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Making the Swing

ALL AROUND GOLF

By HERB GRAFFIS

Leo Diegel in talking with J. M. Brennan, Long Island Star and Journal golf writer, suggested that Long Island pros adopt Philadelphia pros' and greenkeepers' idea of financing and building a small course at a local military hospital. . . . Illinois CC (Chicago district) has changed owners and now is operating as Green Acres CC.

Olympia Fields CC (Chicago district), world's largest private golf club with four 18-hole courses and huge clubhouse, has gone into receivership. Club has Illinois Central suburban station on its property, close to clubhouse. Expects to continue as private club after financial readjustment.

Ocean City (N. J.) CC bought at sheriff's sale by Charles A. Zimmerman, Philadelphia hardware merchant and owner of first mortgage of \$66,788.78. . . . Waverly CC (Portland, Ore.) reports 1943 as biggest playing year of its recent history. . . . Jimmy Thomson, veteran pro of Mohawk CC, Schenectady, N. Y., now is in his 20th winter season at Ormond Beach (Fla.) GC. . . . The other Jimmy Thomson, noted tourney pro, has lost 25 pounds as a Coast Guardsman and should be in great physical shape for return to postwar tourney play.

Ed R. Hurst, pioneer of the California CC (L. A. district) and former president of the Southern California GA and that region's senior organization, died last year at Mexico City of a heart attack. . . . Gene McDonough, 35, pro at Sylvania CC (Boston district) died in his home at Boston, following a prolonged illness. He is survived by his widow and three children.

Clear Lake (Ia.) has been asked by citizens to purchase Clear Lake CC from an estate and operate the club as a municipal plant. . . . Andy Gibson of Bonnie View (Baltimore district) is switching to pro job at Country Club of Maryland. . . . Opposition to County Board purchase of Altadena GC has been voiced by some residents of Pasadena, Calif., who claim that county would be financially better off if club were continued on private basis. Other citizens say club would be a rare bargain for county.

Drive has been started to save Merrill Hills CC, Waukesha, Wis., from being abandoned. . . . Play at Westchester County, N. Y., public courses in 1943 was 40% under 1942, due to gas rationing. George S. Haight, genl. park supt. said, notwithstanding slump, in considering all factors play was "pretty good."

Longview (Wash.) CC has refinanced and will improve course and expand clubhouse activities. . . . Algonquin GC (St. Louis district) reported full membership and a profit for 1943 operation. . . . Coronado (Calif.) city officials protest against Navy proposal to take over Coronado course for bureau of aeronautics storage space. Officials claim other and better storage property is obtainable, Navy move would ruin residential section, and deny "last outdoor recreation facility available and greatly used for nominal fee by officers and men convalescing."

Postwar plans of New York City's park department call for golf courses in the 1,792-acre Marine Park at Brooklyn. Park Commissioner Robert Moses expects greatly increased demand for public recreation after the war, both from men returning from the armed forces and from workers released from high pressure of war industry.

Everything happens at a country club. Burlington (Kan.) CC clubhouse party schedule was called off when Ernie, son of Mgr. Frank L. Powers, got his second case of scarlet fever and the clubhouse, in which the Powers family lives, was quarantined.

Macon (Mo.) GC recorded 1943 as one of the most successful in its history. Many other smaller town clubs had top years in 1943. . . . Pros and amateurs are looking forward eagerly

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to 1953 when the war bonds they won as prizes last year become due. Use of war bonds as golf prizes in 1943 made the year by far the biggest prize money year American golf ever has seen.

Miss Bess Fenn, returned to the Palm Beach (Fla.) for the 19th year in charge of the clubhouse. George Gordon of Providence, R. I., is back again as pro and Jack Walsh returned as caddiemaster. . . . This winter Daytona Beach (Fla.) has its first tourist season with its municipal course acquired last summer from private owners.

Caddie shortage is acute at some spots in the south. Players at several courses claim they ain't kidding when they say negro ex-caddies now are making more money than the majority of the players made in peacetime. . . . Country Club of Pittsfield (Mass.) reports 1943 as one of its best seasons. Club now is in an extensive winter sports program.

Jim Dante, who was selected six years ago from 129 applicants for the pro post at Suburban GC, Union, N. J., has resigned. . . . Springfield (Mo.) regards as unsuitable present airport site for municipal golf course intended to be civic tribute to Lt. Horton Smith, Springfield native and one of the finest young men in any sport. Course probably will be constructed after the war on better suited terrain.

Jimmy Demaret is back in his homeland as a pro at the River Oaks CC, Houston, Tex. . . . Matt Partridge, for 16 years with the Pawtucket (R. I.) GC has resigned as pro to go into another business. Matt split his time as pro and war industrial worker last year. . . . E. W. Harbert, Battle Creek (Mich.) pro in the summer is head pro at the Bobby Jones course, Sarasota, Fla., for the winter season. . . . M. G. Frampton, emeritus professor of English at Pomona college and president of the Indian Hill GC of Claremont, Calif., died late last year at his home. . . . Frank Gilholm, pro at Attleboro (Mass.) GC, is qualifying as one of golf's most entertaining luncheon orators. Frank's recent talk at the city's Rotary club was declared one of the top features of the organization's program for 1943.

Frank Strafacci, former USGA publicx champion, now in the south Pa-

cific, says that as much as a pound in Australian money is being offered for golf balls. . . . Johnny Farrell's golf lesson given in television over WOR has given pro and amateur golfers a tip that television instruction after the war may be a big factor in the promotion of the game.

Pat Markovich, manager-pro, Richmond (Calif.) CC, has sent a considerable number of used golf balls, golf ball paint and clubheads to fellows overseas. . . . Pat also has turned in a standout performance in the used ball drive. . . . Spencer Murphy, pro at Glen Oaks CC (N. Y. Met. district), which is operating on a daily fee basis since the Army took over the clubhouse, rerouted the course. The new routing handled more play faster.

Hopeful sign for 1944: Lindsborg (Kan.) GC enthusiastically has decided to continue this year and expects an increase in members. Membership in 1933 was 15. Club expects "between five and ten new members who will assist with its maintenance." And you fear a help problem at your club!

T. E. Schramm, retiring pres. of Southern California G.A., in reviewing 1943's golf in that section, estimated value of country club property in that section as "more than \$100,000,000". . . . Reorganization of Lawrence Brook (N. J.) CC has been arranged. Club was taken over by players' group and continued operating in 1943 after owner had announced intention of discontinuing operation.

Moon Brook CC Jamestown, N. Y., has completed liquidation of debt. . . . King's County (Wash.) Public Links assn., Seattle Park Board, and Seattle Times have conducted successful campaigns collecting used golf balls for use of men in armed forces. . . . Tom Kerrigan, Siwanoy veteran pro, recently made his fourth ace in 28 years. . . . Danny Williams, Jersey pro vet, works seven nights a week in a war plant. Danny says golf's physical conditioning has helped him to do a good factory job.

Andy Welch, grand old-timer, has retired from golf after serving the past 20 years at Swartz Creek, first muni course at Flint, Mich. Scotch-born Welch was honored as the builder

(Continued on Page 33)



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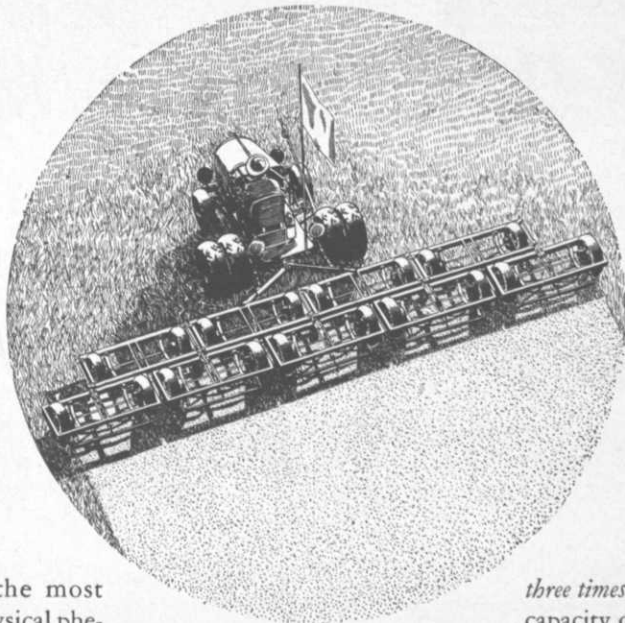
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From now on, golf play and your business will depend upon collecting all possible unplayable golf balls from your players and having them renewed for continued service. It's up to you to do the job at your own club, and do it without delay if you want your players to understand right at the beginning of the season that you've acted to protect their requirements.

Your club will suffer if play slumps for lack of golf balls. Point this out to your club officers and get their active support of your efforts. Tie-in with the nation-wide program which has been launched to help you collect used balls.

The quicker you act, the sooner you'll solve your 1944 golf ball problem. Golf's heading into a big season for those who are ready for it—and it won't be long now.

It's golf balls in play that make the pro shop pay.

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Pacific Northwest Golf In High Gear With War

New devotees, mostly servicemen, liven coast's pay course play.
Club's finances better than in pre-war days.

By **ALEX C. ROSE**

Seattle (Wash.) Post-Intelligencer

GOLF throughout Washington and Oregon and the Province of British Columbia continued popular in 1943. This despite the black cloud that was thrown over this area when the Pacific Northwest GA and several other gold organizations in this area crawled into the hideout with the USGA two years ago.

That was a stunning blow to golf. But not a knockout. It didn't take golf long to get up from the canvas—and win a clearcut victory. Yes, the grand old game is a-booming in the grand old Pacific Northwest.

How are the golf clubs? To my knowledge, only three private clubs have "died" during the past two years. Lakewood of Seattle has been converted into a housing project for shipyard and plane plant workers; Earlington, also of Seattle, is now a nursery and the once fertile fairways are covered with trees, flowers and shrubbery; Jericho of Vancouver, B. C., one of the oldest golf clubs of the entire Pacific Coast, was taken over by the Canadian government about two years ago.

Except for Lakewood, Earlington and Jericho, all other private golf clubs appear to be sailing along in smooth waters and far from the financial rocks. As a matter of fact, many, many clubs in this vast golf-minded Pacific Northwest region are in sounder financial condition right now than they were in pre-war days.

The pay-as-you-play courses did big business seven days of every week. And it's from the patronage at these courses

that one gets a clear picture that the future of the game appears extremely bright. Watching those thousands of new devotees—mostly servicemen—enjoying the fairway sport leaves no doubt. Francis Ouimet's US open championship victory of 30 years ago started the wave of popularity surging to every corner of the United States. The end of World War II will be the signal for a much bigger golf wave!

Sure, transportation restrictions affected play at quite a number of the private courses during week days, but weekends find the fairways of those far-from-city layouts fairly crowded. Close-in private golf clubs are reaping harvests these war-clouded days!

The 1942 and 1943 Hole-In-One Tournaments (nine-day affairs), held under the sponsorship of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and under the direction of the King County Public Links Assn., brought joy to hundreds of service men stationed in the Seattle area because the receipts from these popular events were used for the purchase of rent-free golf clubs and balls for the enlisted men. These sets of golf clubs and balls are housed at every pay-as-you-play course in the Seattle district. And they are all in use EVERY day!

The Victory Garden plan didn't, I regret to report, take hold in the Pacific Northwest as well as it did elsewhere in the U. S. However, some of the clubs—but too, too few—did have Victory Gardens and profited by them, too. Maybe

1944 will show a decided increase of Victory Gardens at golf clubs of the Northwest.

Red Cross work and other war charity duties kept women golfers from the fairways to a great extent, but they got relaxation from these chores by competing in club contests and city sweepstakes. And the attendances were most encouraging, too.

The big majority of golf professionals confine their club duties of weekends or just Sundays because they are working in shipyards or other war industries during week days. How's business with golf professionals? Swell! At least that's the unanimous answer yours truly gets from them.

While women's tournament golf of major importance appears dead-for-the-duration in these parts, the men folks, professionals and amateurs, have no cause to be tournament-hungry, although the majority of the six-day pre-war annuals have shrunk to weekend battles.

The richest event of the Northwest 1943 golf calendar was the \$1,500 "Esmeralda" Open staged at Downriver, Spokane, and sponsored by that city's largest world-famed Athletic Round Table, the organization that gave the universe a belly-laugh with "Bundles for Congress" gag. That two-day Esmeralda Open attracted a field of close to 150 professionals and amateurs and was won by Seattle's Harry Givan, who has a long chain of major links to his credit.

Together with doing everything possible to make golf cheap for servicemen, the men in uniform are cordially invited to compete in tournaments that were open only to members of clubs belonging to the associations sponsoring such events in pre-war days.

And to top off that good old Pacific Northwest hospitality the Seattle War Athletic Council sponsored the Pacific

Northwest servicemen's golf championship at the swanky Seattle Golf Club one Sunday last summer. It was a great event and attracted a large and star-studded field of entrants. Pfc. Louie Ferrando, stationed in the Seattle area and well known in Northern California amateur circles won. Aside from the titular test division comprised of low-handicap amateurs and professionals, there was a division for the higher-handicap entrants.

Another highly-successful tournament was the Washington State amateur championship held at Rainier GC, Seattle, and won by the entertaining club's ace, Harry Umbinetti.

The Pacific Northwest professional-amateur titular event was staged at the very testing Olympic View course in Seattle and resulted in the veteran star professional Neil Christian, and his amateur partner, Irv Cornell, representing Spokane's Downriver GC, leading the large and strong field of contestants at the close of the 36-hole test of best-ball scoring.

Jack Walters of Tacoma, fine shotmaker and exceedingly long hitter, now in the service, won the annual Tacoma open and became the first amateur linksman ever to cop that title.

Northwest and state senior tournaments were held during the year and, all in all, the men folks, young and old, enjoyed a very busy competitive 1943 year.

Looking back over the past two years it is this observer's say-so that golf throughout the Pacific Northwest has stood up extremely well along all departments and against any and all odds. And, in closing, I'll stick out my chin and predict, when Hitler & Co. finally become convinced they're confronted by unplayable lies, golf throughout these United States will tee-up and embark on the biggest popularity spree it has had since it migrated frae Scotland. Speed that day!

THIS MONTH'S COVER

Official U. S. Marine Corps photo



The Navy battles it out the American way on Yankee Bee C.C. course Sea Bee's hewed among cocconut palms and coral

rock in the war-torn South Pacific. If golf means this much to our boys over there, we back here ought to see they get the equipment they need. If you want to help, write to Golfdom and we'll tell you how.