

Urges Golf's Action in Vet Employment

By HERB GRAFFIS

FINALLY the idea of golf really making a strong effort to employ discharged veterans of this war is beginning to take hold at clubs. Capt. Charles Clarke, mgr., Willowick GC, Willowick, O., has been trying for some time to get golf organizations active in energetically pushing this matter.

Formal action has been taken by some associations but nothing that actually has meant jobs has resulted. Getting a vigorous campaign for veterans employment in golf actually functioning means plenty of added work. And because of other prior tasks, as well as a failure to realize the urgency of this veterans employment matter, the job has been muffed on a national or sectional basis by golf.

However, various clubs have been getting busy and have found that discharged servicemen have been especially good employees, especially in course maintenance work and as caddiemasters.

The golf club jobs generally aren't the most attractive employment available even with the cutbacks on war production in some districts tightening the job situation. The golf club pay and requirements of work and the seasonal employment certainly make golf club work unmistakably work rather than any rich reward for a veteran.

But what has brought some excellent personnel to golf clubs is the outside phase of the work. Many veterans don't want to work inside under close supervision and at the same machine job hour after hour. One of the top heroes of the war, a Congressional Medal winner, is working with a tree surgeon's outfit for considerably less money than he was offered at other jobs. He says he can get his health back in this work, make a good living, and not have to be constantly crowded up by people.

Many of the fellows who have been getting discharges on points and by the medical route are very tired young men. They won't go flashing around courses like they're making touchdown runs, but they are steady workers at work that fits them.

The fellows who have received psycho-neurotic discharges are, in most cases, men who will benefit greatly from golf club work and who can apply themselves to this employment with mutual satisfaction to their employers and themselves. That's the information we have obtained from Army doctors.

Our observation as laymen is that the majority of these veterans will need less adjustment to civilian life than many civilians will need to the veterans who have been through far worse strains than the civilians, and without cracking completely. Human endurance has its limitations which differ according to temperament. Some kids simply get so tired they sleep through bombardments that have others screaming and jumping out of basements, foxholes and other places of dubious shelter. Others will return calmly from air battles and relax by looking at comic books while comrades who seemed to be the same sort of lads will be shaking and sobbing in hysteria or staring vacantly.

However, golf courses aren't shelled or riddled by flak or enemy plane fire. Under normal conditions that prevail in golf club employment probably 20% of the fussy members are more nearly nutty by civilian standards than 80% of the men who receive armed service discharges as psycho-neurotics.

Those estimated figures were given us by an Army psychiatrist who was quite a golfer before the war.

His opinion is that golf club employment is one of the soundest treatments that a considerable number of the victims of battle psychosis could receive. But he says the important thing to be borne in mind is that these fellows are to be handled just as any other employee and not as men requiring any special treatment. With labor conditions as they have been and the club department heads having to be rather tenderly considerate of any help they want to keep, it shouldn't require any change of policy to handle the veterans with consideration.

Capt. Clarke urges that golf organizations and clubs get together on a questionnaire form listing their employment needs, qualifications necessary, pay, hours and other details. This information could be supplied to government hospitals and other points where veterans are discharged, and to government employment service agencies handling placement of veterans in jobs.

Clarke maintains that this survey of the veteran employment possibilities in golf is a job on which the game's interests should get busy at once. It's a duty owed to men who have been fighting while others have had the opportunity of getting away from their wartime civilian tasks to

the enjoyment and safety of a golf course, and also is, Clarke declares, the best chance for golf to begin on its postwar planning.

Clarke points out that while the war will continue to be an extremely serious affair until V-J Day, many golf clubs have money for work on the course and around the clubhouse that can be done

with the limited help they have available.

Golf's contributions to the war have been numerous and valuable among what sports have done in gratitude for their protection by the American armed forces, Clarke reminds us, but this important job of veterans employment, the war job that begins at home, is not getting the concerted attention it should.

INGENIOUS DEVICES HELP SERVICEMEN PLAY GOLF



THE center of interest in the accompanying photo is a gadget devised by some golfing patients at the 2,200 bed Oliver General Hospital, Augusta, Ga., military hospital which attracted attention from the old master, Colonel Bob Jones. It's a rack built onto the crutches, by means of which a convalescent patient can carry his clubs around the hospital's course. Wounded veterans showed their interest by turning out in a gallery of 500 to follow Jones in an exhibition match this spring, according to Capt. Louis Fink, Public Relations officer.

The 18-hole golf course (former For-

est Hills Hotel) has been preserved intact. In addition, there are two 18-hole putting greens. At nearby Daniel Field, a driving range and putting greens are being installed. Mickey Gallagher, hospital golf pro, estimates that 100 patients get out on the course every day. They play in wheel-chairs, in body casts, and on crutches. The doctors encourage these overseas veterans to play golf, because of the valuable exercise. As Mickey says, "If you made them hike four miles, they'd squawk; but they'll gladly walk that far on a golf course."

Golf In India

★ Golf in the New Delhi, India area has plenty of color, says an American Army officer stationed there. Writing in "Factory Facts", monthly publication of MacGregor-Goldsmith, Inc., manufacturers of athletic equipment, Lieut. Col. F. H. Weston, a Special Service Army officer comments:

"The clubhouse is an old pagoda surrounded by many beautiful trees. The course is long and rough with coarse grass fairways and greens. Having been accustomed to a caddy shortage in Washington I was amazed at the number of helpers we had.

"Each member of the foursome had

three helpers: 1. One tee wallah who hands you your clubs and tees up your ball. 2. One caddy wallah who carries your bags. 3. One agiwallah who stations himself down the fairway to watch and find your balls". A wallah, it is explained, is the Hindu definition for caddy while agiwallah is a sort of "chief".

Col. Weston relates the course very interesting and abounds with wild peacocks, parakeets and other brilliantly colored birds. "Monkeys were all around in the trees and on the ground and a hyena dashed across the fairway with eight jackals in pursuit".