

# The Golf Chronicles

## Golf Stories from the Pennsylvania Heartland

**Byron Nelson**  
**Reading CC Pro**  
**1937-39**



Number 95 • March 29, 2021

### Grandest of the Grand

**M**orton F. Plant built The Griswold Hotel in 1906 on the site of the former Fort Griswold House on the eastern point of the Thames River in Groton, Conn. Built in just six months, the Griswold was the largest and most visited luxury hotel in the Northeast United States.

The Griswold was the grandest of the grand. How grand was it? Grand enough for the likes of the Rockefellers, the Roosevelts and the Vanderbilts. President William Howard Taft visited as did Jacqueline Kennedy.

The rich and well-coifed gathered along the north shore of Long Island Sound to enjoy yachting, the beach, tennis and golf at Shennecossett Golf Club, which Plant also owned. The hotel served as the home base for the annual Harvard-Yale regatta in the spring and the Shennecossett Invitational Golf Tournament in the summer.

Advertisements touted the hotel as the finest seashore resort in America. Guests were assured that "The finest yachts dot its broad, picturesque harbor..." and noted that the hotel was "a magnet for motorists, being at the center of beautiful roads through enchanting country." The ads also touted the sporty 18-hole Donald Ross golf course and afternoon tea and dancing at the hospitable club that appealed to the younger set. The Griswold offered an ala carte grill for the convenience of motorists, a splendid orchestra, dancing, athletic field, tennis and ocean bathing.

As described by a 1914 Griswold Hotel brochure, orchestras would  
*Continued on next page*



*Edith Quier receives the Griswold Cup from G.W. Carroll, Jr., president of Shennecossett Golf Club, as winner of the woman's invitational tournament. The photo appeared in Golf Illustrated magazine along with an article written by Maureen Orcutt, who also played in the tournament.*

The Griswold did just that and by 1929, the winners included Glenna Collett, who would win the Griswold Cup seven times, and Dorothy Campbell Hurd, who by 1929 had won the Scottish, British, Canadian, United States and North and South amateur championships. Other prominent players who competed for the Griswold Cup include Maureen Orcutt, Helen Hicks, Louise Fordyce and Virginia Van Wie.

**Beaten badly.** The Griswold Cup was an important early step in the golfing career of Glenna Collett, Providence, R.I. She played in the second Griswold at age 16. After a first-round win, she faced Mrs. Ronald Barrow, Philadelphia, an experienced player who won the Eastern amateur title earlier in the year. Mrs. Barrow trounced the teen-ager, 9 and 8, the match ending after only 10 holes. The score indicates that Mrs. Barrow won nine of the ten holes played, with one hole tied. She went on to win the cup.

This humbling defeat certainly did not portend Miss Collett's future in the sport. She returned the following year and won her first of seven Griswold Cups, defeating Elaine Rosenthal, Chicago, 2-up in the final match to

### Edith Cops Two Cups

*The Golf Chronicles continues a series on the golfing life of Edith Quier Flippin, Berks County's premier woman amateur golfer.*

**E**dith Quier won the most significant title of her career in 1929, taking the Griswold Cup at Shennecossett Country Club, Groton, Conn. She defended her championship in 1930. First played in 1918, the Griswold was one of the most important summer invitational tournaments for women. Newspaper reports regarded the Griswold as women's golf's third-most important title, behind the U.S. amateur championship and the North and South championship at Pinehurst.

Invitational tournaments gained stature by attracting the leading players.

The Griswold did just that and by 1929, the winners included Glenna Collett, who would win the Griswold Cup seven times, and Dorothy Campbell Hurd, who by 1929 had won the Scottish, British, Canadian, United States and North and South amateur championships. Other prominent players who competed for the Griswold Cup include Maureen Orcutt, Helen Hicks, Louise Fordyce and Virginia Van Wie.

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### ***Grandest of the Grand, continued***

grace the piazza in the mornings and the freshest of food was grown by Bradford Farms. The rooms, detailed in mahogany, were lit with electricity and provided luxurious long-distance telephone service. Dancing was offered nightly, and no expense was spared on service, food or decor.

As all good things come to an end, the hotel took a downturn after the stock market crashed in 1929, ushering in the Great Depression. The property changed hands several times. An attempt to rescue the failing business in 1956 saw the addition of a salt water pool among the millions spent in upgrades.

But large-scale luxury hotels eventually lost popularity, and the great Griswold Hotel served the last guest in September 1967. The building was razed in 1968.

Although the hotel is gone, the golf course endures. The town of Groton now operates Shennecossett Golf Club as a public course.

win her first significant championship on her way to compiling one of golf's greatest amateur records. There were those who referred to her as the Bobby Jones of women's golf. Perhaps the tables should be turned: Bobby was the Glenna Collett of the men's game.

Edith Quier first played the Griswold Cup in 1927. She qualified at 89, six behind the medalist, Maureen Orcutt, White Beeches, N.J.. She easily made the championship flight of 32 out of 220 entrants. Miss Quier advanced to the semi-final round by defeating Louise Fordyce, a former North and South amateur champion, 3 and 2. Edith went up against the accomplished Miss Orcutt in the semi-final match. The players were even at the turn. Miss Orcutt, dormie 2 after winning the sixteenth hole, won the match 2 and 1 when the players tied the seventeenth hole with 5's. The final match pitted Miss Orcutt against Dorothy Campbell Hurd, Merion, Pa. Mrs. Hurd never relinquished an early advantage, turned with a 4-up lead and won the cup, 4 and 3.

Miss Quier again reached the semi-final round in 1928. Edith won her semi-final match against 17-year-old Virginia Kenworthy, Providence and a protégé of Glenna Collett, 4 and 3. Miss Quier led 1-up at the turn. She extended her lead to 3-up with wins at ten and thirteen and closed out the youngster with a par 4 on the sixteenth hole. In a replay of the previous year's final match, Mrs. Hurd defeated Miss Orcutt, 1-up, to advance to the semi-final round.

On to finals Edith went and a match-up against Mrs. Hurd, the defending champion. A win over Mrs. Hurd, a native of Scotland, would have been quite an accomplishment. In 1928, she and Glenna Collett were the biggest names in women's golf.

**Short game magic.** The experienced Mrs. Hurd, playing out of Merion Cricket Club, took the cup with a 3 and 1 win. Because of heavy rain, the match was delayed five hours. Even with the delay, the players struggled on the soggy turf. They played the game with all carry, an advantage for the longer-hitting Miss Quier. But Mrs. Hurd's brilliant short game was the difference. The players traded wins on the first two holes and halved the third. After Mrs. Hurd took the fourth, Miss Quier again squared the match on five by running in a 30-foot putt. They tuned even, each player shooting a respectable 40 for the nine holes.

They traded wins on ten and eleven, where Mrs. Hurd three-putted for a bogey. Mrs. Hurd won thirteen and fourteen when Miss Quier drove poorly on each hole. Marching par 3's on sixteen left Mrs. Hurd dormie two. She took the title by 3 and 1 with a winning par on seventeen.

Miss Quier's fine showing earned her praise from the sports writers, who noted that she was "...rapidly taking her place among the leading



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woman players in the game."

**Doing fine in '29.** Miss Quier validated that praise in 1929—she won the Griswold Cup for her most significant victory. Here's the lede from the Associated Press article that appeared in the *Reading Times*, July 13.

"A new name was engraved on the Griswold cup today with the list including such golf celebrities as Miss Glenna Collett and Mrs. Dorothy Campbell Hurd.

"Winning her spurs against the strong competition gathering annually to compete for the silver trophy in the tournament regarded as the third most important women's event, Miss Edith Quier, Reading, Pa., soared to golfing heights by a sweeping victory over Miss Maureen Orcutt, metropolitan and eastern champion, 4 up and 2 to play. It was the first major tournament victory scored by Miss Quier."

Because of her experience, Miss Orcutt was favored to take the Griswold Cup. In June, she won her third Eastern Amateur championship at Aronomink Country Club, Newtown Square, Pa., by six strokes over Helen Hicks and nine over Mrs. Hurd. Edith finished fifth, 17 strokes behind.

Miss Orcutt won the qualifying medal with a four-over-par 76. Mrs. Hurd was second with 78, tied with 19-year-old Miss Hicks. Miss Quier qualified fourth at 82. The low 32 from a field of 200 moved on the championship flight.

**Defeating Dorothy.** Edith reached the finals with a 3 and 2 victory over Mrs. Hurd, avenging a championship match loss from the previous year. A win over Mrs.

Hurd, a native of Scotland, was quite an accomplishment.

Miss Orcutt scored a decisive semi-final victory by defeating Miss Hicks, 7 and 5. Miss Hicks enjoyed a storied career, winning the U.S. and Canadian amateur championships. She was one of the 13 founding members of the LPGA and won two professional tournaments.

Neither player showed their top form in the championship match. Miss Quier took a decisive 5-up lead after nine as Miss Orcutt struggled on the outward holes, taking 47

strokes. She was so off her game that Miss Quier won five holes on the front nine with bogeys. By contrast, Miss Orcutt shot 36 on the front side in her semi-final match. So abject was her game that on the fourth green, she took four putts, three from two feet.

Miss Orcutt showed her competitive mettle with wins on twelve and thirteen, cutting the deficit to 3-down. She played the finest shot of the day on the par 5, 481-yard twelfth, reaching in two with a brassie. She lagged her 30-foot eagle putt and tapped in for birdie 4 and a win.

Miss Quier took fourteen but Miss Orcutt's birdie 2 on fifteen kept her in the game. Edith took the title with a winning par 4 on the sixteenth hole. The players posted only seven pars and three birdies over the 16 holes played. Iron-

ically, Miss Orcutt it was who wrote the article about the Griswold Cup for *Golf Illustrated* magazine, the day's most-read publication for the links crowd.

**Great Expectations.** The golfing press was expecting great things from Edith Quier going into the 1930 season.

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Writing in the *Reading Times* on December 24, 1929, Shandy Hill was of the opinion that her 1929 success would be the springboard to an even greater 1930. Because of her consistently good golf, she earned the reputation as a dangerous opponent and a threat to take the national championship. She attributed her improved play to more practice, more lessons and playing against better competition. Hill also lauded Miss Quier for bringing national attention to Reading as a "cradle of champions." Miss Quier, he wrote, became famous almost overnight by winning the Griswold Cup, a major title in women's golf, over a nationally known field.

The win at the Griswold Cup vaulted her into the ranking of the top 10 woman golfers published by the *New York American* as compiled by Helen Hicks, one of the era's leading players. Her ninth-place ranking, according to the Reading scribe, was unjust. He had no argument against Glenna Collett ranked at number one. But he noted that Miss Quier had at times defeated the others ranked ahead of her, including Maureen Orcutt, Virginia Van Wie and Dorothy Campbell Hurd.

Her fine play led to speculation that Miss Quier would be invited to accompany a group of American golfers who would travel to England in 1930 to play in the British woman's amateur, a championship that no American had won. The traveling party would include golfing celebrities such as Glenna Collett, Maureen Orcutt, Helen Hicks and Dorothy Campbell Hurd.

"It was discussed informally," Miss Quier said, "but as far as I know, no specific plans have been made. I, at least, have not made plans to go to England next year, although there is a possibility."

**M**iss Quier successfully defended her Griswold Cup championship in 1930, defeating Mrs. Dorothy Campbell Hurd, 4 and 2. Her task was made somewhat easier when golf's "big three", Glenna Collett, Maureen Orcutt and Helen Hicks, withdrew the day before qualifying, citing a taxing schedule that left them golf weary.

Never mind that, the field still included stalwarts such as the redoubtable Mrs. Hurd, winner of the

Scottish, British, Canadian and American amateur championships and a two-time Griswold Cup champion; Miss Frances Williams, Bethlehem; and Mrs. Helen Stetson and Mrs. Helen Peyson Corson, both of Philadelphia.

Qualifying was delayed a day because of rain. When the players took to the soggy course, Miss Quier qualified third at 82, two strokes behind the medalist, Miss Williams, and one behind Mrs. Hurd.

Edith won her first two matches easily, defeating Mrs. S.S. Laird, West Chester, N.Y., 7 and 6, and Mrs. R.N. Barlow, 5 and 4, New York, to advance to the quarter final round. Mrs. Barlow won the first Griswold Cup in 1918.

The quarter-final and semi-final matches were played in one day. Miss Quier advanced to the final round by dispatching Mrs. Benjamin Diggs, Pelham Manor, N.Y., 2 and 1, and Miss Williams, 3 and 2, in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Hurd romped her way into the final match with an 8 and 7 victory over Mrs. J.B. Kirby, Bradford, Conn., in the morning and an afternoon win over Mrs. Stetson, 4 and 2.

The stage was set for an all-Pennsylvania final match and the third year in a row Miss Quier and Mrs. Hurd had met in the Griswold Cup. Miss Quier won their semi-final match 3 and 2 on her way to the championship in 1929, while Mrs. Campbell took the measure of her younger opponent by 3 and 1 to win the cup in 1928.

Miss Quier was facing her sternest challenge. Edith surged to a 3-up lead after nine holes, turning in 41 strokes to her opponent's 44. She took a commanding 4-up lead by winning the eleventh. She lost thirteen with a triple-bogey, but halves on the next two holes left her dormie three. Edith's par on sixteen closed out the match and Miss Quier's successful title defense.

**No threepeat.** In 1931, Edith began her quest for three Griswold Cup's in succession with an appearance in an exhibition match the day before the qualifying round. Miss Quier and Jane McCullough, Philadelphia, lost the better-ball match to Mrs. Hurd and Mrs. Helen Peyson Corson, 2 and 1. Edith and her partner led 2-up at the turn. Their opponents won ten and eleven with pars to square the match. Mrs. Hurd's three straight wins with pars put the

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match out of reach for Misses Quier and McCullough.

Mrs. Hurd continued her fine play by winning the qualifying medal with 78. Miss Quier faltered badly, shooting 41-47, a full ten strokes behind the leader. She shook off that poor performance and kept her hopes of winning three in a row with a first-round win, 5 and 4 over Mrs. H.F. Morse of the home club. Miss Quier prospered in the second round, defeating Miss Carol Smith, Hartford, 4 and 2. She advanced to the semi-final round with a win over Mrs. J.B. Rose, Sewickley, Penna., in 20 holes.

**Dorothy, again.** Edith faced off once again with Mrs. Hurd in the semi-final round. For the third year in a row, Miss Quier came out on top, defeating Mrs. Hurd 2 and

1. Mrs. Hurd took an early lead with a par 3 on the fourth hole, a lead she held through eight. Miss Quier won nine with a par 4 to even the match. Edith won eleven and thirteen to go 2-up, a lead she did not relinquish.

Only Mrs. Leo Federman, Flushing, N.Y., stood between Edith and a third Griswold title, a win that would earn her permanent possession of the cup. It was not to be. Mrs. Federman won by 2 and 1, a victory that was considered an upset. Both players were off-form as neither could duplicate their fine play in the semi-final matches. For the 17 holes played, Mrs. Federman required 79 strokes to Miss Quier's 80.

The challenger led 3-up after nine holes. Edith narrowed the deficit to one hole after fourteen, but squandered a chance to even the match on fifteen with a three-putt bogey. Mrs. Federman took a 2-up lead on sixteen with a par and won the match when each made par on seventeen.

**Glenna dominates.** Miss Quier played her way into the quarter-final round in 1932 only to face Glenna Collett Vare at her best. Mrs. Vare dominated, leading 6-up after touring the first nine holes in 37 strokes, while Miss Quier took 43. Glenna closed out the match on twelve, winning 7 and 6. Edith did not win a single hole.

Mrs. Vare continued her relentless play in the semi-final match, defeating Mrs. Hurd by 7 and 6. Next in her sights was Miss Bernice Wall, Oshkosh, Wisc. The youngster provided little opposition as Mrs. Vare won her sixth Griswold Cup by the score of – What else? – 7 and 6. Her final three matches all ended on the twelfth hole and Mrs. Vare did not lose a single hole.



*Glenna Collett first played in the Griswold Cup in 1919 at age 16. She was trounced in the second round, losing 9 and 8. She would go on to win the Griswold a record seven times.*