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**Margaret Proctor Collection,
c. 1925-1928**
(Part of the Kathleen Bertrand and Linda Lundin,
Honoring Women in Sports Collection)
(MSS-049.02.01)

*Finding Aid Compiled by
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Margaret Proctor Collection Biographical Sketch

Margaret Proctor Harley, 1907-1987, was an accomplished track and field athlete in the 1920s, particularly in the javelin event. Born Margaret Sidney Proctor, she lived her whole life in Lunenburg, Massachusetts. She graduated from Lunenburg High School in 1926 with a graduating class of only 11 students. She graduated from Fitchburg Normal School in 1929, and went on to earn Bachelor's and Master's degrees in 1953 and 1955 respectively. In 1943 she married Harold (Hare) Harley, 1891-1980, and together they operated the Clover Hill Farms Ice Cream stand in town center. Margaret and Harold were known locally as "Mr. and Mrs. Lunenburg." In 1969, Harold Harley was one of the Incorporators and founding members of the Nashua River Watershed Association.

As a child, Proctor (Harley) was active in multiple sports including basketball and track and field. She was a member of the Lunenburg Girls Athletic Club, where her eventual husband Harold, 16 years her senior, worked as a coach. On May 24, 1925, she set the American Woman's world record for javelin with a throw of 103' 3" while competing in the Junior Championship at Franklin Field in Boston. In July 1925, she won third place at the Women's National Track and Field Championship Meet playing for the Luxenbury [Lunenburg] Athletic Club. She broke her own record on June 3, 1928, with a throw of 110' 3.25" at the Franklin Field in Boston. Though she held the world record in javelin for three months, she was unable to compete in the Olympics because there was no event for women's javelin at the time.

Proctor (Harley) taught mathematics and English at Baldwinsville from 1929-1932. She went on to teach at Lunenburg High School for 37 years from 1932-1969. In 1958, acting as the Dean of Girls, she received the Florence D. Miller Award for her devotion to teaching. Upon retirement she was the Director of Guidance for the high school, having served in this position for 11 years. Proctor (Harley) was also an accomplished basketball coach for Lunenburg High School. She worked in this position from 1932-1946. Under Proctor's leadership, the girls' team won eight consecutive Wachusett League championships from 1935-42. Proctor (Harley), known to locals as Coach Harley, was inducted into the Lunenburg High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007.

Proctor (Harley) was an engaged member of the Girl Scouts of America from 1919-1969, and held numerous management and leadership positions.

Margaret Proctor Collection Scope and Content Note

The Margaret Proctor Collection is part of the larger *Kathleen Bertrand and Linda Lundin, Honoring Women in Sports Collection*. The collection contains two folders of paper material, three trophies, and one javelin. It is not known if this is the javelin Proctor used when she set the American women's distance record.

For more information on Margaret Proctor's athletic accomplishments, view the Lunenburg Historical Society's "Mr. and Mrs. Lunenburg" presentation from April 7, 2022 at the Lunenburg Library: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBqij5SF1wQ>

Margaret Proctor Collection Box and Folder List

Box 1 Folder

1. Two postcards/photographs of Margaret Proctor, c. 1925
2. Program for "AAU Women's National Track and Field Championship Meet," where Proctor finished third in the Javelin throw, July 11, 1925

Artifacts

- Trophy, "Walk Over Club", discus throw, 3rd place, July 28, 1928
- Trophy, "Mass. Dept. A.L.", javelin throw, 1st place, Aug. 25, 1928
- Trophy, "Town of Needham", javelin throw, 2nd place, July 4, 1929

Oversize Material

- Wooden javelin with metal tip used by Proctor, 7'5" in length, c. 1925