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# MAKING THE Swing

## THE GOLF NEWS IN BRIEF

By **HERB GRAFFIS**

Sequoyah CC, Oakland, Calif. recently fined \$250 for possession of slot machines . . . Englewood (Colo.) citizens are opposed to plan of city of Denver for extending Denver boundaries to include an Englewood muni course . . . Oakland (Calif.) public course has gone 100 per cent mechanical having sold its last three teams of horses . . . City administration of Cheyenne (Wyo.) is petitioning U. S. veterans administration for use of 160 acres near the hospital as a course to add to the city's 9-hole over-crowded facilities . . . Victoria CC, San Diego, Cal. clubhouse destroyed by a fire late in November 1944 at an estimated loss of \$50,000 will be rebuilt as soon as materials are available.

Full elections to presidencies of clubs included John W. Latham, Menlo CC, Sacramento, Cal.; Earl E. Orner, Evans-ton (Ill.) Community GC; George H. Treadwell, Memphis (Tenn.) CC; George Fellman, Junction City (Kans.) CC; Edwin M. Beebe, Hampton (Ia.) CC; Paul W. Price, Anthony (N. Mex.) CC; H. Frank Fischer, Forest Park GC Baltimore, Md.

Service barn of Wilmington, (Del) CC containing fertilizer and tools valued at \$5,000 recently destroyed by fire.

Tommy Shannon will continue as pro at the Orchard Lake CC, Detroit, Mich. . . . Plans for re-organization of the Sedalia (Mo.) muni course were recently made at a meeting of City's Lions Club . . . Statesville, N. C. and Belleville, Kans. are planning construction of golf courses in the near future . . . Robert Trent Jones, is architect of the Nassau County Park course at Salisbury, L. I., New York . . . Richmond (Calif.) GC, has received its first entry for its 1945 tournament from its pro, Ernie Durand, Jr., "somewhere in the Pacific." He returned the 1944 entry signed but with the date changed to this year.

It is rumored that the sponsors of the

Portland (Ore.) Open, which was so successful despite bad weather, are planning to bid on the 1945 PGA Open. . . Altadena (Cal.) golfers are up in arms over a proposed city ordinance that might allow subdivision of their property and loss of their golf course. . . Jack Goodale has been elected president for 1945 of the Westmoor CC, Milwaukee. . . Birmingham, Mich., city officials are planning to erect a new clubhouse on the site of the one that burned down at Springdale Park. . . Plans have been approved to spend \$150,000 on the Alexandria (La.) G&CC, \$30,000 of which will be earmarked for the course, the balance to be used for club furnishings, swimming pool and tennis courts. . . The City of Los Angeles has cleared up legal difficulties surrounding the purchase of the Rancho GC, which will be turned into a public recreation park and many course. . . Pete Garcia, well known in Southern California golf circles, is now caddiemaster at Oakmont (Cal.). . . C. E. Bradley is the new president of the Clarinda (Ia.) CC. . . Ward Smith, caretaker of the Augusta (Kans.) golf course, was presented a gold watch and chain by local golfers for his fine care of the property. . . "Stepped" press tables, private telephone connections, fluorescent lighting, two glass-sided press room, movable nameboards for each contestant, card index system for all entries and a high 45x12 scoreboard were innovations at the recent Portland (Ore.) Open. . . It's George Pontillon, not Poutillon, pro at Longmeadow CC (Mass.), as we recently reported. . . Sture Nelson is the 1944 club champ at Longmeadow. . . The teen-agers are coming through. . . Bob Keeler, 15-year-old golfer is the new club champion at the Egyptian GC, Cairo (Ill.). . . The Washington State GA has awarded the 1945 state tourney to the Tacoma G&CC, and reports three new clubs, bringing their total membership to 26 clubs. . . The "Soot and Cinders Club" of the Twin Oaks GC, Columbus (Ohio) is making their winter schedule and activities a big success with membership at \$5 each in return for a party and dance every four weeks. . . Tommy Wilson did not resign from the Ansley Park, Atlanta (Ga.) GC, "due to ill health", which is good news to all of us, and neither is Ansley a muni course, but privately owned.

The Minnesota Greenkeepers Assn. is laying plans to establish a memorial in commemoration of Charley Erickson, late Minikahda Club superintendent. . . Arthur Burton, Mountain Ridge CC superintendent, traveled 50 miles and used three buses to attend a meeting of the N. J. Greenkeeping Supts., held at Suburban GC. The distance as the crow flies is 15 miles—and no waiting. . . A resolution in tribute to the late Fred J. Roth was entered

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upon the minutes of the November meeting of the Plainsfield CC, where Fred served as greenkeeper for 25 years, many of them under the late J. E. Erickson, who served as the club's green chairman for 18 years. John Kinder, club pro, has been assigned the additional duties of green superintendent; E. D. Horgan is green chairman.

Pvt. Geo. L. Rommell, Jr., grpr. Wellesley (Mass.) CC., wounded in the Normandie invasion, was brought back to England, with the only personal belongings on him a photo of his wife, his bible, and a letter from Carlton E. Treat, Supt. Montclair (N. J.) GC. Prior to being employed at Wellesley, Rommell worked at Woodland (Mass.) CC under Treat; later he had charge of USGA experimental plots at Charles River (Mass.) CC, under Frank Wilson. . . Fred Moore is back at his pro job at Dunwoodie G. C., Yonkers, N. Y. Moore has been on leave of absence with the Red Cross as a field director in Africa and Italy.

William D. Collins, veteran pro, died at home in Demarest, N. J., Nov. 20, at the age of 70. He was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, came to the U. S. A. in 1896 with the Jock Hobens Golfers. Collins taught the late President Woodrow Wilson, Dwight Morrow, Bernard M. Baruch and Charles Murphy. He designed, and was pro at Oakland GC, Bayside, L. I., N. Y., Princeton University Golf Course, Princeton, N. J., and the Knickebocker CC in Tenafly, N. J. He retired from golf in 1924 to enter the real estate business, and was city councilman three terms in Demarest. He is survived by his wife and son, Donald, both of Demarest, N. J.

Fred W. Grieve, manager and pro has left Leewood GC, Tuckahoe, N. Y. . . . Joseph Flynn returned in November '44 to his greenkeeping work at Metropolis CC in Dobbs Ferry, N. Y., after serving about a year with the U. S. Navy . . . Michael Vechiolle, greenkeeper at Apawamus Club, Rye, N. Y., died December 8 at the age of 53. He had been ailing for about two years and underwent several operations. He is survived by his wife, a daughter and several sons, some of whom are in military service . . . The New Shelter Rock CC, Roslyn, L. I., N. Y., sold out course maintenance equipment December 20th. Two attempts to revive the club failed this year . . . Alex McKay is new pro and greenkeeper at Cherry Valley CC, Garden City, L. I., N. Y. McKay, who took over December 1st, came to USA in 1923 from Aberdeen, Scotland. Designed courses at Jamestown, R. I., Louisville, Ky., and Charleston, W. Va. For the past 10 years he has been greenkeeper and pro at Edgewood CC, Charlestown, W. Va. . . . James

Lonegan is new greenkeeper at Glen Oaks CC, Little Neck, L. I. The course is being operated on a daily fee basis by Spencer Murphy, pro at Glen Oaks-in-Lakeville CC. Considerable fairway revamping work was done in fall of '44, and Spencer Murphy looks toward heavy play at the "old" Glen Oaks Club in '45.

## GOLF in the SERVICES

Mather Field Army Air Field, Calif. golf team consisting of Pvt. Verne Callison, Pvt. Chet Goldberg, Lt. Neil King and Corp. Ed Wysowski, captured the Central California Servicemen's league November 1944 tournament . . . Bob Sederstrom, former Oregon junior champ and winner of the Salem, Ore. city title five days before joining the service is now at Camp Gordon, Ga. . . With Bobby Jones now released from Army service the Augusta (Ga.) National Golf course may be re-opened . . . it is now being used as a turkey farm.

Duration amateur golf champ Marvin "Bud" Ward was recently promoted to temporary rank of captain and is now abroad with the AAF . . . 2nd Lt. Gerry Bert, Jr., winner of Seattle (Wash.) city, Seattle high schools and junior championships and a co-medalist in the 1939 national muni contest fell the victim of a Jap sniper's bullet in the invasion of Tinian Island . . . In answer to requests from New Guinea, India and undisclosed areas, Cincinnati (O.) men and women golfers have sent 500 used golf balls to the USGA for shipment to the overseas men . . . Marines searching Guam ruins found American made golf and ping pong balls.

Pvt. Don Gardner, Camp Shelby, Miss. while furloughing in Hattiesburg, Miss. shot a 69 on the final 18 holes to win an open meet with a 211 total . . . Cpl. Jimmy Graves, 78th Sig. Bn. annexed the Fort Dix, N. J. golf championship with a 4 and 2 win over Pvt. William Montgomery . . . The WAVE golf championship of the Pensacola, Fla. NAS was won by PhM2c Carolyn Tesavis, Cranston, R. I. She defeated PhM2c Marge Houston, Concord, Mass. 7 and 6 . . . Eighth Service Command's 1944 golf title went to Pvt. Leonard White, Camp Barkeley, Texas who outshot a field of 252 golfing officers and EMs.

Camp Gordon, Ga. has started one day putting tournaments with war bonds, sweaters and theatre book-tickets as prizes . . . an 80 by S. Sgt. George A.

January, 1945

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## MILORGANITE for BETTER TURF

Schultz won first prize in the first all-EM golf tourney at the Waco, Texas AAF while a 134 gross for 18 holes by Pfc. R. S. Grochowski won the "worst gross" prize.

Brig. Gen. T. W. Blackburn, Commanding General of the 3rd Fighter Command, Drew Field, Tampa, Fla. won his unit's Officers' double elimination match golf tournament with an 85 over the Palma Ceia course . . . Lt. Horton Smith, former Ryder Cup star has been assigned to the recently formed Athletic Branch of the Special Services Division with headquarters in New York City and will organize special athletic projects for overseas theatres . . . New champion of the Wichita Falls (Tex.) CC is Cpl. Don Cherry of nearby Sheppard (Tex.) AAF whose one over par 73 beat Vann Lignon 1 up in the finals.

WPB has authorized the manufacture of golf clubs to fill army, navy and veteran's administration orders and lifted its ban on the manufacture of golf club parts; production to be by allocation . . . Wounded servicemen will benefit to the extent of \$17,172 from the 1944 Victory National golf championship held at the Edgewater GC, Chicago.

## English Golf in Nazi War Prisoner Camp

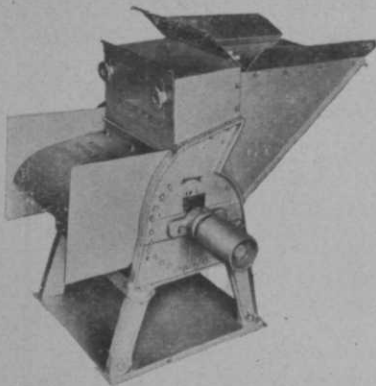
German guards of a Prisoner of War Camp look with toleration upon the exploits of the PWs so far as golf is concerned. English prisoners formed their own golf club, made balls out of wood and clubs out of branches of trees. They then designed their own little course. Swedes heard about it and sent them some clubs. Finally, they had about 20 clubs amongst 400 people, and a similar number of wooden golf balls. The game became popular; it was a great happiness to those interned. —Golf Monthly, Edinburgh.

## Keesler Field Holds Third GI-only Tourney

★ KEESLER FIELD, Biloxi, Miss. \$1,200 Open golf tournament, held December 10, 1944 at the Edgewater Gulf Hotel course, is believed to have been the largest links competition ever staged exclusively by and for military personnel. The winner was Pfc. Babe Lind of Bergstrom Army Air Field, Austin, Texas. It was Keesler's third annual affair and was sponsored by the field's Special Services' Athletic Department.

There were 310 GI linksmen battling

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for the \$1,200 in war bonds, cash and merchandise awards. The top prize of a \$100 war bond went to Lind for his round of 74, 39 out and 35 in. More than two dozen golfers, unable to compete on December 10 because of military duties, were permitted to play the day following. Five states were represented in the military tournament; Arkansas, Texas, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Edgewater Gulf hotel donated the use of its course free of all fees. The Edgewater also donated a \$50 war bond and other hotels and local merchants donated more than 75 prizes to a total value of more than \$1,200. S/Sgt. Joe Mazziotti, Keesler post golf coach was in charge of the tourney.

USGA winter rules applied allowing players to tee balls with head of clubs on fairways only. There were blind hole, high-low and handicap awards allowing all classes of players a chance for prizes. Among the many prizes contributed were two reserved seats to the New Orleans Sugar Bowl game on New Years day, \$80 worth of valuable leather goods and a host of merchandise awards from Biloxi merchants. Highest gross was 163 for 18 holes won by Pvt. Raymond S. Junek making his debut on a golf course.

All playing equipment was furnished free to entrants.

When Marvin Francis Ward was making a three-point landing in the delivery room of a Portland hospital, his dad, Capt. Marvin H. "Bud" Ward, Army Air Force, and USGA amateur champion, was soaring 9,000 feet over the ocean on his return to base after a five-day leave in Brisbane. In a recent letter to L. B. Icely, and W. L. Robb, of Wilson's, "Bud" tells of teaming with Frank Strafacci in a Red Cross match at the Gailles GC, in which they went down 3 and 2 to the Queensland champion paired with the local club title holder. The course, says "Bud", is one of the finest he ever played. Pictures of Sarazen, who visited the club several years ago, are to be found throughout the clubhouse.

## H & B Films Available

Hillerich & Bradsby, Louisville, Ky., in cooperation with the American League, will make available to members of our armed forces everywhere sound or motion pictures of the 1944 World Series. Prints of the new film will be available this month. Also, the 1943 World Series film, co-sponsored by H & B, is available to any organization, civilian or military.

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# Club officials

*remember this about the*

## **golf ball shortage:**

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Again this year, your players will have to depend on reprocessed balls. Definitely, there are no new golf balls in sight for them . . . and the source of used balls is getting no bigger, fast. So, *remember that more than ever your players must cooperate . . . or go without.*

For three years the golf pros have done a magnificent job with their untiring efforts to collect used balls and get them back into service.



Remember—in 1945 your pro must carry on the drive to keep the game, and your club, alive. Get behind him with a plan that will bring your players' cooperation.

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# Authorities Appraise Another Wartime Year of Golf

By **HERB GRAFFIS**

★ EVIDENCE FROM THROUGHOUT the country shows golf has strengthened itself by close adjustment to wartime conditions. Necessary economies of labor and material put the clubs in better financial condition where location would permit volume of play. Much of the reduction in expense was in respects that will have to be balanced by postwar expenditures but in many cases sinking funds have been set up to handle the inevitable charges.

Labor costs did not show the reduction that might have been expected. Wages for available labor were high due to the competitive labor market and department officials had to use old men and boys whose efficiency and performance in most cases was far from being up to the normal standard.

Great increase in national income of course was the main factor in keeping up golf play, although in many sections the increase in servicemen's play due to courses extending hospitality was a substantial element in number of rounds recorded. War workers' play was a big item. Numerous observers credited this play to the necessity of conscientious executives and factory workers balancing strenuous schedules of work which had begun to reduce physical and mental fitness after two intense years. There seemed to be about as near a minimum as could be expected of war plant absentees loafing on the courses. They're not energetic enough to get out in the air and walk around.

The ball situation became increasingly grave. A few new balls will be made this year, but all of them for military recreation purposes, mainly at veterans' hospitals where golf is growing rapidly as an effective means of improving physical and mental condition.

Lack of newly made clubs also began to figure last year as a playing equipment factor which prevented entrance of new players into the game.

## Juvenile Promotion Revived

In some districts there seemed to be a fairly brisk revival of adult interest in promoting the game among youngsters.

This was not primarily because of caddie shortage and need of encouraging boys to take up bag-carrying but because of the vital importance of having the nation's youngsters in better physical condition and because of the imperative need of reducing juvenile delinquency.

GOLFDOM'S editor spent some months overseas the latter half of 1944 as war correspondent for the Chicago Times. Near American air bases in England and Scotland he saw some golf played by airmen and ground crews, but the play was uncertain due to sudden change in weather conditions controlling flight operations. A little golf was played by men attached to rear services during the time they got on leaves. That time wasn't much.

In France he didn't see a golf club or ball, although near one base there was a resort golf course. Soldiers attached to the base were too busy to get to play. Men drawn out of the line were too exhausted. The truth is—and let's don't kid ourselves—the lads who survive the blasting they take in combat much preferred to sleep, loaf or get 48 hours leave in Paris to look over the situation there.

There's considerable difference in the attitude of combat troops and men in the rear echelons toward sports news. All of them are interested in sports and want to get back to play but the combat troops have a marked resentment toward news of record sports activities at home. This attitude is especially sharp because of the policy of returning repaired wounded soldiers to limited service. The combat soldiers declare, physical condition of limited service ex-combat men is much worse than that of athletes who are rated 4F or given passes for other reasons. This source of criticism cannot be blamed on the athletes but on the policy of the armed services which probably will be revised. Certainly sports as a physical and temperamental developer has proved itself in the performance of American armed forces.

Golf came in for less of this criticism than other major sports; possibly because of the predominantly amateur angle and the belief of the combat troops, based on their own observation as ex-caddies, that



the elder amateur players were continuing in the game to keep in good war working condition and as a deserved reward for war effort. It may be that some of the combat troopers who had met or read the stuff of GOLFDOM'S editor as an alleged golf authority did not want to hurt a sensitive old man's feelings. They preferred to talk about the courses where they had played, or where they had caddied, or the stars they'd seen or heard about.

#### Sports Publicity Touchy

The delicacy of homefront sports problem in wartime was probably most vividly crystallized in remarks at an advanced area when copies of Stars and Stripes, the soldiers' daily newspaper, were brought up by the amazing distribution system the paper has worked out. This particular issue happened to carry a story that the pro tournament circuit would have record prize money this year. That definitely is not news of great headline or morale building quality in the minds of the young men who are under fire and wondering whether they'll live the day out. Their comments on this, the horse track betting volume, the record football and fight crowds and similar items which seemed to the lads to reflect calloused detachment from war effort, were something for sports

officials to think about more seriously.

It's a complicated and very tender subject which must be viewed realistically, and considerably more from the viewpoint of some embittered and toughened kids who don't think they are getting shot at to liberate prize money in any sport. What makes the situation especially difficult from the conscientious and informed golf officials' point of view is the great achievement of golf in promoting sale of war bonds and stamps and war benefit fund raising. The public temperament is such that the sports circuses in wartime are tremendously effective in raising war money the public wouldn't otherwise pay out in recognition and support of the efforts of men who are being killed or maimed in maintaining, among other things, the enjoyment of American sports at home in wartime.

One clear idea that GOLFDOM'S editor got for himself out of talks with combat troops was that golf in continuing its fine wartime job must increase its tie-up with war effort and allow its performance to be recorded mainly as its showing in competition to see which of its clubs and players can do the most, rather than permit itself to do any bragging about its contribution in winning a bloody war.

## SECTIONAL REPORTS ON 1944

### California Golf at Record Volume in 1944

By CHARLES G. LATHROP

President, Southern California Golf Assn.

Secretary, California State Golf Assn.

★PRIVATE GOLF CLUBS of California's southern counties, some 24 in number, which comprise the Southern California Golf Assn. have carried on despite all obstacles. The clubs of the Los Angeles Metropolitan district in particular are in more prosperous condition than ever before. Full membership lists, waiting lists and starting times necessary on many courses for Wednesday, Saturday and holiday play, are the rule rather than the exception. Bond issues have been paid off, mortgages burned and many clubs are creating reserves for repairs and rehabilitation of club houses and water systems against the time when materials and labor may become available. Clubs which dropped association membership during the depression have revived and are being reinstated.

Play has reached an unprecedented volume on both public and private courses. Interest in tournaments and inter-club team matches, the latter an important feature on our calendar, has been well sustained.

The annual championship of this Asso-

ciation brought an entry of 478 players. To minimize travel players were permitted to qualify on their home courses and scores were equalized to adjust for differences in the playing difficulty encountered by entrants. This idea, in use for two seasons, has proved satisfactory to all. John W. Dawson of the Lakeside GC, Hollywood, won our association title in finals against Bruce McCormick of the same club at the 37th hole.

The condition of the California State Golf Assn. also is very satisfactory. Sixteen clubs were added to the roster during the year making a total of over ninety.

The annual championship of the State Association held at Pebble Beach, as usual in September, brought an all-time record registration of 706 players. The state amateur championship was won by Ernest O. Peiper, Jr., of the San Jose CC, who had been the title holder in 1941. Pieper earlier in the year won the Open championship played at Sacramento.

The state event included the simultaneous play of a handicap tournament at the Monterey Peninsula CC. In 1944 we had 19 flights of 16 players; a record. The numbers attending in spite of all wartime travel restrictions were swelled by a new division of Senior golfers—100 players—who competed for two days of medal play at Cypress Point. Frank S. Lindsay, age 55, of the Riviera CC, Los Angeles, with a