

Golf Facilities and Civil Defense

The international situation has turned the thoughts of many golf-minded people toward civil defense.

Upper Montclair Country Club in New Jersey has taken steps to make its facilities available for the civil defense of the neighboring communities of Clifton, Bloomfield and Montclair. Taylor Boyd, golf course superintendent at Camargo Club, Cincinnati, has written the USGA of the many-sided part he visualizes for golf clubs and their staffs in an emergency.

The strategic location of the Upper Montclair Club suggested to several members its value in case of emergency.

"A compass swinging on the Upper Montclair Country Club as the center of a 15-mile radius would encircle metropolitan New York and New Jersey, the living and working space for more than 10,000,000 persons," said S. E. Lindstamer, chairman of Club's Civil Defense Committee. "The area contains not only the financial center of the world but important manufacturing establishments even now helping to build the defenses of our country. The club property is adjacent to New Jersey Highway S-3, ten miles from the Lincoln Tunnel and near other trunk highways."

Harry E. Smith, President, appointed a committee including Mr. Lindstamer, Dr. G. W. Sargent, J. L. Fitzgerald, J. N. Marsh, H. B. Adsit, John Chambers, F. S. Astarita, W. H. Dietze, W. H. Cobb, C. F. Russell, R. E. Doremus, Dr. L. M. Matthews, H. E. Smith and Col. Henry Gassner.

The Board of Trustees has approved purchase of an auxiliary power plant to supply the clubhouse with heat, refrigeration and light in an emergency, not for the convenience of the 600 members but to make the clubhouse usable as an emergency first aid station or temporary hospital.

Sub-committees are in charge of this and of water and gas supply, auxiliary

police and fire protection, first aid and relief.

"The armed forces have stated the public must be made aware of the necessity of civilians looking to their own preservation and safety in an emergency," said Mr. Lindstamer. "In the event of an invasion by air or otherwise, the armed services will be so busy resisting the enemy that civilians must take care of ourselves and each other. Upper Montclair wants to do its part and is ready to help those who may need help.

"We are not afraid, we hope war does not come to our shores, but we believe in being prepared."

As a Course Superintendent Sees It

In his letter, Taylor Boyd said he had been wondering what part a golf course and a greenkeeper could play in an emergency.

He pointed out many clubs have their own water system; that clubs usually are in outlying areas around cities and probably would be free from bomb damage; that they have storage space which could be used for first aid equipment, gasoline, etc., and they have trucks and tractors available.

Boyd said clubhouses could be first aid stations, courses could be emergency landing fields for small planes, all club personnel could act as emergency police, firemen and first aid assistants, and in dire necessity people could be housed on the course in tents.

"Most greenkeepers know enough about plumbing to make some repairs to water systems and most clubs have such tools," Boyd wrote. "Most greenkeepers I know are pretty level-headed men who would perform well under any emergency.

"I'll make a good-sized bet there are no Russian sympathizers among them."

Boyd concluded that all club officials would be 100 per cent for such a program if the need arose.