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The Service Set

They Beat the Heat At Country Club

Last weekend, while Washington was sizzling in a 103-degree temperature, the Service Set was “beating the heat” at its favorite playground – the Army Navy Country Club. The three Swimming Pools were doing a record business with almost 3,000 members logging in over Saturday and Sunday.

While mama and papa were cooling off in the large pools, the small fry – undaunted by the heat – ambled from wading pool to swings to sand pile to teeter-totter. They had been checked by mother in a large tree-shaded playground, where two full-time attendants “stood the watch.”

Since the ANCC got its start in 1924, it has been a popular gathering place for the military clan. Outwardly the club resembles a dozen or more East Coast country clubs. There is the low, sprawling club house with verandas and glassed-in porches. There are the tennis courts and the swimming pools – all surrounded by acres of trees and a rolling green golf course. Here the similarity ends.

The Army Navy Country Club is strictly a private institution located on private property. Yet the membership is limited to officers of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard.

It is a serviceman’s club but was originally financed by civilians. One hundred and fifty-one life memberships were sold at \$1000 each – Irene du Pont, S.R. Guggenheim and W.D. Vanderbilt were original patrons.

IT IS the largest country club in the world. There are more than 10,000 members scattered all over the globe.

In addition to their regular memberships, the club issues honorary and temporary memberships to the President of the United States, the Vice President, Cabinet officers, Supreme Court Justices, Senators, Representatives and other Government officials, as well as to a limited number of foreign attaches.

This tremendous organization is under the management of Col. Richard E. (Dick) Daly, USN (ret.). With equal aplomb he and his staff plan a reception for a King and Queen (both Netherlands and Greek royalty have been entertained here), a teen-age dance or a bridge tournament.

THE comfortable club-house facilities include air-conditioned rooms for parties, both large and small. There is an outdoor dancing terrace on the roof of one wing. Six hundred guests turned

out for dancing Saturday night. They found a surprising cool breeze and a breathtaking view of the flood-lighted Capitol, the Washington Monument and the Jefferson Memorial.

The Sunday night buffet dinner, for which the club is famous, also brought out hundreds of officers and their families. Traffic was heavy on the golf course – and 18-hole and a nine-hole course- over the weekend. There was no dearth of players on the 11 tennis courts – where matches are often played under floodlights until the wee hours. And as usual, the picnic grounds, the nineteenth hole tap room and the outdoor grill were overflowing.

Although the ANCC is a military club and the roster is studded with names of high-ranking officers, you see nothing at all to suggest the fighting arms of the Nation. There are no trophies or battle flags, and the generals and admirals park their stars as they enter. The old-timers have a saying that typifies the spirit of the club. They tell the newly initiated, “There are no generals, no admirals here – only members.”