



TOP CONTENDERS - Shown above are top contenders in the 25th annual Florida Women's State Golf Association's golf tournament which gets under way Monday at the Pensacola Country Club. The women golfers will play a Four-Ball tournament today, but competition in the tournament will not begin until Monday. Pictured from left to right: Miss Frances Owen, Jacksonville; Mrs. C.S. Cirino, Coral Gables; Mrs. R.E. Wilson, Jacksonville; Mrs. William Pasco, Pensacola, and in the center, defending champion, Mrs. Charles H. Harting of Coral Gables. A Country Club scene is in the background of the composite photo.

THE FIFTIES

The fifties began with the Championship in Tallahassee. Emma Scalley won over "Billie" Harting. Ten golfers from Seminole Country Club entered the tournament, one of the largest contingents from any section of the state. The following year, FSWGA journeyed to Miami Beach, where Frances Owen defeated Mrs. Wilcox, our perennial "bridesmaid". Back to Gainesville in 1952 where Joanne Whitaker, the 1948 champion, emerged victorious once again, this time defeating "Billie" Harting, who had been a three-time champion - 1942, 1946 and 1947. "Billie" came back stronger than ever in 1953, winning for the fourth time in Sarasota by defeating Frances Owen, who had won the State Championship five times: 1936, 1938, 1940, 1941 and 1951.

Editors note: *Have you noticed that the same ladies battled back and forth over two decades for the Championship? They were amazing!*

In 1954, seventeen years later, the FWSGA returned to Pensacola Country Club for the Championship and annual meeting. The president in 1937 for the eleventh annual tournament was Mrs. F.W. Riley. In 1954, the president of FWSGA was Mrs. Riley's daughter, Mary, now Mrs. J.H. Veal. The field had increased from 62 golfers to about 125. From an article in the Pensacola newspaper: *The women will be "queen bees" around the Country Club and the poor men have been run off the course and even from their treasured locker room. Ed Beatty, club manager, gave the men orders to vacate Thursday night and the locker room, their haven, is now turned into a "ladies room".*

The FWSGA changed their method of accepting golfers entries in 1954. Handicaps were lowered from 20 to 16 in an effort to limit the field and get better golfers in the tournament. The president of the Pensacola LGA in 1954 was our own Helen Sherman.

The tournament began with a Four-Ball tournament on Sunday as a warm-up, qualifying was on Monday and match play started on Tuesday. *"Carol Gallagher lost her first match, then punched a metal locker room door resulting in bandages and splints."* After a week of golf and many social events, Frances Owen became the six-time champion by defeating Mrs. R.E. Wilson.

Ocala was the site in 1955 with new names in the winner's circle. Grace DeMoss defeated Emma Lou Prince for the championship. In 1956, Ponce de Leon was the venue with Ann Middlemas defeating Mrs. M.E. Wilson. In 1957, the FWSGA chose Naples with Grace DeMoss once again