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Mrs. Leila Robertson Marks
First of Girl Caddies

Several Scotch immigrants have been called "the father of American golf." "The mother of American golf" was Mrs. Leila Robertson Marks, 30 Linden St., Lakewood, N.J. Mrs. Marks is mother of Art Marks, pro at Rock Spring CC, West Orange, N.J.

She caddied for Willie Norton, who played in the first USGA National Open championship, in 1895; not when Willie played in the Open at Newport (R.I.) GC but at Lakewood (N. J.) GC where he was pro. The little Robertson girl, living nearby, was the best of the girl caddies at Lakewood.

Willie Dunn laid out the Lakewood course in 1892. Dunn had been brought there by Jasper Lynch and Robert Bage Kerr of New York City. He came dressed in his red coat and was chased off the pasture that later became the course by a bull that didn't like golf.

Generally the girls caddied for women players. The little Robertson girl took to the game naturally and outranked many of the boy caddies. Some oldtimers around Lakewood say Mrs. Marks caddied for Horace Rawlins, the first Open champion of the U.S. when he came there to play, but the still sprightly lady says she doesn't remember Rawlins.

She does recall: "We had to pick numbers and take our turns in getting out. They used to bring the players from the hotels in Lakewood in horse-drawn stage coaches. All the girls in my neighborhood were very fond of playing golf. We used to cut our clubs from the woods and use the fields as our course. That was a long time ago."

Lakewood later became the home of a well known golfer who never won any championships — John D. Rockefeller, Sr.

"I am proud of Art, my son who became a pro, and of course of my other sons, too," says Mrs. Marks. "They like to play golf as a sport but Art is the only one who took up golf as a business."

The second Chicago golf show and exposition, sponsored by the Illinois PGA section, will be held Apr. 15-17, 1963 in the Hilton Exposition Hall. The show is being lengthened from one to three days because of the success of last year's venture.