

## SUMMER 2011

Of course attempting to play every course in America, even just the public links, during my lifetime is an absurd objective. Perhaps just experiencing as many rounds as possible at courses we haven't had the privilege of playing in the past is more realistic. In any event each road trip provides the opportunity to either take a bite out of that huge apple, or just watch the totals grow. There are occasions that make it geographically impossible to run up the score, but every effort is made to alter the route each trip just enough to put more courses in harms' way. The roads not taken are becoming less and less, (however those roads not taken become the roads taken on subsequent ventures) consequently we repeat playing many courses. During this summer's excursion of 52 days we were able to get in 44 rounds, of which 38 were new courses.

7-04-11 The start of summer was delayed a few extra minutes this morning as the main drag had been cordoned off for the Fourth of July Parade. We played with a retiree of G.E. at the HESPERIA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB (C 97, J 92), who interestingly enough splits his time between Thailand and Hesperia, with his # 1 girlfriend. The holiday traffic to Las Vegas was very friendly today. The road from Baker through Shoshone and on to The Pahrump Nugget was an education in geological formations. At the casino buffet we were seated with Hay Stacks Calhoun and Man Mountain Dean which was a little disconcerting considering the quantities of food they were able to consume. The abject fear of being inadvertently scarfed down did make things somewhat uncomfortable. The Lobster Mania penny slot machine donated \$34 to Herself after the initial investment which probably wasn't that much. She won another \$88 at the bar poker machine, my approach on the other hand is to break even between the free beer and what I donate to the poker machine.

7-05-11 When making the 7 A.M. tee time we were to be part of a tournament with a shotgun start. What an inconvenience to get up early, do breakfast, find the course and then be told to follow the tournament. The MOUNTAIN FALLS GOLF COURSE (C 92, J 92) was in excellent shape, but we didn't have anyone to play with. We named the cart girl the Pied Piper of Pahrump as she was followed interminably by all the courses ducks. For a place that is so remote you have to ask why is there and more importantly what is a Pahrump? Our best guess is the name comes from the sound of an underground mining blast, or the noise a fart makes in a pillow. The drive from Pahrump through Tonopah and on to Ely was interesting. Didn't spot The Chicken Ranch, didn't stop at the Shady Lady Ranch Bordello which had more abandoned vehicles than a reservation, could have been a truck stop maybe, next whore house 50 miles! The eastern slopes of the White Mountains are spectacular and there was plenty of rain passing through the Humboldt National Forest. The Prospector is a decent motel, restaurant, bar and casino if you're staying in Ely.

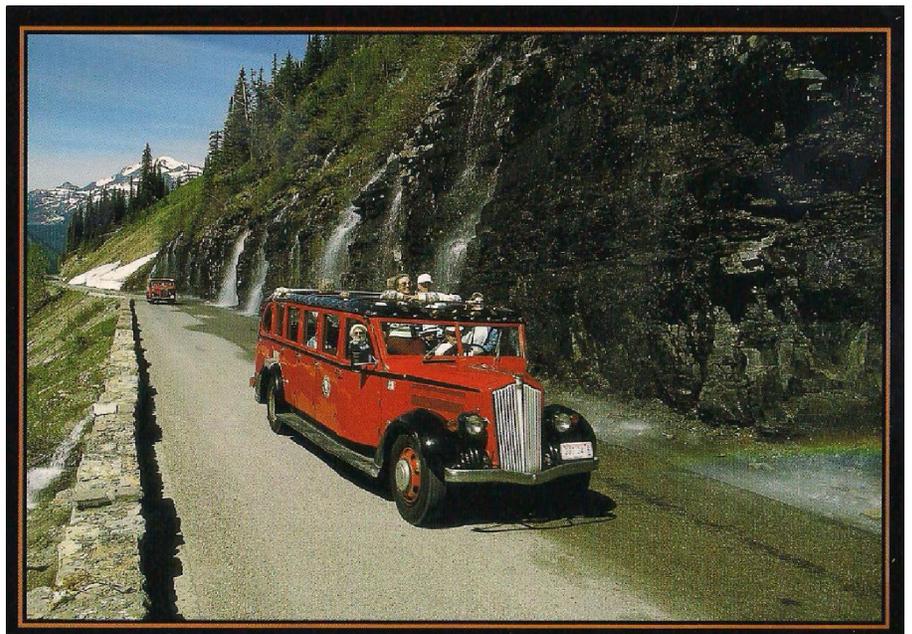
7-06-11 There was an article from some golfing publication, posted in the pro shop, suggesting this is the second most remote American golf course in relation to distance from a neighboring course. Some course in the Aleutian Island chain holds the distinction of being first. The WHITE PINE GOLF CLUB (C 91, J 89) has good fairways, something was wrong with the greens and if you get short of breath it may have something to do with the elevation, 6,300". Pleasant drive along the base of the snow covered

mountains, who'd of figured snow covered mountains, in Nevada, in July? Cactus Pete's in Jackpot is a huge casino with an excellent buffet. Mongo eat good!

7-07-11 The JACKPOT GOLF COURSE (C 94, J 88) would come highly recommended if you could fly in, otherwise it is a long way from Tipperary. Plan on a slow relaxing trip if you take Highway 93 to Salmon, lots of shovel ready road construction, made for interminable delays. Be sure to stop at The Craters of The Moon National Park visitor information center, this must be the most desolate place on the planet, but they provide an intriguing display of what really happens on the inside of the earth, tectonic plates, volcanos, etc. Glad I didn't go to school in Arco, you should see where the class graduation years are displayed, on the side of the cliffs overlooking the town. I'd buy the paint, but somebody else has to do the painting, none of that cute rock pile stuff on the side of a hill, oh no, this requires rappelling or some other mountaineering skill. The town of Parallel is located exactly on the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel, just thought you might need to know. Awe inspiring drive along the Salmon River, albeit a bit on the hairy side! The Stage Coach Motel is right on the Salmon River which by the way was well out of her banks and into the tree line. The Shady Lady restaurant-bar is walking distance from the motel, and is also a destination for the suicidal pursuit of rafting the Salmon River, the patrons who apparently just finished their run were boisterously celebrating their survival.

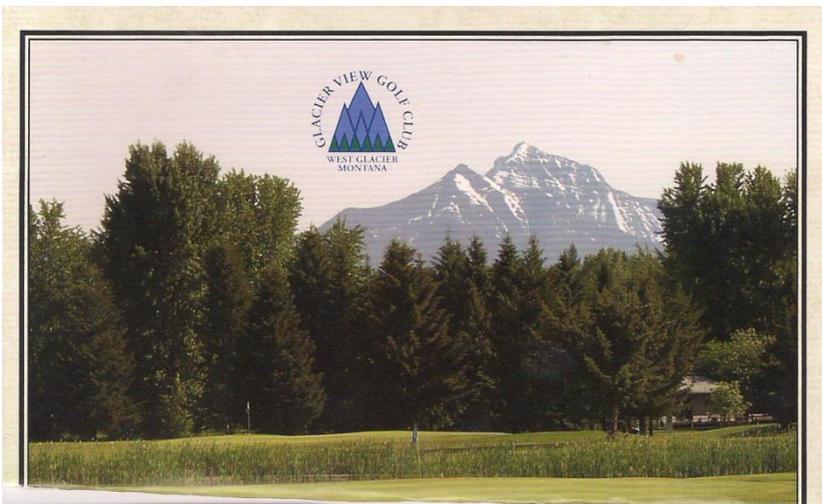
7-08-11 The SALMON VALLEY GOLF CLUB (C 49, J 51) is a very flat course of nine holes, with a small clear river running through all the fairways. Followed the Salmon River north into Montana where we picked up the Big Hole River on the way to Butte. We were distracted by the natural beauty and missed our opportunity to visit the Big Hole National Battlefield. The Big Hole River must be an extremely popular location for fishermen and campers as there were a great number of boats floating the entire length of our drive and R.V.s and campsites everywhere. Continued on to Helena for our photo opportunity of the capital of Montana, and later a quick visit to the Last Chance Gulch Casino, only because of its catchy name!

7-09-11 After playing the BILL ROBERTS GOLF COURSE (C 94, J 94) where we were paired with another father son long ball hitting duo. We stopped in Grand Falls and were able to cancel our motel reservations and press on to Shelby. The headwaters of the Missouri River and other tributaries which somewhat parallel Interstate 15 were all out of their banks, so there is flooding going on somewhere! As everyone knows Shelby was the sight of the 1923 heavyweight championship between Jack Dempsey and Nichols, which bankrupt the town, what with having to build an arena and whatever else is necessary to accommodate such an event. The



Days Inn was hosting a wedding party, probably the second biggest event in Shelby history and a sizeable motorcycle group outta Oneida, New York.

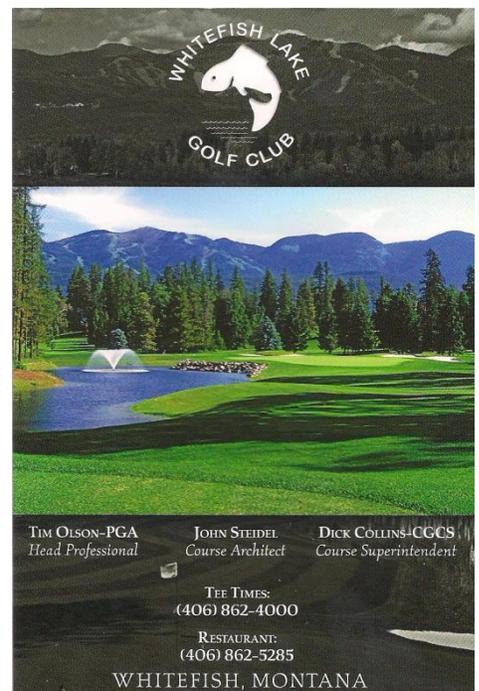
7-10-11 There is a nice little nine hole course just east of Shelby appropriately named the CUT BANK GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB (C 45, J 47), which sits astride the Cut Bank River and as its name implies absolutely cuts into the bank, in Cut Bank, Montana. Yes, it does! The drive through the southern boundary of Glacier National Park passes through Browning the tribal center of the Blackfoot Nation. Is that ironic or what? Naming the town Browning, why not Springfield or Remington or Gatling? Actually got into the park early enough to ride the old red tour bus part way up the Road To The Sun. The snow level was such that the pass had never been closed this late in the tourist season, eventually opening July 17<sup>th</sup>. Stayed at the glamorous Glacier Inn Motel in Columbia Falls where we partied with a bike group of educators and nurses from Nebraska, who take their show on the road every summer. Swapped hair hats for beer and pizza, kind of like beads for furs of another era.



7-11-11 Inside the park entrance is the GLACIER VIEW GOLF COURSE (C 85, J 85), not a terrific challenge, but what a setting. Yes Alice there is a free lunch! After following the girls club they were very generous and treated us to lunch. I know! I know! We should have had fish and chips while residing in White Fish, Montana but instead we enjoyed an exquisite culinary experience of Taco John and Dairy Queen.

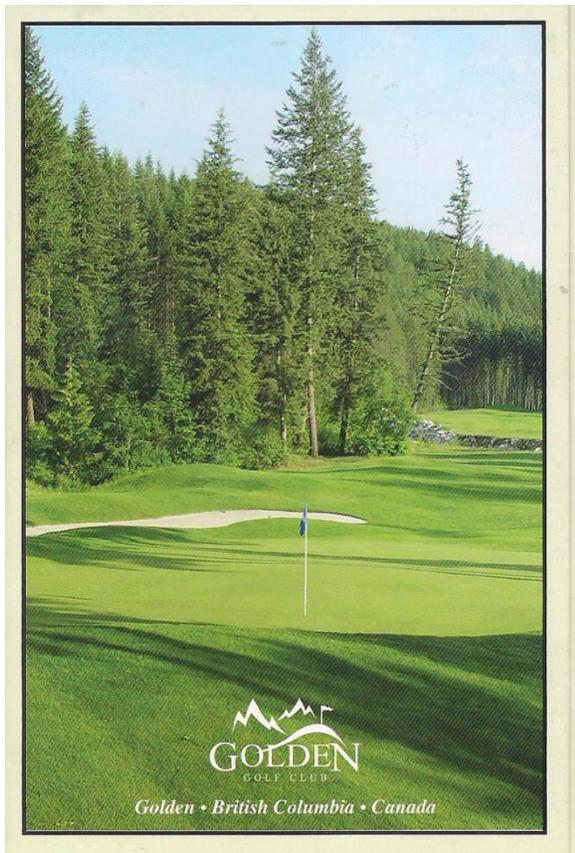
7-12-11 Just up the road in Kalispell can be found the BIG MOUNTAIN GOLF COURSE (C 90, J 90) one of the top rated courses in the state according to Golf Digest. Excellent condition, greens fast and soft, challenging layout! Stopped at the emergency room of Best Buy as the laptop wouldn't fire up, seems some dummy had depressed the cap key so it wouldn't accept the password. Whew! No surgery required! There are a multitude of eateries in downtown White Fish which doubles as a ski and summer resort. We powered appetizers and specialty of the house drinks on the patio of some really nice watering hole.

7-13-11 Another retired transplant, this one of 17 years from Ohio, kept us company at the WHITE FISH LAKE GOLF CLUB (C 93, J 84). He really loves Canadians as they are quick to abandon their Pro V 1 and he is a dedicated ball hawk. Would really like to play this course again as well as its' twin! Uneventful border crossing into Canada!



The highway to Radium Hot Springs may hold claim to being the deadliest highways in British Columbia, but she doesn't lack for beauty. After checking into the motel, took a visit to and luxuriated in the springs which are set in a sheer chasm. The rain came down in #1 size drops. Neat experience! The chicken dinner take out was not such a neat experience at \$50 Canadian. The taxes here must be something else.

7-14-11 After teeing off from # 11 at the GOLDEN GOLF COURSE (C 91, J 94) a brown bear crossed the fairway. Not only do we think it was very considerate of him to let us play through, but he actually waited until we had both hit, we also thought perhaps we don't really need to go searching for errant shots into the forest, or for that matter maybe the need to pee in the woods wasn't all that urgent after all. Intimidating huge granite mountains, clothed in dark green forests, shrouded in threatening black clouds, had to intrigue the first people to behold this challenge. Once again She who has no fear of heights, was able to drive the mountain roads to Lake Louise. If this were not the case I would have had



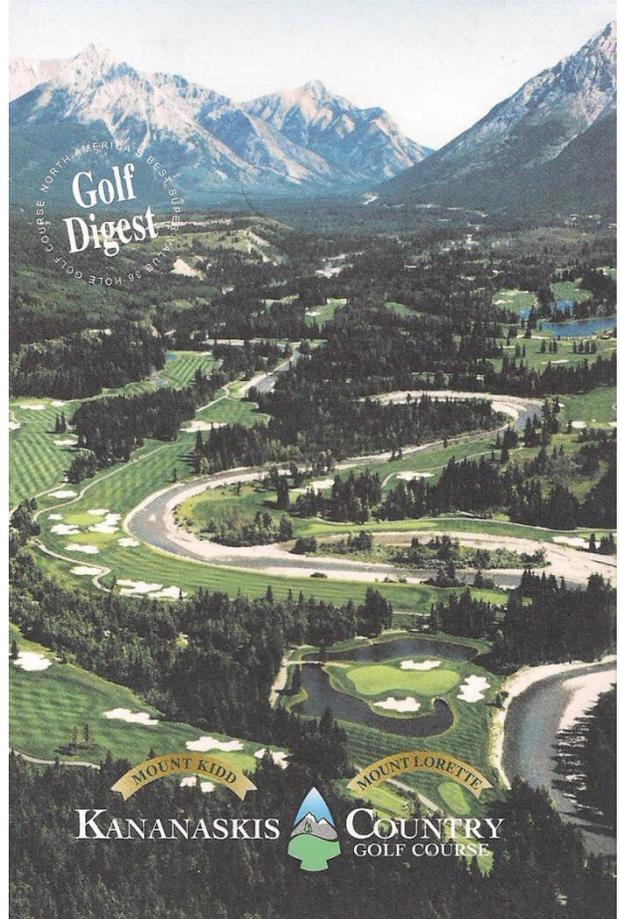
to call AAA and report something was wrong with the car as it wouldn't go any further. The Alps may be a spectacular set of mountains, but right now I'm thinking they're a par 3 compared to these guys. Expedia dropped the ball, even with the confirmation in hand our reservation was nonexistent. The opportunity to impress herself with the best hotel room ever had passed, eventually the hotel was able to accommodate us for only \$369. The vacationers canoeing about the lake are either very brave or very stupid, the water temperature is well above freezing, maybe even 33 degrees, don't tip the canoe. The scenery is every bit as impressive as advertised.

7-15-11 Slept in this morning until well past 7 A.M. as there is no golf on our agenda. Today was a day dedicated to doing touristy things like driving through downtown Banff and visiting that elegant old hotel. The golf course looked impeccable, it was so sad to see such a beautiful course in such a majestic location that no one was playing. We

inquired at the pro shop as to the green fees, \$225 plus cart or caddy. Drove to Canmore, Alberta where it was declared national laundry day. No tee times were available at Silver Tip, Silver Bow or Stewart for the next few days, apparently you need some real lead time to get on these courses. Enjoyed the ambiance and dinner at The Wood, which name elicited a few alcohol inspired crass comments as to how it came by its name.

7-16-11 There was no sympathy to be had from the mega sand traps at the KANANAKAS COUNTRY GOLF COURSE (C 99, J 92) nor the greens which were very fast and tough to read. The mountain setting more than made up for all the whining. Our partners were able to take some pictures with their phone to e-mail us. We played the Mt. Kidd side of the 36 holes and are not at all sorry for having been shut out of the aforementioned courses.

7-17-11 Now the KANANASKAS RANCH GOLF CLUB (C 96, J 110) is not to be confused with yesterdays' venue although their location is not too distant. In addition to setting a personal record of 12 lost balls it is ironic that I found more balls than lost, which doesn't help the bottom line. You know what really, really sucked, it was a cart path only day due to the rain also the elevation took a little of the starch out of us. Just like my old governor Arnold used to say "I'll be back", but in my case that won't happen, as this was a thorough ass kicking I took today. Got our first introduction to \$5 gas, did a little shopping and settled in to watch the British Open.



There are many highway overpasses in The Banff National Park and Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve that serve to provide safe migratory routes for the native animals. This significantly reduces the number of accidents between animal and vehicle and the subsequent carcass clean up. These overpasses are something you may not see anywhere else, and they are fully planted with trees, brush and other

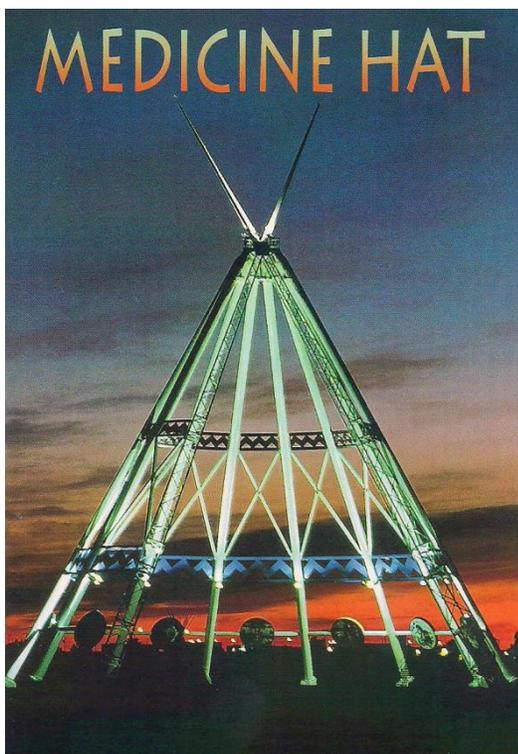


manner of growth. This attempt by man to help his animal brethren must be a real godsend to Mr. Mountain Lion, all he has to do is camp out on one side or the other and wait for the migrants to be funneled his way, instead of traipsing all over the Rockies looking for lunch. Some huge critter had his head so far into Blam-Bs' (Bambi) orts and entrails there was no telling what manner of big dog he might have been. So much for keeping deer off the interstate.

7-18-11 More time was spent finding the entrance to the FOX HOLLOW GOLF COURSE (C 88, J 87) than the pleasant drive to Calgary from Canmore during morning rush hour. The Calgary Stampede was over yesterday so all the tour companies were probably giving their employees time off, could not arrange for a guide for tonight or tomorrow. The married couple we were paired with today are from Calgary, Italy, Scotland, U.S.A., Las Vegas and Anchorage at various times in their careers. Not quite sure what 30 celsius equates to, but it is warm.



7-19-11 SPRINGBANK LINKS (C 92, J 95) is a very challenging course with views of Calgary and the Olympic center. Our partners were a policeman and his wife, who related interesting anecdotes of working the Olympics, the Stampede, Canadian Indian issues, French-English language bias issues and advice on what to see in town. The hotel had been able to locate a guide from the Lone Wolf Tours Company for this evening. Up close and in person the Olympic Center and all its facilities, the University, arenas for the many hockey and speed skating teams, The Calgary Flames Arena, we had to seek shelter in the tour van from a pretty violent hail storm, the downtown area is quite modern and is supported heavily by the oil, gas and cattle industry. Calgary claims to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest corporate headquarters city in Canada and they take pride in being not supportive of a litigious environment. (no frivolous law suits).



7-20-11 Well this morning we were included in the shotgun tournament at the STRATHMORE GOLF COURSE (C 93, J 103). Would ordinarily describe the terrain as Midwestern prairie, but discretion necessitates calling it provincial flat, with only a few man made contours, otherwise it was well maintained, with greens slicker than ice. The worlds' largest tee pee is on the road just outside of Medicine Hat and its casino-lodge.

7-21-11 What is truly amazing is The MEDICINE HAT GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB (C 87, J 100) is one of six golf courses, considering the size of the town and its remote location from any sizeable population center. Two shotgun tournaments in a row! Interesting incident on the drive to Moose Jaw, way out in the middle of nowhere, must have been the last straw, husband

throwing their clothes at the wife. There has to be a lot better accommodation than the Travel Lodge in Moose Jaw, it was in desperate need of some TLC.

7-22-11 Had a pretty good clubhouse lunch, after a three hour round at the LYNBROOK GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB (C 97, J 87). We have never seen anything quite so yellow as miles and miles of canola fields on the road to Brandon. Brandon is home to the worlds' largest moose.

7-23-11 The starter was very generous in offering a discount, but fully understood that we had to back out of our tee time at the WHEAT CITY GOLF COURSE as the Assiniboine River had flooded too many of the holes. So we drove over to the SHILOH COUNTRY CLUB (C 94, J 107) which is located on a Canadian military, artillery regiment base. Why is there a German M-60 tank at the base entrance? It seems during the cold war the West Germans came here for maneuvers. Windy, drizzly and cold this morning, the greens and fairway were hard and fast causing several long shots. Course knowledge would have been very helpful with many of the subtleties and also, where the heck is the next tee box. Drove into and through downtown Winnipeg to our hotel and were actually able to register even though there was a power outage. The bar and restaurant were closed as all their transactions are computerized. We toughed it out though, as there was cold beer and rum in our cooler, no T.V. so we entertained ourselves watching the chaos outside.

We had planned to cut south and east after Moose Jaw into the Dakotas, but all the courses in Minot, Bismarck, Pierre and surrounding areas were closed for the summer due to the flooding of the Missouri. We thought perhaps we could play some outlying areas away from the river that might not have been affected, but were unable to secure any motel accommodations because of the number of people who had been displaced, consequently there were no vacancies. The nerve of them, they just have no appreciation for the urgency of our being able to fulfill our golfing fantasies!

7-24-11 The WINDSOR PARK GOLF CLUB (C 79, J 83) is a short, somewhat flat, abbreviated track that has been well used since 1925. Sometimes the age of a club might be the deciding factor where we will play if everything else is equal, green fees being the predominant determinant. The missus broke eighty this morning, some day when I grow up, perhaps I'll have that privilege, but suffering from a huge Peter Pan Complex, that may never happen, the growing up part, that is. Drove through Grand Forks on the way to Fargo, stopping at Culvers for our chocolate fix!

7-25-11 The ROSE CREEK GOLF COURSE (C 84, J 93) is new with lots of lakes and sand. Once again we got out just before a tournament, cart path only, another indication of just how much rain this area has suffered. Another picturesque drive, this one on the way to and through Sioux Falls, which actually does have a falls, which we personally experienced while having dinner .

7-26-11 The personnel at BAKKER CROSSING CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF COURSE (C 92, J 99) in Sioux Falls were exceptionally attentive, not only were they nice but so was the course. A short drive down to Sioux City where we usually play a late afternoon or evening round with our friends was out of the question today as the courses where they are members had been flooded by the Missouri River. So relaxing over cigars and beer, under the huge trees in their back yard, catching up on the past year, listening to the cicadas, that's what it's all about.

7-27-11 War Eagle Park which overlooks the confluence of the Missouri and Big Sioux Rivers was the perfect viewing place to see the devastation these rivers were actually causing. They were well above flood stage, the Lewis and Clark Center was underwater, and the casino could only be reached by duck boat. The boats were mostly empty as the patrons resented having to not only pay for the transportation, but for privilege of leaving their money at the casino. By tee time at the GREEN VALLEY GOLF COURSE (C 93, J 101) it was already sweltering, which is another way of saying it was incredibly hot and humid, but that is not unusual for Iowa this time of year. The course itself was nicely laid out and not endangered by the flooding as it is set at the base of the hills. Our hosts spoiled us with barbecued Iowa corn fed beef along with the occasional beer.

7-28-11 The weather reports in the Midwest include a thing called the discomfort factor which requires very little explanation once it has been experienced, today's was mild compared to the past few days. The WHISPERING CREEK GOLF COURSE (C 88, J 101) is very hilly with many exceptionally challenging holes. How challenging could they be you say? Well one of the greens has a dip in the middle of six or eight feet which is hilarious, walking up to the green I could not see my wife anywhere, until getting all the way up. In addition there is a relatively short par 3 that is so severely uphill it couldn't be reached with the driver. Play it, the course is a real kick!

7-29-11 The HIGHLAND GOLF CLUB (C 89, J 117) is a pleasant 9 hole course set beside the Iowa River, which incidentally was not swollen like all the other rivers to the west, and guess where it's situated? Iowa Falls! It is a Godsend to have family to stay with when traveling, but like dead fish guests begin to stink after a while, so we try not to overstay our welcome or abuse their hospitality. Years ago our friend Jerry Schmidt converted his cattle pond into a truly enjoyable recreational pond good for fishing and swimming, which is what we did in addition to the barbecue and beer. We came bearing gifts for his new puppy, a heavy duty chain with rabbit fur attached. It was supposed to be our trained guard rabbit, but "Dog" turned it into fluff in less than a minute.

7-30-11 Kind of a laid back, no golfing day! Tony and Kelly are building a massive new attached garage and had the old garage moved further into their property, we spent a little time spiffing it up so it would be more like a clean canvas when they begin that project. Drove down to Waukee to visit the niece and nephew and check out their new house.

7-31-11 Another day of leisure! The highlights were visiting grandma and going to the auction, which is my avocation, there are treasures beyond imagination. You can never have enough milk cans, tractor seats, medical journals that predate the Civil War, just so many muches.

8-01-11 The WILDCAT GOLF CLUB (C 87, J 99) in Shellburg is not too far from Vinton where another niece and nephew made up our foursome. Don't know what the discomfort factor was on the weather report today, but if there is a wet tee shirt contest category that would be very accurate. After lunch at the air conditioned clubhouse we toured the new Clickstop warehouse, it is huge and quite sophisticated compared to the old facility. Naps are becoming a way of life after golf, lunch and the weather. The naps also serve to prepare us for our overdue Mexican dinner fix.

8-02-11 Teeing off as early as possible provides a little relief from the forthcoming heat. This morning at GATES PARK GOLF COURSE (C 95, J 92) a foursome of young guys suggested we go out ahead of them for which we were most grateful as they were already well into their cups. Our cart died on the 7<sup>th</sup> hole, but on the initial call to get assistance from the club house I must have misdialled and got some patient at the local hospital who didn't seem to be very sympathy as regards our cart problem. He probably just got out of surgery, was being doped up for surgery or some other not so great news, in any event he just wasn't very enthusiastic about running down here to help us out of our predicament, just didn't seem to appreciate the urgency of our situation, the nerve of some people. The next call got a cart delivered immediately. It's probably not very smart loading up at the Chinese buffet in this kind of weather, but then no one ever accused me of being intelligent, so that's where we took grandma for lunch. Never had barbecue asparagus, pork cutlets, cheeks before today. The girls from the arboretum all gathered at the farm to begin making scarecrows for the fall festival.

8-03-11 IRV WARREN MEMORIAL GOLF CLUB (C 90, J 98) was in good shape as usual and served as our course d' jour. Hot, but not so brutal because of an occasional light breeze! Kidnapped grandma from her bingo tournament and took her for an incredible lunch at Taco Bell.

8-04-11 No golf today! So we toured the arboretum where grandma and grandpa have invested a great deal of time and love and now the next generation is giving of their time and energy. Dropped by the Young Arena, the local hockey rink, to get the United States Hockey League (USHL) year book, it continues to fascinate me how nearly every player in this league ends up on a collegiate hockey scholarship.

8-05-11 RED CARPET GOLF CLUB (C 89, J 98) with another nephew in law and his dad for our nearly daily golf fix. Grandma got to go to lunch today at Culvers and watch me devour one of their chocolate - chocolate cement mixers. What a treat that must have been! We actually experienced nine drops of rain today.

8-06-11 Shoveled some dirt around the new garage foundation after an awesome breakfast, followed by a quick trip out to the auction house where I couldn't find any necessities of life, but you just have to look. Today was the beginning of the Waterloo Irish Fest, so my new best friend and I took turns buying shots of tequila and Jameson, the latter of which I equate to turpentine, but the day being what it was, you know, anyhow it got us into the spirit of things. Don't recall how we all hooked up for dinner and went visiting later. God must really look out for dumb animals and drunks, pure dumb luck I didn't end up spending time in the black hole of Waterloo.

8-07-11 Recovering alcoholic!

8-08-11 Drove out to Dike and got our round in at FOX RIDGE GOLF CLUB (C 87, J 95) before the rains came, which made things extremely pleasant. Pork tenderloins at Southtown are beyond huge.

8-08-11 Put in an appearance at SOUTH HILLS GOLF COURSE (C 96, J 91) before lunch at Famous Dave's with grandma.

8-10-11 Took our grandson and his cousin to the GARDNER GOLF COURSE (C 84, J 87) in Marion to see how the next generation, our replacements are coming along. Cousins' mom and dad barbecued beef and chicken which they converted into tacos. Walked their property to see where the new party barn, gigantic pond and new home will be built. Spectacular sunset on the ride back to Evansdale!

8-11-11 Mercifully nobody else was playing at the DYSART GOLF CLUB (C 89, J 90) today because the whole family was here, quite the circus. This is my favorite nine hole course, set on a hill which probably couldn't have been used to farm or pasture, surrounded by a mature oak forest and most importantly you go by the club house every third hole, so the beer never gets warm. After golf the young'uns moved on to the water park in Waterloo. As they say in "Field of Dreams", is this heaven? No it's Iowa (Dysart).

8-12-11 There is a television show we really enjoy watching called American Pickers and their store is located in Le Claire, Iowa. Well, if we are this close why not make a day trip out of it and go for a visit? After seeing all the treasures they accumulate on the show, the store was a little disappointing. Much of their merchandise goes to their new location. All was not lost, walking the



main drag of Le Claire checking out the antique shops I was able to acquire a hickory shaft jigger and a fishing creel. Hard times have fallen on the quad cities of Bettendorf, Moline, Davenport and Rock Island, the rust belt deterioration process is in full sway here. Back in Le Claire the Bierstubbe provided us with a little fortification for tonight's Tug-fest parade and fireworks. Tons of candy was tossed from the various floats, fire trucks, ancient cars and official vehicles. In addition to the Tug-fest, Le Clair lays claim to the largest fireworks display on the Mississippi River. You might be a little skeptical considering they have to contest this claim with the likes of New Orleans, Memphis, Saint Paul, Minneapolis, Saint Louis to name a few, but after the fireworks ended sometime north of 11PM I became a believer.

8-13-11 Attempted to play PEBBLE CREEK in Le Claire, but quit after 9 as the course was in such dire straits, several holes had to be avoided. You would think a state that provides a significant amount of corn to help feed the entire country would put some of it to good use in the manufacture of whiskey. Can you imagine the corn capital of the world and there is only one distillery in all of Iowa, it's new and small and offers a tasting tour, OH YES! A few quarts were illegally transported interstate. Initially, I assumed the Tug-fest would be held on one side of the river or the other, but no, they close the Mississippi to river traffic for several hours. A huge rope is pulled across the river, which is nearly a mile

wide at the point between Le Claire and Port Byron, Illinois. Fire trucks on either side pull out as much slack as the river will allow, the rope is marked at each end and then the teams begin to pull for three minutes, whoever pulls out the most slack wins. No one gets dragged into the Mississippi. There are four teams on either side who take turns, don't know the composition, but probably firemen, policemen, tavern patrons and girls. Le Claire is the home of Buffalo Bill.



8-14-11 In a galaxy, far, far away an anniversary party was held at the Hickory Hills Park for great grand ma and grand pa, we were all a little bit younger back then. After lunch we took grandma for a Sunday drive. Scored four pictures at tonight's auction, at home it's referred to as garage art because it is not allowed any further into the house than the garage. If there was a contest, our garage art gallery would do very well, well maybe okay.

8-15-11 After her pre-operation physical on her eyes we took grandma to lunch at The Corner Café in Reinbeck where you can experience some of the finest pies ever made. The ride home took a little longer

than normal, all kinds of shortcuts which turned into long cuts, just trying to delay the inevitable. Good bye mom! The flooding of the Missouri couldn't hold a candle to this parting, put away the tissues and get out the beach towels. Some of the Amish general stores carry either dark or milk chocolate bars they use for cooking. I on the other hand give them out to the Halloween princess'. A fifteen pound chocolate bar is nearly as big as some of those crumb snatchers. "Child crushed by chocolate bar while trick or treating"! When they grow up they can relate how big the chocolate bar was when they were a kid, with both hands held wide, "It was this big!" Yeah, they were as big as a mattress. Mexican dinner, margaritas, and our last evening listening to the cicadas, watching the lightning bugs, relaxing with our hosts.

8-16-11 We beat the rain and got our round in at the AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL GOLF COURSE (C 94, J 88) in Marshalltown. Highway 680 was closed because the Missouri River was several feet deep there. The Omaha branch of the family are now hosting us, of course we are secondary to their grandparenting obligations, dance class and tennis lessons this afternoon.

8-17-11 TARA HILLS (C 78, J 94) in Pappilion, Nebraska received the honor of the wife shooting her best game ever. How do we manage to keep our youthful figures? Why lunch of course at the Golden Corral buffet. You just can't imagine what an incredible impact it has had on my diet, so far I have gone down from 192 to 214, not bad, Huh! Watching Pawn Stars had prompted our hostess to wonder about pawn shops, so that's where we went. There is a similarity to shopping in Tijuana, after you show an interest

in something in particular, asking an employee how much is this, after receiving the initial price, just respond with several "No, I?" and magically the offers seem to get progressively lower.

8-18-11 The INDIAN CREEK GOLF COURSE (C 89, J 90) in Omaha has a club house that gives the impression of playing at a private club. Lots of hills, water, nice layout! I'm familiar with Tex-Mex food, but today it was Nebraska-Mexican cuisine. An evening of cards and laundry!

8-19-11 The aromas that emanate from men's rest rooms on most courses are unmistakable, today's was the exception, hats off to the QUAIL RUN GOLF COURSE (C 92, J 97) people in Columbus. Just thought you might be interested, nobody ever mentions these things. The course is very wooded, plenty of water, windy and flat!

8-20-11 Next up was JACKRABBIT RUN GOLF COURSE (C 87, J 89) in Grand Island, forgot to make notes as we were a little sleep deprived and followed up our round with a relatively long drive to Sterling, Colorado.

8-21-11 We have no idea how RIVERVIEW GOLF COURSE (C 98, J 99) in Sterling got its name as the South Platte River is nearby, but out of sight. Nice layout beside Interstate 76, we were able to get out before a tournament, but none of the clubs were in a cooperative mood. One of those days when I was in full pout mode, left the sand wedge in a trash barrel, guess I showed that club who is boss. The motel parking lot had a large number of cars wrapped in what appeared to be flak jackets, very curious, had never seen the like before.

8-22-11 Much better performance today at the APPLEWOOD GOLF COURSE (C 91, J 85) in Golden, Colorado, probably getting rid of that stupid club made all the difference. As Forrest Gump would say "Stupid is as stupid does!" Our companion of the day was a campground host from Illinois who spends 4 months here during the summer. The drive on Highway 70 through the Eisenhower Tunnel, past Copper Mountain where the kids went skiing during one of their hockey tournaments, lunch in Vail, the exit to Aspen where we spent our honeymoon 84 years ago, yes we've had 42 years of wedded bliss, she might inject an adjective or two before the wedded part, Glenwood Springs one of the great places to purchase fresh water lures, lots of river rafters, magnificent Rocky Mountain views all the way to Parachute, we've taken this road many a time, it never disappoints.

8-23-11 If you are every passing this way we would highly recommend BATTLEMENT MESA GOLF COURSE (C 97, J 100) in Parachute, Colorado, terrific layout, views and condition. The drive through Utah to Interstate 15 is arduous at best.

8-24-11 The SAINT GEORGE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE (C 81, J 91) is kind of nondescript, flat with just enough trouble to make it interesting. When we arrived in Las Vegas the Pawn Stars shop was an obligatory stop as we are also fans of their show. The idea of carrying she who means everything to me into the store to see what I could get for her, well it seemed like a good idea at the time, guess you had to be there, in any event that thought didn't fly. She was a lot more valuable to me at the Excaliber than at the Pawn Store, she did just fine at the slots. I on the other hand tried to consume one of each kind

of beer they had on display behind the bar while playing bar poker. Probably didn't accomplish the quest, but who's to know.

8-25-11 ANGEL PARK MOUNTAIN GOLF COURSE (C 89, J 88) in Las Vegas was our last round of this trip. Paul a high rise steel worker transplant from Michigan was our partner on a very hot day, but it's only a dry heat as they are wont to say here in the desert. Home again, home again, jiggedy jog!



CITY	COURSE	CITY	COURSE
Hesperia CA	Hesperia G&CC	Shellsburg IA	Wildcat
Pahrump NV	Mountain Falls	Waterloo IA	Gates Park
Ely NV	White Pine	Waterloo IA	Irv Warren Memorial
Jackpot NV	Jackpot GC	Waterloo IA	Red Carpet
Salmon ID	Salmon Valley	Dike IA	Fox Ridge
Helena MT	Bill Roberts	Waterloo IA	South Hills
Cut Bank MT	Cut Bank G&CC	Marion IA	Gardner
West Glacier MT	Glacier View	Dysart IA	Dysart GC
Kalispell MT	Big Mountain	LeClaire IA	Pebble Creek
Whitefish MT	Whitefish Lake	Marshalltown IA	American Legion
Golden BC	Golden GC	Papillion NB	Tara Hills
Kananaskis AB	Kananaskis Country	Elkhorn NB	Indian Creek
Kananaskis AB	Brewsters Kananaskis Ranch	Columbus NB	Quail Run
Calgary AB	Fox Hollow	Grand Island NB	Jackrabbit Run
Springbank AB	Springbank Links	Sterling CO	Riverview
Strathmore AB	Strathmore GC	Parachute CO	Battlement Mesa
Medicine Hat AB	Medicine Hat G&CC	St. George	St. George GC
Moose Jaw SK	Lynbrook	Las Vegas NV	Angel Park
Shilo MB	Shilo CC		
Winnipeg MB	Windsor Park		
Fargo ND	Rose Creek		
Sioux Falls SD	Bakker Crossing		
Sioux City IA	Green Valley		
Iowa Falls IA	Highland		