Did you know Kirkville once had two golf courses? One is still in existence, the Kirkville Country Club, located on Highway 63 South. The other was named the Andrew T. Still College Country Club and was operated by the American School of Osteopathy, now the Kirkville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The only written records about this golf course were found in the school’s Stiletto yearbooks. Alfred A. Barker, a golfer and yearbook reporter, described it in the 1924 Stiletto as “many acres of hilly land... the Andrew T. Still College is one of the sportiest links in the country today... It calls for such a nice little muscle co-ordination that few have played it can equal par... The grounds of 200 acres include wooded hillside, Still Lake, tennis courts and golf course.”

The 1,714 yard nine-hole course had a par of 39. The land for the course was a gift from Doctors Charles and Harry Still to promote a “competitive force” for the people of the area and the Kirkville Country Club. One of the first tournaments held at the course was a dual between the Andrew T. Still College and the Kirkville Country Club on December 16, 1923, as a gesture of friendship. The Kirkville Country Club proved to be the better team.

The map to the right shows the detailed layout of the course. The road marked “To Novinger” is now West Michigan Street. Before Forest Lake was built, one could travel west on Michigan to Youngstown and then turn north to reach Novinger.

From 1923 to the 1950s, the college had a varsity golf squad on and off during years when students were interested in organizing a team. A tournament was played each year between the college’s fraternal organizations.

The expansion of Kirkville, the lack of student interest, and the demand of the medical courses were probably reasons the course closed but no written records can be found. Even though some of this land has been developed into residential housing, one can still view the pond north of Ray Drive and the “wooded hillside” continuing to Forest Lake.

Photos courtesy of the KCOM Andrew Taylor Still Memorial Library

— Scenes from the Past

Golf

The larger water body in the upper left corner is Still Pond. The distance between the pond and the college can be seen in this present-day aerial view.

Standing near the pond, one can see the tops of the Thompson Center, the Atlas House, and the Kirkville Osteopathic Medical Center along the horizon.

Left and Above: These photographs, showing different areas of the college golf course, were taken from the 1923 and 1924 Stilettos. The president of the college, Dr. George M. Laughlin, has been identified as the man in the far left photo. He arranged for the course to be built on his brother-in-law’s land.