

A PGA View of the Caddie Problem

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The caddie situation today is presenting many problems. Some of these are being met by the amateur associations, the PGA and the clubs by providing increased fees for caddie services, better facilities for the boys, and creating scholarships for the furtherance of a boy's education.

In Chicago, the Charles Evans Scholarship Fund was created to assist the most deserving caddies through college. This has since developed into the National Caddie Scholarship Fund. The Massachusetts Golf Association has in operation a similar one known as the Ouimet Scholarship Fund. These and other educational funds have been very successful, the only drawback being that too few of the caddies are benefitting by them.

A few resorts have established caddie camps that are run very efficiently, and have counselors such as those in summer camps. These caddie camps, however, are usually run in conjunction with the Community Fund, and the boys of families who are being assisted financially are the only ones eligible.

Shortage Still Persists

The golf associations, both amateur and professional, have compiled caddie instruction manuals, charts, and similar helps to teach the boys the various phases of caddying and to be courteous at all times. This work and all other factors for the welfare of caddies have been very well thought out and have done a great deal of good, but still there are not enough boys to satisfy the play.

The fees paid caddies have kept pace with the uptrend of prices. The participants in the so-called winter circuit were paying boys at the rate of \$5.00 a round, and the minimum in local tournaments usually is \$2.00. Minimum wage laws which are in effect in some states have increased caddie fees.

Some of the reasons why caddies are



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becoming scarce are as follows:

First, the attitude of the boy himself. Before the last war many boys had to earn money to clothe themselves and help out at home financially. Today, most of the boys need to caddie only to acquire enough money for their entertainment needs, movies, etc.

The Boy Scouts of America, boys' clubs, and the increased activities of the playgrounds are attracting more and more of the boy's time.

The advent of the caddie cart was brought about by the shortage of caddies and is being used more all the time. Some clubs have made regulations forbidding the use of caddie carts, to assure the boys more work and to encourage them.

Lastly, the large golf bag, with 14 clubs, umbrella and other accessories, is not always inviting.

Perhaps a closer cooperation among the golf associations, golf clubs, and the several boys' clubs might get more caddies to work at golf courses.