

Detroit Caddies Get a Break

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The Detroit District Golf Association has never been one to take caddies for granted. It has had a long line of officials who devoted great attention to them and the result today is a caddie program many another association might follow with profit.

The importance of the DDGA's Caddie Welfare Committee is even more evident now that Michigan State law prohibits boys under the age of 14 from caddying. Rules are set up under the Hittle Juvenile Employment Act governing the employment of males under 18 years old as caddies. They cover the maximum hours and set certain deadlines for daily employment.

As is the case in some other states with similar laws, each club must have a permit from the Department of Labor approving it as employer of such boys as caddies. Each boy, in turn, must



J. P. Bowes, Jr.



C. L. Miller

secure a working permit, carrying the signatures of his parents and school authorities, and the permit must be on file at the club where he caddies.

At a time when impending calls to service are taking older caddies, the Detroit district, in particular, faces a caddie shortage because of the competition of other types of employment for the youths. That's why the work of the DDGA's Caddie Welfare Committee is significant.

For years the late Edward L. Warner,

Sr., of Detroit Golf Club, annually brought caddie chairmen of district clubs together to discuss mutual problems and ideas for the betterment of the caddie's lot. Then Kenneth A. Moore, of Oakland Hills, took over, in turn to be succeeded by Lawyer Frank A. Kenney, Detroit Golf Club.

For the past five years C. L. (Bud) Miller, of Orchard Lake Country Club, insurance firm vice-president, handled the reins. Here are some of the salient points of the program recommended to the caddie committee of each club, and followed by most:

Does Your Club Have These?

1. Employment of a full-time caddie-master for the training and supervision of caddies.
2. A proper caddie house or shelter and adequate food and beverages available on the premises at reasonable prices.
3. A well-organized and supervised sports program, including course privileges each Monday.
4. Contacting of parents and school authorities to stimulate greater interest in caddying.
5. A careful record of attendance and performance of each caddie.
6. A spring outing under supervision of the Caddie Committee at which time organization and registration take place and the program is explained to the boys. A fall party at the end of the season, at which time recognition can be given the caddies for their work, is also recommended.
7. Raincoats furnished by the clubs to be available for the caddies when necessary.
8. The opportunity of earning an Honor Caddie Badge, which is awarded to each of the 10 best caddies in each member club of the Western Golf Association.
9. The opportunity of earning the right to be nominated for college scholarship aid from the James D. Standish, Jr., Scholarship Fund of the Evans Scholarship Foundation.

Raincoats and Pay for Waiting

Each spring the DDGA calls together caddie chairmen of member clubs for a discussion of recommended fees. Last spring it was recommended caddies b

paid 25 cents extra for caddying in the rain, at the discretion of the caddie-master. If kept waiting during the lunch period, a payment of 25 cents was recommended, and if kept waiting an unreasonable period of time, in the judgment of the caddie-master, it was recommended they be paid 40 cents per hour for such time.

An additional 25 cents for twilight rates was recommended, starting as early as 4:30 o'clock at some clubs.

Group buying of T-shirts bearing club insignia and caddie badges also has been done through the committee's efforts, accomplishing worthwhile savings for the boys.

"Two of the most important points these days, we feel, are the contacting of school officials to get their cooperation and reaching parents to impress them that caddying is a preferred form of employment for their boys," says "Bud" Miller.

"By stressing the relative advantages of caddying to school authorities, and by writing letters to parents, pointing out the opportunity for their sons to earn money under trained supervision in healthful surroundings, many of our

clubs are able to get caddies excused from school when special tournaments occur."

In three years, members of 23 DDGA clubs contributed \$6,409.28 to the Standish Scholarship Fund of the Evans Scholarship Foundation. This is adequate to cover five scholarships used by caddies from DDGA clubs, but the interest in this program is so great that Miller is going to devote his time to it, turning over caddie welfare duties to Gordon Birgbauer, of Lochmoor.

Oakland Hills Country Club members contributed \$2,250 of the Standish Fund last December when 479 members were interested as the result of a campaign initiated by Jack Henderson. It was the second largest club contribution in the nation last year.

If the plans of Miller and Jerome P. Bowes, Jr., President of the Western Golf Association, materialize, 40 Michigan caddies will receive such scholarships. Bowes told DDGA directors there is such enthusiasm for the program in the Chicago district that he anticipates 60 clubs there will have 100 per cent subscription by their members for the WGA bag tags in 1951, one of the four revenue sources of the fund.

Finances of the PGA

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The fourth department of the PGA is that which pertains to general activities. These are financed entirely by the dues of the members of the association through the association's General Fund and allocations are made from these revenues to various committees and projects for the wide program of other activities which the PGA carries on. These are much too numerous to detail in the space allotted this article, but more will be heard of many of them in succeeding articles which will appear in the JOURNAL below the names of the officers and committee chairmen in charge of each.

Aim Is To Promote Game

The operations of the PGA's headquarters office at 134 N. La Salle St., Chicago, which handles the many details required in the conduct of an association of 3,000

members, are also governed by the Association's General Fund Budget. A \$1,000 life insurance policy for each member is also provided for in this budget and many of the other activities which are included are designed to create new golfers and promote golf's popular acceptance and growth through the PGA professional. Among the latter are such things as the association's programs of Junior Golf and Caddie Training and Welfare.

With this same end in view, many other activities are constantly under way which are also designed to keep the PGA member up to date with respect to better methods of serving the amateur golfer. This is another method of insuring the attainment of one of our major objectives — that every golfer may derive the greatest possible measure of enjoyment and benefit from a truly great and beneficial game.