

## SUMMER 2000

To answer the inquiries of “Hey, what are you going to do when you retire?” We took up golf, sort of, by enrolling in the local junior college adult program of six golf lessons for chump change, at our local 9 hole executive course. Anyway that’s our version of taking up golf. In order to take these lessons clubs were acquired from garage sales, thrift stores and guys who had extras. Eventually the embarrassment factor necessitated the purchase of the cheapest set Big 5 had to offer. Well, after playing our beginner course to death we graduated to an 18 hole somewhat larger executive course and then we moved into the big times, an actual 18 hole course. God bless those people who inadvertently got paired up with us, because now we are them. “Patience is a virtue, held by many, but practiced by few.” So after brutalizing the ball for a year it was time to put on our big boy pants and venture out into the real world of golf.

The first summer after retirement we decided to make an extensive trip. Summer vacations while employed can be somewhat abbreviated if you haven’t accumulated all your available days. Considering the now “Endless Summer” concept of retirement before us, this was going to be a huge trip by our standards. Endless summer is somewhat analogous to everyday being a Saturday. There had been occasions to observe our mortality as human beings. Among our co-workers, neighbors, relatives and friends, sundry and various ailments and maladies had been visited upon them. Realizing that we were no longer immortal, as in our youth, and something dire may strike at any moment, we were motivated to procrastinate not a moment longer. Procrastination, by the way, is one of the supreme accomplishments in my life.

Let’s drive across America, up into Canada and back again, that ought to get our feet wet, what with the new retirement thing and all! In our naivety and not being privy to the idea that there existed nearly a gazillion courses in North America our trip was predicated on previous vacations. What’s out there that we haven’t seen yet? And with a little luck, if we bring our clubs, we may even find someplace to play golf on occasion. So the preparation that has gone into subsequent trips, which are truly top heavy in the golfing aspect, was somewhat hit or miss this first venture. Experience has made advance tee times of anywhere from t to 14 days almost a given, whereas, this first trip was more or less a day to day, hope for the best. Golf web sites have virtually opened up a universe of courses.

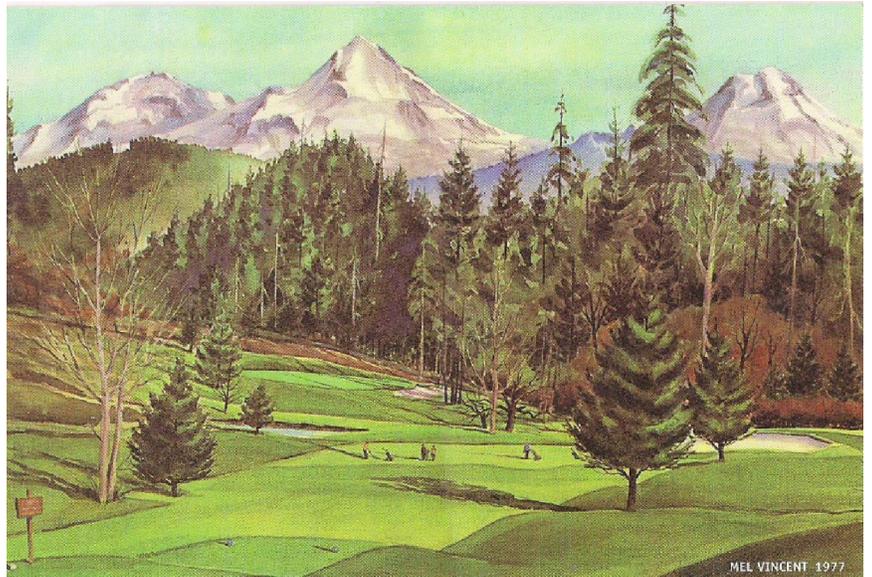
Just as many of you have experienced that first retirement trip this narrative was our first big adventure. Modern day pioneers, without the hardships, venturing into the great semi-unknown. Some may have a preference for cruises to foreign shores, but our decision was see America first, golf as best we can and see what the country has to offer. Of course there is the financial consideration, there’s always that. A 2 or 3 month cruise with all the air fares and incidental expenses would have required selling our first born. Expensive, yes, prohibitive, no!

June 23 Our old boss Cliff and his wife Linda have retired to Hollister, CA. We spent the evening doing what retired telephone splicers do best, catching up, eating, reminiscing, lying and partaking of the occasional beer.

June 24 This coming fall will be our 40<sup>th</sup> class reunion. One of fellows in the class of 1960 is an attorney in Sacramento, so we did lunch, caught up as best we could, toured the state capital and the historic buildings nearby.

June 25 The TOKATEE GOLF CLUB (C 130, J 103) in Blue River, Oregon had the privilege of hosting our first round of this summer's trip.

June 26 Camp Sherman in Oregon is where John and Phyllis retired, or more precisely, semi-retired. They own a resort and rent cabins that front right on the Metolius River. Once again, what do retired phone people do best? That's right! Spend the evening, letting all the senses take in the smells of the forest, stare at the endless expanse of the universe, listening to the murmur of the river, catching up, lying, reminiscing and partaking of the occasional beer.



June 27 Bend, Oregon is where Cheryl's cousin Tom and his Pam have retired. It is a good thing they have a humongous house, because J.R. and Clare the in laws from Australia were on hand. Tom took J.R. and me on a supposed search for a canoe trailer or rack. In any event Oregon is rife with the occasional local brewery and we did our best to support local economy.

June 28 Cousin Dave and Aunt Luella live in Idaho Falls. Bet you can't guess where he is retired from! Bet you can't guess what we did all night!

June 29 Driving through Yellowstone Park and seeing Old Faithful is obligatory! There was a horrific fire there in 1988, but the new growth of pine is beginning to really taking hold.

June 30 A visit to the Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody, Wyoming which we have visited subsequently and each time there is a new addition. Cody hosts a rookie training facility for rodeo aspirants. Perhaps I just don't have enough appreciation for those kids attempting suicide by bronco, but it is entertaining in a morbid sort of way and helps pass the evening with the help of a hot dog and the occasional beer.

July 1 Windshield time crossing Wyoming and Nebraska to Omaha.

July 2 Brother Tim and Sue take us on walking tours with their puppies, as well as the Omaha Zoo, which must be one of the best in the country.

July 3 Casino buffet! Great for the diet, went down from 194 to 215!

July 4 Fourth of July! Staying with Grandma and Grandpa in Waterloo, Iowa! Spending most of the time down at the lake, just relaxing and visiting with Tony, Kelly and all the brothers, sisters most of the fan-damly.

July 5 – 10 More visits to the lake! Almost nightly or weekend visits to the auctions, which are a passion for me. For a person can never have enough stuff, especially when it's well known that one persons' junk is another persons' treasure. You can never have enough milk cans, tractor seats, medical journals written pre 1860, hickory shafted golf clubs, just an endless opportunity of acquiring the necessities of life.

July 11 THE LA PORTE CITY GOLF CLUB is a nine hole venue, just right for our abilities.

July 12 – 16 Other than spending quality time with the family, the highlight of this time frame was the 2 cylinder tractor show out at Hawkeye Tech, a step back in time, the way farming was done after retiring the two horse team and the advent of farming machinery.

July 17 BUNKER HILL GOLF COURSE in Dubuque, Iowa is a wonderful old established course, very hilly and forested, also the place where Cheryl learned to ski.

July 18 – 23 Visiting with old school mates, the Dubuque contingent of the family, made the occasional pilgrimage to some of the better reputed taps which are commonly known as bars east of the Hudson River, visited the old necking spots, historical sights and what all.

July 24 SOUTH HILLS GOLF COURSE in Waterloo, Iowa was the warmer upper for our forthcoming adventure eastward.

July 25 TIMBERLINE GOLF COURSE of Peosta, Iowa is a beautifully forested and hilly course we have come to play whenever passing this way.

July 26 - 27 Chicago, other than O'Hare Airport this is our first venture here. So we opted for a Grey Line city tour which allows patrons to get on and off the bus at whatever sights they find of interest, so in effect it's a glorified taxi with a tour director. Perfect! Sears Tower, Navy Pier, restaurants up the wazoo, wide mouthed country bumpkins we were.

July 28 NOTRE DAME GOLF COURSE is a nine hole course which we only played once as the sirens went berserk, the rains came in sideways, the winds blew, an obvious message, "Do not play this course again if that's all you can do".

July 29 – 31 Skip and Nora hosted us for the first of many visits at their magnificent home in Stow, Ohio. We've come to know where the makings for the coffee, sugar, spoons and all the necessities for the early risers are hid. The Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame took up the better part of one day, a peek inside of the Cleveland Browns Stadium, the waterfront to see the John Brown, a liberty ship which had just put into port. They are so lucky, they get to see us again at the class reunion and again on the return trip.

Aug 1 Erie, PA was on the agenda, don't much recall why that was, in any event we drove around the city a little, saw the waterfront area, parks, but were sorely disappointed as it seems to be going the way of other rust belt cities.



Aug 2 Niagara Falls, NY Very intimidating view over the railing, the volume of water, violent sound effects, primordial fear, and then we did the sensible thing, took the Maid of The Mist ride. There is a constant rain caused by the splashing, the air is at such maximum saturation that touristy raincoats are issued. The gardens on the Canadian side are a must see.

Aug 3 - 4 Toronto, Canada The Wayne Gretzky restaurant, city tour bus, Casa Loma Estate, CN Tower. More touring, there are decorated moose all over the city, china town.

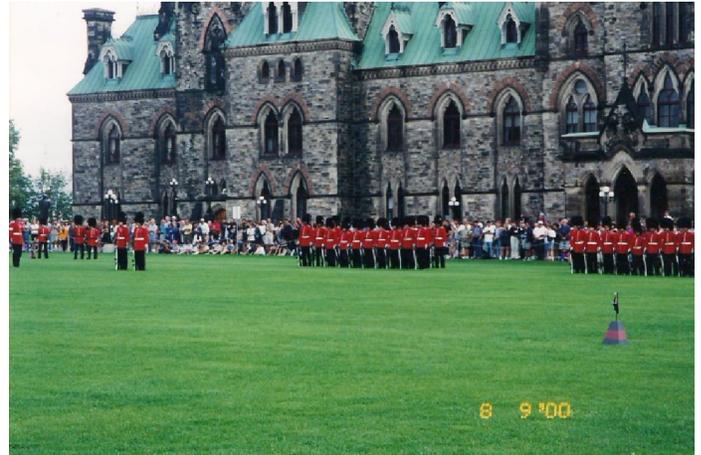
Aug 5 BRIAR FOX GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB (C 107, J 98) in Marysville Ontario

Aug 6 Kingston, Ontario where we took a fascinating boat tour of the Thousand Islands.

Aug 7 UPPER CANADA GOLF COURSE (C 139, J 105) in Morrisburg, Ontario. Golf cards, traffic signs and many other things have begun to be shown in both French and English.



Aug 8 - 9 Ottawa the capital of Canada! Another tour followed by spending some quality time at certain of the sights like the west center and east block of parliament, the war memorial, downtown Ottawa and its skyline, national library, natural history museum, eternal flame, the Rideau canal becomes the world's longest skating rink in the winter, so long in fact that many people use it to commute to work, Lord Elgin Hotel, changing of the guard at Parliament and the Rideau House, mounted RCMP, Notre Dame Cathedral, whew! They all bear explanation and are all worthwhile visiting.



Aug 10 – 11 Montreal, Quebec Another perfect city tour, Chinatown, the skyline, another Notre Dame



Cathedral, street expo.

Aug 12 – 15 Quebec the Chateau Frontenac, the city wall was probably built to keep those upstart American revolutionaries out, but as it turns out now a-days it keeps us and our tourist money in, the old city is below the cliff and needs visiting what with its street musicians, vendors and shops of every description.

Aug 16 CLUB DE GOLF RIVIERE DU LOUP (C 106, J 117)of course everyone speaking French knows this course is located in the town of Riviere du Loup in the Province of Quebec. Today we were paired with two French Canadians who spoke no English that is until they realized we were not Canadian, but American. These folks have their own minor prejudices. Not only do they speak English, but they live in Florida in the winter. Snow birds, Aye, probably Canadian geese. The course has nice views of the Saint Lawrence River and



the drive up from Montreal through Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, Riviere du Loup and on to Edmundston also provided spectacular views of the River. On the drive to Prince Edward Island we passed through the town of Hartland in the province of New Brunswick. And guess where the worlds' longest covered bridge that is still in use is located? You got it, right here in Hartland!

Aug 17 Windshield time to Prince Edward Island.



Aug 18 The Confederation Bridge crosses the Northumberland Strait to the island and is quite an experience. The island is a province unto itself but is not particularly long, so we were able to take in a good deal just by driving. After playing MILL RIVER GOLF COURSE (C 103, J 114) in O'Leary, PEI we visited the north end of the

island and watched a Mr. Dooley harvest some version of sea weed. His huge horse just plods through the surf dragging some kind of net which is brought up on the beach, loaded in a pickup which his wife then drives home and spreads out to dry.

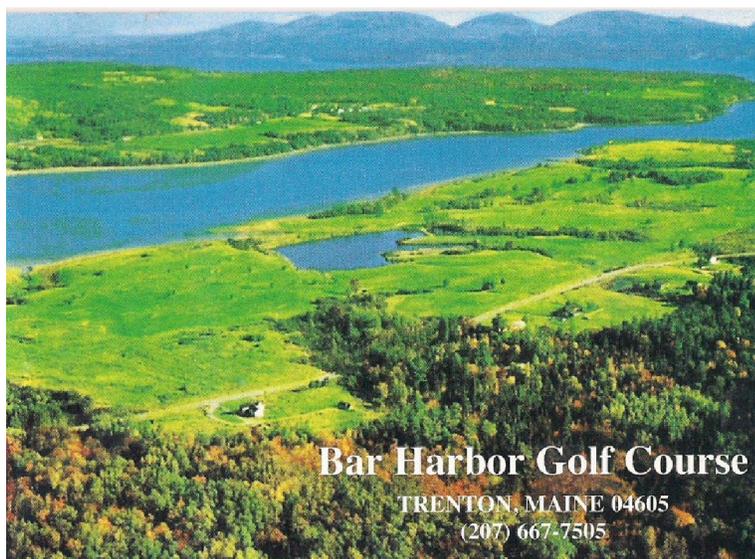
Aug 19 A driving tour of the island gave us the opportunity to visit Maud Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables farm house, the provincial capital of Charlottetown and partake of a seafood buffet in North Rustico the likes of which we have never experienced. Cheryl single handedly put the lobster on the endangered species list. Would you treat yourself to unlimited lobster for \$8 or steak? No brainer! Aye!



Aug 20 BRUDENELL RIVER GOLF COURSE (C 122, J 105) in Montague, PEI is a resort academy top 50 destination with ponds, lakes, bays and views you wish you could keep forever. More lobster! Some day if the Good Lord is willing, this will be a place to spend the entire summer.

Aug 21 Today we tried the ferry from PEI over to Nova Scotia, next we drove to Saint Johns in New Brunswick. Saint Johns is located on the Bay of Fundy which experiences extreme tidal changes. These tides cause reversing falls where the Saint John River enters the bay resulting in numerous whirl pools.

Aug 22 Today's drive from Saint John to Saint Stephen isn't very far, but there are so many elegant turn of the century hotels that we had to visit and wished we had made reservations here instead. Just outside of Eastport is the largest whirlpool in the western hemisphere. It would probably provide an incredible ride for some surfer, the problem being how to end the ride.



Aug 23 Bar Harbor, Maine was once called Eden, for a very good reason. An absolutely comfortable east coast village, dedicated to tourists in the summer, but able to button up for the winter. Plenty of side streets to fascinate the curiosity, the appetite, the thirst and still lay siege upon the lobster! All the villages along the entire coast of Maine continued to evoke the thought "I wanna live here,

no I wanna live here, no I wanna live here!"

Aug 24 BAR HARBOR GOLF COURSE (C 103, J 96) in Trenton, Maine is set just on the edge of the Acadia National Park. Thunder hole in the park is similar to other blow holes, the distinction being how its' name is derived from the sound effects it provides.

Aug 25 The town of Belfast has bear statues all about the town sporting a myriad of costumes. In addition to having the greatest collection of coastal villages, Maine must have one of the most extensive shorelines due to the incredible number and size of its inlets and bays.

Aug 26 You should see the pictures of some of the homes in Kennebunkport, Maine. There is no misunderstanding why one of them is called the wedding cake house, but it is not the only architecturally perfect and landscaped home, thank goodness they are available to us drive by tourists.



Aug 27 Naples, Maine sort of connects Lake Sebago and Long Lake. What a fantasy tease, it is entirely unfair to subject us to the magnificent homes and settings from the paddle

wheel boat on Long Lake. Our motel was situated about mid lake, nicely appointed rustic paneled rooms, the place was for sale, \$66,000, but the only thing keeping the building together were the termites holding on to one another's hands for dear life. The floor was like a trampoline!

Aug 28 Today's drive took us through the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Mt. Washington is noted for experiencing the most drastic temperature changes in the country. Bretton Woods is home to the Mt. Washington Hotel where hindsight suggests we could have stayed and played. The Old Man in The Mountain still had his nose when visited. The Flume would not be suggested unless you're a world class kayaker and have already done Niagara Falls.

Aug 29 There is a pewter foundry and gift shop in Wolfeboro, N.H. where we loaded up on affordable stuff for friends and family, Castle in the Clouds was closed for the day. Moving on we spent a great deal of time touring the Rock of Ages Quarry in Barre, VT. That quarry is deep, with a capital D, man made by the way, we were told of all the famous buildings and structures where the stone was used. I think the Viet Nam Wall was one such place, although the wall is black and the granite is slate colored. The towns of Barre and the capital of Montpelier are special as is the maple syrup we sampled and bought at a mom and pop facility.

Aug 30 KWINIASKA GOLF CLUB (C 101, J 100)in Shelburne, VT. There were some challenges and distracting views. Took the ferry boat over to Ft. Ticonderoga, an important Revolutionary War battle sight. They put on quite the demonstration with their fife and drum group and the cannon firing.

Aug 31 A moment lost in time.



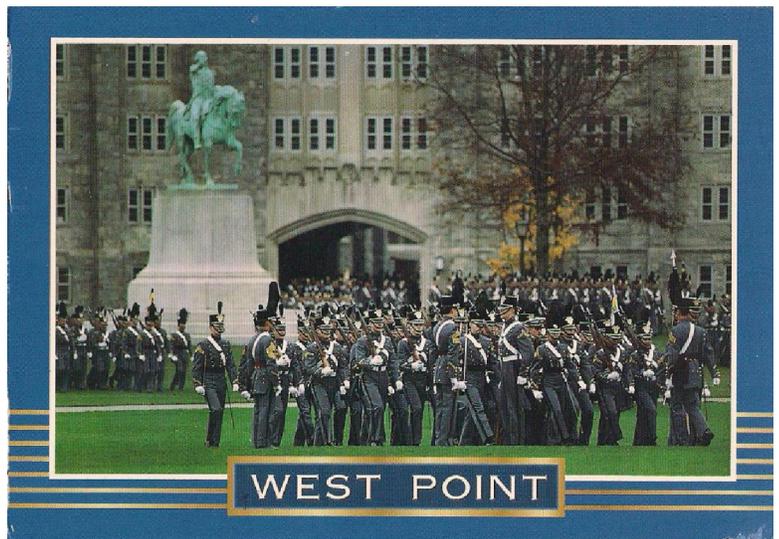
Sept 1 – 2 Lexington, Mass. Where those upstarts fired the shot heard around the world, the echo of which continues to reverberate. A Shaker – Quaker someplace! The bell tower that sang out to the patriots, “The British Are Coming”! Statues and monuments to the minutemen at Concord, would that we could stand in their shoes, but no, we continue to uphold that to which they were committed.

Sept e Sturbridge Village is manned by docents who do an excellent job of attempting to not recognize the time warp. Your questions at the schools, lumber mill, grist mill, carding mill, farm pen, bank, dining hall and everywhere need to be posed in a timely manner, their time, sans TV, Bob Villa or any other current point of reference.

Sept 4 - 5 New London, CT “Old soldiers never die they just fade away”. Well I don’t subscribe to that adage just yet General MacArthur so a visit to my old army buddy

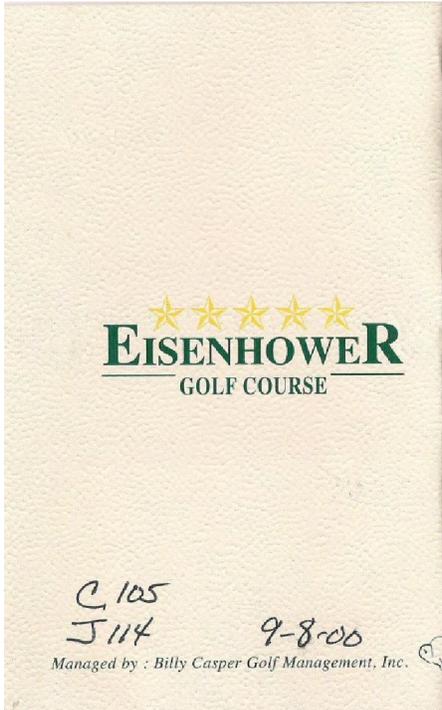
John and his wife Marsha was definitely on the agenda, the operative word being old. Toured the nuclear powered Nautilus at the Groton submarine museum and Coast Guard Academy! School is back in session so the beach was all ours.

Sept 6 Got to West Point in plenty of time to see the cadets assemble for lunch, consume said lunch and be gone in ½ hour. Takes me at least that long just to check out the menu! A guided tour of the grounds, museum, chapel, stained glass windows donated by previous graduating classes, cannons buried muzzle down so classmen will never again fire upon one another, statues of previous notable graduates and commandants, football stadium, athletic facilities, view of the Hudson. Amazing how many occasions



this place had a part in movies. Another place we wish we had stayed and played.

Sept 7 We are really getting immersed in our country's military academies. The United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD., is compact probably because it sports the largest dormitory in the world. Annapolis is the state capital of Maryland and has a great waterfront that dispenses some of the best crab cakes west of the Atlantic.



Sept 8 EISENHOWER GOLF COURSE (C 105, J 114) is a nicely wooded course situated just outside of Annapolis on the way to Washington.

Sept 9 Today was a big tour day dedicated to enlightening us of our nation's capital. The National Cathedral, Korean War Memorial, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Capital building, and the Viet Nam War Memorial where I was able to copy Arthur Grubbs' name, one of our high school classmates, from the wall to share at the forthcoming reunion.

Sept 10 RATTLEWOOD GOLF COURSE (C 101, J 96) is in Germantown, MD where we were able to play a round with our host

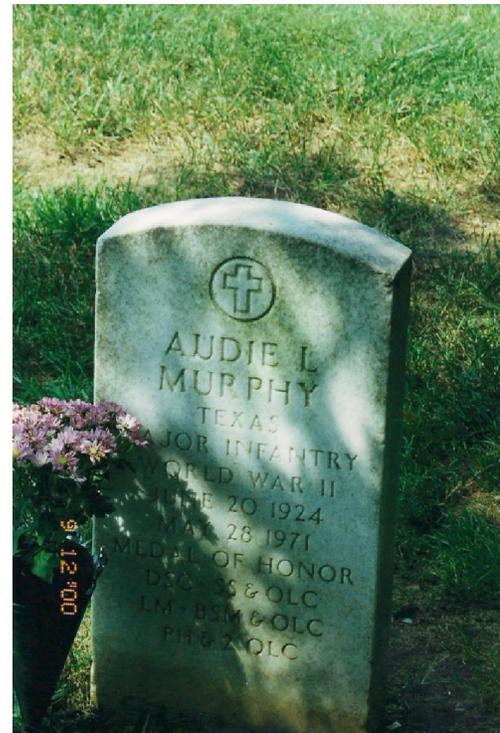
Bob Mann.

Sept 11 Spent the day visiting with our hosts and an extended day trip down to Richmond, VA., to visit the Museum of the Confederacy.

Sept 12 We tried out the Washington subway system and found it to be very user friendly. Visiting Arlington National Cemetery is very humbling experience. Being buried here would indeed be an honor, spending eternity in such esteemed company. The changing of the guard at the Tomb of the unknown soldier, Audie Murphy's marker, John F. Kennedy's site and the eternal flame, watching from a distance as a funeral procession with horse and caisson proceeded to their final resting place, the statue of the Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima, endless white marble rows of the known and the unknown, stretching over hills into history, humbling, indeed.

Sept 13 Our old back packing buddies, Richie and Pam, put us up and provided for our entertainment and some local touring.

Sept 14 Another humbling experience, Gettysburg, PA., traveling the battlefield with a tour bus director and then returning to take in all the battalions, regiments and divisions that participated the locations



and sacrifices made this history lesson more relevant. A Civil War buff would need several days to capture the extent of what happened here.

Sept 15 – 17 Our 40<sup>th</sup> class reunion at the Nyack Yacht Club, Southampton, NY, was as much fun as the others. Because there were only 66 of us who graduated that year it made the get together more intimate, we all knew each other unlike classes with hundreds or thousands of alumni. It is sad of course that time, war, accidents and diseases have taken their toll of us. But we recognize the influence of one another on our youth. Many toasts were not necessary as we have all learned to imbibe, but the occasion calls for it and the hell with tomorrow. For tomorrow is another day and we will all be recovering alcoholics. And I'm proud to say that I graduated in the top 98 percentile of my class! The next day Kent and his wife took a bunch of us out for an abbreviated sail on Peconic Bay. The wind was up and a reenactment of Victory at Sea was not in the script. So smart though we are, back to the clubhouse it was for a resumption of last night festivities. A fond and affectionate farewell was bid until the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion.

Sept 18 SAG HARBOR GOLF COURSE (C 101, J 94) provided a pleasant double round as it is a nine hole course. We drove around the east end villages, boring my wife with all the escapades of my youth in Watermill, where the village green served as our football and baseball field until the little league was established, Mecox Bay where my imagination ran rampant with exploits of daring deed.

Sept 19 The big city for lunch with my cousin Adrian! Having been born here and spent a few years after serving in the army there is a little emotional tie to New York. My army buddy and I drove to California for just the summer of 1968. Summer is not over yet! And then Westward Ho the wagons

Sept 20 FOXBORO COUNTRY CLUB (C 107, J 107) of Foxboro, PA declares itself to be the oldest golf club in the USA according to the score card. It is quite remote, has an interesting museum, and a unique lay out for a nine hole course. I should think there would be older clubs along the east coast, but who am I to question their claim?

Sept 21 - 22 Here we are once again in Stow, OH visiting with Skip and Nora whose hospitality is beyond extraordinary considering their visitors. Guess who visited the Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame, and some brewer on the rebuilt water front area whose reputation is comingled with the Cuyahoga River when it caught on fire and couldn't be put out? This is not Tijuana, but in any event don't drink the water.

Sept 23 Ann Arbor, MI is the dreaded home of the University of Michigan wolverines arch rivals of The Fighting Irish. On the other hand Bob and Carolyn live in a home on the HURON HILLS GOLF COURSE and their only dread are the incoming golf balls of which they have buckets and buckets.

Sept 24 Once again here we are in the Promised Land, another pilgrimage to the Notre Dame campus and the Theodore Hesburgh Library "Touchdown Jesus" The WARREN GOLF COURSE (C 115, J 116) just opened last year so it hasn't had a great deal of time to mature.

Sept 25 Driving time to Dubuque, IA and visiting time with that contingent of the family.

Sept 26 THE MEADOWS (C 115, J 105), Dubuque, IA kicked our butt, but as they used to say in Brooklyn, "Wait'll next year". Driving time to Waterloo, IA!

Sept 27 – 30 PHEASANT RIDGE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE over in Cedar Falls was our first experience of both of us breaking 100 in the same round. The girls anticipated such a huge attendance that they had to rent a hall for moms surprise 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, and a good thing they did.

Oct 1 – 6 IRV WARREN MEMORIAL GOLF COURSE AT BYRNES PARK served to bring us back to reality. The week was spent with family, a little time at the lake and auctions. The nights can be somewhat cool this time of year, so it was really entertaining to see how niece Holly kept warm in her cheer leaders' outfit. She actually got to shake hands, or mittens, with Dick Chaney. Mittens also serve another purpose, runny noses. Yuck!

Oct 7 – 9 On to visit brother Tim, Sue, their kids and grandchildren in Omaha, NB.

Oct 10 Cousin Roger in Bartlesville, OK took us out to visit the Willa Rok museum and ranch owned by Frank Phillips of the Phillips petroleum folks. The buffalo or bison have the right of way, so drive carefully, they are big and numerous. This museum has one of the finest collections of western art anywhere. Very comparable to the Cody Museums collection. Don't' forget the Tom Mix museum in Bartlesville, OK.

Oct 11 Cousin Dave and Regina of Broken Arrow, OK, by way of Brooklyn, took us out for eats which was just an excuse to show off the family and a fine clan they are. LA FORTUNE GOLF (C 75, J 68) in Tulsa, OK!

Oct 12 Driving time to Albuquerque, NM. After checking our pistols and holsters at the hotel bar, the barkeep gave us a great tip about the balloons on the manana.

Oct 13 He was spot on, get there before sun rise, because many of the 400 plus balloons take off early and give the appearance of a giant light bulb against the black backdrop of the predawn sky when they fire up their burners. LADERA MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE was happy to take our money.



The twosome we were paired with provided future golf course suggestions which have served us well.

Oct 14 The Petrified Forest National Park is somewhat of a misnomer, the forest hasn't existed for millions and millions and even more than ten years. The exhibition center does provide a fascinating time frame of how this part of the world transitioned. Now the meteor crater, that explanation leaves a

little to be desired. I'm just saying, some meteor that is harder than steel, big as the empire state building, traveling at 17,000 MPH, will not be in the atmosphere long enough to bat an eyelash, so where is it? DUH! Just saying! In all probability it passed through the mantle and is now part of the liquid magma inside mother earth. Splash! Like a door is going to stop a bullet, right, never happen!



TOWN	COURSE	TOWN	COURSE
Blue River OR	Tokatee	Crownsville MD	Eisenhower
La Porte IA	La Porte City GC	Germantown MD	Rattlewood
Dubuque IA	Bunker Hill	Sag Harbor NY	Sag Harbor State GC
Waterloo IA	South Hills	Foxburg PA	Foxburg CC
Peosta IA	Timberline	Ann Arbor MI	Huron Hills
South Bend IN	Notre Dame	South Bend IN	Warren
Marysville ON	Briar Fox	Dubuque IA	The Meadows
Morrisburg ON	Upper Canada	Cedar Falls IA	Pheasant Ridge
Riviere Du Loup QB	Club de Golf	Waterloo IA	Irv Warren Memorial
O'Leary PEI	Mill River	Broken Arrow OK	La Fortune
Montague PEI	Bruddnell River	Albuquerque NM	Ladera Municipal
Trenton ME	Bar Harboe		
Shelburne VT	Kwiniaska		