

# The Golf Chronicles

## Golf Stories from the Pennsylvania Heartland

Byron Nelson  
Reading CC Pro  
1937-39



Number 96 • July 22, 2021

### National Championships

In September 1929, Edith Quier travelled to Montreal for the Canadian women's amateur championship. She qualified at 86, nine strokes behind Glenna Collett's 77.

Edith played her way into the championship final, the only close match coming in the semi-final round, which she won 2 and 1 over Mrs. Stewart Hanley. In the final match, she met Helen Hicks, who defeated Maureen Orcutt in the semi-final. Miss Hicks trailed Miss Orcutt 3-down after nine, squared the match on 18 and won on the 20<sup>th</sup> hole.

Miss Hicks defeated Miss Quier, 7 and 6, in the 36-hole championship match. At 18, Miss Hicks became the youngest winner of Canada's women's championship and the third U.S. player to win in the tournament's 24 years.

She gained a five-hole lead in the morning round and added three more in the afternoon's front nine. Miss Quier gained the final on the strength of her putting, but the flat stick deserted her against Miss Hicks.

The following week, the players crossed the border for the U.S. women's championship at Oakland Hills Country Club, Birmingham, Mich.

Miss Quier won her first-round match over Mrs. John Arends, 3 and 1. She fell in the second round to Mrs. Harley Higbie, 1 down. Glenna Collett won her second of three consecutive titles, defeating Leona Pressler, 4 and 3. Miss Collett would go on to win a record six U.S. amateur titles.

## On the Road to Fame

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

Edith Quier provided a preview of things to come with her play in 1929. She completed the '29 season ranked among the top 10 women golfers in America. An article in the *Reading Times*, July 10, reported that she was looking at the possibility of becoming the first Reading-area golfer to compete in a British tournament. Miss Quier and a number of American women were invited to play in the 1930 British Ladies golf championship. Among those invited were Maureen Orcutt, Helen Hicks, Dorothy Campbell Hurd and Helen Payson. An American had never won the British championship.

In May, she finished second to Mrs. Hurd in the Geist Cup at Overbrook Country Club. Later that month, Miss Quier tied for the medal with

Helen Stetson, the 1926 U.S. amateur champion, in the qualifying round for the Philadelphia amateur title. Edith lost the championship match to Mrs. Hurd, 4 and 3.

Miss Quier told the *Times* that she had not made definite plans to compete in England but leaned heavily to making the trip. The *Times* noted that she was playing the best golf of her career as evidenced by a final-round appearance in the Buffalo invitational.

**Edith's biggest win.** A day after that article appeared, she posted her most significant win to date, capturing the Griswold Cup at Shenecosett Country Club, Groton, Conn. The Griswold was an invitational tourna-



**Edith Quier accepts the Griswold Cup in 1929 from G.W. Carroll, Jr., president of Shenecosett Country Club.**

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ment, which attracted the nation's leading golfers. As such, it was considered one of the country's most important in women's golf, behind the U.S. amateur, the Eastern amateur and the North and South amateur.

Ms. Quier won out over a strong field, defeating Maureen Orcutt, 4 and 2, in the final match. Miss Orcutt won the qualifying medal with a four-over-par 76. Ms. Quier qualified fourth at 82. Only the low 32 from a field of 200 moved on the championship flight.

**Avenging a loss.** Edith reached the finals with a 3 and 2 victory over Mrs. Hurd, avenging a championship match loss from the previous year. Mrs. Hurd tied second in qualifying with 78. A win over Mrs. Hurd, a native of Scotland, was quite an accomplishment. She won the Scottish Ladies Championship and the Canadian Women's amateur three times each, and the British Ladies championship and U.S. Women's amateur championship twice each.

Miss Orcutt advanced by defeating 19-year-old Helen



**Maureen Orcutt was one of the "Big Four" of women's golf, along with Glenna Collett, Virginia Van Wei and Helen Hicks.**

Hicks and nine over Mrs. Hurd. Edith finished fifth, 17 strokes behind.

Miss Orcutt did not show winning form on the first nine holes, taking 47 strokes compared to 36 in her semi-final win. Edith was off her game as well, but took ad-

vantage of her opponent's struggles to win five holes with bogeys. She was out in 42 and led 5-up at the turn. Miss Orcutt's usually sharp short game was in disarray, as evidenced by a four-putt on the fourth green where, after leaving her first putt three feet from the hole, she took three more to get down.

Miss Orcutt fought back on the second nine, closing the gap to three down after 12 holes. The players traded birdies on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> holes. Edith closed out the match with a par 4 on 16. In the 16 holes played, the duo managed only seven pars and three birdies.

Following her victory, Miss Quier spent time with her fellow competitor, Miss Helen Payson, at the latter's home in Portland, Maine. In August, Miss Quier entertained Miss Virginia Wilson, a nationally ranked golfer from Chicago, at her Reading home on Centre Avenue.

### ***New Decade, New Challenges***

**T**he North and South Women's Amateur Championship is one of America's venerable golf tournaments. The event has been played every year since 1903 at the Pinehurst Resort courses. The 1930 renewal was played March 31 through April 6 and marked the start of the women's championship golf season

Edith easily won her first-round match over Miss Dorothy Smith by taking the first three holes and cruising to a 7 and 6 win. She advanced to the semi-final round with a convincing 4 and 2 win over Virginia Van Wie. This came as a bit of a surprise as Miss Van Wie held an edge over Miss Quier in previous matches.

Edith reached the championship match by defeating Miss Helen Hicks, 2 and 1. The match turned on the 16<sup>th</sup> hole when Miss Hicks laid a dead stymie on Miss Quier. After studying her predicament, Edith pulled her niblick and gently lifted her ball over her opponent's and sent it trickling into the cup. The gallery whooped with delight.

**A dead stymie.** The crowd gave Edith a rousing cheer on the 17<sup>th</sup> hole after she played her third from the woods. The iron shot whizzed on to the green, settling a mere foot from the hole. Turnabout was fair play because she laid a dead stymie on Miss Hicks, who required two putts and lost the hole and the match.

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Miss Hicks had assumed an early lead with wins on the second and third holes. Edith battled back to win eight and nine, forging a tie at the turn. The players traded wins on holes 12 and 15 for a square match. Edith then took command with her remarkable shots on 16 and 17.

**Battle of the best.** The other semi-final match featured a battle between the game's leading players, Glenna Collett and Maureen Orcutt. Miss Collett lead one-up at the turn and two-up after ten. Miss Collett drove the green on the 208-yard 16<sup>th</sup> hole while Miss Orcutt's tee shot came up short of the green. When she couldn't get



*Glenna Collett defeated Edith Quier in the final match of the 1930 North and South women's amateur championship played at Pinehurst Number 2. The win was Miss Collett's sixth in the North and South, a record equaled by Estelle Lawson Page in 1945.*

up and down, Miss Collett took the hole and the match, 3 and 2.

Miss Collett defended her North and South companionship, winning her sixth title since 1922, with a close 1-up victory over Miss Quier on Pinehurst's famed Number 2 course.

Edith led early, 2-up after five holes. Miss Collett showed her winning form, taking a 3-up lead after twelve. Edith then rallied to win three consecutive holes, evening the match with three to play. Having the honor on 16, Miss Quier drove poorly, her ball settling in the rough well short of the green. Miss Collett then hit a wood shot to the green. Miss Quier could not recover from her errant tee shot and went 1-down to Miss Collett's par 3. That was the match as the players halved the final two holes.

Edith became a favorite of the Pinehurst galleries with her tenacious play and calm demeanor. She took on the mantle of the underdog, having defeated two of the "big four" in women's golf: Virginia Van Wei and Helen Hicks. When she led early, 2-up, the gallery buzzed with anticipation that Edith would defeat Miss Collett, the two-time defending U.S. women's amateur champion.

'Twas not to be.

**Car crash.** The match was enlivened on the second hole when the players, caddies and gallery were startled by an auto accident on a nearby road. A car sideswiped a train, its wheels stripped off and the vehicle ending up on its side.

Mrs. H.P. Hotchkiss, New Haven, Conn., escaped serious injury. When lifted from the demolished car, she told the assembled who had rushed to her aid, "I wish you would go back and watch Glenna!"