

Pencil of the Week Chronicles 1

10/28/20 Fairlawn CC

You are in for a real treat. As you know, i save as many golf pencils as i can, so i can sell them when i run out of money. A light bulb went off today and i said to myself "i bet my golf friends would enjoy hearing about my golf pencils. Mary was kind enough to pick one out of the box randomly. Her first choice was a pencil with no writing. Can you imagine a course so cheap they wouldn't even put their name on them??"

Anyway, she picked again and came up with a good one, Fairlawn Country Club. I could be wrong, but here is what i think i remember: Every Valentine's day, we attended an Angelman's fundraiser with a silent auction. There was usually a golf for 4 on auction, so Mel, John, and I agreed on a bid max and we won! You have to go with a member, but it turned out the member could not go, so i picked up some kind of ticket outside his place of business in Fairlawn.

Danged if i remember who i played with there. It was Mel for sure, and i think Rudy Dudics, and maybe John T? We picked a nice day and had a good time. All i really remember was the course was tight and the greens were incredibly fast. I am sure this will shock you, but I had a devil of a time putting; lots of 3 putts. I do remember a free lunch at the halfway house, and free beers in the clubhouse after the round. I sort of recollect that my car looked pretty shabby sitting in the lot with a whole bunch of expensive cars.

Stay tuned for next week's exciting Golf Pencil of the Week!

10/4/20 Sable Creek



Mary was kind enough to pick another one out of the box randomly. She came up with one that I have perhaps the most of.

Sable Creek. I think Mel was the first to play there back when it was just developed. He said it was a good tract so we began playing it on a regular basis. They did hit a 25 year anniversary last year so i bought one of their T Shirts with all the details on it. The owner, Ray, was the greens keeper at the local Congress Lake Club and broke away building 9 holes at a time, and now has 3 nines. Ray knows me by name and we have discussed many of the holes over time. It is a good course with some very short but demanding holes that are tough to par. From my records we began playing there often circa 2012.

The third nine is pretty short and a par 35. Denny hates it, likely because of the trouble on the right, but i love it, knowing it can be had with a 39 and even lower. We play it on Mondays as well so we have been there often. I typically break 80 there at least twice a year. Looking back at my website highlights on the scores page, I see my best there is a 73 in 2018; 16 pars and 2 bogies! I was on fire. Sadly, never had an ace there.

Recent fall/winter seasons, the hardest of the boys; Dick, Bill, Mel, and I, have played whenever there was a good day. Often as late as mid December. I have also played there on my own in the cold. Quite commonly, I have played the entire 18 in 1:45. When 2 play, perhaps 2:15.

Well, that is it for this weeks' exciting tales of the golf pencils. Stay tuned for next week's exciting Golf Pencil of the Week!

11/18/20 Tannenhauf



Mary dug deep into the pencil box and picked one from another popular and much played course, Tannenhauf, in nearby Alliance, Ohio. This is another fine unused green pencil with gold lettering. I snapped a picture and spiced it up a little by having in set on top of one of my pet gators. Been collecting those for many years now and you are all now lucky enough to get to see them.

I am sure I played Tannenhauf often way back to the 70s. I do remember it being part of the Parker Family tournament sometime back then. Remember winning it one year there thanks to my local course knowledge. It was my dad and Jim playing there. Good times!

I looked back into my scoring records and found 2010 rounds there with me shooting in the low 90s, white tees of course. There were no miracle rounds there. From the white tees, this is one mean course, especially the back nine where several of the par 4s measure 400+ yards. I recall George traveling to town before moving to the area one year in mid summer. We played there on short notice and i was somewhat embarrassed as it was rock hard that summer. They did put in water on the fairways a few years after that.

Before i forget, i want to say that it is a family run tract. Run by some of the nicest people you would ever want to meet. The boys run the course and maintain it and the women run the snack bar and cook a nice breakfast every morning. Good people!

Tannenhauf was the home course for the Dew Sweepers (DST) To for a few years. So named for the early early tee times we had every Saturday morning. The DST started at Mayfair West and ran there many years until the new owner forced you to schedule Mayfair East every other week. We would not have any of that so we moved to Tannenhauf. Not sure why we left there for a weekly changing venue. Maybe too far a drive for some of the guys?

Fast forward to Senior golf these days. The Senior tees are very short and only keep a couple of the long holes. The course is still tight but by playing irons on those holes, this course is pretty helpless. I expect to break 80 now every time Ii play there. I remember telling that to Clyde (RIP) a few years back after finishing the front in 37. Famous last words, as I then had 47 on the back, lol.

Both the Friday and Monday groups play there now. It's a long ride for Bill and the guys from Fairlawn, but everyone loves to play there. No discouraging words from any of our guys. To summarize. Tough from the whites, easy from the tan tees. Nice course, good people, and looking forward to many more rounds there.

TTY next week with more exciting gators and pencils.

11/25/20 Barberton Brookside

Mary dug deep into the pencil box and picked one from another popular and much played course,



Barberton Brookside in Barberton Ohio. This pencil is a dark blue with gold lettering with some of the text wearing off.

I believe the first time I played this one was in the late 70s or early 80s. Back then, Goodyear Aerospace had a yearly Tournament with 3 flights depending on your handicap. I am guessing I was in the 2nd flight back then. There were always 2 rounds, Saturday and Sunday. Can't remember which round it was but i was playing well and was in the hunt. Well, #11 and 12 are par 4s along the course boundary with a road on the right. Not good holes for those slicers among us. I was always battling that. Anyway, i think I whacked at least 2, perhaps 3 into the road those 2 holes to end my chances. Not only that, i was sternly admonished by my playing partners whom i had just met. That disaster is one of 2 memorable falters in my unsuccessful quest for a Goodyear Trophy. The other happened in the opening round one year at Mayfair, where on the first tee, i yanked 2 OB to the left, causing me to grumble about it for the next 35 holes. Unbelievable.

Brookside is difficult from the white, not so much from the senior tees. Always did have very nice but difficult greens. Somewhere in the 70s, Joe Flogg, the pro at Edgewood bought it, and ran it till now. He is an OK guy. The Monday and Friday and Lockheed Retiree group had it regularly scheduled. Last year was supposed to be the final year for the course, but the sale fell through. I attached our goodbye pics to this email. We are a sentimental bunch, eh? We played there once this year and were saddened by it's disrepair. It as now closed permanently for sure. RIP Barberton Brookside. We shall miss you.

Memorable shots? In 2016, i was coming into 18 when playing with the Lockheed guys. Hogan and his partner were up at the green, figuring out how much they were going to take us for. Hit a nice 9 or

wedge that hit short, ran up and jumped into the hole for an eagle 2. Took the money right out of his pocket!

TTY next week with more exciting gators and pencils.

P.S. Tannenhauf, last weeks pencil of the week.

Bill pointed out that i had failed to report on my favorite hole there, the par 3 #15. This hole is a short par 3, very downhill with a deep but narrow green. The right and left of the green dips down to make anything hit there almost impossible to chip close. OB on the left and a creek to the right can also grab errant shots. I found that when the ground is dry, punching a 3 iron just over the top of the hill between the tee and green, runs down the hill and up the green straight and true. Short and you have a lot of green to work with for your chip. IMHO a punch shot is the way to go. I tried it twice this year and had 2 pars, missing a birdie chance once. The last time, I used a 4 iron punch. The ball dissapeared over the hill. Wait for it and about 3 or 4 seconds later there it was rolling at the pin with me shouting for it to go in. Sadly it passed the pin and stopped about 5 foot away. Just so exciting!

Earlier this year, Mel had a 5 there. I talked him into going back and trying a punch shot. He hit it a little off this and as it came down the hill, it nailed the No Carts sign. Who would have thought?