

Elmer Murphy, Oldest Golf Worker, Active at 100

July 31 was an historic day and fittingly observed at Acacia CC in the Chicago district.

It was the hundredth birthday of Elmer Murphy, called "Pat" by Harry Drafke, Acacia owner, the rest of Murphy's co-



Elmer Murphy

... postmaster, miner, greenkeeper.

workers and the players who see the wiry and brisk gentleman working on the course.

Murphy has been at Acacia since 1942. He works seven days a week and gets a lot done. Workers don't come any more reliable than Pat. He's no newcomer to golf course work. In 1920 he went to work as greenkeeper at Newark, O., and stayed on that job 12 years.

At Acacia he changes the towels and tee markers and attends to the ball washers early, is the first one at the shop in the morning, and still drives the old yellow Toro tractor he operated when he came onto this job.

He keeps the club's parking space and the tees very well policed and keeps the hedges perfectly trimmed with the electric trimmer he operates as an artist.

Murphy's parents (Irish father and

French mother) came to the U.S. in 1806, went via covered wagon to Newark, O., then to a farm near Galesburg, Ill., where Elmer was born. He has been a farmer, storekeeper, postmaster and miner as well as a greenkeeper.

His first wife was a noted cancer research pioneer, Vita Chipperfield. Some years after her death he married Edith Blaisdell, art director of the La Grange, Ill., high school.

Pat's main complaint about golf course work recently was expressed to a companion who was working on a trap with him. A pleasantly curved young lady in very brief shorts was on the green. The fellow worker nudged Pat and whispered "Look." Pat pulled hard on his pipe, "I'm looking," he said. "I was born 60 years too soon."

The accompanying picture of Mr. Murphy was taken by Harry Drafke's daughter Lois, one of the Chicago district's girl stars.

Organize Regional Amputee Golf Associations

In order to get more handicapped persons to take up golf, the National Amputee Golf Assn. is setting up a nationwide regional program to encourage more intensive amputee participation in the game on a city, state and sectional basis. Dale S. Bourisseau, chmn. of Possibilities Unlimited and director of this year's Amputee Amateur tournament which will be played at Lake Shore Yacht & CC, Syracuse, N. Y., on Aug. 24-25, is promoting the plan. Bourisseau's headquarters are in Solon, O.

Eight regional amputee groups already have been formed and officers elected for five of them. The first big item on the regional agenda is to organize amputee clinics for non golfers, particularly children. It is then hoped to conduct regional tournaments which, in future years, will precede the big national event such as the one being held in Syracuse this month. Regional representatives are being urged to get all possible publicity for their organizations so as to encourage more amputees to take up the game.

At the present time, Dale Bourisseau is compiling data on the various types of amputations which will be reproduced in pamphlet or booklet form to show how it is not only possible but beneficial for handicapped persons to play golf. Distribution of the booklet will be made to hospitals, rehabilitation and veteran cent-