



Three of five completed holes at Ken Smith Par 3 are indicated by the dotted lines. Pond in foreground supplies water for course. At right are Smith's plant and home.

Employees Find Happy Hunting with Ken Smith

Par 3, Located on Plant Property, Cements Already Good Relations Between Owner and Workers

By RUNCIE MARTIN

Loyal to their livelihoods, clubmakers and other employees of the Kenneth Smith Golf Club firm in Kansas City long were accustomed to swarming over a pasture adjoining the plant knocking golf balls around during the noonhour break. It was a fine way to relax, the only drawback being that because the grass grew rather high in some spots time out occasionally had to be taken to search for lost balls. But any way a person looked at it, it beat sitting around at lunchtime telling the same old stories or maybe even sneaking in a snooze.

Looking out the window of his office one day, Ken Smith was impressed by the fact that he had so many enthusiastic swingers on his payroll. "Why," he said to himself, "can't we get these fellows, and the women, too, together and convert that place into a Par 3? It wouldn't take too much work or too much money, and being in the kind of business we are, it would be a natural."

Ken slept on the idea for a day or two. Then he called in a handful of employees who he knew would be interested and outlined his plan for putting in an abbreviated course. There was no pressure

needed from the front office on that one. Everyone who was approached quickly agreed to serve on the Par 3 committee that Smith suggested be set up.

Within 24 hours the committee's first sign was posted in the plant:

WANTED

Ditch-diggers and pipe-layers to work on our New Par 3.

Inside of two or three weeks other signs followed. They looked like this:

URGENT

Sod-busters and layers . . . Dirt-graders and shovelers . . . be at the course this evening at 6. There'll be beer in the ice box!

HELP NEEDED

in shaping the No. 1, 3 and 5 greens. Persons who have majored in hand-raking and shoveling wanted. Bring your own rakes and shovels. Only 12 days left before planting time.

No record of hours worked on the Par 3, called Happy Hunting CC, has been kept, but it has already added up to 1,000 or more. Work remains to be done on four holes and should be completed this spring. Lengths of holes range from 137 to 230 yds. and the 9-hole total figures out to 1,750. The course is laid out on 20 acres of rich soil. For hazards there are traps, trees, a lake, dam, drainage ditch and rough. The terrain rolls in an interesting way. Greens of Tifton 328 started beautifully.

May Add Range

Smith is so pleased with the way in which the Par 3 has taken hold, and by the enthusiasm of his employees in constructing it, that he may add a driving range and practice green. Ken is convinced that large and small businesses alike should establish projects such as his to enhance employee relations.

There are a number of finished players
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Happy Hunting with Smith

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in the Ken Smith organization. Bill Bucher, 70, won the 1926 Excelsior Springs Invitation, 1928 K. C. Amateur and a number of club titles. Glennon Riley probably is Happy Hunting's top performer. A few years ago he was rated one of the finest players in the K. C. amateur ranks. Several other employees play to handicaps of around five on regulation courses.

Built of Stone

The original 40 acres on which the Happy Hunting clubhouse and the plant are located were owned by the grandfather of Cliff and Kenny Garrett, who work for Smith. The Smith home and plant are built of stone from an underlying ledge of limestone. About 500 tons went into construction of the two buildings.

The setting of the two buildings, by the way, is a little breathtaking. It is in the center of a onetime 220-acre farm and is surrounded by magnificent trees and shrubs. There are more than 500 walnut trees surrounding the plant and course and most of them are nearly 100 years old, their life expectancy.

Fort Knox Pro Project

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representing permanent post personnel, the Reserves, National Guard and ROTC. Play is heavy from early March until Thanksgiving and any week isn't complete without some kind of competition going on. The Lady's Golf Assn. is particularly active. Todd cooperates with the officials of this organization in staging three free clinics each summer exclusively for women swingers. Also, during the summer, the Fort Knox pro conducts free bi-weekly clinics for Juniors, culminating the program with a series of big tournaments for kids of different age groups.

One of the Finest

The Ft. Knox course, thanks to Colonel Harper's relentless attention to maintenance detail, is one of the finest in the mid-South. It is laid out over slightly rolling land, is 6,500 yds. long and par of 72 isn't broken very often. The course record, appropriately enough, is held by Houck. He shot a 34-30—64 on it in 1954 in a pro-member event and candidly confesses he hasn't come anywhere near that figure since.