

Improvement Required in Southern Caddy Picture

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There are many things in the golf field that could be corrected and improved, but the caddy situation throughout the South, to my way of thinking, is the worst department of all golf. This does not apply to all Southern clubs, but I would say 80 percent of the clubs in the entire South could better caddy operation among the colored lads who do a lot of this job.

It is the players themselves who are to blame more than anything else. There are a lot of caddies who would be honest and do a good job if the players would help them by not buying balls from them. Buying balls from the boy encourages a caddy to neglect his duty by not honestly trying to find the ball his player has lost. He will step on the ball, go back after he is through caddying, get the ball and sell it to some other player. Some caddies are also laughingly encouraged to cheat for their players. I have known caddies who could carry a ball from a rough spot to a good spot with their toes. Why does a boy do this? Because there is a good fat tip for him at the end of the eighteen holes.

At the close of the war there were very few good dependable boys who really knew how to caddy. Now what we have to do is to train caddies from scratch. I take my caddies out to a green and show them where to stand in holding the flag, how to carry the bag on their shoulders, a correct way to hand the player a club, the position to stand in to keep from getting hit by the ball, and not to be in a direct line of the player's swing. They are impressed that they are not to talk unless spoken to and rattle the clubs no more than possible. I also caution my caddies never to bet on their players. No player should allow this if he knows it. A caddy should hold the flag so that the wind won't blow it, and he should never put the flag outside of the cup. This method has ruined many a good putt. He should also stand so that his shadow is not across the line.

There are many clubs that cannot afford a caddy-master. In such cases the pros should take an interest in caddies and instruct them. Caddies should not be

allowed to gamble with cards or dice anywhere on the club property, for there always are a few sharks who take advantage of the smaller boys and go home with the money.

Caddies should have a good comfortable building to stay in during bad weather with toilet facilities and if possible a shower, where they could be made to keep themselves clean. They should have drinking water and they should keep this place clean themselves. If these things are done you will have better caddies and the players will enjoy their game much more.

Players depend entirely too much on the caddies telling them what club to play. That is not the duty of a caddy, and when the player hits a bad shot by being short or going over the green, the caddy gets the blame. I have seen top-notch golfers do this when they should have known their own distance and what club to select. There are a few old-time caddies, more or less professional caddies, who were excellent at selecting clubs for their players. I have had some fine caddies in my time and every one of these boys were trained well and knew their job. They were courteous and took a pride in their work. When they lost a ball, the majority of times they would go back and find it and return it to the player who lost it. I am most sure that this method could be taught to every one of the caddies if the pro or the caddy-master would instruct them properly.

There is another thing that should not be allowed and I have been guilty of this myself in the past; no player should curse a caddy at any time. If the boy is not doing his duty he should tell him and then if he does not do it, send him in even if you have to carry the bag yourself. A player is better off carrying his own bag rather than be disturbed by a poor caddy throughout the round. In the majority of cases it is not the fault of the caddy, but the fault of improper training.

I would like to pass along a little credit due a real high class caddy-master. I have played his course quite a few times

and I have yet to get any but a first-class caddy. No one questions this man's selection when he gives them a caddy. He takes a pride in his job and I am sure his club pays him a good salary. The caddies are always clean and most courteous. He is Jim Britt, and he is at the East Lake CC, Atlanta, Ga. If every club could afford a caddy-master of this type the players would enjoy their game much better.

In this article I am referring to the Southern colored caddies because I know the better clubs throughout the North and the West have good caddy-masters and the proper training. I don't want to offend anyone, but to help a situation which I know could be a lot better.

Check on Equipment Before Winter Storage

As machinery is stored for the winter it is advisable to check and estimate the cost of repairing or replacement.

Fairway and Rough Mowers: Measure the adjustment available and determine if new reels are required. The gears and bearings should be checked and the total cost of repairs estimated. Compare this figure with the cost of new units. Sometimes the cost of repairs will be greater, and your club will save money if new units are purchased. Check the hitch for cracks and defects, and weld or replace.

Putting Green Mowers: Unless a club has spare mowers, power putting green mowers should be in perfect shape at the start of the new season. All grease seals and gaskets should be replaced to prevent the leakage of grease and oil.

Tee and Edge Mowers: Check for bent and damaged knives, replace or straighten where necessary. Wood tees are hard on reels and bottom knives.

Sickle Bar Mowers: Check pitman rod and bearings for wear. Bent guards should be replaced and new sickle sections installed if needed.

Tractors and Trucks: Miles or hours of operation will help you determine the amount of repairs necessary. Trucks and tractors to be used during the winter months should be serviced for cold weather operation.

Hand Tools and Other Equipment: Hand tools should be cleaned and oiled to prevent rusting. Hand sprayers should be cleaned and drained. Dry out as much as possible to prevent corrosion. Power sprayers should be cleaned and drained. Be sure all drain plugs are removed. Inspect valves and pistons for wear. All hose should be drained and condition checked. Sprinklers should be checked for wear and damage.

—Heart of American Greenkeeping Assn.

It's a \$50,000.00 Purse for the 1950 World Championship

George S. May has added another \$14,000 to Tam O'Shanter's World Championship purse for 1950, boosting next year's currency crop for the event to \$50,000. Or, shall we say—a total of one-twentieth of a million bucks. Starting with \$12,000 for the winner, 31 others who finish best in the pellet planting will harvest checks, ranging down to \$200 for last place. Entry fee for men professionals will be \$100, with women and amateurs still riding free. Contestants must play in Tam's All American events to become eligible for the World Championship and every contestant must wear a number. Ties will be decided by "sudden death". The dates are Aug. 3 thru 13, 1950 with events scheduled as follows: All American Professional—56 from qualifying rounds of Thursday, Aug. 3, 14 top money winners of the year, and 6 to be named by sponsor, a total field of 76. All American Women's Open will consist of 12 who qualify Friday, Aug. 4, and 8 pros and 8 amateurs to be named by sponsor, a total of 28. All American Men's Amateur to consist of 16 who qualify Friday, Aug. 4, and 8 to be named by sponsor, a total of 24. All American event starts Saturday morning, the entire field of 126 playing 18 holes a day Sat., Sun., Mon. and Tues.

World Championship fields will be made up as follows: Men's Professional section—14 top money winners of the year, 6 named by the sponsor, and the 12 low scorers in the All American Professional event not otherwise included, a total of 32. Each Women's section will be composed of 8 players selected from the All American field on the basis of their performance through the year. Men's Amateur section to consist of 12 players selected from All American events on the basis of their merits through the year. The World Championship tees off Thursday, Aug. 10th; the entire field playing 18 holes daily, Thurs., Fri., Sat. and Sunday. Admission tickets will be \$2 plus 40c tax—total \$2.40 each day.

ANNUAL TURF CONFERENCES

- Sept. 26-27—Turf Field Day and Golf Tournament, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa.
- Oct. 19—National Turf Field Day, Beltsville Turf Gardens, Beltsville, Md.
- Nov. 28-30—Oklahoma - Texas Turf Conference, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- Feb. 27-Mar. 2, 1950—19th Annual Turf Conference, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa.
- March 6-8—Midwest Regional Turf Conference, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.