

"Be Kind to Kids" Wartime Accent Made Permanent

By HERB GRAFFIS

TWIN ORCHARD CC (Chicago district) has adopted a postwar policy of making the continuance of its interest in servicemen high among the items on the club's 1946 program. People are tired of the war and want a complete change. Twin Orchard's members are no exception. The percent of Twin Orchard club members and their kids who were in military service, and who were casualties, is high. But what the club doesn't forget is that there are a lot of kids who'd like to forget the war but can't because they're in military and naval hospitals.

So the club is repeating this year its entertainment events for hospitalized servicemen in the Chicago area, having those lads who can play golf as its guests, and staging another member-pro tournament in association with the Illinois PGA. Last year the member-pro tournament produced \$1500 for entertainment funds at army and navy hospitals around Chicago, plus \$500 in pro prizes.

Twin Orchard is a Jewish club and like other of the leading Jewish clubs very frankly has a membership policy that is based on a man being financially able and of the temperament to contribute liberally to charities before he is entitled to the luxury of membership in private clubs. That's a fair enough policy for all clubs of good sportsmen to adopt, even though the determination of charitable contributions isn't as simple in the case of gentile clubs as it is with clubs having some association with the well organized operation of Jewish charities.

But in the case of the servicemen's angle, during and after the war, Twin Orchard is very earnest about not having such enterprises regarded in the slightest way as benevolences or benefits, but as plain, simple debts of honor that the club

members are lucky to have an opportunity to pay.

The Sporting Thing

And, in making certain that in no possible way will there be the faintest tinge of patronizing about its affairs for servicemen, the club puts its main fund-raising event on a strictly sporting-business platform. The play is in foursomes with one pro to a class, A, B and C player. Each member entrant is charged \$10 entrance fee. The Calcutta stag party the Saturday night before the event sells each foursome. With the A, B and C handicap arrangement making 3 teams in each foursome the buyer of a foursome has 3 times the ordinary chance to win. The pari-mutuel also is sold on teams giving the buyers the same 3-fold chance to click. Thirty per cent of the pari-mutuel goes to the fund. Expenses for the event come out of the pari-mutuel take. Older men who don't want to go 18 holes or members who can't be at the club to play are tapped for from the \$10 entry fee to \$100 just for the privilege of being represented.

Last year there were 35 Chicago district pros and 105 members comprising the field. This year a larger field is expected as Chicago district pros now out of military service naturally also are pretty keenly aware of their obligation to keep mindful of other fellows who got banged up in battle.

Last year the club had 25 hospitalized vets brought out and entertained in class for the event. Last year By Hareke, then the Twin Orchard pro, saw to it that those of the 30 Purple Heart vets the club entertained weekly got to play golf when they were physically able. Members lent them clubs, balls and shoes. Women members were hostesses at luncheon for the boys.

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Twin Orchard CC board hands Harry Adams, Ill. PGA, and By Hareke, club's pro, \$1,500 proceeds from pro-amateur for pros' military hospital rehabilitation fund.



The caddie charges were picked up by members.

The caddie situation at Twin Orchard is one that has been notably good during the war despite the club being located in a section where the demand for caddies exceeds the supply. Success of the caddie program undoubtedly is due to the long range view of the caddie problem taken several years ago by Harry E. Wolff, sports and pastimes chairman, and his associates on the club's board. Wolff maintains that a primary responsibility of a man qualified for good private club membership is to be a gentleman and father toward the children who are caddies.

Harry got Twin Orchard members to agree to a policy that is far too unique among country clubs; that of the caddie grading the member just as the member grades the caddie. The Twin Orchard kids are told to have no hesitancy in reporting conduct of a member toward them that does not match the standards the caddie is expected to maintain. In the several years this policy has been enforced there have been very few cases of members having to appear before the committee because of caddie complaints.

Ralph Jacobs and Irving Ashen, chairman and co-chairman of the caddie committee, and other officials of the club have developed that basically Golden Rule policy toward the kids so the word has spread among the boys that the club members are "fine guys to work for."

Difficulty in applying the policy in its ideal manner is that of getting a thoroughly qualified caddie-master. In the Chicago district, as in others, the smart clubs hold tight to prize caddie-masters.

Twin Orchard has been considering getting a high school sports coach and developing him along the lines crystallized in numerous discussions officials and members have had in making the club working conditions pleasant, wholesome and helpful for the kids.

The caddies are allowed to play Fridays during the season. Members loan them their clubs. There hasn't been one club lost as a result of the loaning. The kids get monthly bonuses for attendance.

A dime is added to each members caddie fees for a scholarship fund for deserving youngsters. If the fund is short of a kid's needs and the kid looks like a lad who'll be a credit to his association with the club, members kick in the balance hopefully.

During the war while their own sons were away the Twin Orchard members sort of adopted the hospitalized vets and the caddies and found out there was so much added enjoyment at a golf club in keeping the atmosphere of younger people bright around the place they're going to keep it up now that their own kids are back—those of them who will come back.

GSA in Nationwide Drive for Greenkeeper Members

Sectionalizing of golf turf research under new plan of USGA Green Section has made valuable and coordinated tie-ups with state agricultural colleges and experimental stations but urgently requires extension of greenkeeper participation in the revised arrangement. The Green-keeping Superintendents' Assn. is stepping into that part of the program by beginning a campaign for new members.

Although the GSA and district greenkeeper associations now have members at about 16% of the nation's 4795 golf courses, their practical showing is stronger than indicated by those figures as a portion of the 9-hole courses are maintained only by farmers doing the mowing under contract. At the 18-hole courses the GSA and district greenkeepers' associations probably have about 40% representation, which is far short of the percent needed for the good of the clubs and the advancement of the greenkeeping profession.

In some areas there are no existing greenkeeper organizations. Consequently, application of the advanced Green Section-state college turf maintenance program is limited. GSA secretary, A. L. Brandon, Box 106, St. Charles, Ill., is available for helping greenkeepers and green chairmen in unorganized districts to form the desirable organizations.

Greenkeepers have been pretty much on their own in establishing and conducting sectional organizations that set the stage for the new national research plan. Green chairmen in comparatively few instances have given interest and support these organization activities warrant, especially in view of the meetings having been considerably more to the financial and playing condition advantages to the clubs than they have in bettering the greenkeepers' status. Lately, greenkeepers have been tremendously cheered by the recognition Fielding Wallace, chairman, USGA Green Section, gave them in his annual report to the USGA Executive committee. That's a reason why their national body, the GSA, now is engaged in a vigorous move to get more greenkeepers together for comparing experiences and applying findings of the revised Green Section program.

Greenkeepers interested in joining a sectional organization or the national association, or clubs interested in having their greenkeepers as members of such organizations, can get information on memberships from Brandon at St. Charles, Ill.

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