

San Francisco Golf Greater than Pre-war

New Servicemen and Civilian Players Keep Courses Crowded,
Officials and Pros Foresee Vast Increase in Postwar Play.

A SURVEY of golf clubs in the San Francisco Bay area today reveals that despite the scarcity of balls and clubs the game is in the midst of a revival which far surpasses pre-war interest.

Area professionals believe that this interest, as strong as it is, is only a fraction of the activity which will begin when golf equipment and gasoline are available and civilians no longer feel that it is questionable to spend time and money on recreation.

Private club memberships already are at a premium. Fee courses are jammed on week-ends and holidays are receiving a heavy week-end play as well. Club officials contend that the influx of war work is not the answer to the increased number of rounds being played.

Thousands of permanent residents, who never played before the war, have turned to the fairways for recreation and there discovered the perfect answer to mental and physical relaxation. The majority of these new converts have indicated that they intend to make golf their postwar hobby, the professionals say.

Servicemen, both home on furloughs and those stationed in the area, are using the courses in ever-increasing numbers. Like the civilians, many of these servicemen plan to continue with the game when hostilities cease. Club officials state frankly that they are amazed with the unexpected playing boom in an area where the war effort is paramount.

Al Sais, first professional at the Mira Vista CC, when it was the Berkeley CC is back at the old stand after three years as a ship welder. The 18-hole Mira Vista course is high on the hills overlooking Berkeley and the Bay—from one tee you

can see seven Bay counties. It is now operated as a fee course by a syndicate of Richmond men. The name was changed when the syndicate took over from the private organization.

Phil Newmyer, who came from Washington State to serve as Mira Vista's professional, resigned in order to take over a driving range in Oakland. Bob Clarke, veteran professional who had been operating the range, has announced that he will confine his future work to Mills College where for many years he has been teaching girl students the game.

Sergeant Jim Ferrier, now stationed at the San Francisco Presidio, the home of San Francisco's first golf course—and still one of its finest—was one of the favorites in the \$1000 Stockton (Calif.) Open. It was his first start since the California State Open at Fresno in May where he finished second.

Wesley Miller, former professional at the Richmond and Pasa Tiempo clubs, is convalescing at Oakland's Oak Knoll Naval Hospital—which occupies the site of the former Oak Knoll GC. Wes was wounded seriously five months ago while serving with the Navy in the South Pacific. The Northern California PGA, through Will Rogers of Berkeley, one of the State's oldest active professionals, presented Miller with a Parker 51 fountain pen recently. Wes needs a good pen to keep up with his fan mail.

Speaking of the huge Oak Knoll Hospital, the Northern California PGA Section has opened a driving range there as part of its rehabilitation-through-recreation program for veterans. Donations from local golfers helped finance it.

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By RAY HAYWOOD

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The clubhouse at the Peninsula CC, formerly known as Beresford, has been renovated—inside and out. Pro Willie Nichol reports business is fine.

Nelson Cullenward, medically discharged Marine Corps lieutenant who has returned to his post as golf writer for the San Francisco Call-Bulletin, was the surprise of the recent Northern California Amateur Championships. Despite the triple handicap of his profession, chronic lefthandedness and a back injury received while overseas, Cullenward defeated some of the State's finest amateurs to reach the final. He shot far better than his normal seven-handicap game until the last nine holes of the 36-hole final match where the law of averages finally located him. The other golf writers in the area look like they have been drinking chlorophyll.

Dick Fry, one of California's five golfing Fry brothers, has been transferred to an Army hospital in San Diego. Dick, who left the Oakland Municipal GC pro's job for service as a private with the 99th Infantry, was wounded twice while fighting in France.

Tom Fry, the youngest of the clan, is back at home on a 30-day furlough after participating in the drive through France as a Signal Corp private. He was professional at the Healdsburg Muny course before entering the Army.

Earl Nagel, professional at Tilden Park, Berkeley, has a prodigy under his

tutelage. The lad, Don Falconer, 11, already breaks 100 and will develop into a fine shotmaker once he adds weight.

Eddie Duino, of San Jose, president of the local PGA Section, reports that more than \$3000 has been banked already for the Section's veterans' rehabilitation fund. Exhibition matches in San Jose and Alameda accounted for much of the money. All clubs are scheduling week-end competitions to add to the total.

Ted Robbins, pro at Harding Park, a San Francisco municipal course, reports something which is added proof that golfers are nice people.

Harding members, Hal Flanders and Ernie Woods, were on the 12th tee in their third flight match in a club tournament. Woods was two-up when he smacked a nice drive down the middle and collapsed. Flanders ran for help but Woods died from a heart attack in the ambulance.

When Flanders was informed that he must be considered the winner, he objected on the grounds he had been two-down and "Ernie would have beaten me." The tournament committee insisted, however, and Flanders returned for three more Sundays until he won the cup. He took it to an engraver. The trophy now is in the home of Mrs. Ernest C. Woods. It bears this engraving:

Harding Park Directors' Cup Tournament Third Flight Won by Ernie Woods. "It was Ernie's cup," Flanders told the widow, "I could never have beaten him. It is fitting that you have his trophy."

No Caddie Shortage In India

★ 1337 BU, Assam, India.—Fifteen thousand miles is a long way to travel to play a game of golf, but four Ordnance men assigned to this ICB base did just that.

Lt. Milton A. Waldman, Boston, Mass., S/Sgt. Howard Hullinger, Bluffs, Ill., Sgt. John Hepding, Racine, Wisc., and Corp. Anon Leard, Amarillo, Tex., all with 1½ years overseas duty, are getting to be regular customers at this picturesque little course which is located just a few miles from their field.

Owned by the planters of the surrounding tea plantations, the nine hole course was carved from the center of beautiful tea fields and bamboo jungles. A clear, winding river flanks one side. Indian caddies are always present in goodly numbers to dive and wade for stray balls.

The owners have thrown open the course, named "Bordubi", free of green fees to all personnel. Clubs are furnished gratis by the Special Services section. However, the ball shortage has hit the game hard here

as elsewhere, and the sight of two men alternating driving one ball is not unusual.

In India where manpower is cheap, each player has not one but two caddies. One carries the bag and tees up the ball, and the second, the "fore caddie", has the sole duty of staying well in front of the players and watching the ball. The latter is a very important person, what with the bad combination of a critical ball situation and the dense jungles that grow near the fairways.

In drastic difference to the pricelessness of balls is the astoundingly cheap charge for a caddie. For nine holes a caddie receives 2 annas (about 4 cents American), and 4 annas for 18 holes. The fore caddies are paid the same. Club rules rigidly forbid exceeding this price.

Lt. Waldman is a beginner at the game. "Little did I know that I would start my golfing career in the Frank Buck country of India", he laughed. Corporal Leard, who was a member of his school team and had won the district tournament at Canyon, Texas, near his home, helps his CO with much-needed lessons.