

MY MOST MEMORABLE GOLF EXPERIENCE

by

RICHARD D. CHAPMAN

*USGA Amateur Champion,
1940; British Amateur
Champion, 1951*

IT HAPPENED on the day of my 36-hole final with Charlie Coe in the 1951 British Amateur Championship at Porthcawl, Wales, where there happened to be a miners' rest home. Near the course was a large expanse of rolling land bordering on the ocean, used for sheep grazing and a public park, where the miners could stroll.

Prior to the final I practiced in this area and noticed that some of these miners would stop to talk to my caddie, Cecil Timms, while he was shagging. Finally one of them yelled, "Hey Governor, hit one this way." I told him to stand still, but aimed to his right and started a wide hook. The miner ran to his left to chase it, but the ball curved back and ended at my caddie's feet. "Hit another, Governor!" I started this one in a wide slice, causing the miner to run to his right, only to have the ball escape him again. This not only served as excellent practice for me, but as a challenge to the miners, who had increased in numbers from day to day.

When the day of the final arrived there were fifteen miners waiting in the park. "Today," I told them, "you get all my practice balls. Timms will not shag."

You should have been there to see the mad scramble!

These same miners did not bid adieu to me at the park. Throughout the final they were beside me every inch of the way, slapping me on the back and speaking words of encouragement. I can still hear them saying, "Remember, lad, third time always lucky in Wales."



R. D. CHAPMAN

Their touching support helped me to victory after two previous defeats in the finals at Carnoustie and St. Andrews, in Scotland.

WANTED: CANDIDATES

The USGA again will present, at its annual meeting in New York next January, its annual award to an individual for distinguished sportsmanship in golf. This award is known as the Bob Jones Award. It was offered for the first time last year to commemorate the vast contributions to the cause of fair play made by Robert Tyre Jones, Jr., and was won by Francis Ouimet.

The Committee charged with nominating an individual to receive the second award invites suggestions for consideration. If you wish to nominate an individual, please send us a full recital of the facts.

The award need not be based on sportsmanship for only the current year; rather it might well be presented for sportsmanship over a period of years or for a significant act some time ago.