

A Club and Its Caddie Camp

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Buddy Naufts is only 15 but his future is bright. He has learned already that one gets out of life about what one puts into it.

Two summers ago Buddy wanted to go to camp. A private camp was out of the question, so he applied through the Cambridge, Mass., YMCA for the privilege of earning his own way in the caddie camp at the Oyster Harbors Club on Cape Cod. As a polite, adaptable and athletic youngster who had caddied occasionally at a municipal course, he was accepted.

He devoted himself so thoroughly to absorbing instruction in the true art of caddying that his efforts soon drew the attention of Club members, including James B. Hollis, once the New England Senior Champion. They established a friendly relationship that continues through the winters by correspondence.

Buddy learned to play so quickly that he earned a place in the final of the caddie-camp championship that first summer. Hollis loaned him his personal clubs for the match, and he and Joseph P. Kennedy forewent their usual game to follow Buddy in the final, although they did not bring him victory.

Club's Problem Solved

The caddie fees Buddy earned paid for his summers in camp. They also enabled him to sharpen his basketball eye in evening team competition, gave him spending money and made it possible for him to buy a new set of matched irons last year. He returned to Cambridge High and Latin School each fall with a healthy tan and dollars in his pocket.

At the Climax Night dinner last Labor Day, Buddy was selected the Best All-Around Camper. The prize, a matched set of woods to go with the irons Buddy had purchased, was presented by Hollis.

The benefits of the summer and the

foundations for a future did not accrue exclusively to Buddy, however. He was only one of 100 Greater Boston boys who, in earning their own vacations on Cape Cod, gave the Oyster Harbors Club an outstanding caddie service and solved a problem that once seemed insoluble because of the Club's remote location.

Oyster Harbors does not claim to have pioneered caddie camps. Similar camps are operated by the Coonamesset Club, the Eastward Ho! Golf Links, the Hyannisport Club, the Wianno Club and the Woods Hole Golf Club on Cape Cod, the Poland Springs Golf Club in Maine and at Bretton Woods and Wentworth-by-the-Sea in New Hampshire.

The Oyster Harbors camp is the result of long and thoughtful experience and provides an exemplary case history.

After nearly two decades of experimentation with various methods of operation, the Club in 1947 invited the Cambridge, Mass., YMCA, which pioneered the caddie camp at Eastward Ho! 20 years before, to operate the Oyster Harbors caddie camp on a non-profit basis. The partnership is entering its fourth year with mutual satisfaction.

The Club has neither the staff nor the qualifications to operate a boys' camp. The alternative of contracting with a private individual to operate one for a percentage of earnings is less likely to produce the best in recruiting, supervision and care of the boys.

The basis of the partnership is a contract: the Club provides the physical facilities and pays the YMCA \$1,000; the YMCA provides the caddies and their supervision and maintenance.

Facilities furnished by the Club include a large dining-recreation hall, three bunkhouses, a washing and shower house and a cottage for the camp director and his wife and two children. These quarters are stocked with the neces-

sary utensils, and the Club also provides a truck for transportation.

The camp site is half a mile from the Club on a private beach facing Nantucket Sound. During the last three years the YMCA has purchased a sailboat and a rowboat and improved the area for baseball, basketball, touch football, volleyball and track meets.

The YMCA, through its camp director and his staff, is responsible for fulfilling the club's needs for courteous and well-trained caddies. Thus it must recruit and train as well as supervise.

Caddies Share the Cost

Its budget provides for the salaries of the director and staff, food, medical supplies, recreation, general maintenance, telephone, fuel and laundry as well as clerical supplies, salaries and promotion at the Cambridge office.

The caddies contribute a part of the cost of operating the camp. They are paid directly, at the rate of \$1.50 per bag and tip for a round, and they usually carry two bags. At the end of each day, they turn in their money and it is credited on their "joy slips". The bed-and-board charge of \$13, a compulsory insurance premium of 50¢ and the bill for personal laundry are deducted automatically each week. A boy may withdraw from the balance at any time or let it accumulate.

Warren S. Berg, an alumnus of the caddie camp at Eastward Ho! and now basketball coach at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is employed by the YMCA as camp director. His staff includes an assistant director, a caddiemaster, a clerk who doubles in first aid, a driver who is also in charge of athletics and a chef.

Camp promotion starts each February with a reunion banquet at the Cambridge YMCA. Francis Ouimet has been a popular speaker at these affairs. During the evening plans are described to past and prospective campers.

Applications are invited from lads of 13 to 16 years. Approximately 200 applications are received, and from them 100 boys are selected by means of personal interviews. Size and aptitude for

sports and camp life are the dominant factors in the selection. The camp is not run solely for boys who could not otherwise afford to attend a summer camp.

Camp opens in late June and continues through Labor Day. The season is divided into two terms, the dividing line falling August 1. A boy can apply for either term or for both. Eighty-five per cent stay the full 10 weeks.

No experience as a caddie is required. Preliminary training is given through lectures and movies in the Cambridge YMCA during the spring. As soon as the campers arrive at Oyster Harbors, Gene Andersen, the professional, takes them around the course in groups, each boy having a turn at carrying his clubs.

Courtesy is stressed, and the few boys who have been sent home have gone as a result of violation of this principle.

Caddying is the basis of the camper's life, of course, but it is by no means his entire life nor does he caddie every day.

When the boys arrive at Oyster Harbors, they are divided into five teams of about 18 boys each. Since they come from the seat of Harvard University, it is no surprise that the teams are designated Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta and Sigma. Each team has its counselor and competes not only in intracamp sports but also in camp-maintenance chores.

Work and Play Combined

On a typical day the boys, who work harder and so sleep later than in most camps, rise at 7:30 o'clock, attend the flag-raising and then breakfast.

Two teams, according to a rotating schedule, then board the truck and report to the Club for early caddie duty.

Two other teams clean up the grounds and buildings. Their work is inspected and marked. When it is satisfactory, they take a quick swim and then supplement the first two teams at the club.

The fifth team, except on week ends, has the day off and leaves with its counselor for a trip, a fishing party or golf at another course.

Well-Fed Caddies Make Happy Caddies



These youngsters obviously approve the fare in their caddie camp at the Oyster Harbors Club, and they are good caddies. The Club believes there is a definite relationship between these two factors and strives to maintain both at a high level.

All boys return for dinner, which, like breakfast, is served family style. Lunch is cafeteria style because it cannot be held at a fixed hour. The standard of meals is high and a morale-builder.

Following colors and dinner, one team handles the chores and the other four engage in intracamp sports. The boys also use free intervals to publish a camp paper, "The Hacker." The evening ends with a swim, camp movies or stunts.

A scoreboard is set up in the dining hall, showing the cumulative points won by each team in sports and chores. Points are awarded for round-robin series in 14 team sports, a golf championship, a swimming meet (held off the Club beach in Cotuit Bay for the entertainment of the members) and a track meet, as well as for the work details.

Teamwork and Competition

"Teamwork and competition are the factors which make our camp operate as we want it to operate," Berg says.

On Sundays, Catholic boys attend an early service and Protestant boys take part in a special service at the town church in the evening. The parish also gives a lawn party for the boys.

The season ends with the musical show and banquet on Labor Day night. Last year 400 parents, friends and Club members watched the boys perform and win prizes donated by Club members.

The boys are not promised that they will show a profit at the end of the summer. On the contrary, the YMCA encourages them to spend a portion of their earnings on their weekly days-off and town-nights and on organized trips. The average camper, however, has taken home about \$30 and some have saved as much as \$150.

The YMCA, of course, has carried out one of its traditional functions without cost, and the Club has had the benefit of a caddie service on which it receives countless compliments.