

CHIP SHOTS

GENEVA 2023

DATES – JULY 28th, JULY 29th, & JULY 30th – The question most often asked of me this time of year is “When is Geneva?” This year’s event tees off on Friday, July 28, and continues on Saturday, July 29 and concludes on Sunday, July 30. Got it? I emphasize these dates, July 28, July 29, and July 30 so you can schedule around them and not miss the tourney. Any vacations, any reunions, any weddings, any funerals, any other activities, move from that weekend. It is highly probable, bordering on guaranteed, that a practice round on July 27 for any and all interested will be played on the course of Friday’s, July 28, opening round. That track has not been secured but will be passed to you as soon as tee times are made. I have not checked with the Summertime Inn (formerly Pera’s, formerly Bates Motel) but I believe rooms are still available for those needing overnight accommodations. That belief stems from a room booked for Ray Ballard’s sons, Alex and Connor, two rookies attending this year who made their arrangements in January. The number for the Summertime Inn is 440-466-8675. Tell Patty you need a room for “The Golfers” on July 28 and July 29. She will fix you up. With the bulk of the winter behind us and the Lombardi Trophy enroute to a new trophy case, it is time to punt to golf and prepare to compete for the Gavin Cup. This exercise will take place on JULY 28th, JULY 29th, and JULY 30th.

A HALFWAY TO GENEVA LUNCHEON – Several from the Geneva fraternity gathered at the Gahanna Grill the day after Christmas for grub, cocktails, and laughs. The turnout was not as big as expected but the 11 who did show ate well, drank off their hangovers, and left amused and satisfied. The Columbus weather was frigid, and the area was still recovering from an icy based snowstorm which made travel treacherous. Despite the conditions, there was a diverse collection of personalities and a book of short stories shared. Three of the four Legends were on hand, Vince Gatto, Fritz Ford, and me. Still active players in attendance were Bob Rutherford, Pat Dorn, Tim Black, and Ray Ballard. Two, who have not played Geneva in years, were Gary Metzger and Frank Centofanti. It was good to see Mike Weilbacher who sat across the table from me. He is as good of a historian,

both Geneva and South End wise, that ever was born. Blessing us with her presence was Ray Ballard's wife, Karen, who brought charm and class to a group short of those traits. Hats off to the Gahanna Grill. The service was great. All in all, it was a wonderful two hours. Many who attended expressed a desire to make this a yearly event. Since then, I heard from several who did not make the luncheon. They regretted their absence but promised to commit next year.

TRUTH REVEALED – One thing Mike Weilbacher said at the Gahanna Grill caught my attention. In passing, as if not a big deal, Squid remarked that Mel Voll got married. Wait? What? For years the truth about Mel's married status was a mystery. He lived with a woman for 15 years and he always referred to her as "the old lady," but the status of their relationship was uncertain. It was my duty to investigate and report the details. After all, the Geneva family wants to know, and Mel is Geneva family. In typical Mel fashion, his marriage was not typical. Mel told the story as only Mel could, in ballad form and with plenty of humor. Six years ago, QFM96 radio station in Columbus held a promotion to put listeners on the air. In Mel's written application he stressed, "I'm the funniest guy I know." Those words caught the attention of the program director and Mel Voll's act hit the airways. It was during this live radio broadcast Mel called "his old lady" and proposed, heard by an abundance of classic rockers. The gig nearly blew up in his face when "his old lady" took her sweet time accepting. She was much more receptive two weeks later when he gave her a ring at a Kentucky Derby party. The winner of the Run for the Roses that year was Always Dreaming which may have been appropriate for "his old lady" since they remained engaged for over 5 years. Last Fall (2022) inside an AMVETS hall on a Saturday morning, Nov. 12, before a noon Ohio State football game versus Indiana, Mel tied the knot. He saved plenty of money not sending wedding invitations. I am not privied enough to know who performed the ceremony (minister, justice of the peace, military officer, bartender), but I know Mel and "his old lady", Karen, are officially bound together as written and signed on a marriage certificate. Could there be "Little Mel" running around soon?

I REPEAT – JULY 28th, July 29th, & JULY 30th - Have those dates registered yet? Initial preparations for the 2023 Geneva Open are underway. By the next publication, Friday's course and tee times should be booked. I am calling for Tony McGuckin and Rn Szymczak to perform their responsibility to have their names

enshrined on the Gavin Cup. Any suggestions, comments, or rookie participants who would like to join our fun, contact either Blaize Plageman or me. We will lend an ear to what you have to say and if practical, take your ideas into consideration. We may not implement your concept but as David Feherty says, "Experience is what you get when you don't get what you want."