

Jones Trophy Event Shows Amateur Revival Signs

By **BOB HALL**

Revival of the Catalina Island Bobby Jones Trophy tournament, one-time headline feature of far western resort golfing classics, after 6 years' lapse has set the pulse beating for a return of many fine events which in the past have been the proving grounds for development of first class talent in professional and amateur golf in Southern California.

The Jones tournament, Catalina's event, won for the third time by Frankie Hixen of San Gabriel CC, drew a near-record field of 161.

This tournament was established in 1931 as a fitting gesture to the Jones Grand Slam. Phil Wrigley, the chewing gum king, owner of Santa Catalina Island, the Chicago Cubs and a few other sporting and business enterprises, posted the mammoth trophy, to be played for at 36-holes medal each spring on this semi-tropical isle. A replica in marble, sometimes termed the "Oscar of Resort Golf" in California by Hollywood-conscious fans, is presented to the winner.

This year's classic, brought back to the tournament agenda for the first time since 1941, is being viewed as the stepping stone to the renewal of many of the finest competitive events in the far west: week-end tournaments at Del Monte and Pebble Beach, the Invitational cycle of the major clubs of the Southern and Northern California Golf associations, similar events in the Pacific Northwest, the Craven Cup men's scotch foursomes, one of the oldest competitions in California golf, and a host of others, were all allowed to lapse during the war years.

True, the veterans of the Pacific Coast golf—Hixon, Bud Taylor, Bruce McCormick, Ray Sleppy, Ralph Wolf and others—carried away the lion's share of the spoils this year, but like future events, the young players gave them enough trouble to warrant hardened golf officials to raise an eyebrow or two.

There were the two golfing sons of Wilkie Hunter, pro at Riviera, for one example. Mac Hunter, 17-year-old National junior



Catalina island's Visitors' Country club gets back into the picture with revival of an enjoyable resort tournament.

champion, was well among the leaders, as also was his older brother just out of the marines, Willie, Jr. Willie, Jr. is one of the longest driving young golfers on the Pacific Coast, and with a bit more tournament experience is going to be mighty hard to keep down.

Still others were Julie Bescos of the Virginia CC, Long Beach, whose 73-67-140 got him into the money; Pardee Erdman, making a return to golf competition after his navy chaplain duties; Jimmy McLarnin of Lakeside, the ex-boxing champion; Johnny Weismuller, John Carroll, Richard Arlen and others of the movie colony, all contributing to the color and glamour of this revival of pleasure resort golf cycle.

Larry Gleason, new pro-manager of the Island's Visitors' course, was hardly ready for the influx of the "gang" this year, having only recently taken over his chores at Avalon and completing a much-needed renovation and remodeling, but he and the new Mrs. Gleason—Alice to all the golfers—did a grand job, as also did Alma Overholt, Floyd Gillette, J. A. "Pat" Patterson, Otis Sheppard and others of the Catalina official staff.

Only 9 holes were opened for play, making four trips over the links necessary. The fact that Hixon, who is, incidentally, the only golfer ever to win the title more than once, won the "Oscar" with a score 6 over



Larry Gleason, pro at Catalina, and his wife, post the scores in competition for the island's "Oscar."

par is indicative of the test of golf it contains.

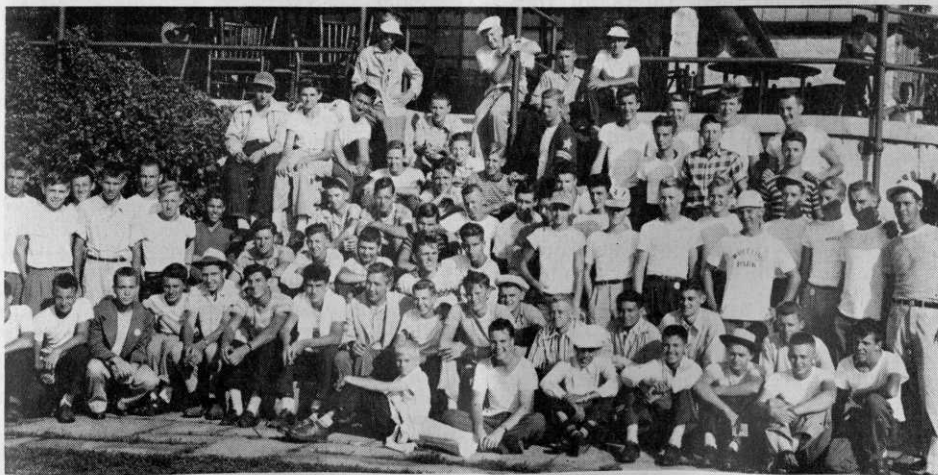
Hixon shot 70-64-134 over the par 64-64-128 course for the 36-holes. Frank (Bud) Taylor, 37-year-old dentist from Pomona, making his first competitive appearance since returning from service as an Army dental surgeon in the European theater of war, finished second with 67-68-135, while song-writer Ralph Wolf of Hollywood grabbed the show money with 68-68-136.

NATIONAL CADDIE CHAMPIONSHIP AT COLUMBUS, O., AUG. 27-31

E. Hugh Davis, Executive Director, National Caddie Assn., 216 Huntington Bank Bldg., Columbus, O., is supplying PGA sectional officials and newspapers with details of the 2d national caddie championship which will be played at Columbus, O.,

Aug. 27-31. Any bona fide caddie under 18 on Aug. 27 and certified by his local pro as a caddie and amateur is eligible. There is no entry fee. Entries close Aug. 24.

As many clubs have caddie championships Davis suggests that district qualifying rounds bringing together club caddie champions be held. In districts where the



This was the field at the initial National Caddie championship at Columbus, O. last year. This year's entries are far more numerous.