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Caddie, Accomplice Double-Team Golfers at Cleveland Course

By **CHARLES STINE**

Golfers at Cleveland's Highland Park municipal course are finding that their biggest hazard is caddies. To put it bluntly, some of them are crooks.

Theft hit its peak in early August when two golfers were on the seventh tee, which is far from the clubhouse with a woods on one side and a highway on the other.

Their caddie suddenly walked away, climbed the boundary fence and ran to a car waiting for him on nearby Harvard ave. He took with him both golfers' expensive sets of clubs. Each was left with only the driver he had in his hand.

The golfers had no recourse. Caddies at Highland are not required to register. No one knew the boy's name or address and needless to say, he didn't come back for more work.

Another time a construction company owner discovered on Highland's first tee that there were no balls in his bag. Club officials suspect that caddies pilfered the balls as the player, his bag in a rack, waited his turn to tee off.

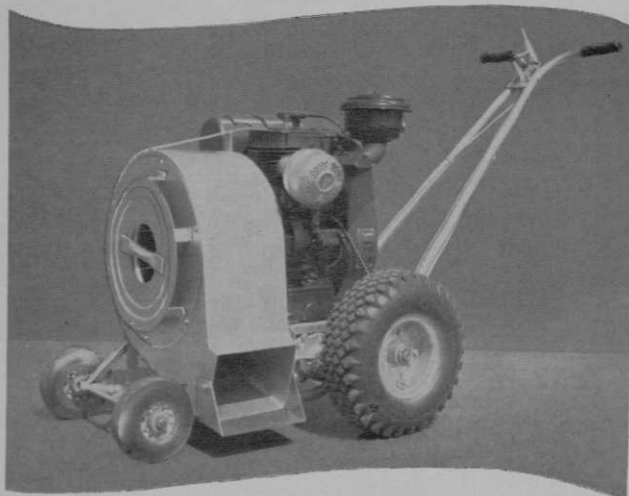
Kid Keeps Going

The golfer handed a \$20 bill to his caddie and sent the youngster to buy three new balls at the pro shop. Neither the caddy nor the \$20 have been seen at Highland since.

Municipal Judge John A. Corlett left his street shoes atop his locker while playing a round, which is customary if the golfer wants his shoes shined. When he finished his round the shoes had been stolen.

A lock was knocked off a locker and a new set of clubs stolen before Cleveland finally authorized more police protection and more supervision around the clubhouse.

Crux of the problem is that Highland is within easy reach by bus of the Cleveland East Side slums. It is a municipal



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course and does not have the normal facilities for registering and training caddies. But it is 36 holes, is an excellent course and gets play from golfers from all over the city, many of whom want caddies. Any boy hanging around has a good chance of getting a job.

Highland has been the site for the past two years of the Cleveland Open.

Rod Foster, former Ohio State University football player is charged with looking out for caddies as well as being the starter. He says a small group of boys cause practically all the trouble.

"I would say about 80 per cent of the caddies are good ones," Foster remarks. "The other 20 percent give the rest a bad name and lead some of the good ones into trouble.

"Most of the older fellows are out to make a living. It's the young ones who get tired sitting around and start the trouble."

A 16-minute, 16mm, sound-color film of the 1965 USGA Open, played at Bellerive, is available from the USGA, 40 E. 38th st., New York, 10016.

Pros See No End to Boom in Golf

The golf boom hasn't approached its peak.

That is what golf professionals told the Charles A. Eaton Co., Brockton, Mass., manufacturer of the Etonic shoe, when that firm conducted a survey a short time ago. Anticipating this answer, the Eaton people asked, "What is needed to keep the golf boom going?"

Most pros said that more courses, ranges and Par 3s are still needed. Of the persons who voiced this opinion, 20 per cent said these should be public and semi-private.

One of six pros declared that the game needs expanded publicity and promotion. Another 12 per cent said that more attention should be given to Junior golf. About one out of ten pros said that the cost of green fees, taxes and equipment should be reduced so that more people of average means can play golf. A few of the shopmasters were critical of their own, saying there is a need for better pros. Finally, one lone voice held out for an improved handicapping system.