

CHIP SHOTS

MADISON ON FRIDAY

MADISON COUNTRY CLUB IS SET – On July 28 at noon, Legends Vince Gatto and Gary Glanzman playing with Mini-Legends Jerry Graves and Jack Berger will lead the Geneva brigade through the trees and over the creeks of this mature, elegantly landscaped piece of property known as Madison Country Club. Built in 1923, gee, that makes Madison 100 years old. If you do not know how big trees grow in 100 years, you will learn. Each stray shot will test your recovery skills. The last time the Geneva Open was played in Madison was 2017. Dagon Abdon blistered the course with a 69. That sets the bar pretty high for a bunch of hackers. Second best that afternoon was a 79 posted by Legend Gary Glanzman. The scorecard measures 6,126 yards from the white tees and 5,394 from the gold tee boxes. Before I hear Pat Dorn bitch about Dick Plageman's handicap, adjustments will be made if Dick plays the senior tees. The Handicap Committee vowed to me and promised the field to make Geneva fair and fun for all. I look forward to returning to Madison. It is another showcase of Northeast Ohio golf courses.

SOUTHEND SHOUT OUT – About a month ago I received this e-mail from Don Jander.

“Wanted to share a quick story. I just got back from a Myrtle Beach golf trip with my high school buddies and I couldn't help bring up our Geneva trip to the boys. They were amazed at the amount of players that gather for that weekend. I have always been amazed at the connection that you and the fellas who you went to school with still get together. My high school friends and I are now doing the same and I now understand how that warms one's heart.

“You and the rest of the Wehrle and South boys have been awesome to this DeSales grad, and I really appreciate it. You're all Legends in my book.”

It is true the foundation of Geneva Open is pure Southend of Columbus. The inscription on its cornerstone reads Adrian Skunza. Today's Geneva, however, is a refurbished and expanded structure with personalities from regions as close as DeSales and as far away as Ironton, Cleveland, Cincitucky, Vegas, Texas, Florida,

and Utah. Diverse in lifestyles, we bond with common goals to have a good time and get along. Still, that pat on the back from Don is humbly appreciated. The tight knit relationships formed 50 years ago from spending Friday nights socializing in Plank's Cafe or playing on a Southend softball team, even passing loose women back and forth without incident brought pride and friendships so strong they still exist today. Over the years we learned the world is bigger than the Southend of Columbus. By the turn of the century, new members were welcomed to the Geneva fraternity. Their presence enhances the Geneva experiences and has been fruitful in making this outing a must attend event. Few continue to live in the Southend these days. Yeah, but even today there is something special about our Southend origin evidenced by the name on the Geneva trophy. Sr. Gavin... Oh, I have some choice words about that nun. She was more like the Grinch than Mother Theresa. It scares all of us that we may reside on the same cloud as her in heaven someday. The long witchlike fingernails of Sr. Gavin's strict discipline left many scars but was the Band-Aid that miraculously pulled us together as an extended family. Did you know she had the gonads to expel Legend Vince Gatto from Wehrle High School? Her picture should accompany the word witch in the dictionary. She was Wehrle's warden and when our sentence expired, Wehrle alumni developed a closeness almost to a cult. I appreciate Don Jander getting it and bringing his observation to everyone's attention.

THE GENEVA STOMP – The annual pilgrimage to Geneva is only months away. The Geneva gathering may fall hundreds of thousands folks short of the annual trip to Mecca for the Hajj. Yeah, but I would be willing to bet that none of those Muslims are Geneva Worthy. I do not believe Allah cedes the same glow from his assembly as Geneva. Let's face it, concoctions are missing from those Mecca trips which we find so vital in social gatherings. Faces light up like the Strip in Vegas with each reunion in Geneva. Some faces light up at the crack of dawn. Brings back the story of Scottie Riffle, a player for years. Poor Scottie, one year he struggled staying on his feet on the 14th tee box at Hemlock on a Friday afternoon round. When asked how long Scottie had been drinking, Billy Boggess responded with a smile, "Since we left Iron-ton." This foolishness convenes for the 47th year on July 28 at Madison. It is a tradition in golf that maybe superseded only by the four majors. Can't wait! I look forward to partying with my Geneva friends. Friends bring happiness. Best friends bring beer.