



Wheeling kids learn to play the game as well as how to carry golf bags.

# Caddie Camp

**Offer a boy the chance to camp out all summer (and get paid for it) and you won't have any shortage of bag toters. That's what they do in Wheeling, W. Va.**

By J. L. (JACK) GRIMES

**I**F YOU have a caddie problem at your club you might start a caddie camp like the one they have in Wheeling, W. Va. All you will need in addition to your course is a place to bed, board and bathe a large number of boys. In such a place you will need a couple cooks and necessary culinary equipment, an indeterminate amount of assorted foods, an organization to direct and supervise things, and for you and your committee plenty of faith, hope and an abiding confidence in a segment of Young America, male sex, between the ages of 12 and 16 years.

Once you have the caddie camp the next step is to get the boys who are to be your campers. Without them you might as well forget the whole thing because, after all, they are the real solution to the caddie problem.

Getting these teen-agers out to tote bags on the course all day is not too difficult especially if you have a few extra attractions next door to your camp like they have at Wheeling.

They come out to Oglebay Park GC in Wheeling to caddie and to learn how to

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*A group of Wheeling caddie campers appears on the front cover with Sam Snead. Also see page 3.*

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caddie better and spend an entire vacation at it. Furthermore they come out in such numbers that any pains of caddie deficiency suffered at this course in the past are now forgotten like last season's bad shots. No one at Oglebay can remember when he had to shoulder his own golf bag because there has been no dearth of caddies in the last 18 years.

### Willie Is Eager

Youngsters of caddie age in Wheeling find it hard to wait until school is out to get to Oglebay Park and the camp. This incident, for example, is typical. The 1957 school year ended on the last Friday in May. Within minutes after dismissal little Willie was home tossing his school books into a cupboard. Then he began packing an old suitcase. His mother, surprised and curious, asked Willie, "Now, where are you going?"

"I'm going to Oglebay Park," the boy explained. "I'm going to caddie," he said. "And what time will you be getting home?" she inquired.

"I don't know for sure, mom," Willie surmised, "but I think about the last of August."

Willie knew his application to the Caddie Camp, endorsed by his father, had been stamped "Accepted" and he was in a hurry to get to Oglebay Park, obtain instructions and assignment to his cabin at the camp, which is required procedure just as if he were to matriculate at any educational institution.

This camp has a waiting list. There are so many camping aspirants in the feed lot to supply the caddie needs at the course that the surplus creates its own problem. The need for housing an increasing number of boys each year has not gone unnoticed and future expansion of facilities at the park may include enlargement of the camp.

Wheeling's Oglebay Park has many things besides the caddie camp. It has a wealth of rolling landscape of indescribable beauty covering about 1,000 acres in all. The 18-hole course winds over this area. The park has a large number of substantially built log cabins completely furnished for vacationists who come from every state and territory plus innumerable picnic sites. Then it has a museum in a lordly Colonial Mansion, a restaurant in a spacious Guest House, a theater and exhibition hall in an English Carriage Barn. Recently completed is Wilson Lodge with 57 rooms and adjoining restaurant.

Oglebay, too, has a commodious outdoor theater and one of the largest swimming pools extant. Then there are miles of bridlepaths.

It also has its ball park, tennis courts and athletic field and a driving range which was opened only a few years ago. This adjunct to a complete golfing day at Oglebay Park was an instant success. You would quickly grasp the reason for its

popularity. It runs steeply down hill for four or five hundred yards. A person can hit a ball a country mile from its tees.

These and more are the things Oglebay Park has. But give the Caddie Camp credit for winning first place in the hearts of the golfers, the caddie campers and the champions of teen-age welfare. It has been declared by many that the camp is the finest phase of the Oglebay Park program.

Not all the caddie load at the golf course is borne by the Caddie Camp pool. While 32 local boys enrolled this year for the summer out-of-doors (without cost to parents) there were others to serve the golfers. They provided a full complement of aid to the fairway customers and ulcer prevention for the caddiemaster.

### Soak up Knowledge

The youngsters seeking their caddie degrees while working their way through this caddie college are given thorough professional instruction in their duties and they become expert and courteous. They rapidly soak up knowledge of the fundamentals and the rules of golf. They understand the function of each wood and iron and can "club you" correctly. With their sharp young eyes they can really read a green. There is ample time for them, too, to participate in a recreation program which includes playing golf, tennis, basketball, touch football, softball and ping-pong. The boys also engage in swimming, nature studies, crafts and track and field sports. Nighttimes they attend concerts and theatrical productions suitable for boys of 12 to 16 years of age.

But around the clock at the Caddie Camp all is not play. Each squad must clean and care for its own cabin daily. All boys are scheduled for some park tasks when not carrying a golf bag or taking part in the recreation program. Last year the caddy campers worked a total of 4,114 hours on light park jobs at a cost of \$3,105.53 to the park. This information comes from the annual report by the park management.

Last year, for example, the Caddie Camp director was a college graduate with camp training and experience. He headed a staff of three counselors who were selected upon the basis of their qualifications for leadership in all phases of the program. One counselor was a college graduate and the other two were students. Two cooks were employed to round out a staff of six.

At the close of the camping season a recognition banquet was held for the caddy

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## Assessor Blocks Relief

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one of the clubs involved it means an immediate increase in the dues of \$6.00 per month. To the other clubs it means a long look at the situation.

The press has referred to this predicament as a tax fight. It was more a bended-knee plea than anything else. Whatever was done was done with a full appreciation of the difficult position of the assessor and the board of supervisors in satisfying the requirements for revenue with which to meet costs of government. But, the fact still remains that the land, which was once considered barely within reach of the commuter trains, is now considered prime subdividable land and cause for the assessors to regard many of our golf courses as much too valuable to escape taxation on the same basis as the adjoining residential land. A look at an aerial photograph of San Francisco county will show that the only green areas left in the county are golden gate park and the golf courses.

That Gov. Knight is aware of the golf course problem is evidenced by his statement made more than two weeks after he signed Senate Bill 1637. He said: "Some-

thing ought to be done about the fact that new courses aren't being laid out fast enough to keep up with California's growing population, and in some metropolitan areas existing courses are being sold to subdividers. This will become a serious recreational problem in the Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego areas unless this problem is worked on."

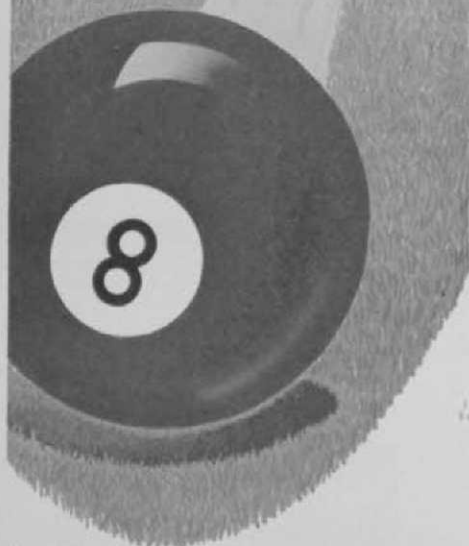
What about the future? The San Mateo clubs have not yet reached a decision on the question of possible court action to challenge the increase in their assessed valuations. The concept of recreational zoning is entirely new. Consequently, planning commissions will probably not rush into this kind of zoning classification. The first Monday in March, 1958, will roll around all too soon and the appraiser and the assessor will be hard at work again. To accomplish recreational zoning by that time will necessitate local law changes.

## Caddie Camp

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trainees. Awards were issued for the outstanding Caddie Camper, the Best Caddy, Best Athlete, for the Most Money Earned, for the Most Balls Found and to the winners of the three-flight golf tournament.

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The Oglebay Park GC membership recognized the services rendered by taking the boys to the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star football game.

### Bank Account for Each Boy

The camp director keeps a bank account for each boy. Money earned by caddying is deposited and credited to each account. The director also puts a value on balls a caddy finds on the course. Found balls are deposited like cash because they are sold to the golf shop and in turn are sold to golfers. At the end of each week the director deducts \$7 from each account to pay owner's board bill. Week by week the credit balance grows.

Occasionally the caddie camper comes face to face with a business depression or recession. Caddy fees, found balls, extra work for the park, in fact all sources of income may fail to produce enough funds to meet expenses which amount to that weekly seven bucks. Such misfortune is usually due to poor weather. On these occasions the director makes a single entry on the books. It squares the account of the caddie for the week no matter how small the amount of his credits. Everyone starts a new week with a clean slate. Obviously Oglebay Park shows no profit on Caddie Camp operations at the end of the year but the surplus of goodwill grows steadily.

A typical Caddie Camp report shows that there were 4,250 nine-hole rounds caddied during the season for which Oglebay Park golfers pay \$3,814.10, or an average of 92 cents per round. Of this sum collected by the caddies and deposited with the director \$1,289.20 was returned to them, an average of \$40 for each kid. Congratulated on his season's success, one lad smiled and confided, "And we got tips, too."

Complete information about the Caddie Camp can be obtained from Homer Fish, supt. of parks, Wheeling, W. Va.

### Blatnak Salvages It

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move whatever strikes his fancy and examine it closely. Particularly interesting is the sportswear display (see photo) which features pegboard and glass shelving and is top-lighted.

Blatnak, a pro for nearly 20 years, has had a fling at the winter tour, has qualified for PGA Championship and National Open Tournaments and usually does well in local and state tournaments. He was head pro at Chicago's Bunker Hill for