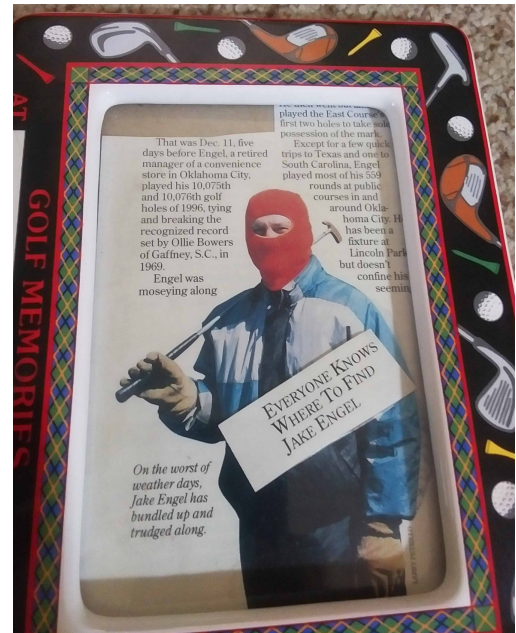


## Pencil of the Week Chronicles 2

12/22/20 Quail Hollow CC



It is time for another Pencil of the Week story! This one comes early to make way for Christmas 2020 later this week. Don't want it to get lost in the shuffle.

Mary snagged a Quail Hollow Country Club pencil from the box this week. A popular green with gold lettering. No eraser; thus it sure isn't a senior pencil. Us seniors need to be able to erase and correct as there are often scoring errors, some which we find before the round is over.

Quail Hollow is a private course in Painsville Ohio. You can't play there unless you stay at the next door now Wyndom Resort. I was looking at the site and they definitely had mixed reviews by those staying there.

Only played there one time. Long time friends and neighbors Kathy and Matt Schafer were looking for a short getaway, so this came up and we booked 1 night there. Kathy taught CCD with Mary and Matt plays the polkas on WZIP every Saturday and plays the accordion. Drove up and played one afternoon and then dined at the resort. I remember the meal was good and we turned in for the night. Matt and I played in the morning and the ladies were watching 18 from a nearby bench. They walked up to see us putt out. It was a nice time and very enjoyable.

Don't recall a thing about the rounds. One course was designed by Weiskof and the other by Devlin. They were both nice but other than that nothing rings a bell. My guess is that it was 25 years ago.

No good stories, so I attached my hero from the 90s, Jake Engel. The back of the clipping shows that it was from the USGA Golf Journal Jan/Feb 1997. I tried to find it online but without luck. He had set the new golf record of 10.076 holes in 1996. Alas, the best I could muster was 1740 holes back in 2010. I was playing in a league and subbing in 3 or 4 others as I coasted out of Lockheed to retirement and a new job at Cisco. His record has been surpassed by others since. Not fair as it was set in Hawaii where there is no snow. There will always be a soft spot in my heart for his accomplishments in Oklahoma.

Have a great Holiday and I will tty next week.

12/29/2020 Raintree



It is time for another Pencil of the Week story!

Mary snagged a Raintree Country Club pencil from the box this week. Another in popular green with gold lettering.

Seen here riding one of my new gators. This one was given to me by grandson Z-Man and is a Transformer. It took me about a half hour to transform him to a gator. I kept at it and eventually figured it out.

Raintree is a local course about 1/2 mile from Prestwick and Mayfair in Green. Obviously good ground for golf. It was developed by local Golf developer John Ranieri Sr, in 1992. He had previously developed Suffield Springs and Paradise Lake, moving up in expense as he went. It was developed as a links type course and I always liked it. He sold it to the city of Green last year for 3.3M!

Very difficult from the whites and the tan senior tee, it is always challenging. My amen corner is on the front nine, #6 thru 9. Six is long and into the wind well guarded by bunkers. Bogey is good for me there. Seven is a par 5 along the road and nasty across a pond. I try to hit straight out to the end of the fairway, driver, 4 iron, then into the green straight on. Decent par chance. If you don't hit 2 good ones, you have to come at the green across a pond. It is narrow from there and too much club can put you OB. Good chance for a double for there. Eight is a par 3, 150-170 over water with bail out to the right. After losing umteen balls there, i now play the bailout. Nine is a long par 4 to a very nasty sloped green guarded by a huge bunker. I try to drive left to avoid carrying that. Denny and Ken Houle dislike the length and the water carries on the front nine.

The back nine also has some long challenges. My favorite is #11, a short par 3 with a remembrance marker for Ed Kutney, one of the project managers at Goodyear Aerospace. He had a golf league there and passed away there one day, presumably on the 11th. Rudy Dudics played in a league there as well. He said if you got behind by a hole, your group would be buying for all in the clubhouse. How is that for incentive? They also had a rule to fund their yearly picnic. Three putt and put a dollar into the pot for each of them. Absolutely no gimmes either. Ouch! Firewood would have costed me a bundle.

Several years back there were 2 really unlucky guys on the tenth tee. Wind took down a big branch that did both of them in. My, my, my.

I looked back at my scores and only found 16 of them since 2006. We did avoid it on Fridays for awhile because they charged extra on Friday. Only had 4 scores in the 80s with the best at 82 from the senior tees.

Only one good story (actually a bad story) for me there. Must have been an off day. Only Mel and I were playing. I got to number 7 and, like i said, didn't get to the end of the fairway in 2, so i had to cross the pond. Plunk, right in. I moved up to the point where it crossed, dropped a ball and plunk, in again. Thereafter, there was a lot more of that. Afterwards, it struck me that i had been playing the drops on a downhill lie. Should have played it back further on flat ground. Well, i don't recall the exact score, but i am thinking it was something like 13/15/17? Mel was ahead at that point but assured me i would still win. He was right, thankfully.

Catch you next week with another exciting pencil of the week.

1/6/21 Mayfair CC



It is time for another Pencil of the Week story!

Mary snagged a Mayfair Country Club pencil from the box this week. Another in popular green with gold lettering without the senior eraser. I mounted it on top of one of my new gators that came mounting a ST Augustine pencil. A bonus pencil I say.

Mayfair is a local course in Green. Back in the day, There was a Mayfair East and West. The East was an old style course; short, small greens, pretty much straight away. The West was much newer and, after the East course was turned into a Condo and housing development, was redone and West dropped from its name.

The East dated back to the late 1800s. The clubhouse is in the basement area of a grand old house and you can see the old stone foundation down there. Built much before cinder blocks existed. The East course had become outdated, but i consider it sacrilege to build housing on it much less live there. Bagger Mel bought there and i have to shake my head each time i pass nearby, Looking at google earth, I believe his house is smack dab in the middle of the 2nd fairway. With my slice, its a place I had never visited in when playing there.

The East course holds good memories of playing with Gerry Betts. We played many years in a league at Edgewood and after i changed jobs I would meet him in the fall after the leagues were over and we would battle it out for 9 holes for a beer or two. When i went to Cisco there was no way i could continue as it was too far away to get a round in before sunset in the fall. Lost track for a couple of years and he passed away. Played with him for 30 years. I miss him.

The present Course retains many of the original West holes. I believe the entire front nine is the same. # 10 is much the same. Number 11 was a par 3 across the edge of a lake and played due east. This was where I had my first Ace with an 8 iron way back when. I still have the scorecard and the green fee ticket. I brought it in one day to show the present owners. I wasn't playing particularly well and I was trembling with my heart racing for the next two holes. That was not good as skin money was on the line. Numbers 12 has been shortened to a par 4, Numbers 13-15 remain the same, and the last 3 holes

are new and very challenging.

The most frustrating hole in the new #16. A decent par 5 from the senior tees, a lake guards and elevated narrow green. The lake grabs thousands of balls every week and normally half our group finds the water. Even if you clear you get stuck in a muddy area. Too long is over the green and you look at a downhill chip and another chance to hit the water.

Started playing there with my neighbors who have since moved; Rich and Ed and a few others. When I first met them I hinted around that I would love to play if they had an opening, and it wasn't too long before I got an invite. We always had the first tee time. There was a recession in the early 70s and some in the group fell by the wayside. Eventually Tom Kimbery and his group, usually behind us, suggested we join groups and history was made. The joined groups played first thing every Saturday morning at Mayfair. We were dubbed the Dew sweepers by Gary Illejevitch, who joined in a few years down the road.

My last Ace was there on number 9. Hit an 8 iron again with the pin in the back of the green. It looked good but a little long. When we got up there, I looked around off the back of the green and found nothing. A quick walk to the cup and there it was. Sweet! Jeanie in the clubhouse gave me a nice trophy!

OMG! I could go on forever there are so many memories. No telling how many pitchers of Killians Red we drank. So many Neil stories, so many dollars lost to John T on our putting wagers there. In summary, Mayfair has a special place in my heart. First and last Ace here. First golf buddies in Ohio. Long time friends of the Dew sweepers. Comradry with long time golf competitor Gerald Bets RIP. And there are more to come as our Monday and Friday groups play there often. See you all there guys!

Catch you next week with another exciting pencil of the week.

1/13/21 Chenoweth



It is time for another Pencil of the Week story!

Mary snagged a Chenoweth Golf Course pencil from the box this week. It is blue with gold lettering. Seen here riding one of my new gators. This one was given to me by Santa,

Chenoweth is just off the Arlington 77 exit. It was developed as part of a housing development around there. It is crammed in there and is short and tight. Lots of boring holes with some challenging ones across water to spice things up.

It starts with 3 short and narrow par 4s though the trees offering three pars if you are on your game. If you are not, the trees offer opportunities to come out of there 5 over. A short nothing par 3 is followed by 2 tough doglegs. The first is a par 5 with water across the corner. You need two good tee shots to get to the turn or a layup is needed. can't get home in 3 on that par 5, so a bogey is good for me there. The last 3 are a challenge with #9 being 100 yds or so across a pond to a narrow green. Too short and your in. Too long and you have a downhill chip. I am happy to finish that nine 6 over.

The back starts with a short par 5 and a reasonable long par 4. One or 2 over for that stretch is the norm. Three is a tricky dogleg with a good tee ball needed to cross a pond and position for a 9 iron to the green. A par or bogey is expected. Two par 3s bookend a par 4 where you should come out no more than 3 over. The last 3 are tough. A short par 4 over ravine, a long par 3, and finishing par 5 over water, one can expect another 3 or 4 lost to par. Seven to 9 over for the back put me around 84-86 for the day.

I have had a few opportunities to go across the pond to the green on #18 to get home in two. It is a high risk shot, as it is all carry, and not a good play. I can remember only one time after hitting a huge drive that i gave it a try. Ripped a 3W (i did have one at one time) just right of the pin. Thought it just had to clear but, looking into the sun, never did see or find it. Won't happen again with no 3W in the bag anymore. Just one of the reasons that I don't carry one anymore.

I looked back at my scores and found 20 of them since 2011. Most were mid 90s with one at 77 back in 2011. I have improved my scoring there as i learn where to play safe and how to play the holes to avoid penalties. For the 77, I was 3 over on each side going 39-38. Mid round I had 7 straight pars. Bogied 2 of the four par 3s.

We only played there once this year as they didn't have cart separators for Covid. Both groups play there 2-3 times a year. Houle hates the water holes. The three water holes do make the course difficult. Houle moans and grows everytime we play there, then takes our money home with him. In retrospect, the louder he moans is really a clue that he is planning on taking home more cash than he came with.

Mel's daughter lived in 2 different houses in that area east of the course but i believed she has moved or is planning to move soon. We like the condo's close off Pickle rd but none have been on the market lately.

Catch you next week with another exciting pencil of the week.



1/20/21 Fox Den



Here it is - another Pencil of the Week story!

Mary snagged a Fox Den GC pencil from the box this week. It is red with gold lettering. Seen here riding one of my two large gators. Took me 2 pictures to properly display it and provide enough detail for you to better marvel at my collection.

Fox Den is in Stow up north and takes me 40 minutes to get to. Bill Hudgins used to live closeby before moving to Strongsville. The course is now owned by the city of Stow. This is a trend as the smaller cities try to keep green space as opposed to losing these areas to development.

Old golf buddy Darrell, RIP, was a regular of the leagues there as is current Monday member Dave Eisner. Bill King (disabled), Ken Houle, and Denny have played there for many years. Also, Bob Mueche currently works there in maintenance. Bob was one of the hardy Ice golfers too but hasn't played with us recently. More to come on these guys later.

It starts with a short and narrow par 4 with OB to the left and trees on the right. I can't tell you how many times i have taken an iron to the tee to keep the ball in play as my driver typically puts me in the trees for a punch out and a bogey. Good play right? Not when you snap hook it left into the OB. Now what to do? Several times i have walked off that tee laying 5 in the fairway. OMG. I can't think of any first hole i have played worse on ever. I did have a birdie there once though. I snap hooked one OB into the side of the barn and it bounced out. Almost holed my wedge and made the short putt. Parker luck!

Not much exciting on the rest of the front nine except the par 5 #7. From the senior tees it is a drive and a 3w or long iron to get there. Been on several times putting for eagle and only made it once. The back nine seems to be more difficult. Number 11 is also a reachable par 5 but it has a very sloped green. Hit

the front and it will roll back off. Go past the pin and expect a 3 putt. In rare cases you might easily 5 putt. Number 12 is a devilish uphill long par 3. Easy to put it in the pond on the left and there just is not an easy putt on another sloped green. Being on a hill, i can never figure which way the ball might go.

Ken Houle scored an ace there a few years back. Sure glad i was not there to see (and hear) that one. He is a short hitter at this point in his golf career, and used driver! I do feel sorry for those who had to witness that.

The senior tees are 5500, which is long for us, but there are really only a couple of long par 4s. I expect to finish in the low to mid 80s. The Monday group plays there regularly. We avoid it on Fridays as fivesomes are not allowed and i never am quite sure how many we will have when i make the times.

I did not look back at my scores but i found the card that i dearly save. It was the fall of 2007 and i shot 79 which is a good score for me there. The major accomplishment was besting Bob Mueche like a drum. My 79 to his 85. Ken Houle was at 90 and Bill at 89 as well. Not sure if it was Bill H or Bill K that was there. Bob had no doubt that he would beat me like he usually did that day and must have said "Parker, you are not that good" to me several times during the round. I kept cranking and my 39 on the back was plenty good enough.

Since it was late fall, i held that over him all winter. In the spring he joined us at a wet Tannenhauf and put me back in my place. It was fun while it lasted.

The rest of the story was that Bob and I were neighbors when we rented in Hartville. He helped my during the move to this house. Lost track of him for several years until hooking up with him for ice golf at Edgewood years later with Houle, King, and Denny,

Catch you next week with another exciting pencil of the week.