



Glenn Hendrix stands beside his new replica of the old Ken-Cliff Lanes sign.

BUILD IT, AND THEY WILL COME

Glenn Hendrix achieves his dream of rebuilding Ken-Cliff Lanes after a year of back-breaking work

■ By Anna Littles

Ardmore, Oklahoma, is known for its steamy summers, ice storms in winter and weather that can change on a dime. It is this dynamic landscape that forged the heart of a very special adventurer by the name of Glenn Hendrix.

In 1975 Hendrix was a teenager when he walked into Ken-Cliff Bowling Lanes and fell in love with the sport.

As a bonus, he bonded with the wonderful family that ran the bowling alley, Jim and Jackie Meeks. Hendrix talked Jackie into hiring him to work the front desk. A year later Ken-Cliff Lanes closed, torn down and replaced with a parking lot. But, that one year of working there was long enough to plant a dream into Hendrix's heart. It was a dream that led him to break ground in 2010. By February 2011, with the blessings of the Meeks family, Hendrix opened the doors of a brand new bowling center named after his beloved Ken-Cliff Lanes.

This 21st Century re-mix is dramatically different from the 1975 original. It's a steel structured building, simple in design and located on Dogwood Road in Ardmore. For Hendrix, it was a choice that proved to be cost effective and faster construction. It is a worry and maintenance free facility that is well insulated, thus keeping the overhead down and utility costs low.



The snowy, empty lot before construction begins.



The framing is underway in the spring.



The reclaimed equipment as it arrives at Ken-Cliff Lanes, before being refurbished.



The reclaimed lanes get wet during a surprise downpour while being delivered.



Gently moving in one of the refurbished pinsetters.



Testing the ball return.



The final product.

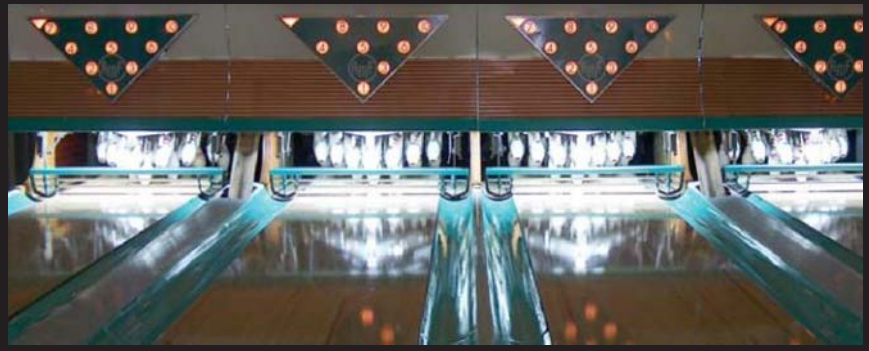
CENTER STAGE

But here is where we part ways with the new millennium – the entire interior of Ken-Cliff Lanes Bowling Center is completely refurbished with vintage mid-20th century equipment.

As Hendrix explains it was a lot easier to find vintage equipment however, refurbishing it was a whole different story. He worked with Darryl Tucker, a used equipment dealer down in the Texas Pan Handle who owns Bowling Parts Inc. With Tucker's help, Hendrix was able to assemble a treasure trove of old AMF vintage furniture; streamlanes, settees and bowling equipment, including tele-e-scores and screens along with magic circle ball returns. One of the lanes even had a built date of 1948.

However, refurbishing 60 year old equipment was where the real journey began. Fortune smiled on Hendrix and he was able to recruit the help of a genius by the name of Willis Bell, an expert who has worked on AMF equipment for over 50 years. Thanks to Bell, Hendrix was able to rebuild everything and get those AMF 82-30 pinspotters (affectionately known as "the old gals") to work. Then, he added his favorite auto body shop to the mix. That's right, Colormatch International Auto Body Shop. Colormatch repainted all the masking units, and all the old AMF lockers. According to Hendrix, "They went whole hog on this. They even repainted the sweeps and everything."

Between refurbishing and painting, Hendrix worked non-stop to get ready for the Cater County USBC 54th Annual Tournament, which was scheduled to launch the grand opening of Ken-Cliff Lanes. He has a long history with them. In fact, the last Tournament Hendrix worked was USBC's 19th Annual. Hendrix made his February



2011 opening deadline by the skin of his teeth. Construction wasn't really finished but they made it work. The best part is that the tournament put Ken-Cliff Lanes on the map.

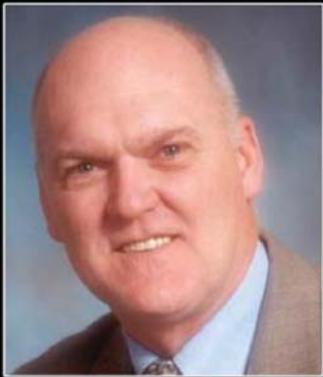
The size of the new/old bowling center is 4 lanes, creating a warm, friendly and homey environment. Hendrix offers complete, personal one-on-one service by handling one group at a time. He thought his love for Ken-Cliff Lanes would be a fun, part time business. Hendrix had no idea what he had created. This adventure has turned into a true labor of love that he works 7 days a week. Hendrix has to turn people away just to get a day off! His trusty staff consists of a part-time employee who handles the front desk. For added flair his 17 year old German shepherd dog, Buster, along with his sidekick, Smokey, the (bowling) alley cat, lovingly greets everyone who enters.

I asked Hendrix, "Why go through all of that trouble to do vintage?" "First love! And it's different! People come in and say 'this is how a bowling alley is supposed to look,' but then they are all living in the past."

For Glenn Hendrix, the past paved the way for him to have a great time fulfilling a dream of recreating his first love. ❖

For more photos from the construction process of Ken-Cliff Lanes please visit bowlingindustry.com.

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