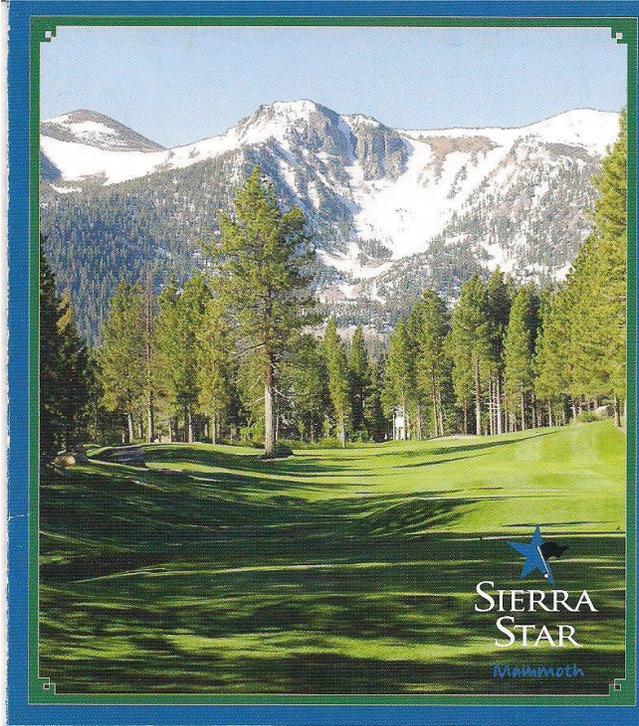


**SUMMER 2014**

8-10-14 Well after what has been going on this past year between me and Mr. Bladder, apprehension and anxiety notwithstanding, it is finally good to get back up on the bike. On the road again! There are those guys who are sickeningly optimistic. Calling their shots and if they pull them off they can walk



the walk. If the shot goes astray it's the walk of shame. Some guys subscribe to "Murphy's Law" if anything can possibly go wrong it will. I, on the other hand, consider Murphy to be an optimist. Mike and Michelle Fair met us at The Hill Street Café for a kind of let's catch up on old times, relating those maladies us old timers are so good at sharing and a see you off breakfast. A long and uneventful drive up to Mammoth Lakes and as everyone knows up means north, it's pretty obvious if you're looking at your handy dandy globe that up means north. This was followed by an inordinate wait for our reservation at the Sierra-Nevada Resort Inn. They were truly quite accommodating with complementary cocktails to ease the stress of a long trip and long wait.

8-11-14 SIERRA STAR GOLF COURSE (C 93, J 96) Wonderful semi short round of golf after breakfast at the Stove! All the greens were tiered or potato chip shaped. Another pleasant drive through the eastern Sierras from Mammoth to the Carson Valley Casino in Minden, NV! The casino provides what we consider semi-free drinks on the house while playing the poker machines at the bar. The bar tenders are very attentive as long as you keep playing, so it's usually a push if the house wins as much as you consume.

8-12-14 GENOA LAKES RESORT GOLF COURSE (C 94, J 83) The casino breakfast was average which was well above the service provided by the waitress who only had about 40 customers to serve

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on her own. The reason the score looks so nice in my favor is that I played off the ladies tees at the behest of the starter's suggestion. Guess I must look quite old. The course has plush, carpet like fairways and a rough that seemed very deep. There was a really pleasant sweet smell to the course. The drive from Genoa through Reno and on to the River Pine Resort for our three day pine paneled cabin stay in Blairsden along the 580/325 was a cake walk.

Genoa, the one in Italy is where Columbus came from. Apparently I've been mispronouncing the cities name lo these many years. JAN-OH-WAH!

We were fortunate that a hail storm last night postponed the barbecue that the River Pines Resort hosts on Monday evenings. Lucky us, lots of pot luck entrees contributed by the residents and plenty of barbecue by the hosts. Captain and coke and vodka held sway!

8-13-14 PLUMAS PINES GOLF RESORT (C 103, J 100) The course didn't seem that tough, but figures don't lie. Beautiful green fairways situated in a magnificent Sierra pine forest. This area must be the playground for San Francisco, San Jose, Sacramento, Oakland and other central California folks as there are considerably more upscale homes than the local population could possibly occupy. Breakfast at the Graeagle golf course, dinner at the Graeagle restaurant.



8-14-14 NAKOMA GOLF RESORT AND SPA is also known as THE DRAGON (C 103, J 89) Their, "Send us your champions" advertising implies their dragon is a bad monster which may or may not be slain by the golfer. OH YEAH! Brought this baby to its knees, which also may or may not be true! Another mag-



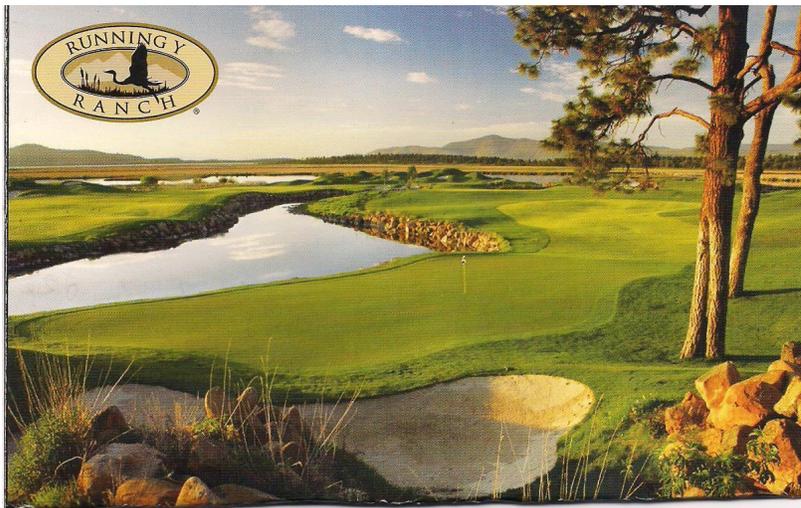
nificantly located playable mountain course where we had the pleasure of being paired up with Jesus and Patrick. They must have been assigned to see that no harm came to John if their names are any indication, but in reality they were sharing a brother in law golfing thing. Madrid, Spain and Houston, Texas are a long way to come for a round of golf in the high Sierras. After sharing some crises issues with Pam and her husband we had dinner at the Coyote which is associated with

the River Pines Resort.

8-15-14 GRAEAGLE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE (c 92, j 92) Couldn't eat here this morning as they were hosting a men's club breakfast. Peter (long hitter) and his mom Stella (of Rocky fame) got the opportunity to play with us and even though it is another spectacular course it is flatter than your first girlfriend's chest. Another pleasant drive by way of Lake Almanor, (which I mistakenly thought was the largest lake entirely within the border of California) to our next destination, The Diamond Mountain Casino, in Susanville.

8-16-14 DIAMOND MOUNTAIN GOLF COURSE (J 103) On a scale of one 1 to 10, 10 being the best, it's a 1. Not much mowing going on recently, perhaps that's an attempt to capture as much moisture as possible from evaporating due to the current drought conditions. Lost 4 balls which would under normal conditions have been very findable. Emerson Lake was once upon a time the centerpiece of the course it is now non-existent, just a hole in the ground. It appears Eagle Lake may experience the same fate as Emerson Lake. The drive from Susanville to Klamath Falls has raised an interesting conundrum, were all these grass filled valleys in Lassen and Modoc counties once upon a time, lakes? Our room at the Running Y Ranch Resort was upgraded to a nice townhouse. As it turns out this was the upgrade from hell. First the door keys were for some other condo, the telephone could not be used to call the front desk for maintenance, so a drive over to the reception area was needed to report the smoke alarm that went off intermittently. The jack of all trades showed us how to use the three channel changers to operate the TV and how to use the telephone (area code followed by the resort phone number), apparently the fireplace pilot light had to remain on, but was in constant contention with the air conditioner thermostat all night, and the bedside refrigerator noise was brought under control, but the leaving of batteries for the smoke alarm which could not be changed until the morning for lack of a ladder to the cathedral ceiling. Nice looking facility and townhouse, however, being the cry baby that I am, never again.

8-17-14 RUNNING Y RANCH (J 99)  
Cheryl's knee acted up so she couldn't play this very nice and highly rated Arnold Palmer designed Golf Digest course. We were paired up with John and Curtis who are both local businessmen, one being a realtor and the other manager of the Lake of The Woods Resort. The drive up to John and Phyllis Rollins in Redmond was pleasant and that pleasant Mexican dinner at Diego's Spirited Kitchen did in fact provide some spirits in the manner of pitchers of margaritas.



8-18-14 ASPEN LAKES GOLF COURSE (C97, J 96) is another magnificently situated course, in Sisters, as can be attested by the cover of the score card. One of the benefits of being a marshal is the cost of

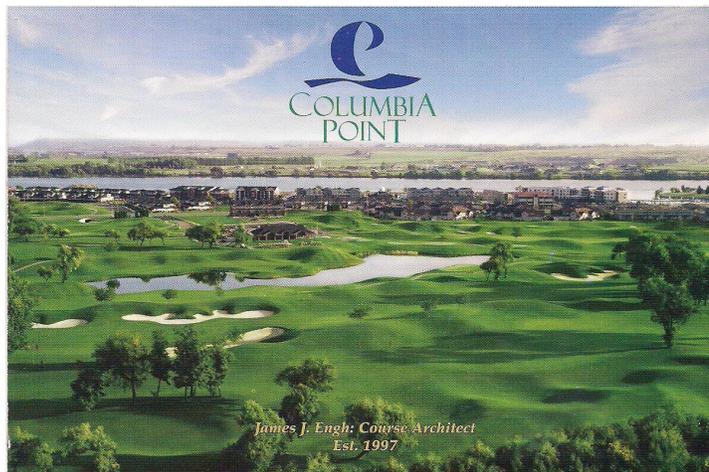
bringing guests, nada, nada thing. Plenty of time to tour the area this afternoon, one visit being the tiny village of Camp Sherman, a veritable Brigadoon, set right atop the Cascades with the Metolious River being its crown jewel. Black Butte Resort, Sisters and other associated area attractions and neighborhoods got the once over before John fired up the barbecue and unleashed the tequila sunrises which pleasantly blended with the Oregon sunset, as best I can recall. Ferguson Missouri had riots according to the evening news.

8-19-14 Our hosts in keeping with the mountain spirit loaded us up with a lumberman's breakfast. WHEW! The drive up to and through the Mount Hood Park was as beautiful as the last time we passed this way. Coming into the East side of Portland was somewhat arduous. Arduous being a substitute for endless stop lights with the emphasis on STOP. Today was dedicated to driving, no golf, this was supposed to be an opportunity to rest the knee, which unfortunately did not happen. The University Motel is adjacent to Carolyn and Bob Gelpke's place and proximate enough to walk to the floating restaurant on the Willamette River which just coincidentally was having happy hour and appetizers. Just as an aside the view from their balcony is reminiscent of looking over the edge of the Grand Canyon, if you were to fall over, it will take approximately three days before you hit the sidewalk. In other words it's a long way down and conducive to creating a case of the vapors.

8-20-14 Today was dedicated to walking downtown Portland. First breakfast at Mother's, followed by Powell's Bookstore where we made a huge contribution to the Portland economy. Powell's is perhaps my favorite bookstore, one of the biggest I've ever visited and has a significant number of rare and classic books, which for the most part I can't afford or am probably just too cheap to purchase. A trolley ride to someplace, a concert in the park, Bob drove us to the outskirts of Portland for wine tasting and a few bottles to go with Carolyn's salmon dinner. Al Prukop a golfing buddy, is a partner in the Terra Sol Aria wine bar, where we met John and Mike and partook of the grape.

8-21-14 INDIAN CREEK GOLF COURSE (J 96) is located in Hood River, OR and was a pleasant surprise for an out of the way course. If you are ever passing this way be sure to stop, play and enjoy the snow covered views of Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams. Indian Creek has been recognized by Audubon International for their environmental stewardship. The drive along the Columbia River is interesting in that wind sail boarders move along at an astonishing clip or skip as the case may be depending on the chop and size of the crests. The Shilo Motel in Richland, WA gave us sustenance and shelter for the night.

8-22-14 COLUMBIA POINT (J 85) is a lumpy (mogul) course in Richland that provided the opportunity to play with Ken Ford and Don Scott, but the men's tournament caused the pace to be so agonizingly slow that I had to stop after 15 holes and took equitable strokes, which is allowed if you subscribe to the USGA, according to John



rule. Drove on up to the Comfort Inn in Spokane and dined by the Spokane River at the Red Lion Restaurant.

8-23-14 ESMERELDA GOLF COURSE (J 87) a participant of the Spokane Parks and Recreation Department, albeit a challenge to find, let me out early. Caught up with and joined Lonnie, Larry and Rick to finish playing this course. This very curvy forested drive from Spokane to Missoula, took us by Coeur D'Alene which is always a paradise to behold. The Super 8 on the south side of town provided the pillows while the nearby Appleby's provided the Hurricanes and dinner with chocolate cake to go.

8-24-14 CANYON RIVER GOLF CLUB (J 95) in East Missoula is one of the top five courses in Montana according to Golf Magazine and myself. The clouds were heavy and the air quite cool, should have worn my big boy pants this morning. In any event I got another early out to get a jump start on the conference group from West Virginia. Not only were my putting skills AWOL today but so was my ability to follow directions to some of the holes. 16, 17 and 18 got played twice, but 7, 8 and 9 were ignored completely. The University of Montana neighborhood is worthy of a drive through. You know those green dotted lines on the map well they are there to suggest you may experience some unnecessary hyperventilation so the drive to Anaconda was made a bit longer by not taking the scenic Hwy. 1 shortcut. The Trade Winds Motel was our inn of choice and the owner was interestingly enough an Oceanside California transplant.

8-25-14 OLD WORKS GOLF COURSE (J 102) in Anaconda is once again one of those top 100 public courses in America and well reflected in my score, in addition to which I had no business hitting off the copper tees. But when in Rome or Anaconda do as the copper tees suggest. Today Pam and Bob out of Nebraska were gracious enough to let me join them. Anaconda was or still is a copper mining town, I'm only guessing but the absolutely brilliant black sand traps are coal slag or tailings that have something to do with the mine business. The longest hole was 644 yards. Put up 260 miles from Anaconda to Billings. Our first impression of the Dude Rancher Motel selected by Expedia was a dive in a bad neighborhood. Not entirely true or false. I'm just not accustomed to western décor.

8-26-14 LAKE HILLS GOLF CLUB (J 52) was flat, saturated in dew, populated by herds of deer, my mind was unfocused and an atrocious start prompted me to quit after 9 holes. The young starter had a nice way of determining the rate to charge you based on your age. "When you order coffee at McDonalds do they give you the senior discount?" Another 260 miles from Billings to Sidney and the Richland Motor Inn! This is the beginning of the new oil boom; all businesses have "Help Wanted" signs, apparently low paying jobs are non-existent. The filet mignon dinner at the Cattle-AC was as excellent as the clientele was interesting.

8-27-14 THE LINKS COURSE OF NORTH DAKOTA falls into the unable to locate category. We had a tee time, but were unable to speak to anyone in addition to not being able to locate the course. This was a little maddening as we came all this way to play a top 5 course in North Dakota, but to no avail. Bully Pulpit or Oxbow would have been more convenient, but I guess it was just destined not to be. The Williston area is right out of a 1920's boom town movie, organized chaos in the search of black gold. Continued on to Minot, N.D. and played the MINOT COUNTRY CLUB now known as the VARDON COUNTRY

CLUB (J 103), a bit too expensive for the value. CVS pharmacy for distilled water, Blue Emu, Australian Dream and other essentials for the care of a strained knee ligament.

8-28-14 Of interest on the drive through heavy early morning fog on the way from Minot (pronounced my knot), somewhere along the way we passed a convoy of what appeared to be ten armored car vehicles with security patrol signs and roof mounts for machine guns. In Bismarck we played the front nine of RIVERWOOD GOLF COURSE (J 94) with Dominic (Dom) and Rose St. Peter who are extremely proud of their son being president of the Minnesota Twins. Jeff and Christy joined us on the back nine and provided us with a seminar on the North Dakota oil industry and its consequent employment boom. Important issues with the Pepsi machine at the Express Inn!

8-29-14 HAWKTREE GOLF CLUB (J 92) is appropriately rated the top course in North Dakota with its dramatic elevation changes, panoramic views, fairways that are as plush as carpet, and every hole is absolutely distinctive and challenging. The sand traps were filled with black coal tailings and the most unique rakes imaginable, most of the greens were set into bowls. The 260 mile drive from Bismarck in Pierre (pronounced pier or pear, but not pee air), South Dakota was pretty uneventful. The wedding party checking into the Ramkota Best Western at the same time as us was anything but uneventful.

8-30-14 Breakfast at Ramkota before heading out to the HILLSVIEW GOLF COURSE (J 95) which is absolutely flat and very wet this morning. We took an interesting short cut through the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, and Crow Creek Sioux Tribe Reservation, which is sparsely populated but fully farmed. The question being where is the farm equipment and where do the workers live? Is it corporately or tribally farmed? The Dakota Inn in Sioux Falls was our hotel of choice, but we watched the Notre Dame – Rice game next door while powering pizza and drinks.

8-31-14 The PRAIRIE GREEN GOLF COURSE (J 104) is listed as a top five course of South Dakota, which is nice enough, but hard to believe as it is so flat, but my score implies it is no slouch. Matt and Ryan may or may not have been skipping Sunday services, but the Good Lord may or may not have been helping their game. Drove to Larry and Kathy Henshaw's in Sioux City in time for real home cooked food like barbecue ribs, potato salad, garlic bread, vodka tonic, torrential rain and relatively early to bed.

9-1-14 TWO RIVERS GOLF CLUB (C 98, J 94) is the home course to Larry and Cathy and boy was it wet after the rain last night. The eats just keep coming, scrapple and eggs for breakfast, barbecued skinless brats for lunch, chicken for dinner and a long evening of visiting in the basement. This is not just any basement, but more along the lines of a golfing shrine.

9-2-14 RIVER WILDS GOLF CLUB (J 97) is a pleasant course in Blair, NE which is on the way from Sioux City to Omaha. A kick back afternoon in Sue and brother Tim DeHecks back yard, pinochle, listening to the city spend their tax dollars grinding the street in preparation for capping, and watching the dogs lead the life of a dog.

9-3-14 Sue is the eye candy for photo shoots of the abandoned dogs for the local animal shelter. Another lazy day followed by going out to a family restaurant renowned for their chicken liver.



9-4-14 Up, out and on the road to Ames, at OH dark thirty. VEENKER MEMORIAL GOLF COURSE (J 111) is the Iowa State University Home venue. Blind shots, eight lost golf balls and severe dog legs are all I've got for an excuse. Drove on to Tony and Kelly Conrads in Waterloo where we spent the next month talking and drinking.

9-5-14 It's a good thing the car wash has this special sauce to get the bug juice off the car, because it was baked on good and must have been quite the challenge. Culvers has this chocolate-chocolate concrete mixer shake which is just the thing a diabetic would need to commit suicide. Man is it good, Oh and yes we took grandma there for lunch. She had always been a regular there as was quite apparent from the number of employees who came over to visit her for a few minutes.

9-6-14 Our first visit to the Guenthor estate, complete with magnificent house, party barn, lake, cattle barn with newly arrived cows. Dropped off Tim and Sues old oak telephone and our golf picture. Lunch at the Ron-d-view restaurant and bar followed by a futile attempt at finding Cox cable game of the week Capo vs El Toro starring Billy Biehn. Notre Dame and Michigan have been playing football since 1887 and this was the first shutout, 37-0. Tony and Kelly had some old high school friends drop by who they haven't seen in ages, Steve (Skinny) and Bret.

9-7-14 A good part of the day was dedicated to the Raymond auction where a palate of garden ornaments, two scythes for Tim and Tony's mower barns, and a patch blanked followed me home. After lunch with Kelly at the Red Lobster, Mickey came over and spent the afternoon. Dan and Doreen more old friends, up from Texas to help move both their moms into a local extended care facility, came over for a visit.

9-8-14 Cheryl's knee is giving her grief, so numerous trips were made to CVS, Dicks Sporting Goods, Covenant Medical Supply, a medical supply place whose name escapes me, Farm and Fleet in search of a knee support that would stay up, but to no avail. The auction in Raymond supplied me with a box of old Mad comics, two boxes of books, two bags of foreign coins and an old Jim Beam commemorative VW bottle. Tony moved stuff around in the garage so we could get the car under cover as there was a pretty strong thunder storm accompanied by some hail.

9-9-14 ROLLING ACRES GOLF COURSE (J 45) in Center Point and MEADOWVIEW COUNTRY CLUB (J 49) in Central City are two nice small town nine hole courses with a touch of gradual elevation changes or not and greens that appear to be humped. Another afternoon and evening of thunder showers didn't prevent us going out to dinner at the Texas Steak House with Allan, Jordan, James, Tammy, Taylor, Will and Wills parents.

9-10-14 OAKWOOD GOLF COURSE (J 44) in Conrad and the saturated TAMA-TOLEDO COUNTRY CLUB (J 44) were the courses of choice today. Cart path only and several of the holes were so puddled over that I cheated and took equitable strokes. Water, water everywhere, but not a drop (place to hit the ball from) to be found! Cheryl and Kelly went out to Jerry's to get together with the fall festival girls working on their scarecrows.

9-11-14 ROUND GROVE GOLF CLUB (J 46) in Greene is a very attractive setting. This morning my big boy pants should have been part of my attire, as the air was cold enough to show breath. A maintenance man was nice enough to get me a cart as I teed off before they were to open. The CLARKSVILLE AREA RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CARD) (J 51) has greens that are a bit deceiving, inverted plates tilting toward the front which as you know necessitate short shots to chip or putt up to the hole. But not me, I clubbed up and paid the price chipping or putting back downhill. It would be nice to say the frogs ate my homework, but that would be a lame excuse for putting several balls in the water. The frogs were in full voice nonetheless.

9-12-14 Another cool rainy day, perfect for Kelly to take Cheryl shopping for her class of 1964 homecoming reunion dress and a visit to the hairdresser. It's pretty hard to improve on perfection, but they know what they're doing. Visited Audrey!

9-13-14 Made a run to the dump to get rid of the cement from one of Tony's projects and miraculously didn't come back with more stuff than we took. Billy's team won and Notre Dame beat Purdue (30-14). A godly number of the family came over and hung out on the patio.

9-14-14 Birthday breakfast for Audrey, followed by a mad dash out to some remote auction that had nothing that I would even consider donating to Goodwill. DYSART GOLF CLUB (C 52, J 49) for a quick round with Kelly at my favorite 9 hole course. Barbecued hamburgers washed down with the occasional vodka and some time spent in the Jacuzzi.

9-15-14 A good part of the day was spent scouring the thrift stores for appropriate wear to Cory's upcoming red neck birthday party, wife beater and sleeveless flannel shirts for starters! Drove over to Urbana for a tour of Click-Stop and the greatly enlarged warehouse, great job! Way too cool and wet for golf today. Called for BCG appointments at OC Urology! Barbecued cutlets followed by more Jacuzzi.

9-16-14 After momma made a great breakfast omelet we headed out to the LA PORTE CITY GOLF CLUB (C , J ) which has seen significant improvement since the Iowa lottery winner dumped a ton of money into some nice upgrades to the course. The Jackson auction was a bit pricey for my blood, but the Waverly auction turned out to be a boon. Two boxes of books one of which was dated 1823, another great medical book which I'll have to get to my doctor so he can be brought up to speed on the latest techniques, i.e. bloodletting and leaches also two pictures to be added to the garage art collection.

9-17-14 WILDCAT GOLF AND BANQUET FACILITY (C 93, J 88) is also Nicole's home course which she and Kelly played. Having skipped breakfast and almost dying of malnutrition (see picture) lunch at the

Ron da Vue was more than satisfying. The latest additions to the Guenthors herd have arrived and are cute little guys ,but a bit skittish.

9-18-14 FOX RIDGE GOLF CLUB (C 87, J 97) in Dike followed by lunch at South Town.

9-19-14 Lunch with grandma Audrey at Culvers followed by semi free flu shots at CVS.

9-20-14 Got an early start to Waukee for Cory and Holly's red neck birthday party so we could visit the old homestead in Martensdale, pay our respects at the Churchville cemetery and drive into Indianola to see if the town square was really and truly the epitome of what a town square should be. As regards the party, most of it escapes my recollection, which is probably a good thing. Days Inn was probably one of the filthiest motels we have ever seen.

9-21-14 Cracker Barrel hosted our recovering alcoholics' breakfast. There have been studies and statistical analysis as to why men die so much earlier than women. The conclusions have been consistently the same, "It's because they want to."



9-22-14 BUFFALO CREEK GOLF COURSE (J 47) is a very nicely kept course. At the HICKORY GROVE GOLF COURSE (J 44) I was fortunate to be paired with Nate Westender a local fireman with his own golf cart that was tricked out like a fire truck, who by the way hits the ball a ton.

Some thoughts from Tony! When golf courses provide special senior rates shouldn't they provide special golf carts

equipped with defibrillators or at least jumper cables to hook up to the battery so some old guy can be resuscitated, or maybe even the occasional oxygen tank?

Cremation station where prices are so reasonable that one can be in-turd with their loved ones!

Guy walks into a bar with a belt buckle made of a steering wheel. The bartender asks the man why the steering wheel? The response is "You know, I really don't have a good answer it's really uncomfortable and it's driving me nuts".

9-23-14 We've just discovered Casey's breakfast croissants and breakfast pizza. Ran into Gary and Marlis Hanks at Panera where we took Grandma Audrey to lunch. Drove around Waterloo looking for postcards and a place to donate the things I won at auction but really didn't want. The Evansdale auction provided some more books. One can never have enough books!

9-24-14 HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME! Bill and Carol Conrad met us for breakfast at South town which is where old people commiserate over their ailments and medicines. I'll see your Plavix and raise you two Niaspan! HA! I'll see your Niaspan and I'm all in with lysinopril! After a birthday round at SOUTH

HILLS GOLF COURSE (J 94) we began packing for the much anticipated 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion trip to Dubuque. A pitcher or two of margaritas at Chapalas for our Mexican food fix.

9-25-14 If you're going to Dyersville whether it be to see the Field of Dreams, the Basilica of St Francis Xavier, the National Farm Toy Museum or the DYERSVILLE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB (J 46) be sure to have breakfast at the Country Junction. Just Saying! After checking into the Best Western, Barb and Steve Smith arrived. He and I went across the street to the local liquor store to set in provisions for the weekend. Chip and Nancy Bliss, who have enjoyed 100 years of @#\$%&@# wedded bliss, hosted a cocktail party.

9-26-14 The EAGLE RIDGE RESORT AND SPA (J 103) has a course in Galena called the General, which probably derives its name from General Ulysses Grand who hails from Galena. Being as I was a walk on, the North Course was to be my destination and our three some eventually turned into five some. Thank God for the patience of Steve, Chuck, Dave and Shui (sp ?) as one of the five, that being myself, had no business playing here. Shot making is a prerequisite for this hilly, autumnal forested magnificent setting. One of the players was born in Korea, grew up in Brooklyn and lived for a time in Southern California so we had things to share. Cheryl, Barb and Steve toured their old neighborhoods, cemeteries and haunts until it was time for the first reunion get together. The girls were dressed to perfection and quite giddy about seeing classmates from a ½ century ago. The setting in the casino banquet room overlooking the Mississippi River was the ideal arrangement, hors d' oeuvres tremendous and plentiful, and the bar well stocked.

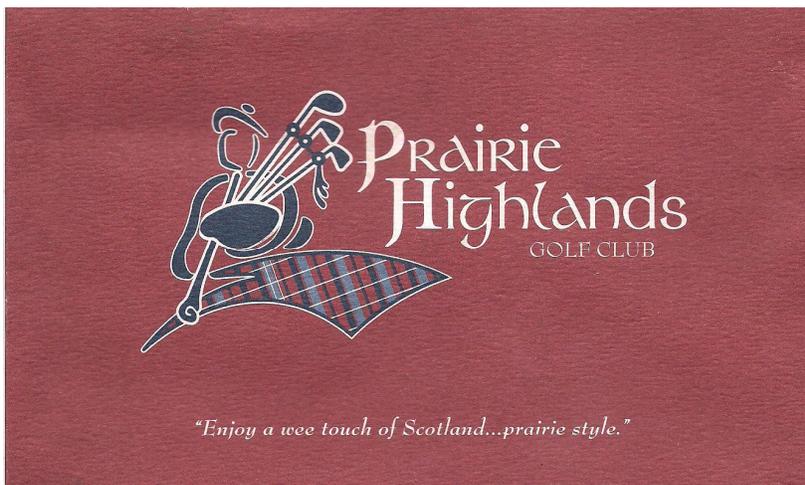
9-27-14 Just in case you were wondering there is a Champs Bar attached to the Best Western and it serves breakfast to those recovering alcoholics in need of sustenance. Dubuque Senior High was the home to the first Heisman Trophy Winner, Jay Berwanger, who was gracious enough to leave his trophy front and center in the schools trophy case. After the reunion dinner the music provided for the dancing was of the 50's and 60's era. Seems some of us don't quite have the moves we once thought were so cool. But it was fun to try and hopefully no one was filming the occasion for Americas Funniest Videos. There were a lot of sentiments shared with the eventual parting and the realization that something had been taken from everyone and this was the time they needed to let that part of their life go. It was good to be able to share this last hurrah, but in all probability may not happen again. Notre Dame beat Syracuse.

9-28-14 Barb and Steve, good bye hugs are tough, friends for life and you can only share the time we have left by telephone of 50<sup>th</sup> class reunions. The drive back to Waterloo was fraught with thoughts probably concentrations of reminiscences. Tony and Kelly invited their friend and great author Rocky over for a barbecue.

9-29-14 Today was dedicated to packing and preparing for the homeward bound part of the trip, ATM, acquiring a cooler bag for the Amish chocolate bars and consolidating all the auction treasures. Our last barbecue until the next time!

9-30-14 Up and on the road by 6 am for the trip to the TOURNAMENT CLUB OF IOWA (J 48, drizzle) a

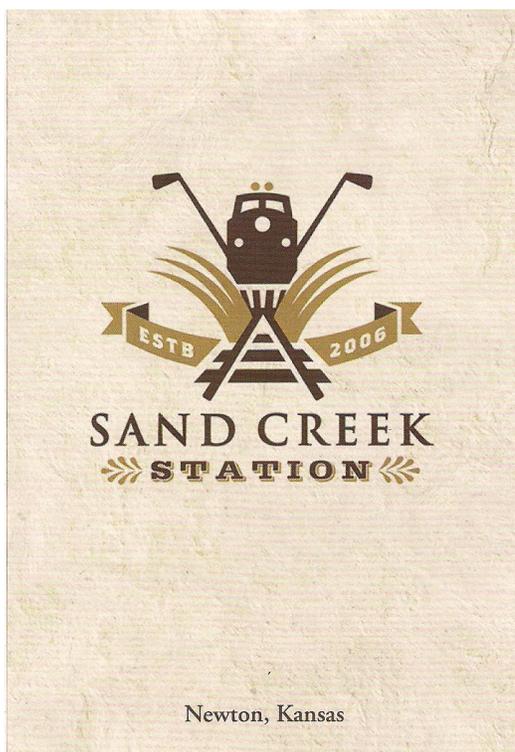
championship course designed by Arnold Palmer in Polk City. The dramatic elevation changes are a joke. I'm thinking Arnold must have taken some advice from Tom Hepburn the author of the toughest (imaginary) 72 golf holes. Either give up on finding your ball or bring rappelling gear. In any event it falls within the parameters of the requirements to be included in the top ten courses, according to John (impeccably maintained, forested, hilly, running streams). The 120 miles from Waterloo gets added to the additional 240 miles to the Best Western in Olathe, Kansas, making for a full day.



10-1-14 THE PRAIRIE HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB (J 88+) in Olathe is rated as one of the top five courses in Kansas by Golf Magazine. My score is a bit deceiving as the round was called after 11 holes because of a severe lightning and rain storm. So liar-liar pants on fire took advantage of the equitable strokes adjustment, which is just fine if you apply USGA rules, according to John. Pat and Mike

Harrington being good old Irish boys were terrific early morning partner's entertainers and path finders. Being Kansas State fans they were sorry to see Charlie Weiss fired by the University of Kansas as they consider Kansas their personal doormat. What the weather folks predicted as a local rain cell turned out to be a constant downpour all the way to Newton. As I was attempting to go around an unmarked police car in a passing zone, he was very considerate in putting his arm out the window and wagging his finger in the no-no motion. WHEW! No ticket! Buffalo Mikes puts on a great feed next door to our Best Western.

10-2-14 THE SAND CREEK STATION (J 46) is another top five Kansas course according to Golf Magazine, which unfortunately went for only nine holes as the mist or drizzle was sufficient enough to make drying my glasses a real nuisance and soaked my shirt. As I was leaving the pro pointed out 4 hearty souls dressed in their all weather gear, who were Notre Dame fans from San Diego headed for South Bend. Pulled into a nice restaurant in Stafford for breakfast and to let the rain squall pass. Played the front nine at BUFFALO DUNES GOLF COURSE (J 49) in Garden City another top 5 Kansas course per Golf Magazine, a links style course which costs strokes when you get the opportunity to try and escape the prairie grass. The rolling hills put me in mind of those Alaskan lobster boats you see,



an endless progression of rising to meet the surging peaks and disappearing into the troughs of a rough ocean. The only difference is they are prairie grass covered dunes and sloughs!

10-3-14 Touched four states today on the drive from Garden City, Kansas, the panhandles of Oklahoma and Texas and eventually checking into our room in Moriarty, New Mexico. This was the beginning weekend of the festival of balloons in Albuquerque so there were no rooms at the inn.

10-4-14 SANDIA PARK PAA KA (J 110) is another one of those courses Golf Digest and Golf Magazine seem to agree on. Considering the slope and rating, I had no business playing here. It was just plain tough. The greens were fast and unfathomable, which doesn't help an illiterate like myself who is unable to read greens anyway. There are a number of curiosities, such as instead of "no carts" or "cart arrows" there is a black string across the fairway, the distance from the cart path to the greens was significant, a good number of cart path only holes, all in all it was a very picturesque course, but very tiring. Number one son called to keep us abreast of the Notre Dame – Stanford game and suggest we pull into the nearest sports bar. However, being 88 miles from anywhere, the road from Albuquerque to Flagstaff is mostly known for the painted desert, the petrified forest and the meteor crater not so much for sports bars. Caught the last two minutes after checking in, (17 – 14) which was the whole game in a snapshot, before heading out to the Beaver Street Brewery.

10-5-14 Up at O dark 30 for the 450+ mile drive from Flagstaff to see the kids and grandkids in Murrieta. It's a good thing my kids can barbecue because if it were left to me all you'd get were crisp hockey pucks and burnt sticks.

10-6-14 Saw the grandkids off to school, the kids off to work, the shortest drive of the trip to home, unload the car and begin the laundry.