

County Getting Back on its Feet — 19th Hole Is Necessary Adjunct

By WILLIAM JABINE

Is that time-honored institution, the Nineteenth Hole, a necessary adjunct of a golf or country club?

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania seems to think that it is. That court ruled recently that a catering club liquor license should be granted to the Willowbrook Country Club located in Allegheny twp., Westmoreland County, although the Pennsylvania liquor control board had turned down the club's application for a license. Before the matter reached the supreme court, two lower courts had reversed the liquor board's ruling. The board appealed their decision to the Supreme Court.

The Pennsylvania statutes governing the issuance of liquor licenses permit licenses, in addition to the regular town quota, to be issued in a resort area. Willowbrook contended that its property was in such an area. After a lengthy discussion of various definitions of resort areas, the supreme court affirmed the ruling of the

superior court that Willowbrook was in fact located in a resort area.

Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Macon, Columbus

In discussing the reasons for permitting additional licenses in such areas, the court said in part: "A study of the proceedings before the legislature when this enactment was adopted is evidence that it was intended thereby to render an equitable distribution of such licenses in areas, where during certain seasons, the population is increased to such an extent that the usual number of licenses is not adequate to serve the needs of the people.

Not Enough Licenses

"Under the undisputed facts, there is an unusual and great influx of people into this particular area during certain seasons of the year. It is quite obvious to us that the character and number of the usual licenses could not possibly meet the existing need.

"In the instant case there are no licensed premises located within five miles of the Willowbrook CC. Additionally, all presently licensed premises are small taverns lacking adequate facilities to serve the large number of people Willowbrook caters to. The testimony clearly manifests a substantial need in relation to the pleasure, convenience and general welfare of

the persons who make use of the facility."

Two of the seven justices of the supreme court did not regard the Nineteenth Hole as a necessity and dissented. (Appeal of Willowbrook Country Club, Inc., 187 A. 2d 154.)

1962 Course Mishaps Up 20 Per Cent Over Previous Year

A two-year survey of golf accidents throughout the country by the Institute for Safer Living of the American Mutual Liability Insurance Co., reveals that more than 1,300 disabling injuries resulted in 1962 from spills, collisions and other mishaps involving golf cars. This is said to be a sharp increase over the previous year.

The Institute emphasizes that as in the majority of highway accidents, the cause is not the vehicle, but the driver.

More than 18,000 disabling golf injuries of all types were recorded in 1962. This is an increase of about 3,000 over the previous year.

10,000 Hit by Golf Balls

Approximately 10,000 persons were struck by golf balls. Nearly 10 per cent

of those injured were struck by clubs, and about the same number were the victims of heat prostration. Overexertion disabled seven per cent of the total. Players were injured in more than half the cases reported. Around 6,300 caddies and 900 course workmen also were victimized, according to the institute.

An Institute spokesman pointed out that while golf car accidents accounted for only about seven per cent of the casualty total, continued recklessness on the part of drivers may easily result in a sharp uptrend in course mishaps.

National Handicap Tourney at Three Bradenton (Fla.) Clubs

First annual DeSoto National Handicap championship will be played May 16-18 at Bradenton (Fla.) CC, at nearby DeSoto GC and Lodge and Longboat Key Club. Golfers with USGA handicaps of 18 and under are eligible. Competitors will play 18 on each of the three courses with net scores determining championship and flight winners. There will be a shotgun start. Tournament headquarters are at Brandenton (Fla.) Cabana, 222 10th st., West.

