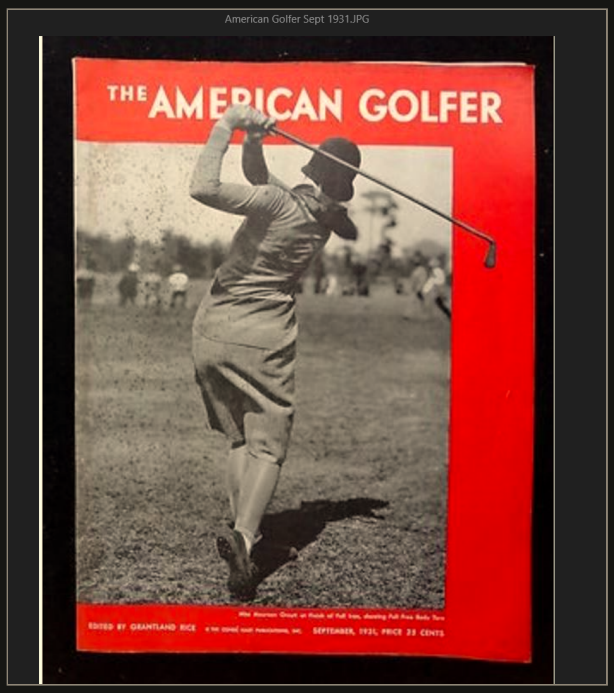


WORLD GOLF HALL OF FAME NOMINATION

Maureen Orcutt

Champion amateur.
Curtis Cup pioneer.
Sportswriting trailblazer.

HISTORIC PLAYER / AMATEUR
WORKING DRAFT FOR REVIEW

DRAFT · OCTOBER 2026

The case in one page

Maureen Orcutt was one of the defining amateur golfers of the twentieth century: a winner of approximately 65 championships, a member of the first four United States Curtis Cup teams, and a national top-three player who remained a champion from the 1920s into the 1980s.

c.65	4	35	7
AMATEUR TITLES	CURTIS CUPS	YEARS AT THE NEW YORK TIMES	DECADES WITH A TITLE

A PLAYER OF HALL OF FAME SCALE

Her record crossed every level of the amateur game: two United States Senior Women's Amateur titles; back-to-back Canadian Women's Amateurs; three straight North and South Amateurs and, three decades later, three straight North and South Seniors; ten Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Match Play titles over 42 years; seven Women's Eastern titles; six New Jersey State titles; and major Florida victories against the strongest fields of her era.

A FOUNDER-GENERATION INTERNATIONAL

Orcutt played in the first four Curtis Cups, from 1932 through 1938. She was never on a losing United States side. In 1938, the chairman of the USGA Curtis Cup Committee wrote that her record was “the best of any and all the rest of the Team members.”

A PEER OF THE IMMORTALS

She and Glenna Collett took on Bobby Jones in a no-handicap best-ball match that Jones won only 1-up; she later partnered Jones, defeated Johnny Farrell and Leo Diegel, played Walter Hagen and Gene Sarazen, beat Patty Berg, and belonged to the celebrated “Big Four” with Collett, Virginia Van Wie, and Helen Hicks. These were not ceremonial encounters: the scorecards and match reports show her competing as an equal.

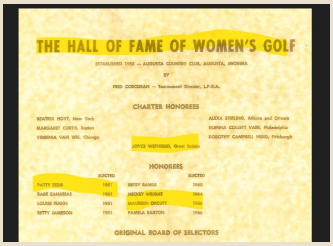
A PIONEER WITH A TYPEWRITER

Orcutt simultaneously built a 35-year career at *The New York Times*, where she was the second woman sports reporter and for years the only woman in the department. She covered the growth of women's sport while helping create that growth herself.

> *The omission is not a lack-of-achievement story. It is an institutional-history story.*

She was elected to the Hall of Fame of Women's Golf in 1966. The next year's LPGA reorganization left lifelong amateurs outside the pathway that later carried other honorees into the World Golf Hall of Fame. Her record did not fall short. The structure changed around her.

Draft thesis. Final submission should be made in the Historic Player / Amateur category and supported by the full exhibit file.


THE HALL OF FAME OF WOMEN'S GOLF

CHARTER HONOREES

HONOREES

ORIGINAL BOARD OF SELECTORS

1966. The Hall of Fame of Women's Golf elects Maureen Orcutt.

A championship record across seven decades

Orcutt's case begins with competitive substance: victories at the national, international, regional, state, and metropolitan levels, sustained over a span that is almost without parallel.



Palm Beach, 1934. Orcutt receives the Gold Chalice after defeating Marion Miley 5 and 4. It was her third victory in the event, making the trophy hers permanently; she won again in 1936.

DOCUMENTED CHAMPIONSHIP CORE

- **10 WMGA Match Play titles:** 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1934, 1938, 1940, 1946, 1959, 1968.
- **7 Women's Eastern titles:** 1925, 1928, 1929, 1934, 1938, 1947, 1949 — a record confirmed by the Women's Eastern Golf Association itself in its 2008 letter to the Hall of Fame.
- **6 New Jersey State Women's Amateur titles:** 1924, 1925, 1933, 1942, 1954, 1967.
- **6 WMGA Senior titles:** 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1969.
- **3 North and South Amateurs:** 1931, 1932, 1933; plus **3 North and South Seniors:** 1960, 1961, 1962.
- **2 Canadian Women's Amateurs:** 1930 and 1931.
- **4 Palm Beach titles:** 1930, 1932, 1934, 1936; and **4 Florida East Coast titles:** 1927, 1932, 1935, 1936.
- **2 U.S. Senior Women's Amateurs:** 1962 and 1966.
- **U.S. Women's Amateur:** runner-up in 1927 and 1936; medalist in 1928 and co-medalist in 1931 and 1932.

National standing: In December 1928, Jimmy Powers ranked the 21-year-old Orcutt third among American women golfers, behind Glenna Collett and Virginia Van Wie and ahead of Dorothy Campbell Hurd. A February 1931 newsreel caption called her the “second ranking woman player in the United States.”

THE COUNT IS SUBSTANTIAL EVEN BEFORE FINAL RECONCILIATION

Three formal summaries credit her with 65 championships: *The Jersey Golfer* in 1970, Ann Probert's 1990 Curtis Cup introduction, and the Metropolitan Golf Association's 2021 honors page (“sixty-five significant tournament victories”). In 1995, Orcutt herself was quoted at 64. This draft therefore uses “approximately 65” until the final exhibit-by-exhibit reconciliation is complete.

Principal sources: WMGA centenary history and title list; USGA records and photographs; Golf Canada past champions; Pinehurst institutional history and plaques; contemporary Acme photographs; *The Jersey Golfer* (Dec. 1970); Ann Probert introduction (1990); *Herald-Sun* (Oct. 29, 1995).

Winning did not define one season. It defined a lifetime.

The strongest way to understand Orcutt's career is not as a peak followed by a long afterlife, but as a sequence of competitive eras.

1922
First recorded championship: WMGA Junior Girls', at 14.

1925
National prestige at 18: won the Women's Eastern by five strokes over reigning U.S. champion Dorothy Campbell Hurd.

1926–1929
Four straight Metropolitan Match Play titles.

1930–1938
International and national prime: Canadian titles, North and South three-peat, first four Curtis Cups, two U.S. Amateur finals across her career, and Florida dominance.

1940–1968
Championship endurance: Metropolitan titles in 1940, 1946, 1959, and 1968; state and regional wins continued.

1962 & 1966
National championships: two U.S. Senior Women's Amateur victories, the first by seven strokes over Glenna Collett Vare.

1989
Final known title: Croasdaile club championship, at 82.

> *"In winning it 10 times, beginning in 1926 and winning it last year, 42 years later, she accomplished one of the most remarkable feats in all of sports."*

Dave Anderson, "Fifty Years of Golf," *The New York Times*, June 18, 1969.

TWO PINEHURST THREE-PEATS

Pinehurst's own history records three straight North and South Amateur wins in 1931–33 and another three straight North and South Senior wins in 1960–62. The 1927 entry found in one later list is erroneous and is excluded here.

THE NEW YORK STATE HALL OF FAME'S JUDGMENT

"Perhaps no competitor in any major sport has been a significant factor for so long in top-level play."

New York State Hall of Fame enshrinement brochure, framing her top-level career from 1925 through 1968.

At 55, she finally held the USGA trophy

After decades near the summit of American amateur golf, Orcutt won the inaugural U.S. Senior Women's Amateur in 1962.

At Manufacturers' Golf and Country Club she returned three rounds of 80 for 240 and defeated Glenna Collett Vare by seven strokes. She described it as the most gratifying victory of her career: her first USGA championship “after so many, many years of trying.”

She won the championship again in 1966 at Lakewood Country Club, with rounds of 84, 79, and 79 for 242 and a six-stroke margin.



1962. Orcutt embraces the trophy after winning the inaugural U.S. Senior Women's Amateur. Official USGA photograph.

The record's arc matters. The champion who had been a U.S. Women's Amateur finalist in 1927 was still winning USGA titles almost forty years later.

EARLIER NATIONAL RECORD

- U.S. Women's Amateur runner-up, 1927 and 1936.
- Three-time qualifying medalist: 1928; co-medalist in 1931 and 1932.
- Twenty-six U.S. Women's Amateur appearances, 1923–1962, according to the WMGA history.
- In 1966, at 59, defeated future Hall of Famer Renee Powell in U.S. Women's Amateur match play.

Sources: USGA championship plaques and official photographs; championship summaries; WMGA centenary history; contemporary profiles.

She helped write the opening chapter of the Curtis Cup

Orcutt was not merely present at the beginning. She was a playing member of the first four United States teams - 1932, 1934, 1936, and 1938 - and contributed both as a competitor and as a correspondent.

WENTWORTH, 1932

On the eve of the first official match, her own dispatch predicted a close contest and described a practice four-ball with Helen Hicks against Joyce Wethered and Cecil Leitch. She then partnered Leona Cheney to defeat Doris Park and Mrs. Gourlay as the United States swept all three foursomes and won 5½–3½ before an estimated 15,000 spectators.

GLENEAGLES, 1936

Her decisive play helped preserve the Cup in a 4½–4½ tie. Gordon White later recounted that her victory over Mrs. Walker, secured at the 18th, kept the Cup in American hands. Orcutt's own history records that she and Cheney defeated Pam Barton and Mrs. Walker in foursomes.

THE COMMITTEE'S JUDGMENT

In a June 12, 1938 letter, the chairman of the USGA Curtis Cup Committee wrote that Orcutt's record “was the best of any and all the rest of the Team members.” That contemporary institutional judgment belongs near the center of the nomination.

PLAYER AND REPORTER

Her 1932 byline captures the unusual breadth of her role: she was inside the competition and explaining it to the public at the same time. Decades later, in a 1986 *Golf Journal* history, she remained a primary witness to the Cup's formative years.

> *Four appearances. No losing United States team. A first-person record of the competition's birth.*

THE TRADITION SHE PASSED FORWARD

A rabbit's-foot and four-leaf-clover pin, given to her at the inaugural match, traveled with her through all four Curtis Cups. She later passed it to Carolyn Cudone, extending the object into a WMGA Curtis Cup tradition.

Sources: Orcutt's May 20, 1932 dispatch from Wentworth; USGA Curtis Cup Committee letter, June 12, 1938; 1936 Gleneagles program; Orcutt, “Preliminary Skirmish,” *Golf Journal* (1986); Gordon White, *The Pilot* (Jan. 14, 2007).

She competed as one of the immortals

The record does not place famous men around Maureen Orcutt as decoration. It shows them playing with her, against her, and sometimes losing to her.

- **1926, Bayside:** Bobby Jones faced Glenna Collett and Orcutt playing their best ball, with no handicap. Jones won only 1-up. Orcutt shot 79, came home in 39, and struck a second shot at the 15th that Jones called “one of the greatest shots I have ever seen.”
- **1927, Glen Oaks:** Orcutt and Mrs. J. S. Cassriel defeated future Hall of Famers Johnny Farrell and Leo Diegel, 3 and 2.
- **1928, Springhaven:** a Ryder Cup fundraiser placed her in a field the *Chester Times* called “one of the greatest aggregations of men and women golf to ever play together.”
- **Biltmore Shores:** Walter Hagen and Gene Sarazen defeated Glenna Collett and Orcutt only 2 and 1. Orcutt shot 79 as the women broke the course record; she holed a nine-footer on 17 for a half.
- **1932, Augusta:** she partnered Bobby Jones in a children's-hospital benefit against Eugene Homans and Helen Hicks.
- **1947:** paired with Tommy Armour, she beat Babe Didrikson Zaharias and her partner, 4 and 3.
- **1930–31, St. Augustine:** baseball's Walter Johnson — “the Big Stick” — asked Orcutt to teach him a golf swing while he taught her to handle a bat; a newsreel crew photographed the exchange.
- **1931, over Augusta:** a newsreel photographed her playing contract bridge in a cabin plane with Ty Cobb — “one of baseball's immortals” — while she was the reigning Canadian Women's Amateur champion.



Springhaven, 1928. Maureen Orcutt stands fourth from left, between Leo Diegel and Helen Payson, with Walter Hagen, Glenna Collett, Johnny Farrell and other leading players. The event's book called them “America's aces of the links.”

> *“I didn't say anything, but the next day I carried Hagen for nine holes and we won.”*

Orcutt recalling Walter Hagen's complaint at drawing “a lady golfer,” quoted by Dave Anderson in 1969.

The nomination's framing: she belonged in every frame. When Gene Tunney played in Miami in 1928, the historically accurate emphasis is that the heavyweight champion was playing golf *with Maureen*.

They drew the galleries before television

During the late 1920s and early 1930s, newspapers treated Glenna Collett Vare, Maureen Orcutt, Helen Hicks, and Virginia Van Wie as the **“Big Four”** of American women's golf. Before televised golf, their matches made them national sporting celebrities and brought unprecedented galleries to the women's game.

PATTY BERG REMEMBERED WHO CREATED THE AUDIENCE

> *“We have to thank all the amateurs of that time; they helped us get publicity. A girl is going to bring a lot of people out. You go over to New York and Maureen Orcutt would play and bring a lot of people out. So we should give them a big, big, big thanks because they did a lot for us.”*

Patty Berg, quoted in Rhonda Glenn, *The Illustrated History of Women's Golf*.



Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, 1934. From left: Glenna Collett Vare, Virginia Van Wie, and Maureen Orcutt at the U.S. Women's Amateur. Van Wie won her third consecutive national title. The source-page caption's “Open” label is corrected here to “Amateur.”

THEY OPENED THE ROAD TO THE PROFESSIONAL ERA

> *“[Glenna] Collett and [Maureen] Orcutt never won a single professional event, but they paved the way for Patty Berg, Micky Wright, Nancy Lopez, Karrie Webb and Annika Sorenstam.”*

Robert Hartman, *Tales from Pinehurst: Stories from the Mecca of American Golf* (2004). Bracketed first names added for clarity; “Micky Wright” follows the quoted source.

She was “The Duchess” in the press of her era. Rhonda Glenn's USGA archival history (republished by KirkwoodGolf, January 2011) uses the nickname twice — for Orcutt's press role on the 1934 Orange Blossom Tour and her 1936 U.S. Women's Amateur final against Pamela Barton — documenting it as contemporary usage, not a later invention.

Why it belongs in this nomination: Berg's testimony connects Orcutt's amateur celebrity directly to the audience that sustained the women's professional game. Hartman states the historical consequence plainly: Orcutt helped pave the way.

While she won, she also wrote the game into history

Orcutt's second career was not an appendix to her golf. It was another way she changed who was visible in American sport.

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AT THE NEW YORK TIMES

She joined the *Times* sports staff in 1937 and remained until 1972. Gordon White described her as the second woman sports reporter at the newspaper and, for years, the only woman in the department. Earlier work included the *New York Journal*, the *New York World*, *Golf Illustrated*, and the *National Golf Review*.

A COMPETITOR WITH A TYPEWRITER

She covered tournaments in which she competed, then went to the telegraph office to file. Glenna Collett marveled at the routine in 1931: championship golf before galleries, followed by typing and cabling the next morning's account.

BEYOND GOLF

Her “Women in Sports” column covered fishing, skeet, trapshooting, table tennis, and more. The assignment was not a novelty golf beat; it was the broad field of women's sport.

THE NEXT GENERATIONS

Her later bylines followed junior golfers and future stars. In 1972, she covered a U.S. Girls' Junior field that included Laura Baugh, Nancy Lopez, and Amy Alcott. In 1985, thirteen years after retirement, the USGA commissioned her to write a history of women's golf for the U.S. Women's Open program at Baltusrol.

THE RIGHT HISTORICAL CLAIM

Orcutt rejected the label “first female sportswriter.” The stronger and supportable formulation is that she was **one of the first women in the country to write about sports** and the second woman sports reporter at *The New York Times*.

> *She was the only golfer in a tournament who traveled with 14 clubs - plus a typewriter.*
>
> Gordon White, *The Pilot*, Jan. 14, 2007.

Why this matters to a playing nomination: she did not merely accumulate victories. She helped create the public record, audience, and legitimacy from which women's golf grew.

Sources: New York Times bylines; Gordon White tribute; WEGA 2008 letter; *Golf Magazine* retrospective (2015); USGA commission correspondence (1985).

Her influence continued after the trophies

Orcutt's legacy is visible not only in archives, but in the institutions and people who continued to carry her name and example.

THE MAUREEN ORCUTT TROPHY

The WMGA named its junior girls' tournament for her in 1960. In 2026, girls contested the 66th Maureen Orcutt Trophy at White Beeches - the club where her own golf began. A 1990 introduction described her greeting young players with “a hug and words of encouragement.”

SERVICE BEYOND GOLF

After moving to Durham, North Carolina, she volunteered at Durham Regional Hospital for years, ultimately receiving the Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award in 1988.

LOYALTY TO THE GAME'S HISTORY

In a 1969 *New York Times* review of *The Golf Immortals*, she rebuked the authors for omitting Glenna Collett Vare, “one of America's great champions.” She spent a career insisting that achievement be remembered accurately.



The family beginning. Young Maureen with her twin brothers, B. Sinclair and William A. Orcutt. Family history places the start at White Beeches during the 1920 polio epidemic, when their mother kept the children at the golf course for safety.

Origin story. Maureen boasted that she could beat her mother, Elizabeth, who promised her a set of clubs if she did. She won the bet. Family lore also remembers a backswing that struck one of the twins - probably Bill - between the eyes; distraught at hurting her little brother, she nearly quit before the career began.

The family details are presented as family testimony, not as independently verified competitive history. The club-and-bet account is also reflected in a 1926 “Accidental Golfer” profile.

The honors say “Hall of Famer.” The institutional record stopped halfway.

RECOGNITION DURING AND AFTER HER CAREER

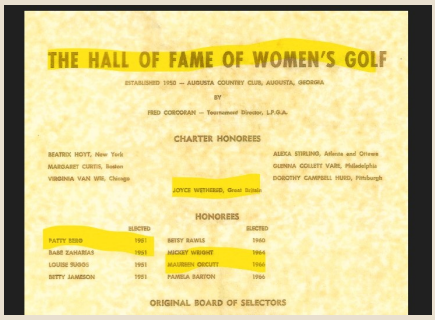
- **Hall of Fame of Women's Golf:** elected 1966.
- **Tanqueray Award:** 1969 honoree for dedication to amateur golf; contemporary accounts describe it as the first annual award.
- **New York Sports Hall of Fame:** 1991.
- **WMGA Golfer of the Century:** 1998.
- **NJSGA Hall of Fame:** inaugural class, 2018.
- **MGA Honors Hall of Merit:** 2021.
- **Pinehurst:** permanent display and featured place in the resort's centennial history.
- **USGA Golf Museum:** family-donated artifacts formally accessioned.

HOW THE GAP OPENED

The Hall of Fame of Women's Golf (Augusta, est. 1950) elected Orcutt in 1966; its 1967 reorganization into the LPGA Hall of Fame carried forward a professional-membership structure that did not fit lifelong amateurs.

Later shorthand sometimes mislabeled the 1966 election as an “LPGA Hall of Fame” honor; the record supports the earlier institution's correct name: **Hall of Fame of Women's Golf**.

The result was an orphaned honor. Her achievement had already received Hall of Fame recognition, but the institutional transition did not provide her a durable route into the World Golf Hall of Fame. The Hall was formally asked to complete the record in 2008, when the Women's Eastern Golf Association's president wrote to the Hall's chief operating officer supporting her nomination.


THE HALL OF FAME OF WOMEN'S GOLF

ESTABLISHED 1950 — AUGUSTA COUNTRY CLUB, AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

BY

FRED CORCORAN — Tournament Director, L.P.G.A.

CHARTER HONOREES

BEATRIX HOYT, New York
MARGARET CURTIS, Boston
VIRGINIA VAN WIE, Chicago
ALEXA STIRLING, Atlanta and Ottawa
GLENNA COLLETT VARE, Philadelphia
DOROTHY CAMPBELL HURD, Pittsburgh
JOYCE WETHERED, Great Britain

HONOREES

	ELECTED		ELECTED
PATTY BERG	1951	BETSY RAWLS	1960
BABE ZAHARIAS	1951	MICKEY WRIGHT	1964
LOUISE SUGGS	1951	MAUREEN ORCUTT	1966
BETTY JAMESON	1951	PAMELA BARTON	1966

ORIGINAL BOARD OF SELECTORS

The 1966 election, on the record. The Hall of Fame of Women's Golf (est. 1950, Augusta) lists Orcutt among its 1966 honorees.

> *This nomination does not ask the Hall to invent a reputation. It asks the Hall to complete one that the game had already conferred.*

THE PROPER MODERN CATEGORY

The current Historic Player / Amateur category matches Orcutt on both grounds — historic record, entirely amateur career. The 2029 nomination should be filed there, subject to re-verifying the rules when that cycle opens.

Institutional-history caution: the 1966 election evidence now appears above; before submission, the final brief should still attach the clearest documentary account of the 1967 reorganization.

She belongs among them

Maureen Orcutt's record meets the World Golf Hall of Fame at its highest purpose: to preserve the people whose excellence and influence shaped the game.

She was an elite amateur across generations. She won approximately 65 championships, reached two U.S. Women's Amateur finals, earned medalist honors three times, won two U.S. Senior Women's Amateur titles, and represented the United States in the first four Curtis Cups. She won her first recorded championship at 14 and her last at 82.

She competed with the central figures of her era as a peer. In 1926, she and Glenna Collett played their best ball, without a handicap, against Bobby Jones; Jones won only 1-up, while Orcutt shot 79 and produced a shot he called one of the greatest he had ever seen. Contemporary reports also put her against Farrell and Diegel, alongside Hagen and Sarazen, later in partnership with Jones, and in the same national conversation as Collett Vare, Van Wie, Hicks, Berg, and Zaharias. She belonged to what newspapers called the “Big Four” of women's golf. Her presence in those matches was not social or ceremonial. She shot the scores, made the putts, and won.

She also widened the game's reach. For 35 years at *The New York Times*, she reported sport from a position few women were then permitted to hold. Often, she finished a tournament round and immediately began writing its history. Her journalism gave women's golf sustained attention while her play gave readers a reason to watch.

Her influence endured through the junior-golf program she led, the trophy that still carries her name, the service she gave, and the records she left behind. Golf institutions repeatedly honored her: the Hall of Fame of Women's Golf, the WMGA, state and metropolitan halls, Pinehurst, and the USGA Golf Museum.

> *Her absence from the World Golf Hall of Fame is not a verdict on her career. It is an unfinished piece of golf history.*

The World Golf Hall of Fame should finish that history by electing Maureen Orcutt in the Historic Player / Amateur category. Her playing record is worthy. Her influence is undeniable. Her place among the game's immortals is supported by the scorecards, the championships, the bylines, the institutions, and the testimony of the era itself.

Maureen Orcutt belongs among them. She always did.

The record behind the draft

The final submission should attach a disciplined exhibit set. These are the strongest anchors.

E1 · WMGA title record
Ten Match Play titles, 1926–1968; broader championship list.

E2 · USGA record book
Three U.S. Women's Amateur medalist honors.

E3 · 1938 USGA letter
Curtis Cup record “best” among team members.

E4 · Orcutt's 1986 history
First-person Curtis Cup account.

E5 · 1928 national ranking
Jimmy Powers ranks Orcutt No. 3 in America.

E6 · 1928 Springhaven
“America's aces of the links” group and event history.

E7 · 1927 Glen Oaks
Victory over Farrell and Diegel, 3 and 2.

E8 · Biltmore Shores
Hagen/Sarazen vs. Collett/Orcutt; Orcutt 79.

E9 · 1926 Bayside
Collett and Orcutt vs. Bobby Jones; Jones 1-up, Orcutt 79, and Jones's praise of her shot at No. 15.

E10 · 1932 Augusta
Orcutt as Bobby Jones's partner.

E11 · 1934 Doherty
Acme caption: beat Helen Hicks, 3 and 2.

E12 · 1934 Palm Beach
Acme photographs; third win retired the trophy.

E13 · Pinehurst record
Three Amateur and three Senior titles.

E14 · USGA 1962/1966
Championship plaques and official photographs.

E15 · Golf Canada
Back-to-back Canadian titles, 1930–31.

E16 · Dave Anderson, 1969
Career profile; Hagen, Didrikson, Jones stories.

E17 · Ann Probert, 1990
Formal introduction stating 65 championships.

E18 · Jersey Golfer, 1970
Contemporary 65-title summary.

E19 · Gordon White, 2007
Playing, journalism, longevity, and character.

E20 · 1966 Hall election
Correct Hall of Fame of Women's Golf record.

E21 · USGA Museum
Formal accession of family-donated artifacts.

E22 · New York State Hall of Fame
Enshrinement brochure's judgment on the unmatched duration of her top-level play.

E23 · “Setting the scene”
Big Four context, Patty Berg and Robert Hartman testimony, and the 1934 Collett Vare–Van Wie–Orcutt photograph.

E24 · “The Duchess” nickname
Rhonda Glenn's USGA archival piece (KirkwoodGolf, Jan 2011) uses the nickname twice, documenting contemporary press usage.

E25 · 2008 WEGA letter
WEGA's president writes to the Hall's COO supporting her nomination; confirms the record seven Easterns.

E26 · 1934 Miami Biltmore wire photo
Acme photograph, final round; caption records her 3-and-2 defeat of Helen Hicks (Doherty Challenge Cup).

E27 · 1929 U.S. Women's Amateur newsreel photo
International Newsreel photograph; caption records her defeat of Helen Hicks and a course-record front nine of 35 at Oakland Hills.

E28 · New Jersey's 99 greatest athletes
NJ Advance Media ranks Orcutt No. 35 across all sports, all time (2026).

E29 · Walter Johnson swing-swap
Henry Miller photographs, St. Augustine, 1930–31: baseball's “Big Stick” learns golf from Orcutt while she learns the bat.

E30 · Ty Cobb bridge game
International Newsreel photograph, February 3, 1931: bridge in a cabin plane over Augusta with Ty Cobb, Gen. Traub, and Sir Derrick Wernher; caption calls her the second-ranked woman player in America.

SUGGESTED EVIDENCE ORDER

Lead with competitive record and Curtis Cup evidence; follow with “One of Them” match reports, then journalism and legacy; close with the 1966 Hall election and reorganization evidence.

This list is selective; the working case file holds additional photographs, clippings, plaques, programs, correspondence, and records.

What must be settled before submission

The case is strong enough to draft now. A small number of discrepancies should remain visible until the evidence is reconciled.

USE "APPROXIMATELY 65" FOR NOW

The Jersey Golfer (1970) and Ann Probert (1990) state 65. A 1995 article attributes 64 to Orcutt herself. The final number should be rebuilt from a title ledger that separates championships, team events, senior titles, and club titles.

USE THE WMGA'S TEN METROPOLITAN TITLES

The official WMGA list and Dave Anderson's 1969 profile support ten titles from 1926 through 1968. Ira Berkow wrote eleven; a 1928 caption saying "fourth consecutive" creates a related 1925 question. Until resolved, ten is the defensible count.

KEEP THE NORTH AND SOUTH RECORD AT THREE

Pinehurst, Berkow, and the 1995 profile agree on 1931, 1932, and 1933. The 1927 entry in a 1968 list is wrong and must not return to the chronology.

NAME HELEN HICKS IN THE 1934 DOHERTY FINAL

The contemporary Acme caption, a 1947 tournament history, and the reported 3-and-2 result support Hicks. The 2020 nomination's identification of Glenna Collett should be corrected.

PROTECT THE JOURNALISM CLAIM

Use "one of the first women in the country to write about sports" and "the second woman sports reporter at *The New York Times*." Do not call her the first female sportswriter.

NAME THE 1966 INSTITUTION CORRECTLY

It was the **Hall of Fame of Women's Golf**, not the LPGA Hall of Fame. The final institutional-orphaning section should be supported with the strongest available primary evidence of both the election and the 1967 reorganization.

WOMEN'S EASTERN YEAR LIST — RESOLVED

WEGA's own official champions list confirms her seven Women's Eastern titles: 1925, 1928, 1929, 1934, 1938, 1947, 1949. The years previously printed here — 1936, 1937, 1940 — belonged to Edith Quier, Charlotte Glutting, and Grace Amory. No other champion in WEGA's 1906–2025 table reaches seven, corroborating the record-seven claim. WEGA's own February 2008 letter to the Hall independently confirms the same seven years.

"THE DUCHESS" WANTS ONE MORE WITNESS

Rhonda Glenn documents the nickname in contemporary use. A possible Rich Lerner broadcast usage remains unverified — the clip has not been identified.

RE-VERIFY THE 2029 PROCESS

The Historic Player / Amateur category is the proper strategy under the current rules, but the category definition, form, deadline, and submission requirements must be checked again when the 2029 nomination window opens.

Still expected from the USGA Golf Museum: full inventory, condition information, display history, and confirmation of whether the donation paperwork requires a signature.

The record keeps growing

Five exhibits filed to the case file in October 2026 — each one strengthening the case, and each one placing Maureen Orcutt at the center of the frame.



Miami Biltmore, February 1934. Orcutt drives from the first tee in the final round of the Women's Golf Championship, before a gallery that filled the tee. She defeated Helen Hicks 3 and 2 for the Doherty Challenge Cup. Acme wire photograph.



Oakland Hills, 1929. Orcutt at the U.S. Women's Amateur, where she eliminated Helen Hicks in the first round while setting a course record — a front nine of 35, equal to men's par. International Newsreel photograph.



St. Augustine, Florida, 1930–31. Walter Johnson — baseball's "Big Stick," then managing the Newark Bears — shows Orcutt how to handle a bat; she shows him how to swing a golf club. Henry Miller News Picture Service.



Over Augusta, Georgia, February 3, 1931. Contract bridge in a cabin plane: Ty Cobb, "one of baseball's immortals," Orcutt — the reigning Canadian Women's Amateur champion — Gen. Peter E. Traub, and Sir Derrick Wernher. International Newsreel photograph.

AND A LETTER, NOT A PHOTOGRAPH

On February 27, 2008, the president of the Women's Eastern Golf Association wrote to the Hall of Fame's chief operating officer in support of Orcutt's nomination — evidence the push was already underway well before 2020. The letter confirms the record seven Eastern titles and recalls her first, at 18, when she beat reigning U.S. champion Dorothy Campbell Hurd Howe by five strokes.

NJ Advance Media's 2026 ranking of the 99 greatest New Jersey athletes of all time places Orcutt at No. 35 — across all sports.

All five exhibits filed to the working case file, October 2026. Full letter text and caption slips on file. See exhibits E25–E30.