

view of approving anything that might change Merion's basic character and tradition."

Concentration on Golf

Merion's concentration on golf has, of course, attracted a membership that includes men and women, young and old. Its waiting list is fairly impressive. This indicates that the market for those who primarily want to play golf has scarcely been tapped. Naturally, no one who insists upon diverse facilities would apply for membership in the first place. Applicants know that golf alone is available at Merion. They have their choice of two excellent 18-hole courses.

Gray emphasizes that he doesn't want Merion's rejection of complementary sports facilities to imply that the club is administered by a group of old fogies who resist change of any sort. Smiling, he says: "If I resisted change, I would be impeached as Merion's pres. and maybe drummed out of my business, a business of change. But any change must be a change for the better. I agree wholeheartedly with the club's governors that as long as Merion is a golf club the biggest share of its annual budget should be appropriated to maintain the best possible golfing conditions."

Close Adherence to Rules

Merion runs a "tight" course where it goes without saying that everyone is expected to closely observe the game's rules and etiquette. Fast, if not hurried, play is stressed. It is considered a grievous sin to overlook the replacing of divots or the smoothing out of footprints in sandtraps. Respect for the homes adjoining the course is considered an obligation of every member or player, regardless of how young or inexperienced a golfer he may be. There also are constant reminders to keep the course and club grounds free of debris.

Membership regulations are designed so that it is relatively inexpensive for sons and daughters of members to join the club as Junior Individual members when they reach their 21st birthdays. There is a Junior family membership for married men under 31 that entitles him, his wife and children to play golf and enjoy other club privileges. There also is a non-resident membership for men and women who live beyond a 50-mile radius of the club.

Guests may play both Merion courses a total of four times a year regardless of the number of members introducing them. A record of registrations kept in the pro

Club Managers' Conference in Miami Beach

The 35th conference of the Club Managers' Association of America will be held Feb. 28-Mar. 3, 1962, at the Deauville and Carillon Hotels in Miami Beach, Fla. According to Harry B. Manning, vice chairman of arrangements, the CMAA is scheduling all seminars and meetings so that persons attending the conference will be able to work in the education program with vacationing.

shop enables any member to ascertain the current playing privilege status of any guest.

Restrictions on Women

There are also some unwritten rules and regulations at the club. Although Merion has a growing number of women players, including the president's daughter, Alice Gray, the Pennsylvania State women's champion, it is generally understood that they do not play on Saturday mornings, which are reserved for men golfers whose business prevents them playing other than on weekends. Mixed foursomes, however, are customary on Saturday afternoons.

Perhaps there is fear that traditions and established rules may be jeopardized if complementary sports facilities are introduced at Merion. Gray doesn't say so in so many words, but the impression is there nevertheless. Yet, there must be appeal in the rather strict regulations, judging from the club's waiting list.

Gray hints strongly, however, that Merion is not interested in men who are merely out for exercise or "customer-type golf." He says bluntly: "They don't care about their score or other players. Few of them ever take a lesson from the pro, although they could improve their games by doing so. It isn't money that prevents this type of golfer from taking lessons from the pro. It is just a false sense of pride and not taking the game seriously."

Merion standards are also strict in the areas of service of food, drink and dress. Ladies are not permitted at the bar, nor are they served in the Men's Grill. However, they may be served alcoholic beverages in the dining room. Shorts are not permitted in the dining rooms or on the terraces at dinnertime. Ladies are

(Continued on page 135)