

All of us — the club members and I — are proud of the generally conceded rating of Sunset caddies as the best in the St. Louis district. There are four reasons for this reputation:

4-Point Caddy Policy

1—The annual caddy party.

2—The courteous treatment by our members. All of us in pro golf have seen some clubs where the caddy problem actually is the member problem. It's not that way at Sunset.

3—Caddy selection.

4—Caddy training.

Three years ago when I became professional at Sunset I paid out of my own pocket the salary of a caddy trainer who started on the job until June 15 and worked until mid-September.

Each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday he'd get the boys in the morning, take them out on the course and show them where to stand, on what holes to be out in front, how to repair divots, how to repair ball marks in greens and other details of the job.

These equivalents of members' playing lessons were given on the first and second nines of alternate days from about 9:30 to 11:30.

Saturday mornings they were taken to our large practice green and taught how to handle their duties around a green. Let me say that when members see some of this training in progress it has a good effect on them. They see that caddying is far more than bag-lugging and see, in some cases that the kid studies caddying more than some players study golf.

Caddies Must Be Schooled

Each new caddy, as well as many of the regulars, are required to attend at least ten of these training sessions. If, after ten lessons a boy can pass the test the trainer gives he is excused from classes, but if poor reports come in the boys are required to get back in class for refresher courses.

During the afternoons the trainer walks around the course watching the boys' performances and asking the members how the caddies are doing and what the members think about the kids. This impresses on the members that we have a superior group of caddies and that every kid is expected to qualify to belong to the outfit.

After I paid the trainer for two years the club decided to pay him as the club found it was the only way to develop good caddies and to have caddies that were standouts — as ours among those of the district's clubs — was a decided asset to the club.

Caddy training can be made a very interesting thing for the kids. They are

quick to see why a good caddy is a great help to every champion, and in a lot of cases far more of a help to the average player than the player himself realizes.

"The Old Army Game"

The caddy training at Sunset isn't a soft deal to which we invited every kid old enough to carry a bag around the course. It's got distinction to it. There's a touch of the military element in it. Many of us recall glorying in belonging to Army, Navy or Marine outfits where the discipline was tough but developed top men for dependability in combat. Every soldier, sailor and Marine bitched about the training he was getting, but on the outside let it be plainly known that it took a real guy to stand up and come through it. And as long as it showed him how to do his job well and was fairly and competently administered he saw that the job was one that separated the men from the boys.

The kids take the same view of a well conducted caddy training program. They have got the right idea — which is that they've got to be good or they wouldn't be there.

The result has been not only a first class spirit of mutual interest between Sunset caddies and players but development of caddying proficiency to the point where I am confident that you could take any one of 35 caddies at Sunset out to a course where a National Open or Amateur championship was going to be played, let the boy go around the course a couple of times to get a chance to study local conditions, and he'd be as perfect a caddy as a champion could want.

Our club members have the idea that is basic in putting across a good program, and that is while we may not have many of our members who could compete in a national championship we can brag that our caddies could do their work in such a championship perfectly.

Foundation Golf Rules Book Gets Big Distribution

Orders for more than 10,000 copies of "The Easy Way to Learn Golf Rules" have been received by the National Golf Foundation in advance of publication. The revised 1952 edition containing the major changes approved by the USGA and the R & A will be available for distribution April 1. Sixty cartoons and illustrations make the new 80 page edition entertaining as well as informative reading. The book, convenient size, (3" x 4") is an important item for every player and member. Single copies, 10 cents. Larger quantities, \$6.00 per 100 copies. Quantity orders should be directed to the National Golf Foundation, Chicago 5, Ill.