

The Golf Chronicles

Golf Stories from the Pennsylvania Heartland

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Betty Fehl, playing out of Reading Country Club, won the 1950 Pennsylvania Women's Amateur Championship at Berkshire Country Club. She scored a runaway 10 and 9 victory over Mrs. John Gessler, Whitemarsh Valley Country Club.

The final word on her triumph was provided by Bill Reedy, the Reading Eagle sports editor, in his column of August 22.

Reedy is the subject of GC 39, [Celebrating the Great Bill Reedy](#), published March 17, 2016 . . . Reedy's writings featured

the three-dot ellipsis, rather than a single period, between sentences . . . This unique style provided the sports fan with a sense of openness in the text, making Reedy's words all the more inviting to read.

The text is as it appeared in the Eagle in 1950, with the exception of the bold-face names, a flourish added by the GC editor . . . Typos can likewise be attributed.



From tee to green: Now that the firing is all over and she met every test in true championship form, **Betty Fehl**, new queen of golf in Pennsylvania, makes a startling admission . . . "I

don't like to practice and I didn't for this tournament." revealed the 28-year-old Shillington lass after getting past the last hurdle in the state championships at the Berkshire Country Club last week . . . Then to emphasize the point, **Betty** added: "I have not been giving any of my golf time to practice for the last four years. There was only one exception. Before I went down to the Bala Club a few weeks ago to play with **Henry Poe** in the pro-lady tournament of the Philadelphia district, I practiced a little with each of the clubs. I guess I'm allergic to practice. I love to play golf so much I can't resist the impulse to give all my golf time to play without any practice." . . . Looking back over the tournament in which she literally paraded through four highly-rated opponents, not one of whom carried her beyond the 16th green, **Betty** admits it would have been sound judgment to do a bit of practicing but still she resisted the suggestion . . . "I honestly don't think that I had a chance in that field at the Berkshire," said **Miss Fehl** with obvious sincerity and typical modesty. "I just happened to pick the right week to play the best golf of my life. I got a good start, then relaxed and everything went right for me. Winning this tournament and bringing the championship to Reading has made me very happy."

Betty Fehl has no plans for any extra tournament play the rest of the 1950 golf season . . . "I would like to play the national championships at Atlanta, Ga., but that's too far away," she confesses. "It would take too much time away from our business. (**Miss Fehl** runs a kiddies' shop with her mother in Shillington.) Last year I really wanted to play in the nationals for the first time in my life. The Merion Club was close enough for me to make it, too, but I had a lot of trouble finding out where to send my entry. By the time it was received in New York, it was too late. The committee sent back my entry. I was told no post-entries were accepted for that tournament. That was a big disappointment to me." . . . The women's national tournament at Augusta will not produce any consistently finer golf than **Betty Fehl** displayed last week at the Berkshire.

Retracing the golf career of **Betty Fehl**, it's not surprising to find her on the Pennsylvania throne for she was a champion at 14 years of age . . . By a curious coincidence, she gained her first tournament trophy the same year in which **Edith Quier**, now **Mrs. Harrison F. Flippin**, became the first Reading woman to win the championship of Pennsylvania . . . That was 1936 . . . It was the year in which **Edith Quier** attained the peak of her career . . . She not only captured the state crown, but also the Eastern championship and was favored in the nationals only to be sidelined for that event by an emergency operation for appendicitis . . . **Betty Fehl**, meanwhile, was then completing her fifth year of playing golf . . . She had started at nine years of age . . . At 12 she entered her first tournament, the Central Pennsylvania championships she has since won five times, which were staged at the Reading Country Club . . . **Betty** landed in the fourth flight with a qualifying score of 117, which is just about 40 strokes over her average for 18 holes today . . . Her first defeat in a golf game came in the semi-finals of that tournament . . . She was eliminated, 4 and 3, by **Mary Muhlenburg**, but not discouraged . . . **Betty** kept plugging away at tournament golf and two years later, as a Shillington High student, became queen of the Berks players for the first time.

Betty Fehl has lost track of the number of times she has won the country championship tournament, it has happened so often, but she hasn't forgotten the first one she topped in 1936 . . . In the final match of the event, she defeated **Mrs. John E. Barbey**, sister of **Edith Quier** . . . In two years, she had knocked close to 30 strokes off her average score and had played one round at the Berkshire club in 82 . . . Though all the years she has been gifted with an ideal temperament for competitive golf . . . **Betty** now recalls that she experienced two contrasting emotions when she drew **Mrs. Harrison Flippin**, Reading's first great woman golfer, in the second round of last week's state championship tournament . . . "I felt thrilled over the chance to play **Mrs. Flippin** and she was a grand opponent," says **Betty**, "but also I felt that this would be my exit from the tournament. I surprised myself in winning as I did. That match gave me just the confidence I needed. I could feel myself getting better and better from then on."