

# THE BOUNDARY THAT WASN'T THERE

by  
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**S**UPPOSE YOU are the USGA Amateur Champion.

Suppose, in the defense of your Championship, you find yourself matched in the first round against a tenacious opponent who has you all square after 36 holes, and again after 37 holes, and still square after 38 holes.

You go to the 39th. And there you win the match without hitting a single stroke.

No, your opponent does not expire. He is just so keen and so eager that he overlooks some points in the Rules and the customs of the game.

All this actually happened back in 1920. It was at the Engineers' Country Club, Roslyn, N. Y. The defending Champion was S. Davidson Herron, of Pittsburgh, who the year before had defeated Robert T. Jones, Jr., in the final over Herron's home course, the Oakmont Country Club course.

Now, at Engineers, Herron is bracketed in the first round of match play against young Peter Harmon, of the Scottish-American Golf Club, Van Cortlandt Park, New York City. The first round then was at 36 holes.

They have come to the third extra hole. The hole is a dog-leg to the left.

Harmon has the honor. He drives deep into woods at the angle of the hole.

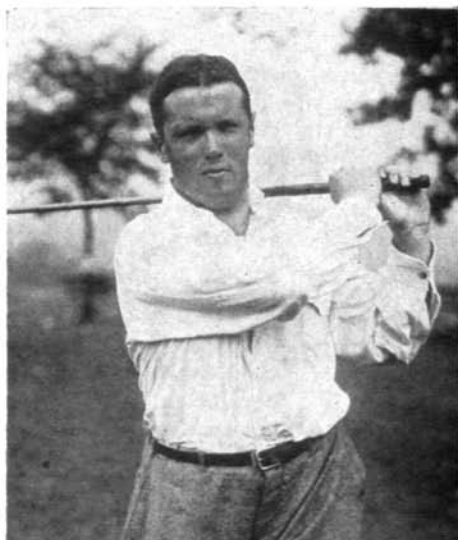
Thinking the ball is out of bounds, he immediately stoops down, tees up another ball and drives it also far into the angle.

Again he tees a ball, the third one, and again he drives into the woods.

That is enough for Mr. Harmon. He extends his hand in congratulation to Mr. Herron, and the match is over.

Mr. Herron has not played a stroke.

The next morning Harmon goes searching for the three balls he struck off the 39th tee.



**S. DAVIDSON HERRON**  
in 1919

He finds all three—and they are all *in bounds*.

The Rule today, and the custom then, provides:

"If a player has to play a second ball from the tee, he shall do so after the opponent or fellow-competitor has played his first stroke." (Rule 12-3)

Harmon might have (a) stepped aside after his first tee shot and allowed Herron to play, or (b) ascertained the location of his first ball or his second ball before proceeding further.

Had Harmon done either, they might be playing yet.

Herron's many friends in golf will be pleased to know that he is well along the road to full recovery from illness last year.