

Gets and Trains Negro Kids With "Q and A" School

By BOB HAYES

Orlando Country Club at Orlando, Fla., had a long-standing caddy problem — and licked it.

It was a double-barrelled problem. There weren't enough caddies to go around in the first place. And the caddies they did have had no more than a light smattering of caddyng fundamentals.

Golf players among the 500-odd members of the picturesque Florida club were unloading gripes at club officers.

John Graham, chairman of the Green and Grounds committee, instituted a simple program five months ago to remedy the situation.

The results have proved surprising. And it's a program simple enough and reasonable enough from a cost standpoint to work for any golf course — particularly those in the Dixie belt where conditions are much the same.

The Orlando CC gets its peak play during the Winter. Use of white caddies during the Winter, when school is in progress, is out of the question. So this club, like most others in the Winter tourist areas, uses all Negro caddies.

Plan Gets Negro Caddies

Perhaps the Negro caddies should be in their schools, too, but they are more

eager for a dollar. But even so, the turnover among Negro caddies had been terrific.

Graham's plan works on that angle, too.

Here's the plan he worked out:

Graham had a big sign erected just outside the caddy pen bearing this set of 12 simple rules for caddyng:

1. Clean balls for your player.
2. Watch spot by line and object where player's drive goes. As soon as other players have shot, go direct to your ball.
3. After player has selected club, move about eight feet to his right.
4. After spotting ball, be sure to replace any divot, press down, and then go direct to the ball.
5. If your player's ball stops on green first, you are to take care of the flag.
6. If you are on the flag, you are to decide which ball is farthest from the flag and face that player.
7. Stand so that your shadow is not over cup. Do not step on line of putt.
8. When removing or replacing flag pole, do not damage rim of hole.
9. Never stand behind a player who is about to shoot, at any time.
10. Never move around, rattle clubs or talk when player is shooting.



Donald S. Evans, left center, pres., Orlando (Fla.) CC, reaches into hat held by John Graham, Orlando green chmn., to draw a number for one of the club's younger caddies to answer in a query session that "has improved caddyng 100 per cent."

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11. Never walk in traps.

12. Never move or pick up ball without permission from your player.

"There are a good many, and more complex, rules for caddies," Graham contends, "But caddies either won't read them or they can't understand them. In fact, we're doing pretty well if we can get caddies who are able to read the 12 rules we have posted.

"And we've found that if caddies will abide by the 12 simple rules we have posted, our members are satisfied with the calibre of caddying they get."

Prizes at "Caddy School"

Graham's plan doesn't stop with the posting of the rules, however. He holds a regular caddy school to follow-up on the program.

Graham and Donald S. Evans, club president actively supervise the school, which is held on Saturday mornings at about two week intervals, but without advance notice.

Graham turns up for the school with a hatful of paper slips, each bearing the number of one of the 12 rules.

Evans shows up with about \$20 in crisp \$1 bills.

They are told the cash value placed upon the correct answer for any one of the 12 rules. The questions are all of the \$1 and \$2 variety.

Each caddy steps up in turn, draws a number and, if he can rattle off the rule matching the number drawn, he collects his money.

The interest generated by the \$1 bills is surprising. It is almost unbelievable.

Thirty-two caddies, the younger ones, are in the school.

Evans reports club members are "enthusiastic about the school, and the good it has done. Why, the young caddies have improved 100 per cent.

"And what's more important, we seldom have any players griping about their caddies.

"Another thing, too, by having the school on Saturday mornings, on unannounced Saturdays, we find that we are able to have sufficient numbers of caddies on hand to take care of our heavy Saturday play — when our businessman-member comes out to get in his week's round of golf. It's been well worth the small amount of money it's costing us," he added. The Graham plan went a step further. It caused posting of signs in locker rooms asking members to refrain from harsh criticism of caddies, and to make their criticism from a constructive angle.