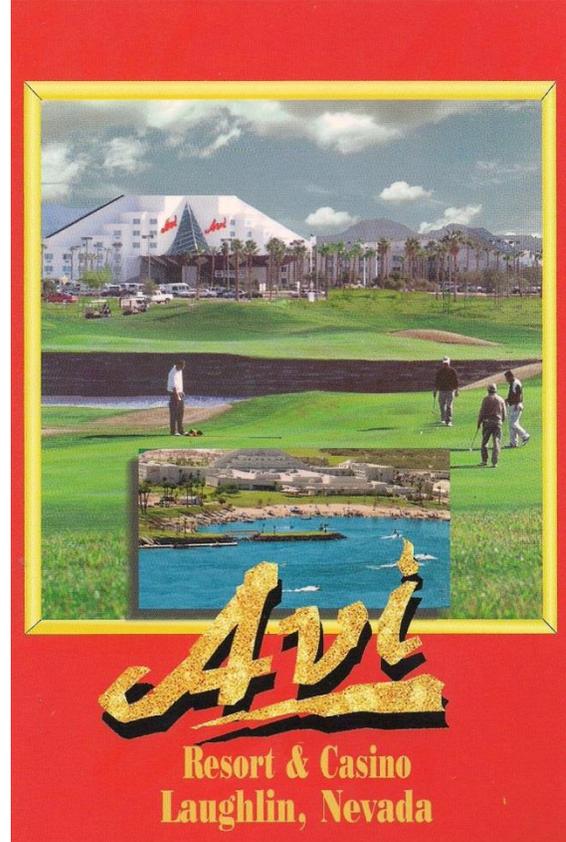
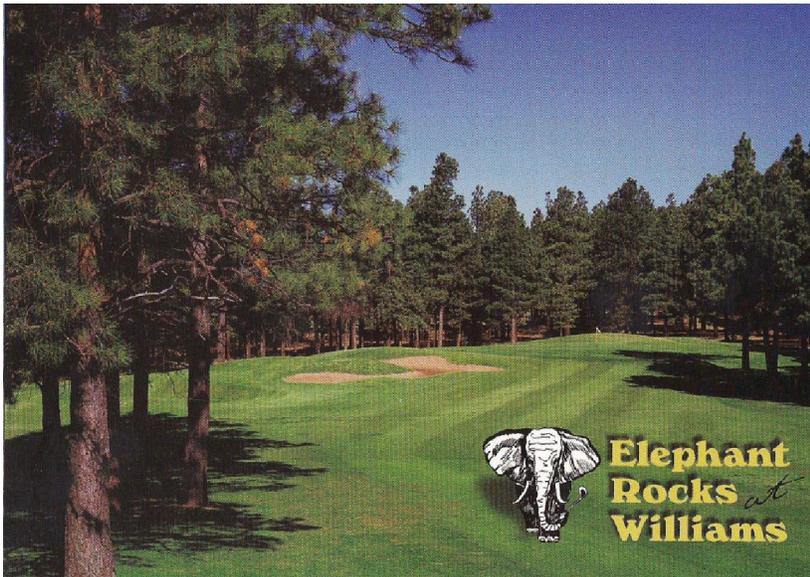


SUMMER 2007

6-08-07 There was a little wishful thinking going of breaking out about 6 AM, particularly after last night's ladies golf excesses. That didn't even make a dent in the anticipation. 5:30 alarm, on the road 5:45. Couldn't find the usual breakfast exit in Barstow so we ate at the Route 66 Café in beautiful downtown Ludlow! Checked into the AVI Resort and Casino about 10 AM and got out on the course before out tee time. The course is called the MOJAVE RESORT GOLF CLUB (C 97, J 95) located in a developing desert residential community. Links style course, rolling greens, lakes clear and stocked with fish. GPS carts. The casino fronts on the Colorado River so visitors can launch and beach their boats or Ski Doos right at the resort. Private beach, huge pool area! They still have quarter poker slots in the bar where Cheryl is industriously supporting the local economy with her well-earned retirement benefits. We watched Large Louis do justice to the Friday night seafood special. His ability to consume was worth every penny of admission to the buffet.



6-09-07 Sleep deprivation skills, that's what I was working on last night. My technique needs improving, not enough thrashing and flipping I'm thinking Left AVI early via Laughlin, Kingman for Williams! Someone in a galaxy far, far away had suggested that if we ever passed this way again we should try ELEPHANT ROCKS AT WILLIAMS (C 100, J 99). Well, we passed this way again and were very pleased with



the recommendation. So we will pass the baton. If you're ever traveling through Williams you will really enjoy Elephant Rock. Savino and Harry, a Notre Dame fan, got the luck of the draw. It was very busy, Saturday, but we seldom waited on the group out front. The course really meanders (Driving in we thought it was two courses.) through the pine forest just like the picture on the score card. Built in 1922 as a nine hole! Tough greens and lots of elk scat

(that's poop to us flatlanders). In the future make reservations in Flagstaff, what with graduation at UNA and the rodeo you're just gambling on getting a room. Lucked out finding a room at HOJO's in the outback! Lunch/dinner at Busters!

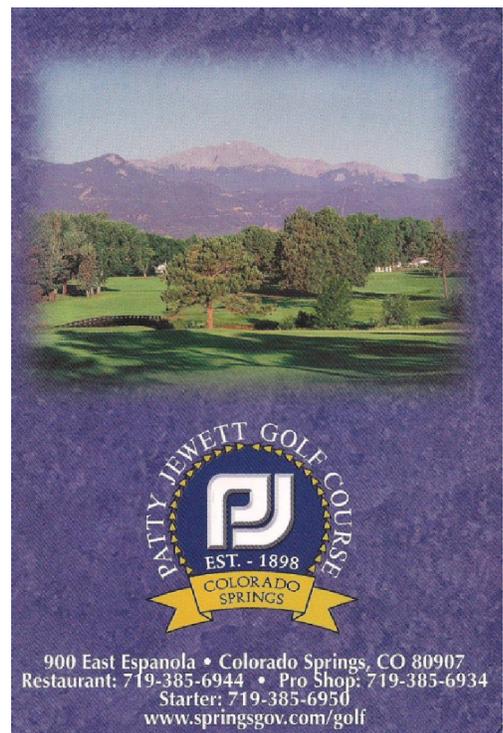
So two duffers are being delayed by a couple of female golfers! One of the men volunteers to go up and ask if it would be all right for them to play through. However half way up to the ladies group he turns around and comes back. He tells his playing partner that the two women are his wife and mistress. Who would have guessed that they knew each other? Small world isn't it? So the other guy says "I'll go up, neither one of them will know me." So after getting half way up the fairway he too returns with the remark. "Small world isn't it?"

6-10-07 Did not feel up to playing golf today, so cancelled our tee time at ELDEN HILLS in Flagstaff and drove the 480 miles to Pendaries. The upper desert or range all the way to Albuquerque was still green. Ran into a good hail storm between Las Vegas and Pendaries! The drive up the valley is still as unspoiled and majestic as we remember. Dinner at the lodge and conversation with our Oklahoma neighbors! (It's their seventh golf outing here.) Reinforced my sleep deprivation reserve with an almost solid two hours! Also cancelled our golf at The UNIVERSITY OF ALBUQUERQUE and moved Pendaries up.

So the nurse comes in and says to the patient "Time for your sponge bath." Well he's got an oxygen mask on but asks the nurse if she would check and see if his testicles are black. She declines as the sponge bath is only from the waist up. But he's persistent almost begging to see if his testicles are black. So eventually she relents, pulls the sheet back, lifts up his pecker and reports that his testicles look normal. With that the patient takes off his oxygen mask and says thank you, but I wanted to know if my tests are back.

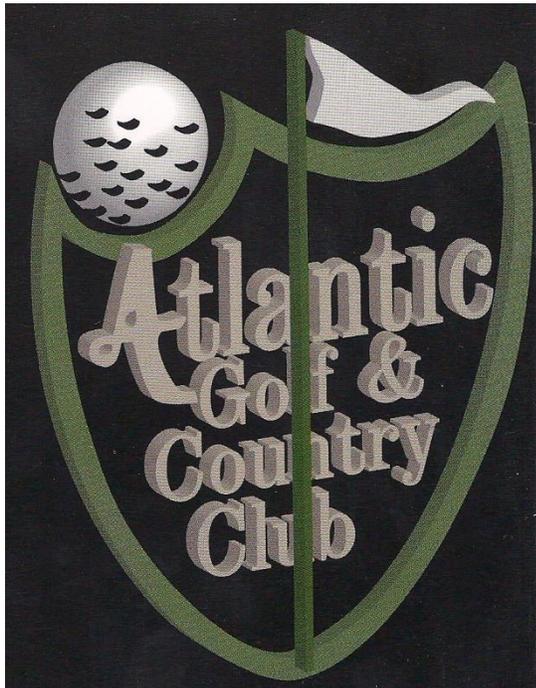
6-11-07 PENDARIES RESORT (C 97, J 87)! How they can stay in business with so few guests and only \$40 per round escapes me. We got out at 8 AM and finished at 11AM. This course be veddy veddy good to me. Asked the starters opinion of his governor as a presidential candidate! After a prolonged hesitation he granted that he had a nice political presence, but was at best a mediocre governor. The short cut from Pendaries out to Wagon Wheel was another adventure. The posted highway numbers don't quite correspond to what Rand McNally shows. Not to worry though, north is this way so everything else must be where it belongs in relation. Budget Inn in Colorado Springs! 8 hours sleep. Y E S!

6-12-07 PATTY JEWETT GOLF COURSE (C 94, J 95) was built in 1898 and claims to be the oldest course in Colorado as well as the most active course west of the Mississippi. 5 hour round! So we won't dispute their claim to the most rounds or whatever the title. They must really pack them in to make up for the



blizzard time of the year. Absolutely flat, mature trees, some water, but not as easy as it first appears what with the S shaped and dog legged fairways. Cheryl claims the greens sucked, but I'm inclined to think perhaps the puttee struggled mightily. Long drive to Ogallala so the Denver bypass was appreciated. Tee time for tomorrow looks to be in jeopardy as the rains have come. We enjoyed an intimate dinner in our room, which was acquired after a mad dash with our golf umbrella across the parking lot to KFC.

6-13-07 It's raining! Been raining all night! Prediction of rain for the next 40 days! Guess the drought is over! Today is dedicated to driving all day across Nebraska from Ogallala to Omaha. Rained all the way! Stayed with Tim and Sue! Dinner at La Fonda (Mexican)! Visited with Jacob and Cassidy and saw their new house.



6-14-07 Up early Tim and Sue saw us off to work. Breakfast in Atlantic! Another neat old mid-western downtown! Played ATLANTIC GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB (C 84, J 88) another delightful developing residential course, but without a nearby urban base to support fast growth. \$53 for two with cart! 2 hour, 50 minute round! What a fun course! All rolling hills, nothing flat, target course as there are so many ancient oaks. Called Marty at work! Surprised Audrey! Dinner at Steamboat with Marty, Debby, Mickey, Audrey and us! Woman of the house I have brought the daughter home.

6-15-07 Golf at DYSART GOLF COURSE (C 92, J 94) with Mickey and Marty one of the nicest 9 holes we've ever played. We always come back because of the setting. Barbecue at the lake!

6-16 & 17-07 Breakfast, lunch, nap and dinner!

6-18-07 Golf at JESUP GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB (C 97, J 93) a cute nine hole course! Walked the first nine! Good thunder and lightning show with some rain, but not enough to discourage us from finishing, but enough to knock out the local power for a few hours. Went to the auction on Rancho, but didn't score.

6-19-07 Golf at LA PORTE CITY GOLF COURSE (C 89, J 90) some hills! When they built the greens here they must have dumped a bunch of truckloads of dirt and planted sod over these piles. It's quite a challenge getting anything to stay on the greens. Drove down to Vinton, picked up Nicole, Quinton, Alex and friend Cristan for lunch at Jonseys in Center Point! Toured Tim's new commercial building and am impressed that they are making a go of their own business. Auctions in Evansdale and Waverly! Nada! Cal Irvine beat Arizona in the College World Series Tournament.

6-20-07 Lunch in Reinbeck at the corner café with Audrey and Grace! Nappie! Nappie! Cal Irvine lost to Oregon!

6-21-07 They are getting ready for the Waterloo Open so the IRV WARREN MEMORIAL GOLF COURSE is in good shape.(C 89, J 96) Thunder, lightning and tornado warnings, sirens and later TV coverage!

6-22-07 Rain! No golf with Mickey and Marty so we had to make do with lunch at Famous Dave's Barbecue. Went to The Golf Headquarters and bought rain gear for Scotland. Waverly auction! Finally scored! Two one gallon brown jugs, toy blocks and a glass wash board. Cheryl will be so proud of me! I can hear it now! What are you going to do with that shit! Rain!

6-23-07 After breakfast we took Alex home because he had a sleep over. Mickey believes there are some helicopter genes in that family as he circles and thrashes around in the bed at a pretty good clip. Tim and Nicole went with us to auctions in Urbana and Independence. They were either curious or polite. My money is on the latter as we didn't come home with any treasures. Pat and Patty came over from Dubuque.

6-24-07 Golfed at SOUTH HILLS GOLF COURSE (C 87, J 95) with Pat and Mickey! Beer is not just for breakfast, but it goes pretty well with golf and Patty's chocolate chip cookies.

6-25-07 Drove up to Denver to play the WILLOW RUN GOLF COURSE (C 88, J 99) a pleasant nine hole course with a fast flowing creek that comes into play on 7 of the 9 holes. Trouble with driver and putter! Lunch at Maid Rite followed by a nice nap and another unproductive auction at Rancho!

6-26-07 We had intended to play at Reinbeck, but had not called ahead, consequently no one was there when we arrived at 8:30 except the greens mowing crew. Drove on to the GRUNDY CENTER GOLF COURSE (C 86, J 92) which was locked up also! The mornings coffee intake was approaching the critical level. A card carrying key member had just pulled into the parking lot, took notice of John's pee pee dance and let us in the club house. Not only that but he got us a cart key and told us we could just pay when we were done golfing as someone would probably be here by then. When we got in there was a very entertaining female foghorn voiced pro shop manager who doubled as the cook. Nap! Dinner at Southtown where they have spent a bundle on TV's on all the walls!

6-27-07 Golfed at FOX RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB (C 92, J 91) in Dike! Every time we come back there are more and more houses being built around the golf course. The trees are slow to mature, but that's due to the limited seasons. Nap! Dinner at Las Margueritas, an honest to goodness authentic Mexican restaurant! After dinner we went over to Tony and Kelly's to do our e-mail thing. They sure keep their house cool. So cool in fact Tony and I blanketed up while the girls did their menopause thing, "Oh this is perfect" After we got home we hung out in the garage where a few beers on top of the marguerites made us loquacious enough to call home. Shannon talked about the mountains and some cabins they have seen. Cheryl is receptive as it would reinstate the bitch weekend program, where women go to get together to drink and tell lies about their men folk. She'll ante up the down payment, but there will be no labor forthcoming. Shannon knows someone who can do the projects.

6-28-07 Golf at the CENTENNIAL OAKS GOLF COURSE over in Waverly! (C 90, J 97) The new homes along this course are impressive also. The green fees are a bit pricey \$107! Nap! Cheryl went to the arboretum for weeding and wining, a pleasant respite from listening to her husband's wining. First bath tub since before the hernia operation.

6-29-07 RED CARPET GOLF CLUB (C 100, J 94) had the pleasure of our company for golf today with Mickey and Marty. Beered the back nine and lunched at South Town! These inlaws of mine are really a bad influence on me or some kind of influence. No nap! The alcoflewence of incohol! Scored a pink depression bowl at the Waverly auction!

6-30-07 Breakfast at the Village Inn with Marty and Debbie! The excuse was Quinton had a baseball game in Vinton, so we drove on down for the game and a barbecue at the Guenthors. Their neighbors are from Claremont, CA. Quinton has some kind of pitching machine which we were able to play until well after dark with the light provided by the lightning bugs and mucho cerveza. Mickey drove home! I think!

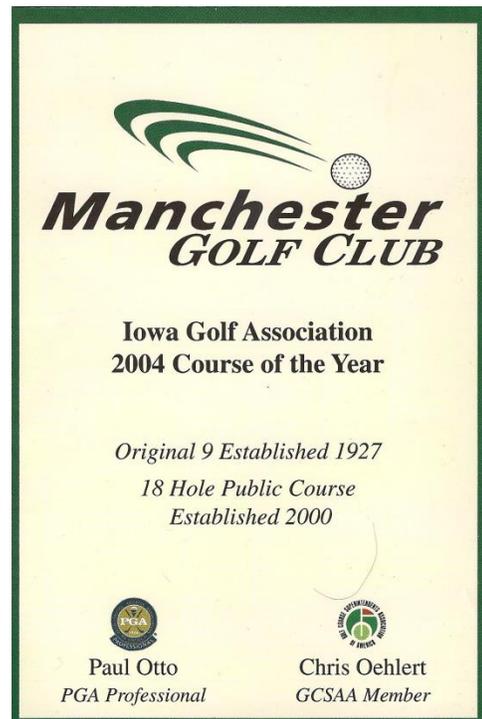
7-01-07 Submitted bids at the Raymond auction and then drove down to the Guenthors for the Vinton auction. Nicole scored! Tony and I won our absentee bids. His was for these metal plate things you can bake corn muffin in and they come out looking like ears of corn. Saw them on the antique road show! My baseball mitt with no strings between the fingers was only \$5. Cheryl was speechless!

7-02-07 Golf at GATES PAEK GOLF COURSE! (C 102, J 98) We didn't bring our A game or our B or C game for that matter. Audrey went shopping while we were gone, which is a no-no as she hasn't been released from wearing her cast yet. "Screw It"! Could that have been what she muttered ever so delicately? The girls went to the hair dressers. Me, I went to the basement and used Don's hair clippers.

7-03-07 Finally got out on the OAK LEAF COUNTRY CLUB (C 89, J 90) course in Reinbeck by using our heads! Leave your head on the pillow longer, this is done by getting up later and leaving later. Good game nice 9 hole course with lots of mature oaks that I'm not sure three people could reach around. A chocolate river flows through the course. Audrey got the okay to go castless, no more peg leg imitation, stumping around the deck at night.

7-04-07 Marty barbecued great T-bones out on the driveway. Actually he barbecued them on the grill not on the driveway, but you probably knew that. A fun visiting day!

7-05-07 Golf at the MANCHESTER GOLF CLUB (C 96, J 103) another course placed in an ancient oak forest. Visited with Nancy and Chip, Cheryl's high school friends who we hadn't seen in a number of years. Another fine Mexican



dinner in Dubuque of all places, who would have guessed! Then back to the Bliss house for another beer or twelve.



7-06-07 Played the WOODBINE BEND CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF COURSE (C 105, J 100) at the recommendation of Chip, on the way to Chicago! A very hilly links style setting ideal as preparation for Scotland! HAR! HAR! HAR! There is no such thing as preparation for real links golf. Holiday Inn has a long term parking arrangement which we have used before, transportation to and from the airport and it's far enough west to avoid much of the Chicago traffic.

7-07-07 Entire day shot waiting at hotel for late afternoon flight. All night flight! Sun begins coming up just after dinner on plane.

7-08-07 Changed planes in London, arrived Edinburgh about noon. The burgh in Edinburgh is pronounced like burro the animal or the borough of Brooklyn. Got the tour bus to the hotel Marriott! Very nice room, so nice in fact we took a nap. We were so exhausted we missed the tour bus to dinner, so ended up eating something in the hotel restaurant. Poor night's sleep! Sun begins to set about 10 or 11, gets dark about 12.

7-09-07 Toured Edinburgh and its famous castle, walked through some mall and found a book store that carried Paul Sussman. There was a Scottish night dinner and entertainment at some estate located on a golf course. A toast to the haggis and much wine!

7-10-07 The tour bus stopped in the town of St. Andrews for a photo opportunity and shopping in the golf shops. Got a pair of black watch plaid plus fours! Cheryl scored all kinds of golfing paraphernalia, towels, markers, hats for her ladies group. Continued on through the Dundee Mountains to our 4 star hotel in Inverness. That 4 star is not based on a 5 star system, more like a 10 being best. It was probably quite an elegant railroad hotel in its day, but that day has long since passed. Drove out to Loch Ness for dinner at a very nice restaurant, where it was quite windy, gray and the conditions seemed perfect for a sighting, but alas Nessie remains an enigma. Dined with Jenny and Scott from Australia, who commented on the summer weather being worse than their winters! No sleep till Brooklyn! They are having a severe drought here in Scotland, it hasn't rained all day.

7-11-07 Big circular drive through the upper highlands and lunch at the Isle of Skye where Cheryl ran into the gypsy's! We stopped at the Eilene Dourn Castle on the return drive that took us back along the length of Loch Ness, to a woolen mill that had no plaid trousers and back to the hotel for dinner! Some mention needs to be made about the seagulls in Inverness, they are relentless, crying all night, and there are hundreds of them.

So, God and his son Jesus are out golfing one day, when on this particular water hole Jesus pulls out his seven iron to clear the lake. Well God asks him what he thinks he's doing with the seven iron? Well Jesus replies, it's what Tiger would use. God says, but it will never clear the lake, but go ahead if you want to! So sure enough the ball splashes half way out. So there's Jesus walking out on the lake looking to retrieve his ball when another golfer approaches God and asks him who that guy out on the lake thinks he is Jesus? God responds, no he thinks he's Tiger Woods.

7-12-07 Magnificent drive through the loch country! The rift that runs through Scotland can actually be sailed from the North Sea to the Irish Sea along all the lakes and interconnecting canals. Boating enthusiasts often vacation on a variety of rental yachts here. We didn't take the gondola lift up Ben Nevis the highest mountain in Scotland, but instead visited the WW II commando memorial and lunched in Spaen Bridge. The drive continued through the mountains and moors into Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. Very impressive! Gave spare change to Scotlands second worst bagpiper at a tourist bus stop reminiscent of a scene from Braveheart. Took the lunch boat ride along Loch Lomond where the song by that same title originated, past the Rob Roy hide out and haggis factory! Can't understand why the British had so much trouble finding Rob Roy. His hide out had huge letters over the entrance. CAVE! Toured Saint Mungos Cathedral, an old house and had a mediocre dinner at some converted bank in Glasgow. Terrific night's sleep at the Radisson!

7-13-07 Nice morning drive down to Ayr, the namesake to the belted Ayrshire cow. So every time we see a belted Ayrshire cow we point it out to each other. This is important stuff for us globe trotters with an Iowa farming background. Oh yeah! Ayr was also the home to Robert Burns the poet laureate of Scotland. The Castle and grounds of Culzean (Killean) are very well maintained and have dedicated a floor to Dwight Eisenhower for his use at any time during his life as thanks from the people of Scotland for his contribution during WW II. Cheryl is really hurting from something up her leg and hip she said she pulled before we left Iowa. She very seldom displays pain, probably doesn't want the attention I'm always craving when I break a fingernail. Wincing! So you know it must hurt. This hotel room is really something the room card must be put in a slot by the door and left there for the electricity to work. We experienced a practice building emergency, kind of like an abandon ship drill. Dinner after pipes at Bannockburn which is where Robert The Bruce family pulled his head out of his ass and fought the English. Also the monument to William Wallace of "Braveheart" fame! A statue of himself posed for by Mel Gibson, which the locals seem to take exception to, has a cage around it to prevent vandalism. The statue says "Freedom", but it's in a cage, ironic, huh?

So we're getting off the bus for lunch and there are a bunch of gypsies in the parking lot. They are kind of like those people always coming to your door. You just want to avoid a conversation because it seems otherwise you'll never be able to get rid of them. Anyway this gypsy grabs Cheryl by the hand, everyone from the tour is watching, so Cheryl just goes along with it, okay let's just get it over with. So the gypsy says "I'd like to read your palm," which she does. "Well that's interesting, did you know you were a dog in your previous life?" Cheryl responds with a semi sarcastic "sure I Was!" "No it's true and I can prove it," says the gypsy. "Go ahead". "Well I'll need to charge you a pound." Well our interest is piqued and it's only a pound, so if for no other reason than the entertainment value and future conversation she forks over the pound. "Feel behind your left ear, you have a large bump where you were hit by the car

that ran you over, but you'll see that there is no bump behind your right ear". Sure enough there's the bump. Cheryl is flabbergasted, how could the gypsy have known? You have to feel the bump for yourself, it's amazing. BARRRR00000!

7-14-07 Took a shopping walk around Argyle and Buchanan which are streets closed to traffic. Got a pair of black watch plaid slacks for Sean and a rugby shirt for Billy, the rest of the serious shopping was dedicated to vodka, tonic and ginger beer as hotel cocktails are exorbitant. Bade our good byes to the last of the people on our tour that were going home or staying on to continue their various venues in Britain. O'Brien sandwiches and TV at the Radisson for the rest of the day!

7-15-07 Laid about much of the morning, then taxied over to the Hilton, where we were bussed over to the ship Clipper Adventurer. Did our obligatory survival drill and then opened our obligatory bar tab for the rest of the week. Dressed for dinner and a fine menu it was! Well they dropped anchor in the middle of the night and I'm sure the sound is exactly the same as that which the passengers aboard the Titanic must have experienced, exaggerate your kitchen ice crusher a hundred times. So two dummies jumped out of bed (bunk), grabbed our life jackets headed for the passageway, only to find there were no other dummies out there. So much for rooming next to the anchor.

7-16-07 A golfing dissertation - Scotland Raining pretty well this morning! Breakfast with our Icelandic contingent! The non-golfers just left for touring! Bus ride to PRESTWICK GOLF COURSE (C 105, J 133) in Ayrshire! In the beginning there was golf, it was played under conditions which nature dictated and the player accepted as the ordinary. It is still played here by those standards to this very day. However the conditions to which I have grown accustomed have been tailored to minimize the natural difficulty factor. Consequently this course has no correlation at all to that which I have grown accustomed to playing. My handicap is absolutely fictitious and is in no way representative of what would be needed to establish a similar index here. A golfer must be able to hit an exacting shot for it to be playable or at the least findable. And exacting does not just mean straight! If one were capable to hit the fairway thus eliminating the rough that would be a terrific first step. For straight on the fairway is nice, but placement is paramount as regards the contour and innumerable bunkers! The bunkers are a chapter in themselves! Many are straight sided, nearly vertical, created by piling up peat turf or sod almost like bags of stacked concrete. Getting immediate lift is nice, but carry is a necessity or else it dribbles right back. We watched an approach shot that had been skulled, pass the bunker, roll up on the green, cross to the right, come back down the face of the green, passing the bunker on the right, turn left under the bunker, and roll in nearly where it had been originally skulled by. It did an entire 360 plus, circling the bunker, winding its way in like a roulette ball. This can be a little disconcerting when hopes of getting away with an errant shot should end up on America's funniest home videos. Interesting is not an accurate description of the roughs. We have never played any place remotely comparable, even though they have claimed to be links style courses, just like in Scotland. At home when I get in rough trouble chipping the ball back to the fairway is an option. Not so here, as the closest mown area is only a mow strip surrounded by Schmutz! A real golfer could probably fly the dune grass, gorse, bracken, moss, brush, heather, weeds, brambles, etc, but myself requires more whacks than you can imagine in your worst golf nightmare. I have personally experienced the origin of the term hacker. After whacking away for a fifteen, it was decided that a combination of golf etiquette for the following group and pure

exhaustion that would have necessitated many future unplayable lies and drops it was time to pick up the ball. Anyway this is real golf, what we play at home is some modified version. Just as someone's ego might lend them to believe that because they are an accomplished horseman and fencer they may do well in a medieval tournament, the reality is otherwise this course made short work of me. Send us your champions, leave your stable hands home! Back to the ship to lick my wounds (pride) and do something I'm quite competent at, that being the partaking of the occasional beer. Captains' dinner very enjoyable! Pleasantly rocked to sleep and on to Ireland!

7-17-07 Now this is one unique way of going golfing. Loading overweight uncoordinated octogenarians into zodiacs bobbing alongside the ship, anchored at sea, leaves nothing which reality in all its gripping, clutching, stumbling, snatching, grimacing, grabbing, the abject fear of plopping into the briny from the rising and falling rubber boats, etched on every face can well be imagined. We are referenced forthwith as geriatric commandos. The threat we would pose invading Normandy would have the German army general staff rolling on the floor in gales of tearful laughter. Ten to the boat, plus driver, life jacketed, with the well-practiced flipper grip. Bounding out of the zodiacs onto the shore of BALLYLIFFIN GOLF CLUB (C 100, J 111) County Donegal, Ireland and onto the bus, we are here to golf! Apparently the Irish Sea separates island masses, but not briar patches. Same or, same ol' rough! Retired the drivers after nine holes! I'm a slow learner just ask any of my grade school teachers. Exasperation was overcome by common sense! Mr. One (iron) got the opportunity to step up and be the permanent tee box representative. No more rough! 63 on the front nine, 48 on the back nine! Sodding the sides of your swimming pool, filling the bottom with sand, would lend some idea of what they refer to as sand traps! Very pleasant course, beautiful scenery, but play was incredibly slow. No marshals here! Bus to Londonderry where we boarded the ship using actual gang planks, another fine dinner served by Ian our incredible waiter. Trafalgar couldn't hold a candle to the grindage provided by Perry Tours. Lounge lizards that we are, listened to the local ethnic music, banjo, mandarin, guitar!

7-18-07 The Clipper Adventurer passed under the Skye Bridge and ran up the coast of Scotland where we visited the Inverewe estates and gardens. Once again the geriatric commandos boarded the zodiacs for the trip ashore, well some did anyway, some folks even declined the opportunity for another go at the rubber bumper boats. Can you imagine that? The property, when it was inherited, was inaccessible except by sea, and virtually barren as the coast has difficulty sustaining vegetation without soil. So soil for the proper support of a forest root system of 10,000 acres was barged in from Ireland! I'll warrant that acquisition affected some folks being dispossessed and their homes tumbled down as the timing was coincidental to the famine! Of course the family squandered its fortune and the property was given over to the National Trust as taxes became delinquent. Most of the Plantaginates historic properties have been lumped into the trust. Wonder if the Scots are lucky enough to have all these trusts lumped into the national debt like our social security accounts. Once again we headed north along the coast until we got out in the Atlantic where the ship experienced some pitching and yawing, or whatever it's called when the bow goes up and the aft goes down and then the aft goes up and the bow goes down, anyway while this is happening the ship is quartering the swells so a little bit of rolling from port to starboard comes into play. All this motion makes for hilarious entertainment in the bar watching the members navigate the room with drink in hand and not even being drunk. Maybe that's where the term

tipsy comes from! Cape Wrath is an appropriate name for this corner of the island. Anyway all this motion puts me in mind of when my mother would roll over with me floating around in that nice amniotic fluid in her womb. Probably what my grandson is experiencing all warm and content inside Heather. Puts me in mind of the last time I crossed the Atlantic in the troop ship U.S.S. General Patch. Of course the accommodations weren't quite what we have. Of particular note were the toilet seats being welded side by side to long pipes which sea water ran through to vacate the pipe! However, when the General Patch pitched forward over some of those North Atlantic swells the results were quite dramatic. The sewer water would radically change direction. Having nowhere to go it would geyser up from the toilet seats, circle around the latrine deck for a while until gravity ultimately carried it out the floor scuppers. You can imagine this could be a little disconcerting for the G. I. 's who were on their hands and knees, holding on for dear life, while trying desperately to invert their stomachs due to the maladies of sea sickness. Well this geyser passing by their heads didn't really improve matters, kind of exacerbated things. A memorable trip was had by all! Lends a new meaning to worshipping at the altar or King Neptune! It couldn't be the porcelain god as there was no porcelain!

7-19-07 19 Passed over the top of Scotland, Point Wrath and John O'Groats then south into Invergordon! The ROYAL DORNOCK (C 106, J 100) club house has perhaps the most pleasant view from any clubhouse I have ever seen. No wonder Andrew Carnegie, the great American steel magnate, took a liking to this place. Today was the first day of golf without any drivers, which is as good as could be expected. The course is beautiful and the Carnegie Trophy, silver shield, is as impressive a trophy as I have ever seen. Would put it into the same category as the Stanley Cup! The trophy case itself is a must see! The sun doesn't really set in the East, but it almost seems that way. Cheryl remarked on how it seems as if the ocean is on fire from the brilliance of the colors. Another excellent dinner! The British Open has begun, which we watch on some humongous T.V. screen. Pretty tired so we went to bed early, about 11 PM.

7-20-07 Didn't feel like golf today, a bit puny, but thought I could make it around, besides it is ROYAL ABERDEEN (C 109, J 100). The threat of 9 holes out and 9 holes back makes it difficult to quit after 9 holes as the club house is still half a course walk. No buggies so Cheryl in all her wisdom suggested caddies. Terrific decision! Pleasant young men! Neil is a 1 handicap and Matt carries a 16! Another round of 100 even, could have been better but I was tempted to use my drivers again and paid dearly. Doubled up with Ian and Jim two guys whose wives don't play!

7-21-07 KINGSBARN GOLF COURSE (C 102, J 109) outside of Dundee was much more forgiving, probably because the fairways are wider and have considerably fewer bushes. Played with Doug from Ontario, Canada and Mark who is completely devoid of golf etiquette. Another beautiful sea side course! Got through the front 9 with minimal drizzle, but it got so intense by the 15th we decided to call it a day. Bus back to the ship to watch some more of the British Open in the lounge! The yardage markers here are virtually nonexistent, but Scots being as frugal as we've heard, are not very forthcoming with markers. Their cheater books, stroke savers, are helpful if you can actually interpret the topographical markings into where you are physically located on the course. Would absolutely play this course again if the weather was more agreeable and my putter wasn't so contrary. If it ain't one thing it's another! Another excellent dinner and cocktail party for which we didn't dress up, much to our consternation! The

helicopters were explained as Perry golfers flying in for a round. Must comment on the ships water pressure! No comment! There is no pressure!

7-22-07 Bussed over to CARNOUSTIE, from Dundee, for the last day of the British Open! The drought is still over! If it doesn't rain for an entire day these people assume they are in drought condition. You've got to hope the greens keeper budget covers the quagmire we spectators created crossing, re-crossing and just generally mucking around the various fairways and greens. Shopped at this huge souvenir tent where we were thoroughly gouged by exorbitantly inflated prices and an incredibly unfavorable exchange rate. 128 pounds = 269 dollars, four golf hats, four golf towels! What were we thinking? Walked back to the bus in the rain, just missed the bus, found a pub, however, it was chock a block, which means they were at capacity and had locked the doors, the bus was running every hour so eventually we got back to the ship to watch the open under more hospitable conditions. You wouldn't call the finish HO HUM, but the playoff format, which by the way was terrific, made it appear that nobody wanted to win. Everybody tried to throw the game, but eventually Sergio Garcia was the best loser to the inept Padrik Harrington. I had asked Charles if he would please shut off the TV and put us out of our misery so we could go to dinner, but he thought being thrown overboard might be the result, and he wasn't up for that.

7-23-07 In total a very tedious day, the itinerary said everyone must be off the ship by 9 AM. We could have left considerably earlier and been out of the airport by 9AM. The bus didn't leave until 9, however there were earlier busses! The car rental line was semi-efficient. Cheryl drove (left hand drive), I navigated, got out of the airport and onto the motorway with only one short cut. (mis-direction)! Roundabouts are quite the learning experience! On to HAWICK GOLF COURSE (pronounced HOIK, as in hike the ball) pretty drive, we played only 10 holes as we got a late start and still had miles to go as well as intermittent showers. Shared the umbrella and cart roof! Scenic green hilly course, would seriously recommend. Drove on through Carlisle to Cockermouth during rush hour traffic, which doesn't sound serious, but when you take into consideration when the streets were built, their traffic is no fun. This hotel was seriously one of our best picks, sight unseen. Big king bed, hot shower with powerful water pressure, great eats, bar, room card operates electricity, hotel did two bags of laundry for us which at this point of the trip we were beginning to get a bit anxious. Don't know who keeps pooping in my shorts, but they were desperate for a sensory change.

7-24-07 Well we found the COCKERMOUTH GOLD COURSE, but no one was there as they had said in their E-mail, and we had neglected to inquire about the availability of buggies or carts of which there were none. The course is located atop something that's a cross between a mountain and/or huge hills. The contours didn't look conducive to walking, but the view of the lake country was spectacular, so we left without playing. Cheryl did a yeomans job of driving south on the motorway. Traffic flew and we were doing 80 plus most of the time, which can be a sphincter puckering experience when you're going down the side of the road you're not accustomed to being on. The passenger side is not really, really close to oncoming traffic which again is approaching from the wrong side and the brake pedals on the passenger side are also nonexistent. Llandudno is a beach Vacation community! Wall to wall Victorian hotels lining this Irish Sea boardwalk town! Visited the LLANDUDNO GOLF COURSE for lunch, but passed on golf due to exhaustion. John got to drive lefty to find a parking space, as otherwise the car may have

been abandoned. Couldn't find a Laundromat! Walked the boardwalk and city center! The sea gulls are really aggressive they need to be fed Alka Seltzer! Helps them explode! The hotel sucks, hard beds, no hot water in shower, no phone, manager didn't know how to turn on hot water heater, said he would see if he could get it fixed tomorrow. Indians to date have been poor hotel managers.

7-25-07 No one on duty to check out, left note and card number, this just reinforces my opinion. Drove to Bangor, but unable to find the course, which is just as well as they don't have buggies either and it's raining again. Pushed on to CAERNARFON, home of the Prince of Wales! Our first McDonalds in quite some time! Couldn't follow directions to the golf course here, which was just as well, once again, as the rain hasn't let up! Going into major pout mode, we'll never get to play golf again, it just won't stop raining! Checked into our B & B in DOLGELLAU GOLF COURSE (C 89, J 99) with Margaret, found a Laundromat, to Cheryl's pleasure as she is out of slacks. Found the local golf course overlooking the Snowdonia National Park, terrific 9 hole setting, got a buggy which is also their only buggy and played 18 holes in the sun. A few beers at their new club house, wandered the village, which is very compact due to the streets having been built a millennia ago, everything is built of stone, too many choices of restaurants! Settled on a great café with low ceilings! The Ivy House, our B & B, was another good choice, just wish I were more consistent, but truth in advertising is hard to discern through e-mail.

7-26-07 Long drive through forested roads almost like tunnels! We were rained out at ABERYSTWYTH GOLF COURSE! There were just two hearties that we could make out in the rain! Made it to Glynhir for lunch at the College Inn where we were the only customers and no I don't know why it's called College Tim as there are no colleges about, only sheep and forests. Arrived at the Glynhir Mill Inn B & B! While Cheryl took a well-deserved nap I drove up to the golf club. It is raining furiously! Another great room overlooking the forest! Small bar and formal dining room, friendly hosts! This appetizer bears remembering! Portobello mushroom, stilton cheese and some kind of tasty ham like meat! Oh yes we are driving a Skoda, Octavia, diesel powered car made in what was once East Germany, but now is manufactured by V.W.!

7-27-07 After our hearty B & B breakfast it was up the road for 18 holes at the GLYNHIR GOLF CLUB. The buggy had to stay on the cart path as the course was so drenched, while walking across the fairway you actually left foot prints which immediately filled with muddy water. It just rained a few drops on us and the sun eventually came out! We drove across Wales mostly on the M4 where we witnessed a motorcycle funeral procession which probably had a thousand bikes. Eventually arrived in Caerleon historically known as a roman legion bath, where their soldiers could recover after combat. Also something to do with King Arthur! Nice room again, walked the town center, made our contribution to the economy at 3 different pubs, and had great conversation with 3 retired bobbies (cops). Got shit faced, don't remember dinner or returning to the B & B! Wendy and Alan were terrific hosts and hopefully very forgiving as I generally don't do much in the way of changing foreigners opinions of Americans.

7-28-07 Found the MONMOUTH GOLF CLUB (C 100, J 104) after a very pleasant drive through the Usk Valley, with a minimum of directional faux pas! The course setting was once again magnificent and buggies were allowed on the course rough with the 90 degree rule in effect, still a bit soggy, but the sun

was a pleasant change. We each lost 5 balls on the front 9, otherwise it was a good game. The resident sheep kept commenting on our game BAAA! BAAA! Had difficulty finding the short cut to Stratford so we took the long cut instead. Probably had something to do with the flooding and detours the Midlands have been experiencing from their record rainfalls, which someone on TV said were the worst recorded since 1778. You have to wonder how long they have been measuring rainfall. Another nice B & B and we did the walk around town our hosts suggested. The Avon is still at flood stage, just within its banks. The city is jammed with thousands of kids who are here for the Global Gathering, in addition to all us normal tourists.

7-29-07 Today was quite simple, we took the double decker bus tour of the city of Stratford-Upon-Avon and the outskirts including Anne Hathaway's cottage, the Alden House, Nash House, a demonstration of hawking (which has no relationship to luggies), followed by more walking and pubbing. The kids participating in the global thing look exhausted and muddy, bet you they didn't sleep any too well in some farmers field, but they will have life time memories. Early to bed as we have a date with Heathrow tomorrow, but not a good night's sleep either.

7-30-07 Early rise and on the road by 6 AM! Cheryl drove the M 40 to Heathrow which was quite the challenge skirting Londons airport area and trying to find the rental car return. I believe our taxi driver was Sterling Moss as he was most efficient and the ride quite exciting. The Victoria Park Plaza is a very nicely appointed hotel. The day was dedicated to walking, three times to the post office, to ship our souvenirs to Waterloo. Mailed our 2-for-1 book and tickets to Charles and Maggie! Began a nice triangular walk to the Vauxhall Bridge, parliament building, Big Ben and back to Victoria Station! Saw the statue of Oliver Cromwell in front of the Parliament building. Why they would honor the English version of Adolph Eichman escapes me, in your face Celts, must be a cultural thing.

7-31-07 Apparently Brendan tours has been bought out by Trafalgar tours, just a bit disconcerting not knowing this, thought our tickets might only be good for book marks. Salisbury Cathedral, maybe named after the steak you think, is architecturally awe inspiring. One of the four remaining copies of the original twenty Magna Carta is housed here. On to Stonehenge for a self-guided walking tour! Impressive achievement, moving shaped stones, for that time of history! I'm a little skeptical as to the stones being moved by man power alone. I should think oxen and horses which had long been domesticated, trained to the plow, by that time, would have been employed, especially as this was a solstice type monument and those concerned with the seasons are agricultural societies. Probably impresses tourists more to think manpower was involved. Let's not get into the pyramids or Aztec societies either. On to Exmoor and our room at the Durrant House Hotel!

8-01-07 Nobody walked down the cobbled streets of Clovelly, which are quite steep, probably 45 degrees, looking non chalant, it's a balance coordination clutz thing. The residents use donkeys and sleds to move things up and down the street. There are no vehicles in the town except at the base where the fishing boats can load up there catch and have it driven up a back road. We decided to hire a land rover for the trip back up as our legs were quivering from the trip down. Worth every step of the way and would definitely recommend staying here, but at least an overnigher at one of the two tiny hotels. Tintagel is supposedly the birthplace or home of King Arthur, walked the streets and visited its myriad

souvenir shops. Tea and scones on the driver! Don't know if King Arthur was a nice guy or not as he and his illegitimate son Mordrid slew each other in battle. Plymouth gets its name as the mouth of the River Ply. Took the harbor boat excursion and got to view their naval facility, lots of frigates, etc. Historically the starting place for the pilgrims to Americas Plymouth, Admiral Drake v.s. the Spanish armada! Very mediocre dinner at the best hotel to date!

8-02-07 Lands' End is the western most point of England or so the sign says, it also says lands beginning on the other side of the sign. St. Ives is a vacation type community dedicated somewhat to the arts as there are galleries everywhere. Super narrow streets! Should have been warned about the hand sandwiches as it would take ten men and a dog to consume one! St. Ives is mentioned in some childrens poem. Dal (moor National Park for an evenings guided (Frank) archeological walking tour of the moors. Bronze Age residents built circular abodes and straight lines of rocks some as long as two miles to align the solstice for their agrarian purposes. The area was once forested, but the British clear cut everything and it's now moors. Didn't hear or see the hounds of the Baskerville, thank goodness. Anyway these round tumble down piles of stones, which used to be homes in a galaxy far, far away, have now become very popular with the shepherds. The shepherds whack away at the dried sheep droppings with their crooks, trying to direct them into these olden stone circles. If they were successful they would cry "Holy" and then they would shout to the other nearby shepherds the material used to make that great shot. "Sheep Shit!" So that's all I've got to say about that! For the evening's entertainment, at the Dartmoor Inn, we were regaled with stories of the moors, mostly horror, (The Hairy Hands, disappearances, hounds, etc, Arthur Conan Doyle)!

8-03-07 The Glastonbury Abbey and its ruins abound with legends! The remains of King Arthur were reputed to have been brought here for burial. Joseph of Aramethia, Jesus uncle, supposedly brought Jesus here during his youth while he was on business trading in tin. The Holy Grail, Last Supper Cup, was brought here after Jesus crucifixion by the English, not funny, but someone always has to get the blame. Glad I wasn't Judas, that poor guy really got screwed, knowing beforehand he was the bad guy, then telling him at dinner, they didn't even pick straws or do one potato, two potato thing. Enough of that! Cheddar Gorge is a narrow impressive pass on the way to Bristol by way of Midsummer! Fortunately we didn't do the tour of Bristol, but we did walk a huge shopping area near the hotel, bought a few necessities and some souvenirs too. Nice hotel dinner, you have to give them credit for handling so many tour busses at once, good job!

8-04-07 You'd have thought you were in front of the Vatican what with so many tourists, but it was only Bath. Just not feeling really tippy top today! Would blame it on Montezuma, but I know full well he had nothing to do with my condition, could possibly have something to do with the partaking of ginger beer vodka (Moscow Mule) last night. Yeah! Yeah! Blame it on Ivan or Stalin or someone! Anyway my claim to fame here is that this irritable bowel syndrome has made it possible for me to have used every toilet in Bath. Appropriate, Huh? Avebury is the largest and most ancient of the stone circles in Britain, even bigger than their neighbor at Stonehenge. The stone part is obvious, the henge is the hole dug around the outside of the circle. Did a drive by at the Buckindham Palace estate on the way to dropping everybody off at various hotels as they all have different destinations, for the rest of their lives! Good night now from the Victoria Park Plaza!

8-05-07 Early call 3:30 AM followed by a bus to Heathrow, good check through, intense attention to bowel control! 8 hour flight, left at 8 AM, arrived at 10 AM, man is that fast, only two hours, London to Chicago! Bus to our long term parking hotel, but decided not to spend the entire day waiting for a good nights sleep, which might not be forthcoming anyway. Got to Waterloo about 5 and stayed up really late probably past 7. Dreams upon dreams! Shitty nights sleep!

8-06-07 Great to be home where there is no abject fear of lack of toilets. It was the fault of that William Wallace of Braveheart renown, or maybe the one who did the hernia operation. In addition to the sponges, scissors, scalpels and what not that he forgot and were sewn in with the hernia mesh I think there was a sleeve of golf balls and bag of tees on each side. That's what's causing the pressure! But the Chinese for lunch was terrific.

8-07-07 EARL WARREN MEMORIAL (C 88, J 108)

8-08-07 Power wash and soap the house for mildew.

8-09-07 SOUTH HILLS GOLF CLUB

8-10-07 WAVERLY GOLF CLUB with Mickey and Marty, pretty warm, nap, skip auction!

8-11-07 Everyone went to the water park. Did the Rowley auction and antique stores.

8-12-07 Visit Pat and Patty over in Dubuque.

8-13-07 GATES PARK GOLF CLUB driving is coming back! Went to Jerry's for some bird houses, man has he got some world class gourds. Dinner at Tony and Kellys and deleted lots of e-mail.

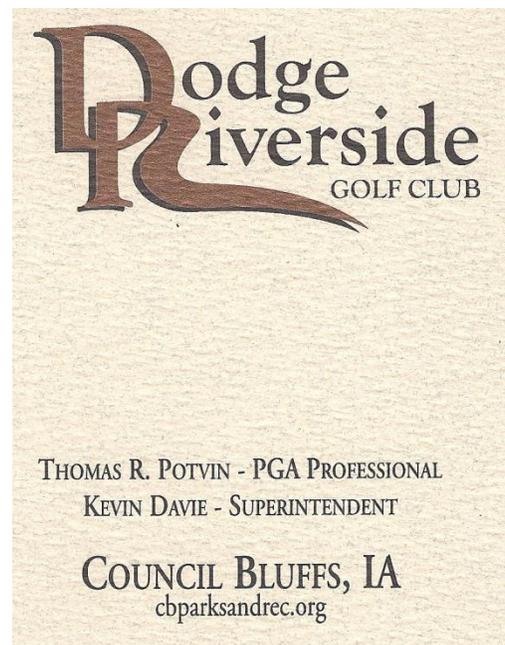
8-14-07 PHEASANT RIDGE GOLF CLUB

8-15-07 Famous Daves

8-16-07 Tried golfing at Traer, but we were too early again, as no one was around, so we went over to DYSART GOLF CLUB where the acorns were falling big time, quite a racket on the golf cart roof Big good bye barbecue in the driveway!

8-17-07 Played the DODGE RIVERSIDE CASINO AND GOLF CLUB (C 98, J 90) in Council Bluffs by the Harrah's Casino! Got to Tim and Sue's in Omaha about 3, dinner, TV, sleep!

8-18-07 Went over to the lake to walk the dogs, but the lake is nonexistent, it has been drained for some purpose. Lunch at some casino, best buffet ever, nap, cards!



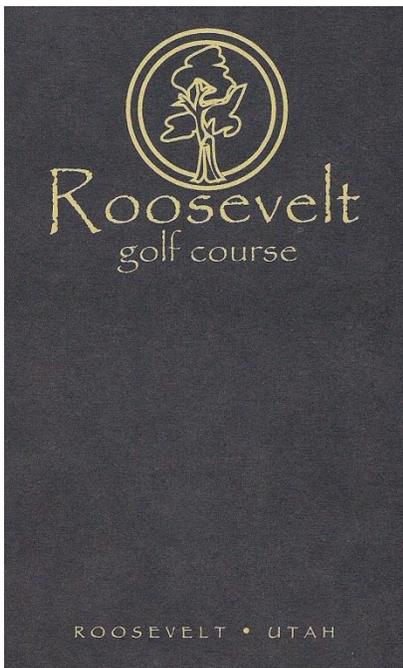


8-19-07 Lisa, Kevin, Cassie and Jacob came over for breakfast, than we hit the road and drove all the way to the Best Western in Ogallala, Nebraska. The last time we were here it was raining cats and dogs.

8-20-07 WEST WIND GOLF CLUB (C 85, J 98)

in Ogallala followed yet another long drive across the rest of Nebraska and on into the Super 8 in Laramie, Wyoming! Just a taste at the Library brewery off campus!

8-21-07 UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING AT LARAMIE (C 46, J 44), only nine holes as the ladies tournament was about to begin a shotgun start! Very long drive to Vernal, Utah! There were no rooms in Roosevelt so we had to go back to Vernal. Val and Eva Labrum who were on our Perry Golf Tour came over for dinner. We stayed at the Weston in the executive suite as it was the only room in town.



8-22-07 Val and Eva Labrum treated us to golf at the ROOSEVELT GOLF COURSE (C 88, J 82)and it was my best round of the

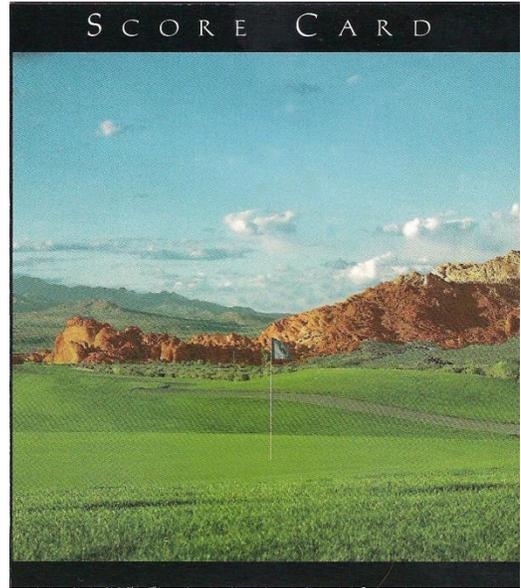
summer. You must be very careful when you extend an invitation to the Waters to come and play golf at our course if you're ever in the area. We go to a lot of areas. Val and friends built the course themselves a number of years ago. Many of the trees were already there when they started and the ones they planted have completely matured. There are no short cuts from Roosevelt to Interstate 15, thus another tedious drive to Cedar City, Utah.

8-23-07 Golfed the SKY MOUNTAIN COURSE (C 92, J 91) in Hurricane, Utah, very picturesque, red rock, western scenery and highly recommended, if it's not too hot. The Olive Garden got the pleasure of our company with Arnold Mulcahy, our old neighbor. Spent the night at Buffalo Bills, where we enjoyed free drinks while playing

video poker. When will they ever learn, giving the Waters free drinks is not a winning proposition? Showed Cheryl my winning system at video poker! Oh Yeah! Also bought a BCS ticket for \$100 that Notre Dame would be the National Champions! That must have been the kiss of death, as Our Lady of The Lake started 0— 5. Well it will make a terrific \$100 book mark. Also hind sight says Buffalo Bills knows what they are doing with the free drink thing.

8-24-07 Drove home 7 AM to 10:30 AM, 250 miles! TSK! TSK! Someone was in a hurry for the baby shower!

TOWN	COURSE
Laughlin	<u>Avi</u>
Williams	Elephant Rock
<u>Rociada</u>	<u>Pendaries</u>
Colorado Springs	Patty Jewett
Atlantic	<u>Atlantic</u>
Dysart	<u>Dysart (2)</u>
<u>Jesup</u>	<u>Jesup</u>
La Porte	La Porte
Waterloo	Irv Warren (2)
Waterloo	South Hills (2)
Denver	Willow Run
Grundy Center	Town & Country
Dike	Fox Ridge
Waverly	Centennial Oaks
Waterloo	Red Carpet



Waterloo	Gates Park (2)
Reinbeck	Oak Leaf
Manchester	Manchester
Woodbine	Woodbine
Cedar Falls	Pheasant Ridge
Council Bluffs	Dodge Riverside
Ogallala	West Wind
Laramie	Univ. Wyoming
Roosevelt	Roosevelt
Hurricane	Sky Mountain

