortage of balls has come at last a dearth of clubs. The pros find themselves in a position of having to depend on lessons and other services to substitute for the ball and club sales.

The pros also see in the shortage of clubs a very direct loss to golf in that new players—beginners, who have completed lessons and are ready to take up the sport—can find no clubs and may lose interest before clubs are available.

Louisville has felt the shortage of balls more than some other cities, perhaps, because of heavy G. I. play. Of club members the pros have demanded a trade-in with each purchase of a ball. But the servicemen have had no old balls to trade in, and naturally the pros have let them have new ones without this formality. This has contributed much to the shortage.

In an effort to save play on one of the largest public courses—Seneca—Pro Oscar Widmer has decided to discontinue sales altogether, and to form a rental pool of those balls he has left. He also plans to pool all of his remaining club stock and make up rental sets for his new pupils and players.

West Penn Builds Army Hospital Course

By I. W. DANFORTH

Sec., Western Pennsylvania Golf Assn.

★ WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA GA conducted its usual Western Pennsylvania Amateur championship in September at the Westmoreland CC and conducted the Junior Championship in June at the Shanopin CC. All other events were postponed until after the war.

We regard our most important work in 1944 that of the contribution the golfers of Western Pennsylvania made to the Deshon General Hospital at Butler, Pa. Through a solicitation carried on by members of all clubs of this association we have raised \$20,500, and have completed construction of a 9-hole course at the hospital. The Army authorities were successful in acquiring 16 acres adjacent to the hospital and we were given only the amount of land on which to construct nine holes. The property is very well suited for nine holes which range from 100 to 150 yards in length. The entire property was plowed and seeded. The greens are actually the same as would be used on a championship course. We also have been able to build unusually large elevated tees.

The construction was completed in November of this year and we are looking forward to opening the course for some 1300 army men who have nearly all been returned from foreign service. The opening will depend a great deal on weather conditions but should not be later than April 1, 1945.

New York District In Better Shape in 1944

By SHEPARD BARNES

Sec., Metropolitan (New York) Golf Assn.

★ MY IMPRESSION is that there was considerably more play in the New York metropolitan district in 1944 than there was in 1943 or 1942. Adjustment has been made to wartime conditions. Members and clubs after three years under the self-imposed restrictions of the times, as well as observing the government regulations, have fitted golf properly into their plans to contribute toward victory.

Clubs that were able to continue in operation generally improved their financial condition. Increased membership resulted from closing of clubs distant from transportation, wartime increase in national income, and, in numerous cases medical advice to preserve wartime working capacity by outdoor recreation balance.

Public and fee courses also showed signs of greater play than in preceding war years.

The caddie shortage was acute in this district as it probably was elsewhere. However, in view of the hardships endured by men on our fighting fronts, even golfers who used to say they'd give up the game rather than carry their own clubs were not disposed to make further public confession of their unwillingness to undergo such a trying ordeal. Many of them carried their own clubs and in spite of normal grumbling, managed to survive the labor. Even some of the most irritable became disposed to admit that packing their own clubs possibly was