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Caddies Get Golden Rule Treatment at Golden Valley

By HARRY CARMAN

At Golden Valley GC, Minneapolis, one of the more forward looking innovations is a Caddie Club. Every kid who carries clubs is a member and once weekly he and co-workers meet with the pro and supt. to be briefed on newest developments and learn a little more about golf.

The supt., for example, is educating the youngsters in the problems of course maintenance, adding a little more each week to the information the caddies have absorbed as to why certain rules are in force and why turf is rather delicate stuff that has to be handled with care. At all briefings, the caddies are urged to act as liaison agents between the maintenance dept. and players in impressing on the latter the necessity for keeping the course in the best possible condition. This, of course, has to be largely by example.

At the "pro" sessions, the caddies are shown something about playing the game, given an idea of what clubs to use in different situations so they'll know what to tell golfers who ask their advice and they also are taught the rules of golf.

The caddies are not expected to remain mute at meetings with the pro and supt. They are encouraged to offer suggestions of all kinds. If any are accepted, Golden Valley pays around three dollars for them. All that have been used have helped to improve club operations.

At least twice a year, in the winter, and again in the spring, Golden Valley caddies are guests of the management at banquets. Prominent club members speak, movies on maintenance, courtesy and playing technique are shown and the kids are even let in on any changes that are contemplated in operation of the club.

When the regular playing season comes to an end, Golden Valley takes a full page newspaper ad to thank the caddies for their part in making the golf year a success. Photos of the kids appear in the ad. This expression of appreciation has struck a very favorable public relations chord among golf followers in and around Minneapolis. As a final gesture, the club give each regular caddie a \$10 bonus at season's end if, in the opinion of the pro, supt., and manager, the boy has merited it through his conduct and attendance record.