

Pencil of the Week Chronicles 4

03/03/2012 The Elms and Twin Lakes



So Mary had trouble pulling up a new pencil I haven't wrote about yet and finally came up with the Elms CC. I don't remember much about it so I had her pick another which I have only played once. So we have pencils of the week today!

The Elms is green with gold lettering and The Fairways at Twin Lakes pencil is Silver on red. That one sure is flashy.

Starting with the Elms, I am pretty sure it was played on the DST tour in the 70s at the suggestion of TK back in the day. He always wanted to try ones he had heard good things about. I am glad i had the sense to save the pencils back then so i can raise money with them should i need it. From their website:

The 18-hole 1st/2nd Course at Elms Country Club in North Lawrence, OH is a public golf course that opened in 1932. Designed by S. Rottman, 1st/2nd Course at Elms Country Club measures 6750 yards from the longest tees and has a slope rating of 119 and a 70.7 USGA rating. The course features 3 sets of tees for different skill levels. Greens and fairways are bent grass.

I remember it as a beloved old style course with back and forth fairways and huge trees, but that is about it. I don't think we played it very often as it is a long trek to Massillon, perhaps 30 minutes from here.

Twin Lakes is a 9 holer just north of Kent. Dick Lott, the frugal one he is, had some very low cost play coupons for the Friday group so we headed there. Notice my new found diplomatic proficiency now a days. In the past, i would have just called him a flaming cheap ass. From their website:

This former private country club is now open to the public, the beautiful old-style 9-hole golf course is open year-round, booking tee times daily as well as hosting weekly leagues and special event outings. Newly built 5,000 sq. ft. cabin Pro Shop contains every amenity to make your golf experience enjoyable....The Fairways at Twin Lakes was built in 1923 as Twin Lakes Country Club. It was

designed by Sandy Alves, a golf course construction manager for the world-famous Donald Ross. Impressed by his work, Ross recommended Alves to the members at Shaker Heights Country Club. Alves was hired to supervise construction of its Donald Ross course, and when construction was finished he stayed on as the Shaker's first Golf Professional. Eight years later, Ross and Alves were chosen to design and build a course for The Masons of Cleveland, and they created Acacia Country Club in 1920. Alves remained as Acacia's professional until his death in 1939.

While pro at Acacia, Alves designed a number of other Cleveland area courses, including the two courses at Highland Park in Cleveland, Ridgewood Golf Course in Parma, and Madison Country Club. He also designed Highland Meadows Country Club in Toledo and French Lick Resort in Indiana. And of course, he designed Twin Lakes Country Club here in Kent in 1923. The Fairways at Twin Lakes' tree-lined corridors and rolling hills, combined with its undulating Donald-Ross-style greens, create a scenic and challenging test for golfers of every skill level!

Well, that is what they say. We found it to be an old style course with nasty greens. Drive it down the hill and try to hit uphill to the green. That makes it play long. Anyway, we had so many fits on the green, we did not go back again. I found my score in 2014 shown as an 87 from senior tees.

Sorry I have so few memories going back to the courses I have played just a few times, but that can be expected. Added 2 long time DST's to the email distribution; Mike Bittaker, now in Florida basking in the sun, and Captain Kirk Murphy, who always seemed to be drying me skin money. When the DST occasionally showed up at the courses with 5, we always asked the starter if we could go 4 and 1. ?

Catch you all next week.

3/10/2021 Wilkshire



So Mary had to pull out quite a few to get to a new pencil. If i have time, i better sort out some of the already did pencils. The Wilkshire Golf Course pencil is one i haven't seen for awhile. Must be an old one. This one is beige colored with clear green lettering.

What a coincidence! Denny, Bill, and I teed off at 10am there yesterday for the first round of 2021 for all of us. I had a highlight round with 3 birdies, even on the front, and +3 on the back for an opening 75! Bill and Denny played decent at 86 and 90.

It is just off 77 about 20-30 minutes south of here, right along the Tuscarawas river which seems to flood the course at least every 2 years. They are open all winter if the temp is above 45.

The course is pretty easy from the senior tees at a so called 5600 yards, but the senior tees are typically up when we play in the early spring and late fall and are more like 5400. It is a tougher go from the 6235 whites. There are several picturesque holes with ponds waterfalls and bridges that keep us going back.

There are 2 notable holes on the course. On the front it is the par 3 #7, 155yds from the senior tee but 185 from the whites. The green is sloped down back to front and any side hill or downhill chip or putt is nasty. Three jacks are common on this one. Difficult par, easy bogey or double.

On the back it is the par 5 #10. You need a good tee shot and a good long iron to place the ball in front of the pond for a 100yd shot to a pretty small green. If farther back it gets harder to hold the small green. If you don't put 2 good ones together, it is wise to layup your 3d. Everyone has come up just short and heard the ball hit the pylons and kick back for a splash into the pond. Sometimes more than once. The best shot i have ever seen on this one was a gambling wood shot by Dick Lott over the pond from far back that ended up very close to the pin. He did make the putt. Don't recall if it was birdie or eagle though. The next time he played there, it was a much much much higher score. We all have had one there.

I have records of scores there going back to 2001 DST days. Once the senior tours started it was 2x a year. More recently, After Edgewood closed in 2014 we have played it in January and December when we could. Looking over the scores, we played it Jan15 in 2020 and as late as December 27 in 2016. Very few of my scores there have been above 85. Also, I have been in the mid to high 70s every year since 2016. I attribute this to the winter tees being short and the fact that most greens are fairly flat.

Catch you next week!

3/17/2021 Flying B



So Mary had to pull out quite a few to get to a new pencil last week, so I had her continue and she picked a Flying B Golf course pencil. It is a beautiful white with mint green lettering! While packing for the move, I found 3 other boxes of pencils. They likely have my older pencils so i am looking forward to opening those boxes after the move.

Yes, packing for the move. We bought a condo near the football hall of fame about 20 min south of here and plan to move mid April. Going to miss this place but not the yard work. After 45+ years we will miss the place. Will put it up for sale on April 1, and no this isn't an April fools joke.

Flying B (can you believe someone named a course Flying B?) is a bit north of Salem about 45 min from here out in the middle of nowhere. How did we ever find a course out in the middle of nowhere? Well, it was brought to my attention by Dick Lott, who basically lives out in the middle of nowhere. Very cheap to play as well, as you would expect if Dick recommended it. He and Sally played nine there when they could and so we gave it a try.

We have not played it for some time now as it is a long haul for most and especially for Bill. I think the only ones that played there were Dick, Mel, John, Neil, and I. We played it once a year and it was always in decent condition at 6000 yds from the whites. I do remember there were cute college girls running the clubhouse, a nice change from the usual grumpy old men.

I don't remember any great rounds played there. I do remember a couple of holes. Number 9 went towards the clubhouse and had an elevated green surrounded by large bunkers. If you went long, you would be playing from the parking lot.

The other one was a nasty par 4 tucked just behind a lake. Pars there were rare. Your tee shot put you to maybe a 7 iron over the water. Short and you had to try again. Hit the green and it was unlikely to hold and at the back of the green there was a drop off of at least 6 feet. Chip long from there and you find the lake. Chip short and it will come back to your feet. The only reasonable way to play the hole was to lay up left of the green and try chipping up the hill from there. That gives you at least a chance at a par. A terrible hole indeed.

On top of that, if you lay up long to the left or go long over the lake, you end up in the firing line of the next tee shot. Of course we didn't know that the first couple of times and incurred the wrath of the group ahead playing that hole. After getting the fore warning we got out of the way. When they pulled up to their tee shot, I apologized and left it there. Neil wanted to explain we didn't know as newbies here and they didn't want to hear it. They were pretty rude about it. Funny what you remember about different courses. To sum it up, a terrible hole design, a dangerous hole, and hillbilly golfers to deal with. Needless to say, not one of our favs.

Looking back at my scores i find an 84 in 2011, 85 in 2012 and 2013, and an 83 in 2014. Maybe we will go back, maybe not.