

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.