

OPENING THE DOOR FOR LEADERS OF TOMORROW

by

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IN spite of a dirty face, an unruly mass of uncombed hair, worn and shabby clothing, and a somewhat hesitant manner of speech, the young man possessed a pair of sparkling blue eyes and a strong desire to tell his story.

He was a caddie; then a senior in high school. He was due to graduate soon and his father was insisting that he go to work in a steel mill. His mother wanted him to go on to college, but his father was highly opposed. Once started, the words began to come easier and the sordid details of an unwholesome family life came to light. The countless beatings; the endless arguments had made the dream of a college education only the remotest possibility.

Still, he thought it worth investigating. An hour later it was apparent that the boy's ambition to go to college was a driving, compelling desire. What he needed most was sound advice, a helping hand, and a large dose of encouragement.

Arrangements were made for the boy to make application to the college of his choice. His high school grades were good and he passed the college entrance examinations with flying colors. He was readily accepted in college and subsequent discussions with his parents resulted in their consent. The following September he was a college freshman, eager to make the most of an opportunity he had scarcely dreamed would be his a few months before.

The same young man is now well past his first year in college. He is no longer the dirty, uncombed, shabbily dressed young man who first came to tell his story. Neatly dressed and keenly alert, his conversation now shows a confidence that has been produced by his new environment.

His parents are a part of this revelation. They visited their son at college once dur-

ing his freshman year and found a new world, a pride never before experienced and a joy they never knew existed.

A Typical Case

The young man described in the above case is a typical example of the boys who are attending various colleges and universities through the Caddie Scholarship Foundation of the Western Pennsylvania Golf Association. They have been introduced to college education by the generosity of clubs and individual golfers with a sincere interest in the benefits of the Caddie Scholarship Program.

The present caddie welfare movement was initiated by William H. Duff, II, in 1939, when he was President of the Western Pennsylvania Golf Association. At that time, the Caddie Welfare Committee was enlarged to handle the program and Charles K. Robinson was appointed Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Robinson continues to serve in that position.

The program had a modest beginning, with one or two caddies being selected to enter the University of Pittsburgh under a plan developed with the assistance of Registrar J. G. Quick. Under the plan the University awarded one-half of the tuition and the Association supplied the remainder. Final selection of recipients was made by the University.

Contacts were made with caddie masters and professionals at member clubs to gain their assistance in locating caddies of outstanding scholastic ability in the preparatory schools; ambitious caddies who came from homes unable to meet the financial requirements of a college education. The program became better known through newspaper announcements and bulletins placed in the caddie master's of-

fice and on the bulletin boards of the 59 country clubs belonging to the Association.

Later, the movement steadily expanded and arrangements similar to those at the University of Pittsburgh were made with Carnegie Institute of Technology, Duquesne University, Washington and Jefferson College and Pennsylvania State University. World War II brought the movement to a virtual halt, but it returned with renewed vitality upon the return of peace. The program has grown steadily since that time until there are now twenty-seven young men studying at five colleges.

Distinguished Record

Generally speaking, the scholarship recipients have distinguished themselves by exceptional scholastic ability and accomplishment. Chancellor Fitzgerald, speaking of the University of Pittsburgh's experience with the plan, said:

"The University of Pittsburgh has been a co-sponsor of the Caddie Scholarship Plan for the past fourteen years, during which time twenty-eight of our students have been holders of these awards . . . it is most gratifying to know that, as a group, these young men have maintained a most commendable scholastic average. In the majority of instances this average has extended from just below a B grade to A. Such performance entitles them to a place among the best students on the campus."

President J. C. Warner, of Carnegie Institute of Technology, said of the program:

"The Caddie Welfare Committee of the Western Pennsylvania Golf Association has rendered a valuable service and has made it possible for many young men to obtain a college education, who otherwise might have been denied this privilege. The students who have been selected have been successful in their college work, and I know that they will be a credit not only to your Association, but also to Carnegie Tech.

We have been most happy to par-

ticipate in this co-operative arrangement."

The plan received a further boost on May 29, 1951, when the "Caddie Welfare Foundation of the Western Pennsylvania Golf Association became a reality. It was subsequently approved by the government as a tax exempt foundation.

In 1951, when Hudson G. Sampson became President of the Association, the scholarship program was largely financed by the individual contributions of members of the golf clubs in the Association, with some contributions from the member clubs. President Sampson led the movement for, and inaugurated, a plan whereby all member clubs made contributions for all golf activities of the Association. This included the Caddie Welfare Program, the operation of tournaments and the obtaining and circulation of important information pertaining to all phases of golf calculated to be of interest to member clubs. The program, in addition to assuring the necessary financial support for Association activities, enabled the Caddie Welfare Committee to increase steadily the number of scholarships awarded to deserving candidates.

Selection Difficult

The movement has now reached such proportions in Western Pennsylvania that the main problem has been to select and deal justly with the large number of applicants. The applications for scholarships far outnumber those presently available. Last year there were 60 applications for five scholarships. The hope and expectation of the Association is that the number of scholarships will continue to increase, thereby offering greater opportunity to assist deserving caddies who desire a college education.

The golfers of Western Pennsylvania are certain that the opportunity they have made possible has opened the door to a new and stronger life—the molding of a better citizen for the community of tomorrow. There could be no better testimony to the game of golf and those who play it.