

Caddie Situation Result of Previous Neglect

THE caddie problem again looms as one of the perplexities of golf club operation this year.

Club officials and professionals who have contended with the caddie problem during war years say that much of the trouble is the result of previous neglect. When caddying was about the one job many youngsters could get the clubs didn't pay much attention to selection of the youngsters, or to the facilities provided for them. Caddie training was done because that was necessary to the satisfaction of the members. Otherwise the kids were pretty much on their own.

In many cases the youngsters virtually paid the cost of the club's caddiemaster. The caddiemaster has an important job but he has been expected by the club to get his living wages by scalping a percentage off caddie pay and selling the boys candy, pop and other light lunch items. Rarely did the club take any interest in seeing that the boys were supplied with soups, hot sandwiches or other food that would give them inexpensive proper diet.

Thoughtful pros and officials say that the present attitude of kids in coming out to caddie only when they want some of the current high fees for caddying is no worse than the attitude of many clubs when the caddie supply exceeded the jobs available.

One thing pointed out by several pros was that clubs that had tried to do something for caddies usually considered that when a caddie building was furnished the kids didn't rejoice madly and keep the place immaculate. "After all, they're kids, and you can't expect perfection immediately," the club men pointed out.

The big, medium and little clubs mostly are up against the same situation on caddies.

George Sayers, noted pro at the distinguished Merion GC, relates a situation usual at many of the best clubs.

Says Sayers:

"This year's caddie problem is going to be tougher than ever. I can imagine with many pros and officials it is going to be difficult to plan anything ahead of time.

"With us here at Merion we are lucky to have so many schools near us, which means after school hours, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays we have a good percentage of boys. Of course there is still lots of doubling-up to do until the boys get out of school. That is where we are up against it, for again we have lots of factories around us who take most of the older boys. We have only four older regular caddies left, and if they have a good day you don't see them the next.

"So to help solve the problem I have sold as many light canvas bags as pos-

Honor Caddie Warriors

Thousands of golfers have commented on the performances of former caddies now fighting on land, sea and in the air.

Rarely is there an American golf club that doesn't mourn a youngster who once carried bags for club members in happier days. And rarely do you see a club that isn't able to speak in high pride of the fighting achievement of some kid who used to take his turn at packing the sticks of pastiming members.

Yet, outside of names of former caddies that clubs sometimes show on honor rolls in clubhouses, what recognition have the warrior caddies received from the clubs at which they once worked?

Maynard K. Fessenden, former

president of the Chicago District Golf Assn., and widely known in golf, points out that most clubs have neglected formal recognition of the achievements of their caddies in armed service.

Fessenden proposes that clubs erect and dedicate caddie houses and yards, or shelters, fountains or tee benches on the courses in honor to their caddies in service. He also suggests that photographs of the former caddies in their U. S. uniforms would make a grill room feature that would have great sentimental and historical value.

It seems like a grand idea to honor, in our own little way, golf's grand kids who now are handling men's jobs.

sible to the members and told them never to wait around for caddies but to get hold of their clubs and start right off carrying their own, just the same as many Englishmen have done for years.

"If they wait around for caddies it can ruin their golf for the day. For example, I saw a man and his wife wait around for caddies from one o'clock till four one day. If that isn't spoiling a day's golf I don't know what is! One of the best points in carrying your own clubs is, you never have to wait for your caddie, he is always right with you.

"I think the pro himself is the one who suffers most because you can't get boys to

chase balls for you when giving a lesson. The few caddies that are around in the mornings don't want to chase balls, even when they do they are no good on account of the night before. The result is many lessons have to be cancelled.

"Of course, if the club is lucky enough to have its own driving range then the pro is all right. Here at Merion we have nothing like that. I often say that Merion was one of the first clubs in the country to build a modern golf course but they never figured on a driving range. Of course, in those days, 33 years ago, there were not so many enthusiasts in the game as there are now.

WE SELECT AND TREAT OUR CADDIES AS THOUGH THEY'RE MEMBERS

By CHARLES H. LORMS

For some years the Columbus (O.) CC has regarded its caddie situation as one of the most important of the club's operations. The club has a distinguished membership and all of the members consider the lads who carry bags virtually junior members of the club.

This unselfish, sincerely interested attitude has paid off for the boys

and for the clubs. Caddying at the Columbus CC is thought of by kids around Columbus as the best entree to the business world he'll eventually get in, that an aspiring boy can have.

Charles Lorms, the club's veteran pro, tells how the club is maintaining its famous caddie program in wartime.

IN endeavoring to solve the caddie problem at our club we have tried to make our club a desirable place for an ambitious boy to put in his time.

We offer the boy a place to get some fine training that will serve him well after he passes the caddie age, as well as an opportunity to make some very worthwhile contacts and pay while doing it.

Carlton Smith who is back in charge of athletics at the Bexley high school has aided us in setting up a very interesting program of recreation for the boys' entertainment and development while they are not actually engaged on the golf course. This includes basketball, football, and golf.

We find the success of this program depends almost entirely on the individual in charge of it. (Mainly the caddie master and his assistants.) These positions are probably the most important positions around the average club, largely because of the influence they have on such a large number of boys. If these men are the proper kind of characters their worth can only be measured in the number of good wholesome boys with high talents that will graduate from the caddie ranks. The men who hold these positions must realize

their responsibilities and opportunities.

To secure the kind of boys we want we contact the heads of the schools that we expect to draw our boys from. We also work with the heads of boys' organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Big Brothers, etc. These organizations, knowing of our efforts and intentions, are ready to cooperate with us in helping to interest desirable boys in our program.

During the summer season we hold a number of picnics, at which we serve the boys soft drinks and various kinds of sandwiches. At these events we award the prizes the boys have won for meritorious work on the course and good conduct in general. When we can manage it, we have some ex-caddie who has been successful in his later life to talk to the boys at these meetings.

These meetings are generally well attended, and serve as quite a stimulant for the regular boys, and they encourage the newer boys to take an active interest in the work and the club generally.

At the end of the year we put on our annual banquet in the main dining room of the club. Our members act as waiters for the boys on this occasion. The season

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