



Wilshire's 18th — world's longest green — with Ed Dudley putting during the 1931 Los Angeles Open, which he won.

Wilshire's 18th Is World's Longest Green

By D. SCOTT CHISHOLM

IT is questionable if there is a longer putting surface on any golf course in existence than the 18th green at the very beautiful Wilshire CC, Los Angeles.

Located in the very heart of an exclusive residential district adjacent to the heart of one of the country's busiest and most progressive cities on the North American continent, the Wilshire club boasts of a very fine and up-to-date 18 hole course that was designed by the late Norman Macbeth some 25 years ago. It speaks volumes for the designer that very few, if any, drastic changes have been made on the original layout of this most excellent golf course. Feature holes abound. Macbeth had the true mind and imagination of an artist who knew the real values of golf. His 18th hole is one of the finest finishing tests to be found anywhere and it was none other than Walter Hagen who declared it to be as great a finisher as he ever played anywhere.

The accompanying view I photographed during the 1932 Los Angeles Open tournament, won by Ed Dudley. I well recall what trouble Dudley experienced at this hole on his final round. His approach shot landed behind the tree seen at left and near the player in the picture. Dudley had two shots to win. But did he play safe? Not him. He actually lofted the ball clear over the tree to within four feet of the hole and sank it for a par 4.

The 18th green at Wilshire measures 171 ft. long — that is counting the cut surface only and does not include the apron. A ball landing within a few feet

on the front portion with the cup located at the other end presents the player a testing problem, and it is more than an even bet he doesn't get down in two. The putting surface is of the very finest texture imaginable and the total length of the green is verified by Superintendent C. C. Corbett, who succeeded Bob Greenfield, the broad spoken Scot veteran.

The view shows the major portion of the green while a few spectators can be seen at the front edge.

The fairway in the rear of these spectators is that of the 17th hole while the fairway to No. 18 is at the right. A barranca (ditch) separates the two fairways.

The second shot to the home green presents quite a problem. It can be seen at the extreme right of picture and the ground or fairway is anything but level. The green looks to the player much like an extended tongue with watered barrancas almost entirely surrounding it and to get it anywhere near the hole when the pin is at the rear is difficult. The late MacDonald Smith declared that second shot to the green one of the tickliest he ever saw.

I recall stepping off one of those double greens at old St. Andrews and, if I recall correctly, it measured around 122 ft. If there is a longer finishing green anywhere, I would like to hear of it.

I might add that the green in question is only 61 ft. at its widest point.

Archie Hambrick, pro at Illini CC, Springfield, Ill., pushes the idea of cutting down mothers' old clubs for their kids' use. Gets more juvenile play and gets mamma a new set of clubs which she probably needs.