



Leland "Duke" Gibson

(1908-1977)

Professional, Mentor and Champion Golfer



In addition to his splendid record as a player, "**Duke**" **Gibson** was sought out by many of the best golfers in the area not just for his keen eye as a teaching professional, but as a friend and mentor.

Mr. Gibson was born in St. Joseph, MO and started caddying at the age of 10 at Mission Hills (earning \$.50 per loop) and also worked in the Pro Shop.

In 1934 he got his first job as a professional at White Lakes Country Club in Topeka. He moved to the old Meadow Lake Country Club (75th and State Line Rd.) as Head Professional in 1937 before moving on to Swope Park No. 1 (Swope Memorial).

After returning from active service in World War II, he was hired as Head Professional at Blue Hills where he would serve for

twenty-five years.

Like many club pros of the time, focus on his own game was limited to the four months of the year when he and his wife went to California for the winter. In spite of those limitations, Mr. Gibson played in sixteen US Open Championships (making the cut eight times) and played in the prestigious Masters Tournament eight times.

He served his fellow professionals as President of the Midwest Section PGA for six terms.