

Ken Goodman -N- B·U·L·L VALLEY

GOLF • CLUB

Fred Behnke

The year was 1966. Dick Butkus was terrorizing NFL offenses. The Ford Mustang had just been introduced, and after graduating with honors from the school of hard knocks, Ken Goodman embarked upon what is, to date, 33 consecutive years as a golf course superintendent in the Chicagoland area. Kenny began his career at what used to be the Riverwoods G.C. on the North Shore (four years), then moved to Mount Prospect G.C. (14 years), Green Acres C.C. (five years) and finally, Bull Valley for the last 11 years.



Photo by Phil Ralston

Ken out on the course.

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Ken Goodman -N- Bull Valley Golf Club
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Despite his love affair with turfgrass management, Kenny made the time to do the family man thing. His wife Carolyn (the straw that stirs the drink at Arthur Clesen Inc.) and children Lisa, Terry and Kenneth, Jr. (Duke) get Kenny when he isn't on the course. Many of us know Duke as the Clesen "have fertilizer will travel" spreader truck guy.

An active participant in the MAGCS, Kenny did a stint on the Board of Directors and has hosted meetings before this one. In fact, he hosted the annual championship at Bull Valley several years ago, when the winning score in the championship flight was 81. (When we discussed this bit of his-


tory, Kenny chuckled in a semi-evil way, leading this reporter to suspect that this year's course setup won't exactly be a piece of cake.)

In fact, the pins could be in the center and the tees at the front and Bull Valley can still eat you up. A Dick Nugent design (can you say brutal?), Bull Valley will play to 7,200 yards for our championship flight and 6,850 for the rest of us. Kenny suggests that you bring your big sticks and hit them straight.

Kenny has been at Bull Valley since the first day of construction, working closely with the architect and the builder in a truly hands-on capacity. Every square foot of the 180 acres, including 22 acres

of bentgrass fairways and 45 acres of wetlands, has his fingerprints on it (well, maybe not the wetlands). His efforts were recently recognized by the membership of the club when the newly constructed practice area was named the Kenneth F. Goodman Learning Center. Kenny proudly commented that this honor is usually reserved for dignitaries who have passed on: "Do you think they're telling me something?"

Yeah, Ken, they're telling you something all right. They're telling everybody something.

Congratulations, and put a few of the cups where we can see them—please. 



Another look at Bull Valley's signature hole, #13.