

JOHN THOREN, SR.
NEW ENGLAND
PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
HALL OF FAME
1999

John Thoren, Sr. enjoyed one of the longest and most successful careers in golf, becoming the youngest full-time golf professional in New England at age 21, when he took the top position at Woburn Country Club in Woburn, MA in 1932. John was already a respected golfer, having won many amateur tournaments since beginning his golfing career as a caddie. John's business experience prior to the depression helped him land the Woburn position, which he held until moving to Woodland Golf Club, Auburndale, MA in 1938. While at Woodland, Thoren began to emerge as a top player of the game and played in Tour events with the likes of Gene Sarazen and Jug McSpaden. Thoren earned the nickname, "The Blond Bomber" because of his powerful, long distant hitting ability. In 1939, John set two course records in successive tournaments at Poland Springs and Weston, firing rounds of 64 and 65 respectively. In 1940 he scored one of the very few hole in ones during U. S. Open history. World War II ended his tenure at Woodland in 1940.

In 1948 John began working as head professional at Myopia Hunt Club in So. Hamilton, MA, although John Jr. has said that his father never really had to go to work; he was one of the lucky few who never considered his profession a job. For the next thirty years, Thoren became the mainstay at Myopia, running one of the very best caddie programs anywhere and excelling as a teacher of the game. His students included some of the most successful sports figures of the time. He was just as talented a player as he was a teacher. He championed many state open events and was a dominating and consistent winner on the NEPGA circuit. He won many top NEPGA events, earning the coveted Skip Wogan Award in 1954 and 1955. Thoren was the recipient of NEPGA top major award, Golf Professional of the Year in 1973. John's service to the Association included serving on NEPGA's Executive Committee for twenty-three years.