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Sport

Hicks, the girl player who made such a phenomenal record in the past season. Miss Orcutt also won the Metropolitan championship for the fourth consecutive year. This event is one of great interest, since it is the premier women's championship for the Metropolitan district, decides who is to be the first ranking player for a year and also is a decisive factor in placing the members of the New York team in the Clement A. Griscom cup contest.

Scores of women swimming and diving stars will take the water in the Honolulu championship events scheduled for August 7 to 10. Among the American stars who are likely to compete are Ethel McGary, Susan Laird, Ethel Lackie, Eleanor Holm, Agnes Geraghty, Adelaide Lambert, Lisa Lindstrom, and Josephine McKim. All of these swimmers hold various records.

Probably the premier woman American swimmer, Miss Martha Norelius, took herself out of possible competition in July by turning professional. She, with Miss Helen Meany, champion diver, had been under suspension by the Amateur Athletic Union. Miss Norelius, who was the Olympic 400-meter champion, one of the greatest free style swimmers, and holder of numerous world's records, won notice in 1922 when she all but defeated Gertrude Ederle in the Olympic tryouts at Briarcliff. She won her place on the Olympic team and since that time her aquatic feats have never been excelled by American women swimmers.

The Rising Sport of Badminton

SOMEWHAT MORE than a year ago there was celebrated in a New York armory the fiftieth anniversary of the New York Badminton Club. Four players dressed in choker collars and Prince Albert coats (and, some reports have it, wearing top hats), or in the flowing trains and bonnets of half a century ago, played a decorous match against four young competitors in the scant athletic dress of today. Meanwhile on the side-lines there was a languid pouring of tea. The Club was reliving its past.

"That past was always decorous," writes John Burchard, 2nd, in the *Sportsman*. "One need remember but a quarter of a century to hark back to the shocking day when Lyle Mahan, bent upon a championship, doffed his coat and vest. About

the same time there was the unhappy year when the championship trophies were shares of stock in the United States Steel Company, at which one of the winners remarked with some acrimony that he had expected a real prize."

But this sport of Badminton, a net-and-racquet game, is now coming into its own as a popular and thoroughly athletic sport. Some young men from Boston came down to defeat the New Yorkers. The Boston team had itself lost, on occasion, to Canadian teams, for in Canada

Badminton flourishes. It came there from England, where its most skilled practitioners are still to be found, and to which it had come via the Army from India in about 1873.

The racquet, says Mr. Burchard, "looks like a small tennis bat, having the same shape, the same throat, the same proportions. But it weighs only five and one-half ounces. Its throat is little thicker than a pencil. A single swing displays its resilience. A squash or tennis ball will shatter this delicate weapon. The shuttlecock, or bird, is amenable to its touch."

This bird is like the familiar shuttlecock of one's youth. It is a half sphere of cork, about three-quarters of an inch in diameter, weighted and covered with white horsehide. From the flat side comes a crown of white feathers, about two and a half inches long.

The bird does not bounce, and all strokes are played on the volley. Rules are of course different, but in general the game follows the principles of tennis. The court (preferably indoors with a roof fifteen or twenty feet high, but outdoors if you will), is forty-four feet long over all, and twenty wide for doubles. The net is five feet one inch high at the sides.

"Watch a rally," advises Mr. Burchard. "One of the players has hit a high lob overhead and delivered a Tildenesque smash, the bird traveling so fast that the eye follows it with difficulty. But his op-



HELEN WAINWRIGHT
Holder of several world's records for
distance swimming.

Sport

ponent nonchalantly lays his racquet near the floor and with a stroke much like a half volley gently wafts the bird back with no appreciable velocity so that it barely clears the net. The smasher darts forward, hesitates, lunges at the last moment like a fencer, taps the bird almost as it reaches the floor. It rolls slowly upward, heavy end first, nearly to the top of the net. The rounded portion touches the tape, the feathers climb over the now stationary cork, grace the top, pull the bird over with them." And so on till the bird is hit out, or into the net.

It takes at least three years for a truly competent athlete provided with speed, endurance, brains, and a natural racquet sense to become an expert, declares Mr. Burchard. But "it requires about fifteen minutes for the worst dub to become enamored of the game."

More and Better Yacht Harbors

SOME INDICATION of the increasing popularity of the motor boat is given in the current issue of *Motor Boating*, which devotes a special section of more than thirty pages to the need for harbor facilities for yachtsmen in our waterfront cities. Chicago, Miami, Boston, New York, Charleston, Cleveland, Detroit, New Orleans, Memphis, Houston, Corpus Christi, Galveston, San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, are among those shown either to have begun work on improved facilities, or to plan it.

Much of the stimulus in this movement appears to come from a manufacturers' association, but the fact that the municipalities mentioned are interested shows that the movement is supported by an increasing number of sportsmen.

Interesting Articles on Sport

THE GLORY OF THE SALT, by Elmer I. Ransom; July *Field & Stream*. The joys of catching bronze-backed channel bass.

NEITHER WIND NOR RAIN . . . by Mrs. Leslie Cooper; July *Sportsman Pilot*. What early spring travel across country in an airplane is like.

FISHING WITH THE CORMORANT IN JAPAN, by Dr. W. W. Gudger; July *Scientific Monthly*. Catching fish with trained birds, in a sport that dates back to the Middle Ages.

MADE IN GERMANY, by John B. Kennedy; June 29 *Colliers'*. The story of the young German boxer, who wants to be the current Jack Dempsey.

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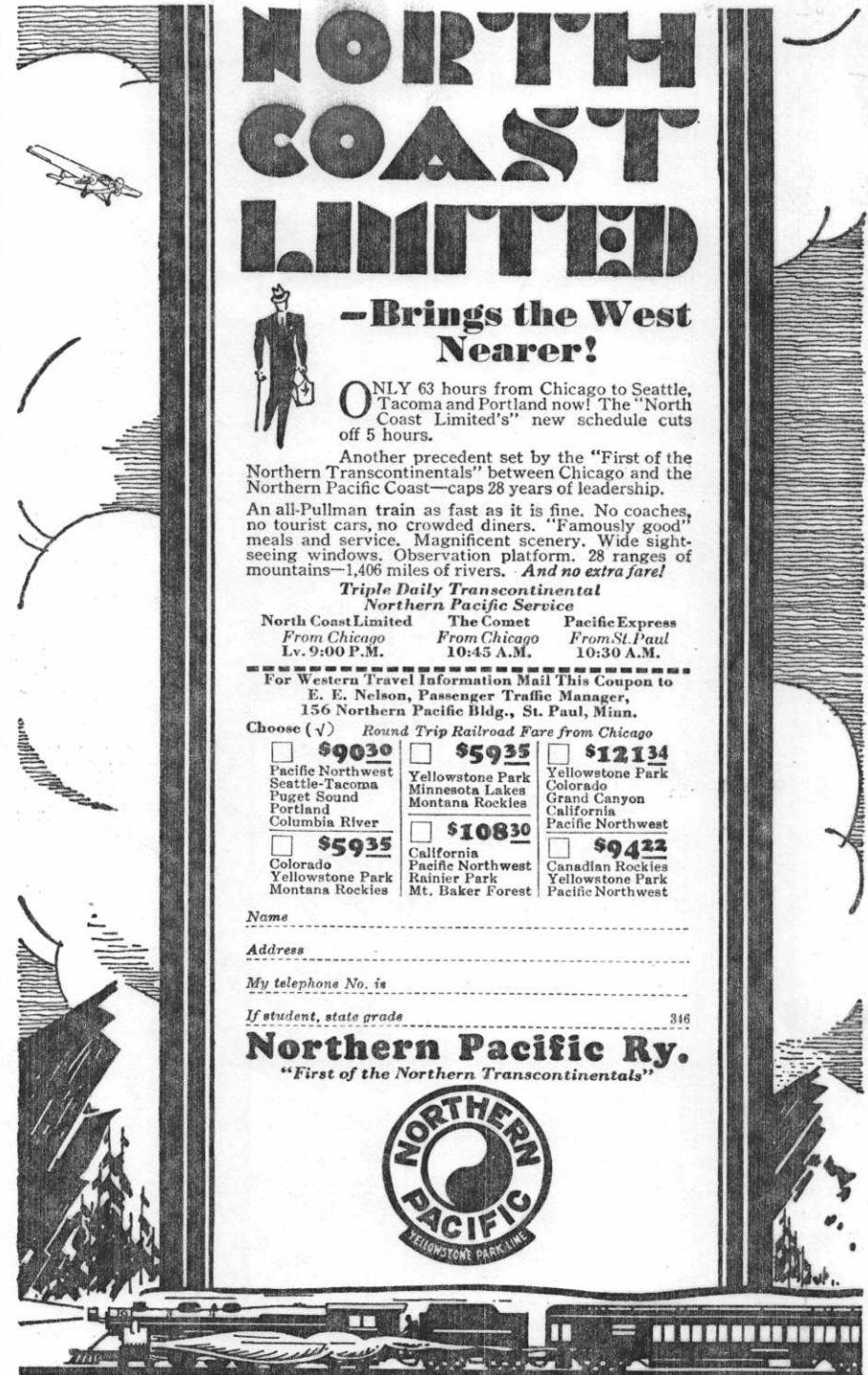
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