



## Isaac Mackie

(23 September 1880 – 22 June 1963)

**Isaac S. Mackie** was one of a number of brothers of the Mackie family who were natives of Earlsferry. The family home was Waldeve, which is on the beach front between Cross Wynd and Cadgers Wynd. He apprenticed as a club maker under George Forrester. He had an occasional brush with the law in his early years:

**A GROWING NUISANCE AT EARLSFERRY.**  
**Isaac Mackie**, an apprentice golf clubmaker; **David Paterson**, an apprentice mason; **Andrew Mackie**, a caddie, all residing at Earlsferry, and **Andrew Poustie**, an apprentice plumber, residing at High Street, Elie, were charged with having conducted themselves in a riotous and disorderly manner at the Town Hall, Earlsferry, on the 16th November, where a dancing class was being conducted. Mr W. T. Ketchen appeared for the accused, and stated that the offence was a boyish freak, and the lads were respectable. The Procurator-Fiscal said his reason for bringing the boys before his Lordship was the riotous disturbances that took place outside public halls at Elie whenever an entertainment took place. The offence was becoming too common. The Sheriff said the case was a trifling one, and they must have had some ill-will towards the hall. Sentence—15s. or seven days, and caution to keep the peace for six months, or twenty-one days' imprisonment.

He grew to be a tall man of stout build. While in his early 20s he married Annie Schacht, a native-born New Yorker. Following his brother Jack—who had emigrated to the United States in 1899—Mackie also made the trans-Atlantic journey in 1901. Jack Mackie, (q.v.) was one of the early pioneers in American golf being one of the founders of the PGA of America.

He accepted a job as professional at the Fox Hills Golf Club on Staten Island soon after his arrival and remained in that post until 1914. He played a match against Walter Clark in 1905, the result of which is unknown. On 13 July 1905 he won an Open Tournament at the Van Cortlandt Park links by shooting 152 on a course that had been soaked with rain. He held off joint second-place finishers Willie Anderson and Bernard Nicholls who finished at 157. It was the first ever professional tournament held on a public links golf course in the United States. He won the 1914 Shawnee Open. And had various other successes from Foxhills.

In a \$500 four-ball match held on 26 August 1905 at Hollywood Golf Club in Deal, New Jersey, Mackie partnered with Willie Anderson of the Apawamis Club went on to defeat George Low and Bernard Nicholls. The winners were described as being "at the top of their game" as they played before a large gallery. The play was described by a writer for the *New York Tribune* as "the finest exhibition of golf that has ever been seen upon the course, and the match was greatly enjoyed".

Mackie was runner-up to George Low Sr. in the 1906 Metropolitan Open and was victorious in the 1914 Shawnee Open which was contested at The Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort in Smithfield Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania.

He patented a fixing method for clubheads, as can be seen in his 1914 advertisement, which attempted to combine the strength of the socket head with the 'direction' of the splice, by minimising the rotation of the clubhead on impact.

He came back to Britain in 1910 to play in an Anglo-American tournament at Walton Heath 'to create a more friendly union between the professionals in this country and those in the States' according to the *Manchester Courier* which was rather odd given that most of the participating US professionals, like Mackie, were expats.

He was a regular in the US Open between 1901 and 1921 and won the Eastern PGA Championship in 1908 over his home course at Fox Hills. He remained there until 1914 with some winter sabbaticals, from 1903 he was the "winter pro" at the Lakewood Country Club in New Jersey and he spent the winter of 1910-11 at Cape Fear in Wilmington NC. He designed the Hollywood course in Deal, NJ.

A—Special Hickory Shaft  
 B—Shaft Proper  
 C—Shoulder of Socket

**Mackie's Fishing Rod Splice**  
**DRIVERS and BRASSIES**

*Marzels for Distance and Direction*

These Clubs combine the distance of the socket with the direction of the splice.  
 Clubs that will control the rubber cored ball.

Patented June 2, 1914

**Price, \$3.50 each**

Made by **I. S. MACKIE**  
 Fox Hills Golf Club  
 STAPLETON, S. I., N. Y.



**Below left from 1905:**

**A DRIZZLE AT HAMILTON**

**Players Practising for Open Championship**

**Low Scores Because of the Weather Conditions**

**A 78 by Isaac Mackie the Best Today**

**Amateurs and Professionals in Foursomes Matches**

**Special to the Transcript:**  
 Wenham, Sept. 19—Scotch mists were as bright sunshine compared with the weather foisted upon the amateur and professional golfers who were here this morning practising for the open championship of the United States on Thursday and Friday of this week. A fine drizzle kept up a continuous performance. It soaked through heavy sweaters, and had the players wet through before they had played three holes. The professionals and one or two of the amateurs were not deterred by the unsatisfactory conditions, however, and upwards of fifty of them were early starters from the first tee, desiring to better their acquaintance with the difficult Myopia course, where knowledge of the greens and the lay of the land is going to count for much in the seventy-two holes of championship play. The weather showed its effect upon the scores, for when most of them had completed the round there was no score under 78, as compared with the 74 by Alec Campbell of The Country Club yesterday afternoon, and several other good scores made then.

Isaac S. Mackie of the Fox Hills Golf Club did well, getting around in 78, with a 39 each way. He played with his brother, Jack Mackie of Roseville, who made an 84, and D. Ogilvie of North Jersey, whose efforts netted him an 82. Isaac Mackie had this card:

Out.....	4	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	—39
In.....	4	4	6	4	4	6	3	4	4	—78

**Below right July 1905:**

**GOLF**

New York, July 14—I. Mackie of the Foxhill Golf club, Staten Island, won the principal honors in the professional golf tournament over the public links at Vancortlandt park today. He finished with a total of 308 for the 72 holes, winning the American open championship from Willie Anderson of the Apawamis club, Rye, N.Y., by the narrow margin of a single stroke. Aleck Smith of the Nassau club, Long Island, finished third, just three strokes behind Anderson and one stroke ahead of Christopher Crosby, a 19-year-old home-bred golfer, who has been an ardent student of the game at South Orange, N.J., and Atlanta, Ga. Crosby won the special money prize for the day's lowest score, as he turned in a 71 for the final round.

Following are the scores of the prize winners: Isaac Mackie, Foxhills, 308; Willie Anderson Rye, 309; Aleck Smith, Glencove, 312; Christopher Crosby, Arsdale, N.J., 313; Bernard Nicholls, Hollywood, N.J., 313; David Ogilvie, Patterson, N.J., 314.

# WILLIE ANDERSON LOSES OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT TO MACKIE BY A STROKE

One of the Features of Con-  
tests at Van Cortlandt Park  
Was Playing of Crosby

Youngster Is Only Twenty Years  
Old, and Is Homebred, Picking  
Up Game as a Caddie

hope of the Boston section, had trouble in ne-  
gotiating the greens. Campbell finished the  
two days' play with a 322 total and Brown  
324. Here are the best series:

Isaac Mackie, Fox Hills:  
Out... 3 4 3 4 4 5 4 4 5-36  
In... 4 4 5 6 4 4 5 6 5-43-79  
Out... 4 4 4 5 5 4 4 4 4-38  
In... 4 5 4 4 4 3 5 5 5-39-77-156-308  
Will Anderson, Apawamis... 76-76-152-309  
Alre Smith, Nassau... 77-76-153-312  
Bernard Nicholas, Hollywood... 79-77-156-313  
Chris Crosby, Arsdale... 83-71-154-313  
David Ogilvie, North Jersey... 80-73-153-314  
H. Strong, Cambridge, Eng... 77-79-156-316  
George Low, Baltusrol... 79-80-159-318  
A. Gardner, Garden City... 75-77-152-318  
A. G. Griffiths, West Brook... 83-77-160-319  
John Hobens, Englewood... 76-81-157-320

Special to The Inquirer.

NEW YORK, July 14.

One solitary stroke prevented open champion Golfer Will Anderson, of Apawamis, from winning first money in the open professional tournament concluded on the Van Cortlandt Park public links this afternoon. Isaac Mackie, of Fox Hills, led the field with 308 for the 72 holes.

When play was resumed in the morning Mackie enjoyed a 5-stroke lead over Anderson and "Ben" Nichols, of Hollywood, but it was generally agreed that the lead was far from a safe one, every one recognizing Anderson's nerve when put to the crucial test.

In the morning round Mackie did 79, but Anderson returned a 76, thereby reducing the advantage to two strokes.

Anderson and Alre Smith, of Nassau, who played together, carried the gallery in the afternoon, at least 500 people following throughout the 18 holes. The first seven holes are short, affording several chances for 3's. Put after put that just failed to drop robbed the champion of at least five strokes. The result was that he needed 39 to go out. Smith's short game was more deadly, enabling him to go out in 36, at which stage his grand total was only a stroke shy of Anderson's.

Coming home the Apawamis "Pro" pulled himself together, giving a rare exhibition. He made spectacular 3's at the tenth and twelfth holes, and just missed for a 2 at the short fifteenth. His only mistake, a sliced drive to the edge of the pond from the eighteenth tee, did not prove very costly, as he recovered beautifully and got a 5, good enough under any circumstances, considering that the hole is 425 yards. This gave him a 76 and a grand total of 309.

It was seen at once that Mackie, in order to win would have to do 77. The large gallery watched every shot critically, but the Earl's Ferryman stood the strain like a major, going out in 38 and finishing the last three long holes in 5 each. He had to hole a rather troublesome put on the home green for his 77.

One of the features of the tournament was the remarkable 71 made by Chris Crosby, the Arsdale boy. The latter is a homebred. Three years ago he was the "Pro" at the South Orange Field Club and then spent a season at Atlanta, Ga. He is only twenty years of age and picked up the game when a caddie on the links of the defunct East Orange Golf Club.

Crosby started out by driving the Edge of the first green, 220 yards uphill. He laid his approach dead and got a three. From there on his punting was deadly and he never wasted a shot on the green. He also drove long balls with a 48-inch driver, the longest club used by any player in the tournament.

His third shot to the 533 yard seventeenth hole overran the cup and he got a brilliant four. Considering the length of the inward holes, his 36 coming home was even more creditable than his 35 going out. His card read as follows:

Out... 3 4 4 4 3 4 4 4 5-35  
In... 4 3 4 5 4 3 4 4 5-36-71

This gave Crosby a total of 313, only a stroke worse than Alre Smith, who got third money and tied him with Nichols, the latter and Crosby dividing fourth and fifth moneys. Crosby also won the \$25 for making the best eighteen hole score during the day.

Sixth money went to David Ogilvie, of North Jersey, with 314. The moneys were as follows: First, \$150; second, \$100; third, \$50; fourth, \$40; fifth, \$30, and sixth, \$20.

"Nipper" Campbell and David Brown, the

Interesting that the headline should read that Anderson was beaten rather than highlighting that Mackie won. Anderson was very well known at that time.





Fox Hills GC



Walter White and Isaac Mackie (leaning on his club in background) at Foxhills in 1905



Isaac Mackie (left) at the 1904 U.S. Open with Jack Hobens, Alex Ross, and George Thomson

### Lakewood Country Club

The new links were laid out over 100 gently rolling acres and were ready for play by the spring of 1903. The Golf Club's old course was used in the interim, after which the Laurel-in-the-Pines Hotel ran it as the Pine Forest Country Club. Isaac Mackie of Fox Hills served the club as "winter pro".

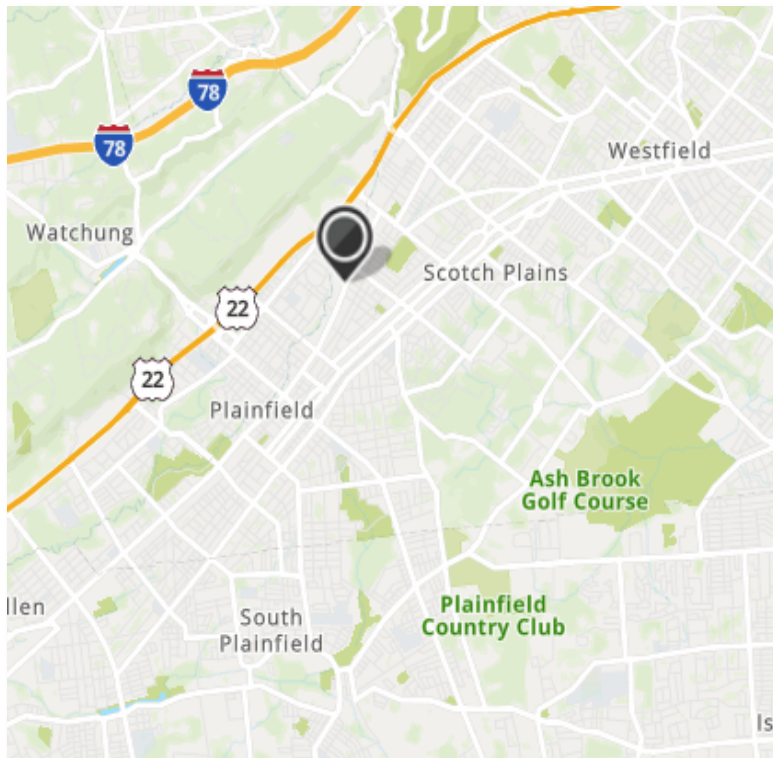
Lakewood Country Club's new course measured 5,810 yards, and did not have a single cop bunker, which was unusual for those days. The second and third holes were side-by-side par 3's that played back and forth across the creek. In 1916, he was appointed the head professional at Canoe Brook Country Club, replacing Louis Tellier. Following the 1915 season, the Club found itself in a difficult situation. The unsatisfactory revision of the course had become a source of discontent, and even embarrassment after Canoe Brook head professional Louis Tellier shot the course in 63 that summer. Some members questioned whether Canoe Brook was really a "championship course." The Board moved quickly to alleviate the concern. The following is taken from an article in the *New York Times* on January 30, 1916:

*"Simultaneously with the announcement of the securing of Isaac Mackie as professional at Canoe Brook Country Club to succeed Louis Tellier, the former French champion, the officers of the club have announced some revolutionary changes in the golf course at that institution which will, according to the expressed opinion of the famous Walter J. Travis, place the Canoe Brook course 'second to none in the Metropolitan district.'"*

Canoe Brook's original course was designed by Jack Vickery and the first nine holes opened for play in 1902 and the second nine followed in 1905. He left Canoe Brook in 1926.



We are not certain where he went but not long after he acquired Netherwood Golf Course himself and set about establishing a golf club there. He certainly had it in 1939



**TAKES OVER LINKS —** Ralph Bolander, local golfer, announced today he has leased the Netherwood Hills Golf Club property from owner-operator Isaac Mackie and would operate it as a public links beginning Apr. 1. See "Sports Slants" for additional details.

3<sup>rd</sup> March 1939

1949 That arrangement obviously fell through and he continued until...

1955 1955

No provision has been made for operation of a golf club this year. **Isaac Mackie** declines to lease the Netherwood course for less than \$4,800. Previous seasons he received 25 per cent of the income, which amounted to \$7,313.50 last year.

## Isaac Mackie Lists Plans For Golf Club

Netherwood Golf Club's nine-hole course will be conducted this season by Isaac Mackie, owner, and professional who plans to continue the program afforded the public in 1938. He is getting the course into the best possible shape for opening the season early in April.

Johnny Buff, local man whom Mr. Mackie rates as one of the best greenskeepers in New Jersey, will have charge of the grounds and will appoint his staff at a later date.

Among plans which Mr. Mackie has in mind is the organization of an association of public course professionals. He hopes to hold a tournament among the professionals at the local course this season, and perhaps one for public links golfers.

The city conducted the course last season and ran its golf league there. Plans concerning the Recreation Commission's league have not been announced, but Mr. Mackie stated yesterday that he will provide all the facilities and competitions available last year. If the Recreation Commission does not conduct a league at the Netherwood course, he will organize play along similar lines himself, the owner stated.

The clubhouse, which in the past has been let out as a concession, will be run as the course clubhouse, for the convenience of the players. An association or club composed of players will be formed to promote activities and make suggestions during the season.

Mr. Mackie plans to get additional equipment in order to keep his course in tip top shape for the convenience of the players.

has gained many followers with his program . . . Ralph Bolander who operated the Netherwood Hills Golf Club last summer announces he has been unable to negotiate a new contract with course owner **Isaac Mackie** and thus will be out of that immediate golf picture. He has returned to his native Ohio for a vacation and will make a decision on his 1950 activities when he returns.



After leaving Netherwood with a pretty good fortune behind him he probably continued the occasional teaching and visiting of a golf professional, but he eventually retired to Scotch Plains which is very close to Netherwood and lived in Colonial Drive.

John L. Turner, vice president of the two companies, said the development would follow the contour of the land, and that the streets would be winding to prevent fast moving traffic.

No room will be left for a golf course, Turner said, adding that plans are being made to develop the site of the present clubhouse.

The Netherwood Golf Club of Plainfield, a Plainfield Recreation Commission project took over the course, located south-east of Cushing Rd. between Terrill and Rahway Rds. on Feb. 6, 1936.

It succeeded the Hydewood Golf Club when the Hydewood property in North Plainfield was abandoned in 1935 by the Recreation Commission as no longer suitable to the club's needs. Before the Netherwood club took over the course, it was occupied by the Prescott Hills Country Club.

The club had completed nine holes, but lost the course during the depression after having blasted out trees and done preliminary grading for the second nine.

Isaac Mackie, veteran golf greenskeeper, had operated the course in recent years. He sold it in July, 1955, to real estate developers.

## Golf Course Sale Reported

Negotiations are reported to be under way for the sale of a large tract in Scotch Plains, which takes in the Netherwood Golf Course.

The tract is said to contain about 175 acres, half of which would be used for the construction of homes in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 class on one-acre lots. The remainder of the land would be retained for golf club use.

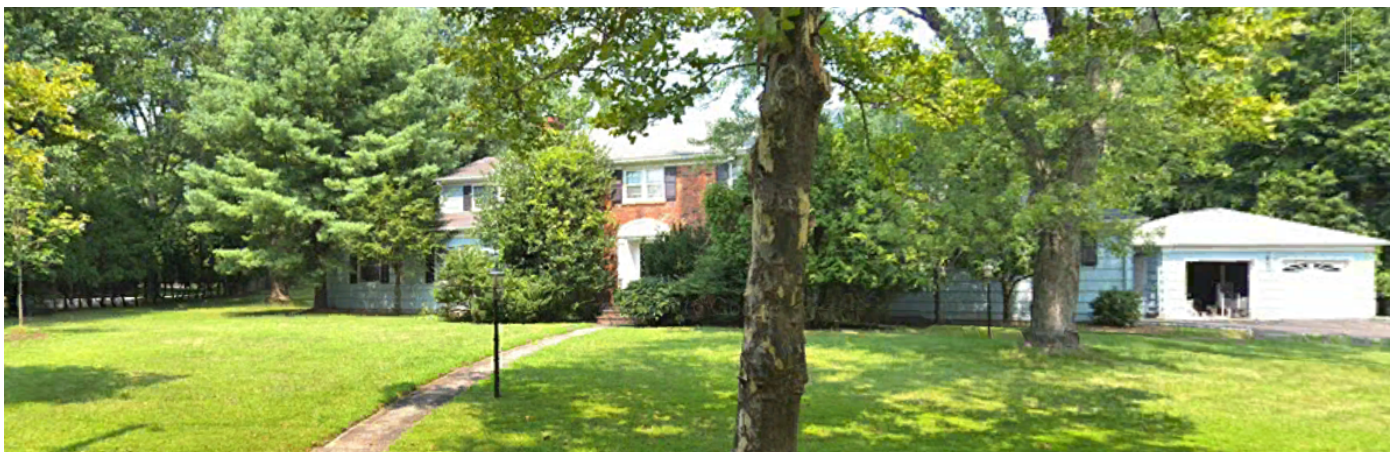
The property is owned by Isaac Mackie of Scotch Plains. The Joleedan Construction Corporation, of Edison Township, is reported to be the purchaser. The same concern is now developing Washington Park in Edison Township.

Leo Weiss, 47, Clive St., Metuchen, is secretary-treasurer of the construction company.

## Housing Development To Replace Golf Course

Scotch Plains—Three model homes, the first of 149 houses to be built on the 177-acre Netherwood Course tract, will be completed this Spring by the Denny Construction Company and Abigail Corporation.

The colonial; split-level ranch, and two-story four-bedroom houses will sell for approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000, although no exact price on them has been set as yet.





He died childless in 1963. and his will provided for substantial sum of money to be used for the benefit of people in Earlsferry/Elie. This generous gesture led to the establishing of Isaac Mackie House in Bank Street in Elie

His ashes were brought across to Elie and scattered in Elie Bay from a local boat - a fitting tribute to one of Earlsferry's most famous sons.

**THE COURIER-NEWS** 27  
Plainfield, N. J.  
Monday, June 24, 1963

## **Isaac S. Mackie, Ex-Pro Golfer**

**Scotch Plains — Isaac S. Mackie,** 82, retired owner-manager of the old Netherwood Country Club here, and long a professional golfer, died Saturday (June 22, 1963) in his home at 1 Colonial Dr.

Mr. Mackie was born in Scotland and had resided in the United States since 1899. He had served as golf professional at the Fox Hill Country Club in Staten Island, the Canoe Brook Club of Summit and the Old Country Club in Flushing, L. I.

In 1938 he became owner and manager of the Netherwood Country Club and held that post until 1959, when the property was sold to a housing developer.

Mr. Mackie was one of the organizers of the Professional Golf Association of New Jersey.

He is survived only by his widow, Mrs. Annie H. Schacht Mackie.

Services will be at 1 p. m. tomorrow in Gray's in Westfield. Interment will be private.

## **Scottish Town Baffled By Suburbanite's Will**

**Scotch Plains—**The riddle of old Isaac Mackie's legacy is baffling the town council of a little Scottish town.

A resident of 1 Colonial Dr., Mackie died on June 22, 1963, at the age of 82.

His will stipulated that on New Year's Day, the women of Earlsferry, Scotland, should talk and knit as fast as they can. The men meanwhile would play golf.

Town Clerk David Cook said the will doesn't tell how such a contest should be run.

Mackie, whose father was once provost (mayor) of Earlsberry, left his homeland on the northern side of the Firth of Forth as a young man at the beginning of the century.

Survived by his widow, Mrs. Annie H. Schacht Mackie, he had served as a golf professional at the Fox Hill Country Club, Staten Island; the Canoe Brook Club of Summit and the Old Country Club in Flushing, N. Y.

In 1938, he became manager and owner of the Netherwood Country Club and held that post until the property was sold for a housing development in 1958. Mackie was one of the organizers of the Professional Golf Association of New Jersey.

In his will, Mackie stated, in part: "I make these bequests as a tribute by the people of the United States of America to the people of Scotland because

the Scots were the first to fight for and win their freedom from invaders . . . and as a tribute to the people of Earlsferry, cradle of golf, where the game now played the world over was created more than a thousand years ago."

A few weeks ago his lawyer informed Cook that Mackie left to his home town two-thirds of his estate of \$350,000.

Cook read the details of the will to the town council.

The Thistle Golf Club would be paid \$5,000 to establish a golf tournament to be played on New Year's Day.

There would be appropriate prizes with the winner receiving the Provost Mackie Medal, in memory of his father.

In conjunction with the tournament, there should be a "fast-talking contest and a fast-knitting contest, in which the female residents of Earlsferry shall take part."

The remainder of the \$233,000 was willed to the aged, poor and sick of the town, with the Mackie family's old home turned into an old folks' home.

The people of Earlsferry will have some time to muse over how to run the contest, however.

Mackie also said in his will that the money should not be transferred across the Atlantic until after the deaths of all his relatives in the United States.



His widow died in 1965

## Isaac Mackie's Widow Dies At Age 87

Scotch Plains — Mrs. Annie H. Mackie, 87, of 1 Colonial Dr., died Thursday (Nov. 25, 1965). She was the widow of Isaac S. Mackie, who left the bulk of his residuary estate to his home town and a parish in Scotland.

Mr. Mackie, who died on June 22, 1963, was owner of the Netherwood Country Club from 1938 until it was sold in 1958. He left a gross estate of \$596,756.

Under terms of the will, his widow and her sister, Miss Meta C. Schacht, also of 1 Colonial Dr., were to receive the income from the trust.

Upon the death of Mrs. Mackie, Miss Schacht will now receive nine-tenths of the income with the other share going to a niece, Margaret Mackie.

When the survivor dies, the income is to be split into 17 shares and divided among the six surviving nieces and nephews. Only when all have died will the money be sent to Scotland.

The first bequest to be paid from the \$233,000 trust is \$5,000 to the Thistle Golf Club of Earlsberry, Scotland, where Mr. Mackie was reared and his father was provost (mayor). The money will be used to establish a New Year's Day golf tournament for men.

The will also provides for establishment of a "fast-talking" and "fast-knitting" contest to keep the women occupied during the tournament.

Of the remainder, one-third is to go to the Kilconquhar Parish Church in Kilconquhar, Scotland, for establishment of a free burial ground. Two-thirds will go to the Town of Earlsferry to be used for the aged, poor and sick of the town.

Funeral services for Mrs. Mackie will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at Gray's Funeral Home, Westfield.