

# Women in Golf

## The Early Years

# Women in Golf



Mary Queen of Scots at Royal and Ancient-  
St. Andrews 1567

# Women in Golf

- Until 1848 golf was a game for the ruling classes because of the price of the equipment
- Before 1848 golf balls, called “featheries” were made of feathers and leather; cost approx. \$15
- 1848-golf balls became made of rubber and were repairable
- Sap from the gutta tree

# Women in Golf

- First golf course outside the UK was built in 1856 in Pau, France
- First US golf course in 1887 Foxburg Country Club in Pennsylvania (or )  
1888—3 holes in Yonkers, NY-Club records indicate that couples were playing golf here the following year
- 1893 British Ladies Golf Union formed
- 1894 USGA formed

# Women in Golf

- Lady Margaret Scott won the first three British Ladies Golf Championships (amateur) (1893-1895)



# Women in Golf

- 1895, 1<sup>st</sup> US Women's Amateur Championship held at the Meadow Brook Club in Hempstead, NY (sponsored by USGA)
  - winner was Mrs. CS Brown with a score of 132
  - 18 holes, 13 participants
- 1904, women played golf in the Olympics held in St. Louis— Americans took the gold, silver and bronze  
(Americans took all the golf medals in 1904)

# Women in Golf

- American and British women competed in amateur competitions in the UK beginning in 1905
- May Hezlet wrote *Ladies Golf*
- *Ladies Golf* published in 1904  
2d edition published in 1907



# Women in Golf



Glenna Collette Vare – USA  
Vare Trophy named after her



Joyce Wethered – UK  
on cigarette cards in the UK



# Women in Golf

- Curtis sisters—1932 established the Curtis cup



Harriet



Margeret

# Women in Golf

- Women began to appear as teaching pros at golf clubs
- 1924 Helen MacDonald joined a major sporting goods firm—Hillerich & Bradsby
- 1934 Helen Hicks joined the Wilson sporting goods company promoting golf products and giving clinics
- 4 founding members of the LPGA joined Wilson by 1940

# Women in Golf

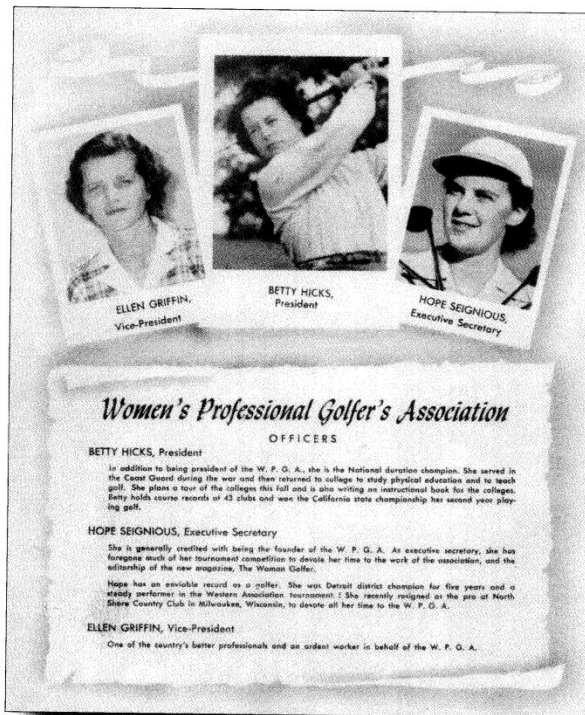
- 4 professional competitions for women  
Western Open and the Titleholders (Augusta)  
being the most prestigious
- No prize money until 1941 when Patty Berg won  
the Western Open (\$100 in war bonds)  
Patty Berg won first US Women's Open in 1946
- All American and World Championships Tam  
O'Shanter Country Club in Chicago-1941
- Byron Nelson \$14,000; Betty Hicks \$500

# Women in Golf

- formed the Women's Professional Golf Association in 1944
- Hope Seignious, Secretary and Treasurer
- Ellen Griffin, Vice-President
- Betty Hicks, President

# Women in Golf

## WPGA FOUNDERS



A page from the program of the first Women's National Golf Championship, Spokane, Washington, 1946. Courtesy: Betty Hicks.

# Women in Golf

- WGA started the US Women's Open  
Patty Berg won \$5600
- WGA Started a monthly magazine called *The Woman Golfer*—only 13 issues published
- WGA lasted 5 years and was disbanded

# Women in Golf

- LPGA founded in 1945; 13 charter members

Alice Bauer

Patty Berg

Bettye Mims Danoff

Helen Dettweiler

Marlene Hagge

Helen Hicks

Opal Hill

Betty Jameson

Sally Sessions

Marilynn Smith

Shirley Spork

Louise Suggs

Babe Didrikson Zaharias