

FOCUS ON BRUNSWICK COUNTY GOLF

Par 3's Offer Natural Beauty, Challenges

BY JOHN GAUGHAN

With few expectations, it is only on Par 3's that duffers and professionals alike can score a "hole-in-one".

Par 3's offer golfers an opportunity to see the entire hole from tee to green. And, as you address the ball, you can anticipate making "par", getting close to the

hole for a "birdie", or even scoring that elusive "ace".

Par 3's usually have a natural beauty or uniqueness packaged into their shorter distances. The Par 3

holes pictured here are representative of similar challenges on these and other Brunswick County golf courses.

Each adds to the spice that lures golfers, from all over, to this area.



This Golfer Will Remember Ocean Isle

The 2nd hole at Ocean Isle Beach Golf Course is only one of four Par 3's but it's the one that Verdell G. Holden will always remember.

He made a "hole-in-one" while playing with his brother Raymond and two other visitors. Both Verdell and his brother are from Harrison, Maine.

This hole measures 121 yards for the ladies, 157 for the men and 179 for the pros.

Verdell scored his "ace" with a No. 3 iron from the white tees. It was his third "hole-in-one". Twice previously he accomplished this feat at the Bridgeton Highlands C.C. in Maine.

He thinks he'll be back because Brunswick County golf is more fun than selling used cars when snowmobiles are what's needed back home.

Like Verdell, you would kiss the golf ball too.



Four Brierwood Members Agree On Course's Toughest Par 3

Looking back toward the tee, from the 9th green at Brierwood Golf Club, you can pride yourself for making par. This hole measures 143 yards for the ladies, 173-186 for the men and 219 for the pros.

Four members who agree that it is the toughest Par 3 on the course include Mike Edwards, Jack Akers, Hank Clark and George Casey.

Mike lives on the 15th fairway with

his wife, Emma Lou, and two sons, Adam, 5 and Matthew, 2. Golf was one of his reasons for building a home in Brierwood Estates.

Although his loan officer job



with the United Carolina Bank in Shallotte keeps him busy, he finds time evenings and weekends to pursue his love of the game.

He is currently the local chairman for the Heart Association Golf Tournament to be played at Brierwood July 14.

Jack's home overlooks the 12th



green. It's a long way from Muskogee, Oklahoma where he was born but just perfect for 18 holes with his friends or 9 holes with his wife, Louise. Jack is retired from the military and numerous oil companies he subsequently worked for. But he will never retire from golf because "golf ain't work."

Hank hails from the Albemarle area of North Carolina and now lives in Little River, S.C. with his wife, Louise. Of the foursome, he plays the most golf (4-5 times per week) and has the lowest handicap (11).

Like the others, he is a member of the Brierwood Men's Golf Association.



He is also involved with the Carolina Golf Association and coordinates their tournament activities.

George and his wife, Hazel, have a home on the 2nd fairway. He is a Wilmington, Delaware native who retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1962 and, subsequently, from several military services related companies. If you don't find George around the clubhouse or on the course, you are probably not at Brierwood. Golf is his life and he devotes some of that time to the Men's Golf Association Entertainment Committee.



STORIES AND PICTURES BY JOHN GAUGHAN (Golf feature continues on page 18)

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