

MY MOST MEMORABLE GOLF EXPERIENCE

by

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I BELIEVE MY MOST memorable experience in golf was in the final of the California Amateur Championship at Pebble Beach in 1949 with MacGregor Hunter, of Los Angeles. At least it was a match I shall never forget.

I was 5 down after the morning round and had not played too well. In the afternoon I started playing a little better and evened the match at the 35th hole after chipping over Mac's ball, which had stymied me, into the hole.

We were both on the last green in three, each about 15 or 18 feet from the hole. I was away with a side-hill putt, and I made it. Of course, I thought the match all but over, being in with a birdie 4. Mac had his down-hill putt on a fast green to keep the match alive. He made it, too. We went to the first tee, the 37th, and both hit good drives. Mac was away. His shot wasn't a bad one, but it bounced down into the deep trap on the right side of the green. With the pin on the right, the next shot was a difficult one for him. I was pretty sure he couldn't make a par from there, so I played a safe shot to the left side of the green, where I could have at least an even chance at a par. I was confident I couldn't lose the hole and thought that if I could get down in 2 I would win. Mac climbed down into the bunker and took a swing. It was a beautiful shot and the ball trickled down into the hole. I was dumbfounded that he even could have gotten the ball close from that position. I was off the putting surface a couple of feet and decided to chip the



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ball. This decision proved to be the right one. I holed out.

We halved the next hole, a par 5, in birdies, and I lost the next hole, the 39th of the match, after missing the green to the left and taking three to get down. Hunter was the victor to end the most exciting golf match I ever played.