

The Long Hole -- 36 $\frac{3}{4}$ Miles

By FRANK WEIRICH

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An East Tennessean is laying claim to the record for the longest single hole of golf ever played—36 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles. He's Clyde Star McWhirter, 41-year old native of Union, S. C., who now manages an automobile agency in Harriman, Tenn., about 40 miles west of Knoxville.

McWhirter says the reported record of T. H. Oyler at Maidstone, England, of 35 miles in 1913 was broken by him and his brother, Harold, June 5, 1929. He claims the record in distance, strokes, balls and time.

The McWhirter brothers' remarkable feat took place between Spartanburg and Union, S. C. The actual distance between the tee-off spot and the final putt was 36 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles. Clyde has proof that he consumed only 780 strokes while Harold took 325, both breaking the previous record of 913 shots taken by Oyler in England. Their time was 13 hours, 4 minutes.

22 Lost Balls

Oyler had worse luck with balls, too. The Britisher lost 17, while Clyde and Harold lost only 22 between them.

In a scrapbook of clippings, Clyde has published accounts of the journey across the plains of South Carolina from the No. 1 tee at Shoresbrook Country Club, Spartanburg, to the No. 2 hole at Woodlawn Country Club, Union.

To this day Clyde doesn't know why he and his brother ever attempted such a stunt except that they wanted a world record. His wife says: "Only a crazy man would have tried such a thing but Clyde was a showman, even in those days." Mrs. McWhirter had reference to Clyde's long career as a vaudeville entertainer, musician and master of ceremonies with Guy and Eloda Beach Co., Bisbee's Comedians and Mack's Orchestra, which hasn't missed a Saturday night at Oak Ridge, Tenn., for six years.

The golf feat started at 5:13 a.m.,



C. S. McWhirter

June 5, 1929. Clyde and Harold hit their drives from the No. 1 tee at Shoresbrook, played the No. 1 hole and then took off across country toward the highway to Union.

During the journey they used eight caddies, four of whom rode in the officials' car to rest while alternating with four others out front watching balls.

"We improved all lies," Clyde said, "and played from the road. We stepped off the longest shot of the day, made by Harold, and it measured 410 yards without the benefit of wind. It was a perfect drive, it took off straight down the center of the highway, bounced straight and rolled like a scared rabbit.

Putted on Bridges

"For the most part we used woods and long irons, except on bridges, where

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A. 2: Sand is a hazard except as noted in Rule 17 (Definition). Loose, pulverized dirt is not a loose impediment under Rule 7(2) but is a thing fixed under Rule 7(3)—(unless it is piled for removal or is a worm cast or animal cast or runway. Improving the ball's position by brushing away such loose dirt violates not only Rule 7(3) but could also breach Rule 7(1) prohibiting removal of irregularities of surface under certain conditions; the penalty is two strokes in stroke play or loss of hole in match play—see Rule 2(1).

(Questions by: STANLEY E. RIDDERHOF
LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA)

Changing Balls for Putt

No. 50-160. R. 2(1), 10(2)

Q: A is on the green in 3. He marks the place where his ball lies by the toe of his putter, puts the original ball in his pocket and puts down a new ball to putt with. While he is addressing the ball to putt, B claims the hole on Rule 10(3) because A did not hole out with his original ball.

Since A had not as yet putted, he replaced his original ball and claimed he still had the opportunity to hole it out, which he did for a half on the hole.

B claims that once he had picked up his original ball and did not do so under any of the Rules allowing the substitution of another ball, i.e., lost, unplayable, out of bounds or become unfit for play, he could not replace it and proceed playing.

A does not claim to have picked up his ball and replaced it with another ball under any of the Rules allowing him to do so, but does claim that since his opponent had called him on it before he had struck the replaced ball he

should be allowed to put back the original and play out.

A. V. "BUD" FOUTS
SAVANNAH, GA.

A: A lost the hole under Rules 10(2) and 2(1).

Practice on Day of Competition

No. 51-20. R. 13(5), 21(3).

Q: Will you please give me the Rules concerning practicing to or putting on any of the greens, except the practice greens, the day of competition of either match or medal play tournaments?

Question by: FRED E. GULICK
JOPLIN, MISSOURI

A: (1) *Stroke Play:* Rule 21(3) provides: "On a day of competition, a competitor shall not practice by playing on or onto any putting surface yet to be played in the stipulated round." The penalty is disqualification.

Match Play: The Rules of Golf do not prohibit practice before a round.

(2) During a round, a practice stroke from any teeing ground or during the play of any hole is prohibited by Rule 13(5).

Assist by Automobile

No. 51-8.

Q. 1: While playing a golf hole along a road one of the players hit his tee shot out of bounds and it hit an oncoming car and landed back in bounds. Is there any penalty?

Question by: ALAN ARTACH
DENVER, COLO.

A. 1: No penalty. (Just a good break.)

THE LONG HOLE

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we used our putters in order not to drop a ball in the drink.

"Instead of taking the main highway to Union, we went by way of Roebuck and Pauline to avoid the heavy Spartanburg-bound traffic.

"When we arrived in Union there was quite a celebration. We finished at 6:22 P.M. on the second hole at Woodlawn. 13 hours, 4 minutes from the time we started. It took Oyler two days to make his journey across the English countryside.

"A newsreel company had cameras there and took pictures of us as we made our final putts. Reporters were present, too. The rotogravure section of the New York Times used one picture. Just above it was one of Charles Lindbergh, who had just flown the Atlantic, and a picture

of President Herbert Hoover graced the other side. We were in fast company."

McWhirter doesn't advise anyone to try long-hole golf unless he's in perfect physical condition.

Mayor L. C. Wharton of Union gave a welcoming address when the pair ended the long hole. Officials for the event were Fred Parr, who kept score, and T. W. Wood, owner and manager of Union's Woodlawn Country Club, who saw that each shot was taken properly. R. C. Shores, of Shoresbrook Country Club at Spartanburg, was observer.

"We lost four balls in one field because the farmer had just plowed it and would not allow us in to get them," McWhirter recalled. "They were in plain sight, too."

McWhirter still plays a lot of golf at Harriman Golf and Country Club, where he has made a hole-in-one.