“Honor Caddie”

By CHARLES BARTLETT
Golf Editor, Chicago Tribune; Secretary, Golf Writers’ Association

The 50th candle in the golden anniversary cake of the Western Golf Association flamed into “Honor Caddie”, one of the game’s finest movies, on the evening of March 29 in the grand ballroom of the Chicago Athletic Club. The occasion of this half-century celebration of American golf’s second oldest national organization was the formal premiere of the film with a cast including 15 of the sport’s leading professionals and amateurs, men and women, and a twosome of fair country duffers named Bing Crosby and Bob Hope.

This was no Hollywood premiere, with searchlights picking out the mink-and-black-tie set. The audience was composed of golf leaders from every section of the country, headed by John D. Ames, of the United States Golf Association, and Maynard G. Fessenden, president of the Western Golf Association.

Among the guests were three former caddies who grew up into a trio of the most illustrious names in golf—Chick Evans, Walter Hagen and Gene Sarazen. Hagen recalled the first time he caddied in his native Rochester, N. Y., receiving the munificent sum of 15 cents for his labors. Sarazen harked back to his bag-toting days in Westchester County, New York, when he was Caddie No. 99, and only on week-ends did as many as 99 golfers go forth.

Both Hagen and Sarazen made special mention of Chick Evans and his mother, who originated the Evans Scholars Foundation, now administered by the Western Golf Association to provide college educations for deserving and academically qualified caddies.

Nearly 100 former caddies have been graduated from or are now attending college under this plan. Northwestern University was the original school in the Evans plan, and is the site of the Evans Scholars House, but the W.G.A., under the leadership of Fessenden, has now expanded so that 10 colleges and universities throughout the nation are now joined in the Evans Foundation. Detroit, Wisconsin, the Pacific Northwest, and the Illinois Women’s Golf Association foster separate scholarships, and the Massachusetts Golf Association has indicated that it will presently join the plan.

The 10 schools now associated with the Western-Evans plan are American Academy of Art, Colorado A. and M. College, Michigan State College, Northwestern University, Purdue University, University of California, University of Chicago, University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin, and Wheaton College.

That’s the title of the song which Bing Crosby sings in the Western Golf Association’s new motion picture, “Honor Caddie,” and here are the lyrics by Johnny Burke (music by Jimmy Van Heusen):

Oh, the average golfer gives up golf
On the average of twice a week,
But it won’t take long till he’ll admit
It was just an unlucky streak.
If you ever get near him, flatter and cheer him,
Likely you’ll hear him speak:
I only play golf for the fun —
Tomorrow’s my lucky day.
It’s great to get out in the sun —
Tomorrow’s my lucky day.
When there’s a broad green fairway,
What picture compares?
I love to tee the ball up
And well, who cares?
This morning the grass was too long —
Tomorrow’s my lucky day.
The putter I broke was all wrong,
The caddie got in my way.
I took eleven lessons,
I know how to play.
Really, I only went out for the walk —
Tomorrow’s my lucky day.

Used by permission of copyright owners, BURKE and VAN HEUSEN, INC., — EDWIN H. MORRIS and Co., INC., sole selling agents.
“Where’d That One Go?”

Bob Hope starts one of his famous double-takes by peering down the fairway in a vain search for a tee shot he has missed. In a moment he will discover where his ball is. Bing Crosby, too, has been fooled, but Chick Evans, Ben Hogan and the caddies know the answer. Scene is from Western Golf Association’s new film.

Of the 53 Evans scholars who served during World War II, 38 won commissions, 11 became non-commissioned officers, and two were killed in action. These young men also have made exceptional records in professional fields. Two now operate their own engineering firm. Another figured prominently in the first atomic bomb experiments. Sid Richardson is now golf coach at his alma mater, Northwestern, after a distinguished Navy career.

When Hobart C. Chatfield-Taylor, Arthur P. Bowen, Phelps B. Hoyt, and George R. Thorne organized the W.G.A. in 1899 with a membership of 10 clubs—Belmont, Chicago Golf, Edgewater, Evanston, Glen View, Midlothian, Onwentsia, Riverside, Skokie and Westward-Ho—they had no suspicion that their youthful lodge would become the vehicle not only of three of golf’s top drawer championships but also of the game’s No. 1 conductor of caddies and their future.

The movie, “Honor Caddie”, is a handsome technicolor production with a running time of 22 minutes. Unlike most other golf films, it de-emphasizes the instructional side of the game. Its theme revolves around the conduct of caddies and their relationship to their employers, with award of an Evans scholarship through the Western Association as the objective of a caddie identified as “Chuck”.

The movie opens and closes with Crosby’s rendition of “Tomorrow’s My Lucky (Continued on page 14)
of putt, which is prohibited under Rule 18 (2).

If your ball stops on the lip of the cup and you have an urge to influence its movement with the hope that it may drop in the hole, Rule 18 (5) admonishes you to restrain yourself if you wish to avoid the general penalty of loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke competition. The old Rule referred only to shielding the ball from wind and did not cover other methods of changing the position of the ball, such as deliberately jarring the ground around the hole.

If you are a "creeper" who thoughtlessly delays other players, new Rule 2 (3) should provide a helpful warning. This Rule formerly carried an automatic disqualification penalty for interfering with others through delay in play. The Rule now requires that "A player shall play without undue delay”, and the penalty has been changed to the general penalty of loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play; but repetition or deliberate interference will result in disqualification.

Because of the severity of the former penalty, automatic disqualification, it was difficult to invoke the provisions of Rule 2 (3), with the result that some general disregard of the effect on other players has crept into the game, particularly in major competition. Under the new provisions, the committee or the referee may now give warning before applying either the general penalty or the disqualification penalty.

Do you ever have an urge to break a club over your own or your opponent’s anatomy? If so, you are advised to read the new Preamble to the Rules, because you may find yourself without the use of a necessary club. A club may now be replaced only if it becomes unfit for play “in the normal course of play”. There is no substitute allowed for a club which has been deliberately broken.

Can you distinguish the difference between a forecaddie and a caddie? If not, new Definition 10 will be of assistance. Actually, when employed by a player, there is no difference in status. A forecaddie so employed is a part of the match and, accordingly, subject to all the provisions of the Rules relating to a caddie. However, if the forecaddie is provided by the committee, he is an outside agency and, as such, can do nothing to precipitate a penalty on the player, nor may the player seek advice from him.

A major refinement of the 1949 Rules booklet appears in the index. For a long time the Rules of Golf Committee has wanted to develop an index which would be brief but sufficient to promote quick reference to the appropriate Rule. From comments which have been made to the Committee, our last previous experiment seems to have over-simplified this problem. We have, therefore, returned to an alphabetical cross-reference index, although less extensive than that which prevailed for many years prior to 1947.

"HONOR CADDIE"
(Continued from page 9)

Day”, a ballad of a hopeful golfer. Hope almost steals the show with a sequence in which he takes a vicious cut at the ball while starting a foursome with Crosby, Evans, and Ben Hogan. The sound track produces a sibilant “S-s-s-w-w-i-sh”, but no connecting click. Finally, Bob, after squinting into the distance as though following the flight of his alleged drive, says to his caddie, “Pick up that ball, son, and follow me!”

In addition to Crosby and Hope, the personnel of “Honor Caddie” includes Frank Faylen, Hollywood actor who portrays the caddie-master; Joe Novak, President of the Professional Golfers’ Association; Hogan, Byron Nelson, Lloyd Mangrum, Jimmy Demaret, Evans, Sam Snead, Babe Zaharias, Frank Stranahan, Bud Ward, Johnny Dawson, Patty Berg, Louise Suggs, Jimmy Thomson, and Porky Oliver.

The Western Golf Association began national distribution of “Honor Caddie” on April 1. Contributions through club membership in the W.G.A. ($35 per year) or individual memberships ($5) will be directed to the Evans Scholars Fund. Clubs interested in securing the film for special showings may contact the Western G.A., 8 S. Dearborn St., Chicago 3.