

# Pros and Radio Stars Open Naval Hospital Course



PGA built Pitch-and-Putt Course is officially opened at Long Beach (Calif.) Naval Hospital

**M**ORE THAN 2500 patients and 500 civilian guests witnessed the official opening March 10 of the 789 yd., par 27, pitch and putt course constructed by the Southern California PGA at the Long Beach (Calif.) Naval hospital. No galleries were allowed on the course opening day so the crowd on stretchers and in bleachers could watch play of the pros and other celebrities who followed the dedication shot hit by Capt. C. M. Shaar, medical officer in command of the hospital.

The hospital course represents the most ambitious rehabilitation project of the sunkist pros. They've played many matches in financing the enterprise and were aided by Milton Arthur who kicked in \$4000 for a watering system and Bing Crosby who tossed in his check for \$5000. Bing and Bob Hope also played in fund-raising matches.

George Lake, pres., PGA Southern Calif. section, says that play has been so heavy on the course that orders have been posted allowing staff members and officers to use the course only after 4:30 P.M. week days, but anytime weekends and patients have liberty then. George says one day recently he visited the course during a light rain and brisk wind and there were 4 boys on every hole and 30 waiting to tee off.

Billy Bell was architect of the course and Jimmy Lawson had charge of the construction. Jimmy, veteran ex progreenerkeeper, one of the famed fighting Lawson brothers of Scotch regiments in World War I, now is in business in the Los Angeles area. Crosby, Hope, Jerry Colonna, Frances Langford and Tony Romano put on a show at the dedication ex-

ercises. After Lake had spoken of the PGA rehabilitation-with-golf program in the broadcast that was a feature of the ceremony, Hope, Crosby, Colonna and Romano batted around as the first foursome over the course.

This foursome was followed by 5 groups of PGA pros. When the feature foursome finished the 9 holes, the stars passed out and autographed to the patients Colonna's new book, "Who Threw That Coconut." Scores for the day were: Howard Schmidt and Bob Tucker, 25; Harry Bassler, Clayton Aleridge, Bud Oakley, Ray Hanes, Paul Jones, 26; Ed Newkirk, Ralph Smith, George McInerney, Zell Eaton, Frank Cormaci, 27; Bing Crosby, Doyle Dorsey, Olin Dutra, Barney Clark, Curley Howard, Harry Pressler, 28; Bob Hope, Hobbie Chapman, Eddie Nunn, Frank Grant, 29; Tony Romano, 31; Jerry Colonna, without using the clubhead, 38. The course record is of course 25 and was tied by a patient, Seaman Edward Rosak.

This golf course is one of the 5 located at veterans hospitals in Southern California and built by the Southern California PGA. The program was started at the Long Beach hospital. The pros planned only to install a large practice putting green. The plan was presented to Captain P. M. Albright, Medical Officer in Command at the time, and he was so enthusiastic that we decided to build a 3 hole pitch and putt course. An exhibition golf match starring Bing Crosby and Bob Hope was held at Recreation Park on December 17, 1944, and the gallery fees were used to start this venture. Milton Arthur of Long Beach became interested in the project.



Capt. C. M. Shaar hits first ball at Long Beach Naval Hospital course opening. In background George Lake, Olin Dutra and Bob Hope sitting down.

When he inquired why we didn't make the course a nine hole affair and was told of the cost of such a layout, he offered to help enlarge if enough land was available. Captain C. M. Shaar, who relieved Captain Albright, not only agreed to give us the land but to help with landscaping. With this assistance, the pros were able to make the course 9 holes and add a large practice putting green. The total cost was \$12,000. Other monies used to finish this course were raised through the playing of exhibition golf matches throughout Southern California and from sweepstakes held and conducted by PGA professionals at the various clubs.

Lake says: "Those who have helped us in this golfing program are too numerous to mention, but we would like to pay particular thanks for their assistance to Captain C. M. Shaar, Medical Officer in Command; Captain I. L. V. Norman, Executive Officer; Captain P. M. Albright; Lt. Commander Karl G. Johanboeke, Welfare Officer; Lt. Dan Henry, Recreation Officer; Lt. Commander C. B. Sharer; Milton Arthur, Wm. P. Bell, Architect; Jimmie Lawson, and Rodney Barker, Virginia CC.

## Columbus (O.) Sets National, State and Local Caddie Dates

★ Columbus (O.) private and municipal course golfers, headed by Mayor James A. Rhodes, plan to put caddie golfers into the spotlight with caddie tournaments this summer. The first national caddie tournament will be played at Ohio State university's golf courses Aug. 26-31, inclusive; the Ohio State caddie event will be played at the Ohio State layout, Aug. 19-24, and the Columbus Metropolitan caddie tournament will be played Aug. 12-17. Two private clubs and 2 public courses are bidding for the Metropolitan event.

These events, with the Columbus \$10,000 Open, July 5-7, should make the Buckeye capital a hot spot for golf this summer.

Caddie tournament first prizes are to be

4-, 2-, and 1-year scholarships at Ohio State University, for the national, state and local events, respectively. Caddies must have sanction of president, pro, caddie-master or manager of clubs they represent. All events will be run at match play after qualifying rounds.

Consensus of Columbus' leading golfers is that golf needs far more emphasis on caddie play and should have something on the order of the American Legion junior baseball schedule with its "Little World's Series" climax, and the other annual junior baseball feature, Esquire magazine's All-Star boys' ball game in which 32 newspapers in major cities collaborated in 1945.

Columbus golfers intend to establish the National Caddie Association, a non-profit organization for the help and encouragement of the kids. Mayor Rhodes, an ex-caddie, hopes to arrange for a Bing Crosby-Bob Hope exhibition match in Columbus as one of the means of financing the caddie association's activities.

John B. Gillespie, Ohio GA, pres., who helped establish the highly successful Columbus Metropolitan caddie championship, is among those active in getting the caddie championship idea on a state and national basis.

The intention is to have elimination tournament play. Favorable reception of the caddie tournament idea by club officials and pros in various parts of the country indicates that there is definite promise of arousing considerable interest in the kids' play. One of the objectives is to get the association so established that the kids themselves can do considerable of the job of conducting the organization's affairs, thus receiving training unique in sports operation.

The plan calls for bringing into sharp focus publicity for the kids, locally and nationally, that'll be complementary to the excellent job the Western GA has done with its Chick Evans scholarships and other caddie enterprises.

Club presidents, pros, caddie-masters and managers interested in the plans Columbus golfers are making for the caddie tournaments can get full details by writing James A. Rhodes, mayor, Columbus, O.

★ CHALLENGE RECRUITS CADDIES —When Ray Sage went from Forrest Hills GC, Atlanta to become pro-gkpr. at Southwinds, Lake Placid, Fla. course owned by Ronald A. Baker, New York hotel man, Ray brought along an excellent Negro golfer to act as caddymaster. Each Monday morning caddies are allowed to play in a tournament against the caddymaster. Any caddy who beats his score gets a prize. The event played on an off-morning draws numerous caddie recruits and gets helpful newspaper publicity.