

Original Trophy Given to "Golf House"

By EDWARD S. KNAPP, JR.
USGA EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

The Ladies' Golf Championship of the United States which Mrs. Lucy Barnes Brown won at the Meadowbrook Club, Hempstead, Long Island, New York, on November 9, 1895, was so hastily arranged that the sponsoring association did not provide a trophy. Messrs. R. D. Winthrop and William H. Sands, members of Meadowbrook, took care of this detail personally by offering a solid silver pitcher to be presented outright to the winner.

This trophy has for years reposed in an old family trunk in the residence of Mr. Archibald M. Brown, a son of the winner, in Southampton, N. Y., near the Shinnecock Hills course on which his mother learned the game.

Our Oldest Trophy

Mr. Brown, an architect and a real devotee of golf, recently offered the pitcher to the USGA, and it now reposes in state in a show case in the front hall of "Golf House." It is the oldest original trophy in our possession; the original Havemeyer Cup, for the Amateur Championship, and the first Open Championship Cup were destroyed by fire and have been replaced.

That first Championship was informal throughout. Thirteen ladies from New York, Boston and Philadelphia took part. They played only 18 holes, stroke play, and they were permitted to stop for lunch between rounds. Judged by standards of today, the golf was poor. Mrs. Brown scored 69-63-132 and the runner-up, Miss N. C. Sargent, had 134. Only two others broke 150, and the scores ranged upward to 182.

The Meadowbrook course, however, was considered the hardest in America. In fact, contemporary writers said "Few men in the country, aside from the English and Scottish professionals, could consistently break 100 on it." There



The first women's trophy

were no ladies' tees. Actually, newspapers reported that Mrs. Brown's second nine-hole score, a 63, broke the lowest known score by an American woman by four shots, a 67 having been made over nine holes at Newport, R. I., earlier the same year by Mrs. W. Butler Duncan.

The following year, Robert M. Cox, M.P., of Edinburgh, Scotland, presented the permanent trophy which has since been emblematic of the USGA Women's Amateur Championship.

Since the last issue of the USGA JOURNAL the following have joined the list of Founders of "Golf House" and their contributions are gratefully acknowledged:

INDIVIDUALS

Dr. William C. Baber
Joseph M. Byrne, III
Mrs. William M. Calder, Jr.
James C. Gentle
Edwin D. Preisler
Dr. Andrew P. Virtuoso

CLUB

Sacramento Golf Club, Cal.

There remains about \$25,000 to be collected of the goal of \$110,000. Contributions should be made payable to USGA Golf House Fund and sent to 40 East 38th St., New York 16, N. Y.