

score of 156, became the first Senior Amateur champion of California.

Most California clubs have special concessions for the play of men in uniform. It is their pleasure to extend courtesies, either free or at low cost, to players vouched for by service organizations.

We look forward to increased activity for 1945. We shall need greater facilities to handle it.

## Connecticut Clubs Solid Despite Wartime Drop

By ROBERT D. PRYDE

Sec. Connecticut State Go'f Assn.

★ LAST YEAR THE Connecticut State Golf Assn. held but one State Victory tournament. The players qualified at their home clubs on a Saturday or Sunday for two low gross, four low net, and four in a Senior Division. These qualifiers played off together on a Sunday afternoon at a centrally located club to determine the winner. The events, all Medal Play, were most successful.

For 1945 we will possibly run two of these State tournaments, along similar lines. We do not think it best to run any championship events, nor do anything to encourage men to take time away from their work or to use gas traveling.

The membership of our clubs is at present reduced on account of war work. The help on golf courses and clubs is very much restricted. But "it's an ill wind that blows nobody good." The clubs, because of reduced expenses, show fine financial statements for 1944. The clubs have been well patronized and have done a good volume of business, also the members are very active in playing golf.

We have now 46 clubs in the State association. Four have closed for the duration. The gas situation was the deciding factor in closing, as these clubs were at a distance from bus lines.

The play at Shenecossett CC, near the New London submarine base, has been very active—both by the workers and the trainees.

I feel quite sure that we will have a reaction as in the last War, and for 10 years afterwards we will have a real live interest amongst the golfers. Steady positions, shorter hours, and good pay are all factors that will encourage men to play and get the exercise, as well as the sociability, of golf.

Our colleges and schools are concentrating to a great extent on training young men for military service and the activities in sports are of necessity curtailed.

It is to us a noble purpose to keep our courses functioning, even on a restricted basis, so that our boys now in the war will find the conditions they expect to find when they again return home.

## Buffalo Play Large But Tournaments Curtailed

By CHARLES F. GOULD

Buffalo District Golf Assn.

★ I CAN SAY that 1944 was a better season generally in our District than 1943. Most all of our District clubs are in much better financial condition, and have invested some of their increased earnings to the point where the courses are in beautiful condition. Clubhouse patronage was good in most clubs. Tournament activities were very limited, our association holding only one of our usual five or six District affairs, the Junior and Boys Championship. Play on all clubs was better than 1943, in fact in some places better than pre-war. Until the European situation clarifies itself, I do not see much chance of any great tournament activity in 1945, but there will still be a large amount of recreational play.

## War Pressure Boosts Arkansas Golf

By JOHN M. HARRISON

Sec.-Treas. Arkansas State GA

★ SINCE THE DEPRESSION of the early thirties clubs in Arkansas have consistently accommodated a good number of golfers. It is my opinion that there has been very little, if any, decrease in play in this section since the beginning of the war, especially on the weekends. True, many have gone into the service, particularly the younger ones, who played a lot, but it's hard to notice any numerical difference in the past few years. This is explained, I suppose, by the stimulated war prosperity and the increasing need of persons who have been working hard during the week for relaxation on the weekends and sometimes in the late afternoons. It seems that the hour gained on war time has increased, to some extent, play during the week.

The golf ball shortage is, of course, very acute, but everyone seems to be getting along just about as well with the reprocessed balls and playing a lot longer with each ball, and hunting a lot harder if a shot inadvertently strays into the tall and uncut. Incidentally, speaking of the roughs, they are generally thinned out and cut down pretty well in this section because of the golf ball shortage and probably due to the fact that one not only runs a much greater risk of losing a ball in high grass but having found it therein is much more likely to chop it up beyond recognition before again attaining the fairway. Perhaps the caddie situation also has something to do with the widening of the fairways and the cutting down of the roughs. There are not nearly as many caddies as there used to be, and

most of the older ones have either gone into the service or into some more profitable employment. There is a general indifference on the part of caddies to the finer points of caddying, although the boys are making about twice as much as they were making before the war, and we have observed that there is not only a scarcity due to war service or other employment but because many of these boys seem to make enough to take care of their wants by working only part time.

Except for their supposedly being made easier by the elimination of some of the high grass hazards, the courses are in pretty much the same condition, although there are not as many men available to work on them. The elimination of some of the hazards hasn't noticeably helped anybody's game, probably explained by the difficulty or impossibility of eliminating the main hazard in golf, i. e., the mental hazard.

Things are very active in most of the clubhouses. Most of the lockers are filled, and despite the difficulty with ration points and clubhouse labor, the managers are accommodating an unusually large number of dinner guests, etc.

Camp Robinson is near the Little Rock courses, and Camp Chaffee is near the Fort Smith courses. The Army has taken over all of the major hotels in Hot Springs, Ark., for recreation and rehabilitation purposes, and the two topnotch golf courses there at the Hot Springs G&CC are primarily being used by service men. Nevertheless the regular members are still using the courses, too. In addition to the foregoing, there are a number of air bases throughout the state that are located near golf clubs that belong to the Association, and all of these are available to the service men and are accommodating a good number of them. Substantial concessions to the service men on dues and fees are made at every course and every club in the state that we know about, and it is my opinion that this move has greatly stimulated play among them.

Our annual invitation amateur golf tournament was held at Hardscrabble CC, Fort Smith, during the latter part of May, and, as since the beginning of the war, it was an invitation affair. Many service men attended. Aside from the Association's annual invitation golf tournament, the larger clubs in the state have conducted annual invitation tournaments as before, except that the tournaments have been operated for war benefits and used as a means for selling war bonds. The prizes have consisted of war bonds and stamps, accompanied by some trophy of little intrinsic value, which could be kept as evidence of the achievement. During the war invitation tournaments have been held at Little Rock CC, Hardscrabble CC, El Dorado CC, and Texarkana CC.

The 1945 invitation tournament of the Association will be held in Texarkana. These tournaments, especially the Fort Smith and Little Rock tournaments, have for many years attracted topnotch amateurs from the Southwest and other sections. Some present titleholders are: Spec Goldman, who beat Wilford Wehrle in the last invitation of the Arkansas GA; Jimmy Wittenberg (formerly at L. S. U., now in the South Pacific), who beat Cpl. Earl Stewart, Jr., in the last Little Rock Invitation; Labron Harris, who beat Dale Morey in the last Hardscrabble invitation.

Whenever the officials were determining the advisability of having a particular tournament that particular year much interest was shown by civilians and service men in the continuation of tournaments. As a matter of fact, it was almost unanimous.

Enrollment in the Association has been very good for several years, and it has been so good that we are not necessarily anticipating or even seeking a great increase after the war; however, we do anticipate a bright post-war future for golf in this section, which embodies the belief that not only will more people be interested in the game but more courses will be worked in an effort to get them in Class A condition, and the Class A courses that we now have will be developed with needed improvements, such as watered fairways, better greens, etc. The Bermuda greens are excellent during the major part of the year but they are inclined to get too rough and wiry, especially in the summertime. We hope to develop a generally better type of green after the war.

Golf is an ideal sport for this section, because it can be played all the year round, and there are very few weekends during the year when it cannot be played comfortably.

## GIs Share in Kentucky's Big Golf Year

By EARL RUBY

Sec. Kentucky State G. A.

★ GOLF CLUBS IN and around Kentucky enjoyed one of their best seasons in history during 1944. And if it weren't for the shortage of clubs and balls, the year 1945 might easily become the most successful in history. This may sound screwy, but it is a fact.

Play was better than normal at almost all country clubs, and the distance from the center of the community to the club seems to have very, very little, if any, effect on the play. In other words, the gasoline shortage did not hurt golf play in Kentucky at all. The club members found bus transportation, share-a-ride cars, and other means of travel.

Memberships at most country clubs closed long before the year was out, so

great was the demand for memberships, despite the increase in tax (which some thought might discourage membership).

Private clubs report a healthier financial condition, virtually no bad accounts, and great hope for the year 1945.

The public courses enjoyed an increase in play during 1944, and virtually regained their pre-war popularity. Memberships were up, too, at the muni clubs, and membership chairmen predict record memberships for 1945.

Despite labor shortages, condition of the courses seems to be as good as ever. Actually, there have been fewer complaints about the greens and fairways during 1944 than there were before the labor shortage. This may be due, however, to the attitude of the player, who recognizes the hardships under which the management is laboring, and refrains from voicing vain squawks.

You might say that golf in Kentucky is booming and everybody is happy—except the professional.

The pro's outlook for 1945 is very gloomy.

On top of the acute shortage of balls has come at last a dearth of clubs. The pros find themselves in a position of having to depend on lessons and other services to substitute for the ball and club sales.

The pros also see in the shortage of clubs a very direct loss to golf in that new players—beginners, who have completed lessons and are ready to take up the sport—can find no clubs and may lose interest before clubs are available.

Louisville has felt the shortage of balls more than some other cities, perhaps, because of heavy G. I. play. Of club members the pros have demanded a trade-in with each purchase of a ball. But the servicemen have had no old balls to trade in, and naturally the pros have let them have new ones without this formality. This has contributed much to the shortage.

In an effort to save play on one of the largest public courses—Seneca—Pro Oscar Widmer has decided to discontinue sales altogether, and to form a rental pool of those balls he has left. He also plans to pool all of his remaining club stock and make up rental sets for his new pupils and players.

## West Penn Builds Army Hospital Course

By I. W. DANFORTH

Sec., Western Pennsylvania Golf Assn.

★ WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA GA conducted its usual Western Pennsylvania Amateur championship in September at the Westmoreland CC and conducted the Junior Championship in June at the Shannopin CC. All other events were postponed until after the war.

We regard our most important work in 1944 that of the contribution the golfers of Western Pennsylvania made to the Deshon General Hospital at Butler, Pa. Through a solicitation carried on by members of all clubs of this association we have raised \$20,500, and have completed construction of a 9-hole course at the hospital. The Army authorities were successful in acquiring 16 acres adjacent to the hospital and we were given only the amount of land on which to construct nine holes. The property is very well suited for nine holes which range from 100 to 150 yards in length. The entire property was plowed and seeded. The greens are actually the same as would be used on a championship course. We also have been able to build unusually large elevated tees.

The construction was completed in November of this year and we are looking forward to opening the course for some 1300 army men who have nearly all been returned from foreign service. The opening will depend a great deal on weather conditions but should not be later than April 1, 1945.

## New York District In Better Shape in 1944

By SHEPARD BARNES

Sec., Metropolitan (New York) Golf Assn.

★ MY IMPRESSION is that there was considerably more play in the New York metropolitan district in 1944 than there was in 1943 or 1942. Adjustment has been made to wartime conditions. Members and clubs after three years under the self-imposed restrictions of the times, as well as observing the government regulations, have fitted golf properly into their plans to contribute toward victory.

Clubs that were able to continue in operation generally improved their financial condition. Increased membership resulted from closing of clubs distant from transportation, wartime increase in national income, and, in numerous cases medical advice to preserve wartime working capacity by outdoor recreation balance.

Public and fee courses also showed signs of greater play than in preceding war years.

The caddie shortage was acute in this district as it probably was elsewhere. However, in view of the hardships endured by men on our fighting fronts, even golfers who used to say they'd give up the game rather than carry their own clubs were not disposed to make further public confession of their unwillingness to undergo such a trying ordeal. Many of them carried their own clubs and in spite of normal grumbling, managed to survive the labor. Even some of the most irritable became disposed to admit that packing their own clubs possibly was



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slightly less toil than lugging an Army weapon might be at their advanced years.

Club restaurants had more patronage than in previous years but whether this was an advantage in view of clubhouse labor and food shortages it's difficult to tell. Notwithstanding the handicaps course and clubhouse operation was maintained at surprisingly high standards.

Our tournament activity in 1945 tentatively is scheduled to be about the same as that of 1944. With the ban on horse racing and increased demands for manpower as reminders, the Metropolitan GA again is making very realistic re-examination of golf's position. As previously, Metropolitan association officials and officials and members of the association's member clubs are firmly and clearly determined to push golf in wartime only as it positively helps in advancing the war effort. Any diverting of time and expense that golf might require which would not result in a definite and direct contribution of efficiency and economy to winning the war, we are against.

## Chicago Golf Stronger With War Tie-up

By **LOWELL D. RUTHERFORD**  
Pres., Chicago District Golf Assn.

★ **AGAIN, IN 1944**, golf in the Chicago District showed surprisingly strong wartime condition. As every action of the clubs was geared primarily to wartime effort the conclusion is inevitable that the game's merits are demonstrated most clearly by its capacity to condition men and women for the heavy strains of war work on the home front.

The vast majority of members of Chicago District clubs are men of an age when they'd normally be easing up in their work and worries. However in wartime they've taken on (and willingly so) far more work and business strain than they've ever had before. The required balance of toil and recreation seems to have been satisfactorily supplied by golf. In the case of women golfers wartime volunteer work, also has been reflected at golf clubs in reduced volume of women's play but increased clubhouse business.

Limited amount of labor obtainable and limitations on materials and supplies that normally would be used in maintenance and building have kept operating costs disproportionately low to income in most cases and put clubs in condition to do spending in helping the conversion from war to peace employment.

Naturally, because of record national income and shortage of consumer goods, together with the instinctive demand for wartime recreational balance, golf clubs in an industrial area such as Chicago were bound to see great activity. However, it is the sharply defined policy of Chicago dis-

trict clubs to insist that such a showing in wartime be accompanied by direct war effort of golfers greater, we hope, than that of any other civilian sports group in wartime.

In addition to the constant bond and stamp selling campaigns at Chicago district private and public courses other results of 1944's activities in the area have been:

Chicago Victory championship net proceeds of \$17,172.59 for construction of putting greens, pitch and putt courses, and other recreational facilities and supply of golf playing equipment to army and navy hospitals in Illinois. Midwest Greenkeepers Assn. has provided invaluable work in the design and construction of these courses. Illinois PGA members have made their services available for exhibitions for fund raising and at hospital demonstrations and instruction sessions.

Chicago Servicemen's centers received \$15,319.26 from the CDGA dime-a-round program. Although this is a fairly substantial sum from an unique phase of golf's wartime tie-up, we are by no means satisfied with the showing which is considerably short of the ultimate dime-a-round figure.

More than 9,000 complimentary golf passes were issued through 45 substations to military personnel for play at CDGA private clubs and on the district's daily fee courses.

The CDGA is considering a plan for a regional greens experimental station at Purdue university. Membership in the CDGA increased two clubs during year.

There was vigorous competitive relationship between clubs in the Chicago district to see what new and more effective plans could be made in contributing to war effort and the association's work in extending this activity constituted a valuable part of the year's work.

Competitive events were maintained on a schedule compatible with wartime conditions. Adjustments were made to meet caddie and transportation difficulties but no complaints were registered. As a matter of fact, golfers in the Chicago district were grateful that they have been able to play in keeping themselves keen for the wartime jobs they are determined to handle in topmost efficiency.

Because we do not figure on an early ending of war we set our plans on increasing Chicago district golf's participation in war effort during 1945.

## Colorado Golf Spurred by Wartime Pressure

By **N. C. MORRIS**

Sec., Colorado Golf Assn.

★ **THE PAST YEAR**, despite wartime handicaps, was just as good as, if not better, than any previous year I have

known in Colorado golf circles. Larger entries were in all the men's tournaments and the class of play was fully up to standards of the past. There was more enthusiastic response in the way of accepting bonds and stamps as prizes instead of the traditional trophies. The women, too, enjoyed a better year at most clubs. The outlook for 1945 looks still better at this moment. All of our clubs are making plans for a big season and there is no thought of letting down. Players are playing, too, under a bigger handicap in that there is a shortage of caddies but we hear mighty few complaints about packing their own clubs. It has had the effect of cutting the number of clubs per bag and yet there seems to be no ill results on the play.

Our golfers have done well for the war efforts. Most of the prizes have been given in bonds and stamps.

The first of our major events in Denver was the interclub team matches. These netted \$550 in stamps and bonds; the next event was the Denver Metropolitan championship with double the entry of any previous year and \$600 in stamps and bonds given. The Colorado Public Links championship netted \$125 in stamps and bonds. The Park Hill Invitation with its large entry brought \$1000 in stamps and bonds. The Colorado women's championship netted close to \$200. The Broadmoor Invitation netted \$1500.00. The Colorado State championship \$700; the Pike's Peak Open \$2000; the Rocky Mountain Open at Grand Junction \$2000.

There were numerous club tournaments and sweepstakes held throughout the summer. I do not as yet have complete reports on these but they will run to more than \$5000 in war bonds and stamps.

I mentioned that the class of our tournaments had not gone down. This may seem odd in the face of war conditions but we have been rather fortunate around here in not losing our best golfers with but few exceptions. For those that we have lost the army has furnished us with ample replacements. For example we have Staff Sgt. Pat Abbott, duration holder of the Western, who has been at Lowry field here since the spring of 1942. We have Arthur Doering who is very well known. There was Lt. Tommy Sheehan formerly of Notre Dame; Cpl. Gordon, who was runner-up in the national public links championship at Baltimore in 1939. About the only high class performer that we lost was Charles "Babe" Lind who is now in the army.

Our clubs have generally shown an increase in play despite gas rationing handicaps altho none of our clubs are very far, none being more than a couple of miles beyond our city limits and some in the city.

I do not believe clubhouse patronage

has been increased a great deal, if any, except at the Denver Country Club. This club is in the heart of Denver, as you know, and has reflected shortage of domestic help. Cherry Hills had no manager early in the season but has done well through most of the year and has a full membership. Lakewood has kept open all the time and clubhouse patronage fell off part of the time but has now recovered under the very able management of Fred L. Wood, formerly of the Denver Athletic Club. Management was the reason for the falling off earlier in the year. Of course food scarcity has played its part too.

All of our clubs are very hospitable to service men. They have, of course, access to all the municipal clubs, and the private clubs give them a low rate of fifty cents to one dollar but with an invitation so that some control may be exercised. The invitations incidentally, are not hard to get.

The outlook in this region is very rosy right now. I find most club officers enthusiastic and laying plans for better years ahead. I believe we have a bright future for the game.

## Balancing War Strain Makes Hoosier Golf Busy

By CLIFFORD E. WAGONER  
Sec., Indiana Golf Assn.

★ GOLF IN INDIANA has been very successful during the war years. Our only answer for this is that undoubtedly men are seeking one form or another of relaxation from the worries and pressure under the present emergency. Our tournaments have hit a new high in entries, even with increased entry fees, the larger part of which went to the Red Cross. We have not given anything for prizes except war bonds.

The play of service men has been quite heavy in some sections, but many clubs control days and hours of this type of play because of their own traffic of members. Most of our private clubs have a membership waiting list, which as you will agree, is quite unusual.

We believe that golf and country clubs will play a more important part than ever in this section.

## Iowa Slumps in Pay—Play Golf

By H. L. SANI  
Sec.-Treas., Iowa Golf Assn.

★ MOST GOLF CLUBS in Iowa showed quite a decrease in play in 1944. The public and fee courses suffered the most. However, the private clubs "with service" showed an increase in clubhouse patronage and many have had the best season in years.

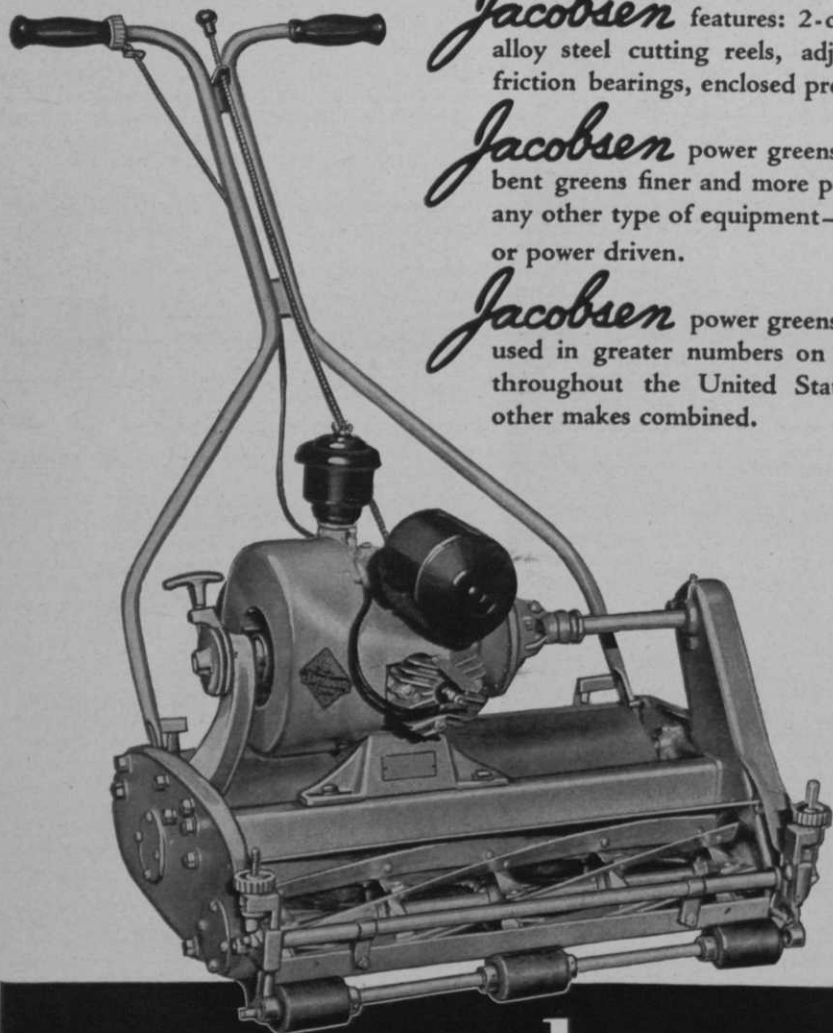
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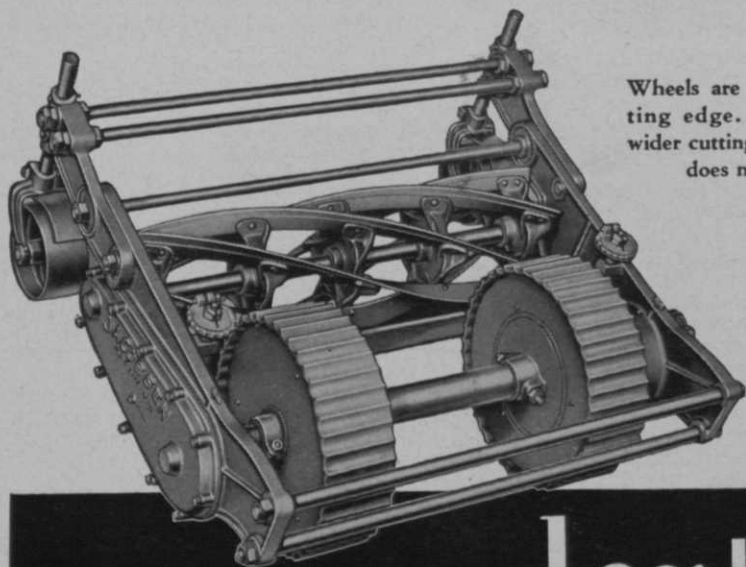
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Tournament activities were reduced to one day events put on by individual clubs in different parts of the state. The State Golf Association for men and women do not anticipate any extensive tournament revival until the end of the war with Germany.

With the return of servicemen and women and the release of war restrictions I look forward to a great and glorious postwar golf era.

## Western GA Extends Its Caddie Welfare Plans

By WILLIAM T. WOODSON

President, Western Golf Association

★ THE WESTERN GOLF Assn. did not hold any tournament during 1944. The principal activity of the Association was launching a campaign to raise funds for sponsoring Caddie Scholarships on a national scale.

For the past ten years the Association has been sponsoring caddie scholarships at Northwestern university. The caddies awarded these scholarships were boys who would not have been able to obtain college education without financial help.

The idea of caddie scholarships was suggested by Chick Evans and taken up by the Western GA. In order to give Chick the honor he so justly deserves, these scholarships are known as the Charles Evans, Jr., Scholarships of the Western Golf Association and the caddies who receive them will be known as "Evans Scholars."

It is the purpose of the Western GA to establish these scholarships in a number of universities throughout the country. The Association hopes to raise \$100,000 in the Chicago area as working capital for the purpose of maintaining these scholarships.

The membership of the Western association is now made up of individuals instead of golf clubs, and it is hoped that as soon as the story of Evans caddie scholarships comes to the attention of golfers throughout the country, they will be eager to join the association and pay their annual dues of \$5.00. It is hoped that proceeds from membership dues, from tournaments and from all other activities of the association will be sufficient to underwrite this large program.

At a recent meeting of its directors the Western GA went on record as being receptive to bids for the Western Open for 1945. It is now negotiating with several clubs for the tournament. It is undecided as to whether the Western Amateur and Junior Tournaments will be held this year. If the war is not over before the golf season is, it is not likely that these tournaments will be held.

I predict that golf will have a great revival after the war. Many golfers have

been so hard pressed for time on account of their war activities, not only in active service but in the production of war material and serving in various wartime organizations, that they will take to golf with eagerness when they feel free to relax again.

It is the aim of the Western association to help in every way possible to improve caddie conditions at the golf clubs. We feel that the incentive of caddie scholarships will not only make better caddies out of our boys, but will help make them better citizens.

## Detroit District Shows Cost Rise Up to 57 Per Cent

By HAL. A. WHITE

Sec., Detroit District Golf Assn.

★ INCREASED EXPENSES of clubs in the Detroit area as reported in a questionnaire circulated by the DDGA were as high as 57 per cent in 1944 over 1943. For the third consecutive year the association recommended an increase in caddie rates. The 1944 figures were at \$1.35 for 18 holes, \$2.20 for double 18 holes and 75 cents for 9 holes during usual daytime hours. Twilight rates starting after 6 PM or finishing after 8:30 PM were 80 cents for 9 holes and \$1.50 for 18 holes. Considerable attention was given recruiting caddies over the Michigan minimum age of 14 years and to making golf club employment a factor in the recreation and citizenship development of the boys.

Play increased somewhat in 1944 as contrasted with an estimated 33 per cent slump in 1943 under 1942. Play on five Detroit district muni courses increased 5.056 per cent over 1943, with a \$35,462.35 increase in public course receipts.

After a wet spring a dry summer and fall accounted for about a 40 per cent increase in 1944 watering costs over those of the preceding year.

It was impossible to compile a record of war bonds and stamps and Red Cross and other war organization funds raised by Detroit district golfers last year, but it is definitely known that more than \$10,000,000 was subscribed to the Fifth war loan by Detroit district clubs, which is a fairly clear indication that the club members were not backward about realizing their obligations.

Due to war industrial operations having become set on a high plane of efficiency and production in the Detroit district the workers and executives had more time in 1944 than in previous years to take the recreation that they had begun to need badly after the high pressure of 1942 and 1943.

The district association plans to slightly increase its tournament schedule this year, resuming district team league play

(Continued on Page 29)