

CHAPTER 11 CROSSVILLE, CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Although historically it was not an immediate neighbor, the fact that all of our mail is post marked "Crossville" would seem to -make a history incomplete without more information about our county seat than has been previously included. Although originally dubbed Lambeth Crossroads, the name "Crossville" was the name eventually adopted for this junction of the Kentucky Stock Road (old State Route 28, now US 127) and the Burke East-West Road (Old Rockwood Highway, now US 70, modestly called "Broadway of the Americas" at one time). Although Crossville ranked about sixth in population in the county in 1856, it became the county seat due to a requirement that the seat be within five miles of the center of the county.



Figure 11-1 Snodgrass and McGuire Homes, Two of the few Pre-1900 Buildings in Crossville

According to a published review of old local newspapers by Kirkemide in 1977, the first structure in the locale was a hotel erected by a John Thompson. The next structure was the original courthouse, vintage 1857, a log building at the site of the old high school building just south of town on the main highway. Somewhat ironically, this published account states that the fourth house was built by Blacksmith John Bazel, a "freeman of color." None of these buildings stand today, of course. The second courthouse, which stands across from the present one, was built in 1888. It was built of sandstone and local timber at a cost of \$5,000. Although the interior burned necessitating the construction of the present one in 1905, it is said to be among the oldest standing at present. Two frame structures a block east of the courthouse are also among the oldest still standing, along with one just north of the railroad tracks on Main Street on the east side. Also near the tracks behind the Goodyear Store stands an ancient timber structure of unknown vintage, presently labeled Old Fashion I.N.D. Baptist Church. Dating structures in the county, again, is quite a job particularly since the tax assessor's office claims that no record of structures on properties exist prior to the early 1970's.

In that regard, some newcomers might feel that Calvin Coolidge was thinking of Cumberland County when he said that "the best government is the least govern-ment." For example, one particular county in a northern state has almost the same population as Cumberland and is about half the size in area. That county has six school districts, nine incorporated towns, many townships and water boards, lplus county commissioners, trustees, etc until the number of public officials and employees becomes



Figure 11-2 Present Court House

almost "uncountable." Cumberland, with its one school district and three incorporated towns, and no townships, seems to represent the other extreme in governmental philosophy. It does have a county commission of some 16 members and a county executive.

Once a newcomer learns to drive in rough terrain, and except for the fact that one can often count 10 or 12 "one-eyed" cars on an evening trip to Crossville, traveling in the county does not appear too hazardous. You soon learn that these are not usually motorcycles and give them a little extra room.

Crossville has had a few notable personalities and events in its history. Movie actress Marjorie Weaver "lived" a movie script by remarrying during the war, only to have her previously "missing in action" first spouse reappear. Not wanting to be a poor sport, the original husband left the scene. Another area great was Buck Stewart, uncle of Glade resident Dan Stewart, who won 20 games for the St. Louis Browns in 1930. He was "rewarded" with a contract of \$9,000 the next year. He finished his playing career with the Washington Senators, who offered him a similar contract with a bonus of \$500/game for complete game victories over 18. Could they spare it? Incidentally, former major leaguer Paul Campbell now resides in the Glade; hopefully, he was better paid.

The kidnapped Lindburgh baby was reportedly sighted in Ozone; and on May 17, 1932, several thousand people descended on Crossville to see for themselves. The couple and baby were placed in the Hotel Taylor until the baby's real mother came from Kalamazoo, Michigan, to solve the puzzle. After leaving town without paying the hotel bill, they were apprehended and reportedly settled with the hotel manager. It was later discovered that the couple traveling with the baby made a practice of profiting from faking injuries (maybe times have not changed much after all).

Unlike many more isolated retirement areas, Crossville offers, among other things, several shopping centers, a fine playhouse, outstanding hospital, and many other services to which city dwellers have become accustomed. Cumberland County schools have the unusual distinction of providing nationally ranked chess teams and players. Cookeville, not far down the road, offers additional shopping and many cultural events provided by Tennessee Tech University. Slightly longer trips provide access to three of the four largest metropolitan centers in the state.

In conversing with area residents, the following translations could be helpful.



Figure 11-3 Former Courthouse Vintage 1886



Figure 11-4 Harrison house, Built prior to 1900 and remodeled Since

"I'm covered up"-- Too busy to see you at the moment

"You damn' all right?"--Hello

"Out of pocket"--Not available

"I can get you out for"--It will cost you

"Fixin' to"--Going to

"Might could"--Might be able to

"Ya'11"--Singular or plural--you or all of you

(Yankees are introduced to this term just south of the Ohio River. The Florence Kentucky Water Tower makes sure of that.)

CHAPTER 12 AROUND THE COUNTY

One of the interesting, but frustrating, things involved in trying to verify area facts and figures is the lack or absence of written records. Although the courthouse has complete records of deeds back to the county origin, 1856, there is no way to trace the existence of buildings on properties prior to 1971 or 72 except by oral transmission or recent publications. These estimates often vary by several years.

It was also surprising to realize that fires have so much to do with the lack of vintage buildings in the county. Crossville and Crab Orchard both had major fires destroying large parts of the central communities, not to mention forest fires and dwelling fires which were and still appear to be commonplace. Of course, when stone houses partially replaced many log and other wooden homes, the Situation improved. However, many potential landmarks have been destroyed over the years.

Most county residents have been anxious, or at least willing, to help fill in the blanks as far as dates and places are concerned. More often than not, they aren't sure but "know someone who can help you." However the chances are that the next person will refer you to someone who "really knows" and so on. In any case, you find that you get acquainted with many, many people that way in a casual way; and sometimes you make lasting friendships along the trail.

Speaking of trails, I would like to mention a few short but interesting side trips available within the county. The Smokey Mountains are a great tourist attraction and well worth the trip; but if time is short, take a look around Cumberland County. South of Crab Orchard a blacktop road leads to the top of Black Mountain. This peak is slightly overshadowed by the 3,000 foot-plus Hinch Mountain to its southwest; but a look from the many enormous rocks near and at the top reveals great views of Grassy Cove, Crab Orchard, Renegade, parts of Fairfield, and even Watts Bar Lake at times. A virtual rock city exists at the top; and such things as caves, springs, and Indian relics are there in abundance. The Methodist Church inherited this property a number of years ago. The installation of a radar tower has sparked improvement of the roads; access is simple--once you find the route to the peak.

Ozone Falls can be found along US 70 east of Crab Orchard. This 100 foot falls is narrow but available and of interest. North and east of Ozone, the Chicago Coal and Coke Company ran a spur up the mountain and built a lake by damming Mammy's Creek. The lake was called Waldensia, probably borrowing part of the name from Thoreau; but the name is appropriate. The coal deposits in that area



Figure 12-1 Wilson Cemetery with old homestead in the background. This Sequatchie Valley structure is said to be the oldest in the County in its original form, vintage 1807.

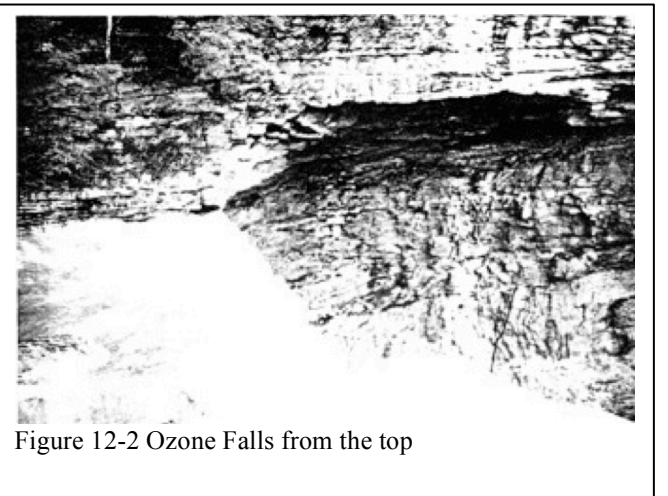


Figure 12-2 Ozone Falls from the top

were said to be at least nine feet thick, and many well-preserved coke ovens can be found nearby. These are used as shelters for campers and make cozy igloo-type 'shelters, minus the ice and cold. The operation filed for bankruptcy in 1930 after some 30 years of operation; and the area became a resort with a lodge along the lake. This property was also abandoned.

Hinch Mountain, the highest in the county and famous for an amazing number of plane crashes, can be reached from US 127 South. The Homestead development, a 1930's self-help government program to provide land and lodging for worthy mountain families (a museum tower and school help preserve memories of this project), Cumberland State Park and (pardon the expression) Lake Tansi all lie generally south of Crossville. The Catoosa Reserve to the north has been covered somewhat in an earlier chapter.

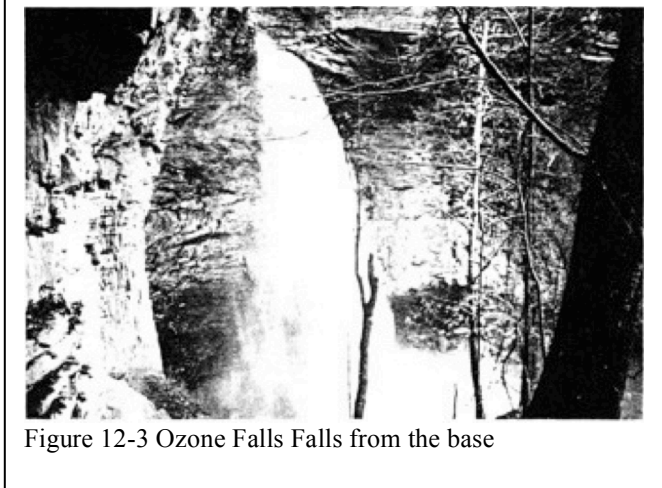


Figure 12-3 Ozone Falls Falls from the base

The west and northwest areas of the county contain many acres of relatively flat and fertile farm and grazing land, more typical plateau. According to the May, 1986, edition of "National Geographic," soybeans, tobacco, and corn were the leading cash crops in Tennessee closely followed by marijuana. Cumberland Countians cannot ignore the helicopters that fly low over the area in search of "pot patches." Mayland, in the northwest corner, was the site of the Johnson Stand along Walton Road. This structure, reportedly built in 1806 and still in "good shape" in 1983, now consists of a field stone chimney surrounded by ashes, a trailer, and several friendly dogs. The Walton Road bed is quite distinguishable as it proceeded generally northwestward.

While on the subject of old homesteads, a trip down along old Highway 28 south of the Homesteads and into the area beyond where Cove Creek has left Grassy Cove underground through saltpetre cave and emerged as the Sequatchie River and valley, can result in a visit to what could well be the oldest, occupied building in the county. The Wilson home, constructed in 1807 and modified since, lies just below Wilson Cemetery along the Wilson Branch of the Sequatchie, and resembles the Center house on the Glade—only smaller—at least from a distance. From this rocky valley, at least in winter, the view of Hinch Mountain and neighboring peaks is unobstructed and beautiful, and well worth the trip. Native stone fences in all stages of repair mark most valley property lines. For lovers of flora, the plateau is said to have as much plant variety as any place in the United States. All areas of this 679 square mile county have much variety to offer the curious explorer. This brief tour is meant solely to provide an invitation.

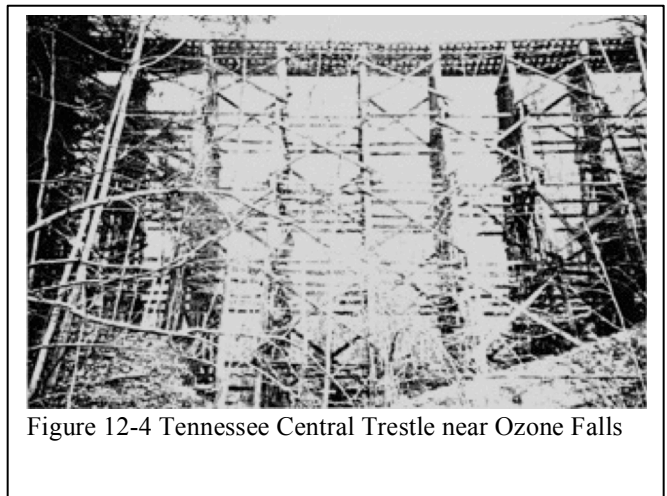


Figure 12-4 Tennessee Central Trestle near Ozone Falls

NOTE: To emphasize some of the problems involved in identifying buildings from the past, the writer has seen the same building identified in pictures as being in three different locations and having three different names.

CHAPTER 13 "TALES"

A few stories, most of them repeatable, were picked up along the way. Hugh Center, son of settler Tom, was credited with a few of these. All of us have noticed the oversize sycamore tree near the Center homestead. According to one oral historian Hugh had gone to town and returned with a somewhat reluctant mule. To encourage the mule to cross Daddy's Creek, he broke off a switch from a nearby sycamore and whipped the mule most of the way back home. The reader can imagine the rest. He stuck the switch in the ground near the house, and it developed into a tree of present proportions.

The same local man mentioned that Hugh told him of his fascination with the new railroad being completed through Crab Orchard and signed on as a fireman at age 17. The engine burned cord wood; and after some 20 miles of constant firing, he left the train at Oakdale and walked back home without benefit of pay check. His career as a railroader was short lived as was his ambition.

"Cumberland County's First Hundred Years" reports a story about one of the religious meetings held at the church-school behind the home. Hugh had stated that one of the traveling preachers frequently took his leave during the meeting to visit the smoke house and take a nip of whiskey, which he was prone to carry in case of snakebite or other emergency. On one of these trips, he heard a commotion and figured that the devil had arrived to present him with his comeuppance. As he stood outside the door, a goat who had entered the cellar for a lick of salt emerged in a rush and carried the preacher around the lot with the holy man shouting, "The devil's got me, the devil's got me!" (The reader can draw his own conclusions about that one.)

Rufus Greer, our previously mentioned railroad spur guide from Dorton, tells this story about the acquisition of his fine Australian Shepherd dog. On seeing an advertisement in the local paper that a resident of Peavine Road had four pups for sale, he visited the gentleman and examined the litter. Only one of the pups interested him and that one was "already spoken for," so he returned home disappointed. A couple of weeks later another advertisement appeared--this one stated that someone had a pup to give away. Recognizing the address, Mr. Greer returned to the same house on Peavine and obtained, free of charge, the same pup he had been denied on his previous visit. It appeared that the owner's prospective buyer had changed his mind; and for reasons unknown, the owner decided to give the pup away instead of selling it. Rufus did not argue.

Donald Brookhart reports that in the early days of Peavine when the railroad spur was in operation, the "smart" way to go to Crossville and return was to hitch a ride with the engineer on the spur line and hop a freight into Crossville from Dorton via the Tennessee Central. This saved slogging to town along the muddy roads of the early 1900s. Donald's grandfather-postmaster kept detailed accounts of their daily lives and included the report of a three-hour round trip to Crossville after midnight on horseback to obtain medication for a boy dying from diphtheria--certainly a track record.

The Peavine spur hauled large amounts of tan bark; and during the months of March, April, and May when the sap was rising, the white oaks produced bark which was among the finest available for tanning. It was also used for medication by some who were so inclined to believe in its healing qualities. A somewhat vague legend involves the fate of two German pioneers or explorers who were ambushed and killed by Indians near where Lake Oxford now stands in Dorchester. The horse trail they were reportedly traveling was said to be the first through this area, and the year was about 1780 or before. Just who survived to report this attack is unknown; and the bodies, said to be buried there, have not been recovered.

Legend has it that Mammy's Creek, east of the Glade, was the site of an altercation between a pioneer man and wife. The Mammy won that round. As the couple proceeded westward and approached Daddy's Creek, the "discussion" resumed and round two was won by the husband. The names "stuck."

CHAPTER 14 A FEW DEMERITS

There have been a few low points in our heritage. It can only be considered fair to mention a few of those along with the high spots.

We have had among our residents a gentleman who, although well thought of locally, was arrested and convicted on two counts of bank robbery in Cookeville. Three greens were virtually destroyed by two celebrating employees driving a four-wheel vehicle in 1979. Also 1986 saw some joy-riding damage to several greens at Dorchester. We have lost a few residents and visitors in auto accidents along Peavine Road. The water safety record is much better--only one drowning has been recorded. That occurred in 1972 when a young visitor drowned in Lake St. George.

The disastrous stable fire of the summer of 1985, and its accompanying odor of burning horse flesh, brings back sad and frustrating memories for those present that night. New facilities have minimized the possibility of a repetition of this type of misfortune.

The only serious problem between the developer and residents involved a prolonged and expensive lawsuit filed in 1979 by a group of 125 or so local citizens. This involved the payment, or lack of payment, by the company of community club dues on certain lots owned by the developer and the running of sewer lines at community club expense for developer projects. A section of community club history will cover a bit more of the details of the suit.

Aside from a drug raid or two on the property, very little in the way of police activity has been necessary. Nineteen eighty-six has seen some thefts mainly involving such things as hanging baskets, items taken from garages, etc. One of the remarkable things in regard to safety has been the fine record of the golf facilities. Considering the terrain and the tendency for our golfers to "spray" shots, the fact that no serious injuries have taken place and no golf cards found in lakes or ravines attest that Fairfield golfers are most careful--give or take a few broken bones.

Our supply of resident snakes has been both possibly underestimated by management and overestimated by some local folks. The truth, as usual, is somewhere in between. The Copperhead appears to favor the terrain the most. Some say the blasting has forced the rattlers to seek other domain, but they are native to this part of the country. In the late 70's an expert spoke to homeowners on the advisability of wearing high boots and double socks plus exercising special care around live boxes and minnow buckets immersed in the lakes. To date the pro shop has not carried hi-top golf shoes, although entering the rough without a golf club is not recommended. Many of our golf ball hunters claim never to have seen a bonified poisonous snake, but they are there though shy and retiring unless provoked. In any case, Tennessee claims no fatalities from the bite of the Copperhead; and although there have been at least a couple of cases on Glade property, the resultant bite was painful but not serious. Since one visitor was said to have taken a quick picture of the offending snake following the attack on his person, the immediate effect was not devastating. This is not to suggest that Copperhead bites do not require hospital treatment. They certainly do and in a hurry!

The extensive blasting activity has been responsible for a few incidents, but again serious accidents are on record. One side of a house was leveled during Druid Hills construction, and a few minor "fallout" injuries are the only blasting black marks reported--aside from a few interrupted backswings or missed "gimmes."

CHAPTER 15 "FAIR RGOLF"

The above title is not really a suggested name change; although those disinterested in this activity might feel that we are a bit too golf oriented, the fact remains that if Mr. Gallup were to visit, his poll would certainly reveal that most of us chose this spot after seeing and/or playing the golf courses. Golf Digest's naming of Stonehenge as "The Best New Resort Course of 1985" will do nothing to detract from the "fairgolf" image. It is part of our heritage.

"Golf Digest" in its 1986 Annual Edition lists Sam Snead as the designer of Druid Hills, although Fairfield Glade's information sheet lists Leon Howard as architect. Long time (1973-1984) pro Dean Jones helped solve this puzzle by crediting Leon Howard with the original design, Sam Snead with being listed as consultant, and Cookeville touring pro Bobby Greenwood with having much to do with making the back nine a reality. Luke Morris had the construction contract for the full 18 holes, completed in 1972.

Colonel Bob Simpson was the first head professional, and Dean became his assistant following his graduation from Illinois State in 1973. The old DeRossett depot had been hauled the 30 some miles down US 70 to make a unique, if not completely adequate, pro shop. Upon completion of the new facility in 1981, the depot was moved to its new home on Fire Tower Road. Betty Davey was awarded the only remaining memento, the DeRossett sign.

Also in 1973, Tennessee Tech student Warren Huddleston began working at the pro shop. Other employees included Clarence Smith and Keith Sidwell. Later Mike Green, Alan Key, Warren, and Al Godwin were to become assistant pros under Dean Jones. The first rangers were Jim Wood and Lee Axford. The legendary John Beatty, later to become superintendent at Dorchester also, John Chambers, and the recently hired Will Holroyd, all have served Druid Hills as superintendents.

Dean's father, Bob, came down from Rockford, Illinois, in 1974 to wear a variety of "hats," including pro shop merchandiser and public relations man. He was a definite asset in both categories until his retirement in 1984. Another long time employee, Kathryn Carey, retired in 1985. She handled her sometimes confusing and thankless job with gracious patience for years. Maryanne Gingrich has been with Druid since 1980, first as cart jockey--then as a smiling, super saleslady shop and merchandise manager.

As a player, Dean Jones was twice champion of the Knoxville Chapter, Tennessee Professional Golf Association, qualified for the National Club Professionals' Tourney on two occasions, played in the Danny Thomas Memphis Classic on three occasions, and in 1984 was a regional qualifier for the U. S. Open. Dean's successor at Druid was Billy Delk, who came to the course in late 1984. Billy, a Clemson graduate, was instrumental in golf course construction, management, and teaching in San Antonio, Amarillo, Myrtle Beach, Mullins, South Carolina, and came to Druid Hills from his original home, Greenville, South Carolina, where he was head pro at two different courses--Pebble Creek and Holly Tree. In 1985 his management skills were recognized to the extent that he was given responsibility over both Druid Hills and Dorchester facilities. North Carolinian AI Godwin served as assistant pro and expert clinician at Druid Hills for three years- Kathleen McCarthy, Ferris State graduate and former apprentice at Grandfather Country Club at Linville, North Carolina, has served as assistant the past year. In 1966 Mike Dunn was hired at Druid Hills as a member of the professional staff. He was formerly pro at Heather Downs Country Club in Toledo, Ohio, and came with a long list of tournament credits.

As for course records, John Warner holds the Druid mark of 64, fired in a Pro Am in 1981. Jean Hester toured the course in 69 during a Ladies' Invitational, an apparent standard for women.

A modest trailer served as a temporary pro shop for Dorchester and its Pro, Warren Huddleston. The year was 1980; and the Bobby Greenwood designed course was open and under the care of Superintendent John Beatty. It offered a comparatively flat front nine and a beautiful, if unwalkable, back nine. Like Druid Hills it offered bent grass greens, considerably more level than Druid, and varieties of blue grass fairways that made year-round golf on green fairways a pleasure. Among its highlights would be listed the annual Archie Campbell Open, which brought celebrities to Dorchester each May; and the John Beatty Memorial Tourney in November, named in honor of Fairfield Glade's premier course superintendent, who died in 1983. He was past president of the Tennessee Golf Course Superintendents Association.

The attention to detail exercised in designing the Dorchester course is evidenced by the fact that it is often playable following several inches of rain or even snow. The pro shop and snack bar were opened in 1982 and tennis courts and a swimmin^g pool were opened in 1985, the same year that the community club purchased the facilities. Alan Key served as assistant to Warren from 1980 until 1985 when Kip Henley replaced him.

Kip had been Tennessee Open champion as an amateur in 1981 and recently qualified for the Tournament Players Association Tour. In March of 1986, Alan became assistant pro at Chattanooga Country Club. He had been Stonehenge's assistant during 1985. Superintendents, aside from John Beatty, included Harold Franklin, who came from Clarksville in 1983 where he had supervised municipal courses, and Will Holroyd, Clemson Graduate, who now looks after both Druid and Dorchester. Suzy Butler has worked at Dorchester for six years and now serves as Shop Manager. A recent problem, primarily at Dorchester, involves the tearing of turf by skunks, and maybe boars, in search of grubs.

The course records of 65 from white tees and 66 from blue tees are held by several golfers. There is no official ladies record so the opportunity to be immortalized is wide open.

Warren Huddleston was Tennessee long-driving champion in 1978-327 yards--and holds three current course records. He is a present director of the Knoxville PGA. He teamed with our own Waddy Stokes to win the Tennessee Section Pro-Pro Tourney in 1985 and finished third to the same Stokes in the Tennessee Section, PGA, in the 1984 tournament.

Speaking of Waddy, his hiring as Fairfield Glad Golf Director in 1963 started a new era of sorts at the Glade as the all-bent-grass Stonehenge Course was started. Designed by Joe Lee, the course soon became a show place and primary home of the Tennessee Open. Dorchester co-hosted this event in 1985. Waddy had been with Fairfield for several years and was a touring pro under the sponsorship of Fairfield Mountains. Following service as Golf Director at Sapphire Valley, he joined Fairfield Glade's staff where he was director of all of Fairfield's courses nationwide. Included among Waddy's honors are the All Navy Championship, the North Carolina Open Crown, and the previously mentioned Tennessee Section PGA championship. Waddy left us in 1986. His spikes will be hard to fill.



Figure 15-1 Stonehenge 19th Hole

The hiring of Tom Waltz, former pro at Carmel Country Club in Charlotte, North Carolina, as pro at Stonehenge was accomplished in 1984. Tom was honored as Tennessee Merchandiser of the Year in 1985, and he continues to serve this fine all-bent-grass facility along with Superintendent Harold Franklin. The club house offers dining and locker room facilities.



Figure 15-2 Stonehenge 18th Hole

Following the departure of Alan Key for Chattanooga Country Club, Kevin Craig, former assistant at Holly Forest in Sapphire Valley, and Carson Newman Grad became the new Stonehenge assistant pros. Tracey Ashenfelter has been with the course since its humble beginnings.

The course record of 68 was shared by Bibby Gilbert and Eddie Carmichael. Recently, Brent Mumford established a new mark of 66. Jean Hester holds the ladies record of 71. She also holds the Druid record.



Figure 15-3 Stonehenge #4 Fairway

For the future, Gary Baird has designed 27 holes to occupy the northwest section of the property west of the soon-to-be largest lake at Fairfield Glade, Lake Dartmoor (250 plus acres). Walking these courses from stake to stake in their presently primitive form can be interesting and frustrating because as of early April of '86, only roughly marked trees and stakes indicated future fairways and greens. The course near the west boundary follows a stream, prophetically called "Dogleg Branch," for several holes. The other 2 nines branch out from the proposed club house, and one will approach the west side of Lake Dartmoor. The third nine will spread north old west from the clubhouse. All 3 nines will be about 3,000 yards in length from white tees. While examining the new courses, a trip to the north end of huge Lake Dartmoor will reward the explorer with a view of the lake from the extensive earthen dam across Lick Creek. Shaftsbury was the name adopted for this new course, amid a few understandably puzzled expressions. Eighteen holes should be open by 1988.