

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 Shannopin 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

slightly less toil than lugging an Army weapon might be at their advanced years.

Club restaurants had more patronage than in previous years but whether this was an advantage in view of clubhouse labor and food shortages it's difficult to tell. Notwithstanding the handicaps course and clubhouse operation was maintained at surprisingly high standards.

Our tournament activity in 1945 tentatively is scheduled to be about the same as that of 1944. With the ban on horse racing and increased demands for manpower as reminders, the Metropolitan GA again is making very realistic re-examination of golf's position. As previously, Metropolitan association officials and officials and members of the association's member clubs are firmly and clearly determined to push golf in wartime only as it positively helps in advancing the war effort. Any diverting of time and expense that golf might require which would not result in a definite and direct contribution of efficiency and economy to winning the war, we are against.

## Chicago Golf Stronger With War Tie-up

By **LOWELL D. RUTHERFORD**  
Pres., Chicago District Golf Assn.

★ **AGAIN, IN 1944**, golf in the Chicago District showed surprisingly strong wartime condition. As every action of the clubs was geared primarily to wartime effort the conclusion is inevitable that the game's merits are demonstrated most clearly by its capacity to condition men and women for the heavy strains of war work on the home front.

The vast majority of members of Chicago District clubs are men of an age when they'd normally be easing up in their work and worries. However in wartime they've taken on (and willingly so) far more work and business strain than they've ever had before. The required balance of toil and recreation seems to have been satisfactorily supplied by golf. In the case of women golfers wartime volunteer work, also has been reflected at golf clubs in reduced volume of women's play but increased clubhouse business.

Limited amount of labor obtainable and limitations on materials and supplies that normally would be used in maintenance and building have kept operating costs disproportionately low to income in most cases and put clubs in condition to do spending in helping the conversion from war to peace employment.

Naturally, because of record national income and shortage of consumer goods, together with the instinctive demand for wartime recreational balance, golf clubs in an industrial area such as Chicago were bound to see great activity. However, it is the sharply defined policy of Chicago dis-

trict clubs to insist that such a showing in wartime be accompanied by direct war effort of golfers greater, we hope, than that of any other civilian sports group in wartime.

In addition to the constant bond and stamp selling campaigns at Chicago district private and public courses other results of 1944's activities in the area have been:

Chicago Victory championship net proceeds of \$17,172.59 for construction of putting greens, pitch and putt courses, and other recreational facilities and supply of golf playing equipment to army and navy hospitals in Illinois. Midwest Greenkeepers Assn. has provided invaluable work in the design and construction of these courses. Illinois PGA members have made their services available for exhibitions for fund raising and at hospital demonstrations and instruction sessions.

Chicago Servicemen's centers received \$15,319.26 from the CDGA dime-a-round program. Although this is a fairly substantial sum from an unique phase of golf's wartime tie-up, we are by no means satisfied with the showing which is considerably short of the ultimate dime-a-round figure.

More than 9,000 complimentary golf passes were issued through 45 substations to military personnel for play at CDGA private clubs and on the district's daily fee courses.

The CDGA is considering a plan for a regional greens experimental station at Purdue university. Membership in the CDGA increased two clubs during year.

There was vigorous competitive relationship between clubs in the Chicago district to see what new and more effective plans could be made in contributing to war effort and the association's work in extending this activity constituted a valuable part of the year's work.

Competitive events were maintained on a schedule compatible with wartime conditions. Adjustments were made to meet caddie and transportation difficulties but no complaints were registered. As a matter of fact, golfers in the Chicago district were grateful that they have been able to play in keeping themselves keen for the wartime jobs they are determined to handle in topmost efficiency.

Because we do not figure on an early ending of war we set our plans on increasing Chicago district golf's participation in war effort during 1945.

## Colorado Golf Spurred by Wartime Pressure

By **N. C. MORRIS**

Sec., Colorado Golf Assn.

★ **THE PAST YEAR**, despite wartime handicaps, was just as good as, if not better, than any previous year I have