

CHIP SHOTS

PERA'S BRIEFS

POOL IS OPEN – Expecting a field of 50 for the 2022 Geneva Open, I thought it necessary to contact Pera's Motel and check on availability. For any reason a room is needed, the "VACANCY" light is still glaring, but just barely. Sherry, the motel manager, has yet to report for duty this year. Her assistant, Patty, handles motel reservation until Sherry time. These women and their staff as well as the golf course crew are spellbound by our visits every year as if our presence keep them in business. The Merchandise Committee has a lot to do with those feelings. I'm just saying, the gifts we shower on both venues earned us class and respect others fail to receive. Patty indicated there are three regular units, two on the South side and one on the North end, yet to be reserved. Two Efficiencies are also available. I am reminding Mel Voll to pack his speedos. Pera's will feature a brand new swimming pool with a long wooden deck and plenty of space for sun bathing. A reopened pool increases odds we need not scour the Strip in search of Mell when time for him to grill our steaks. Most likely he will be sitting poolside next to his bucket of beer telling Mel stories to all and everyone within earshot.

BLUEGRASS GOLF – Entering the arena of ourgolfleagues.com we see an array of choices including our own Geneva sight. One option is labeled "Kentucky Trip". It is so intriguing, I am often asked "what is the Kentucky trip?" Hell! I did not know so I investigated. It is 4 days of golf down Kentucky way usually taking place near the end of April. Sixteen hacks grab their sticks from winter storage and embark in Ryder Cup style play. Over half the field are Geneva fraternity brothers. Notable participants are Shawn and Pat Dorn, Mini-Legend Jack Berger, Ron Szymczak, the Plageman brothers Dick, Huck, Jim as well as Mark Spangler, Tony (Jelly) McGuckin, Mike Pagnanelli, and Tim Black. Usually you could count Tom Jech and Don Jander in the field but serious circumstances prevented their participation this year. That list reads like a little Geneva less the tattoo parlors and go-kart tracks. They play 27 holes a day, so much golf it would cost me two dozen Titleist and three quarts of whiskey. An anonymous source revealed one constant every year is Pat Dorn bitching about handicaps. He ragged on Dick Plageman for playing the up tees and insisted if he played those "pitch and Putt" tees, then his handicap should drop. Dick is not an introvert by any means and is not ashamed to stand for his rights and take all his strokes. Come to find out by investigated work from Tim Black that the up tees were set on the ladies tees and played 1,000 yards shorter than the regular tees, Instead of giving up strokes, maybe Dick should have played in a skirt. Then there was the Pagnanelli scatterbrain incident. Having finished the first hole, Pags discovered his phone was missing. Without a phone today is like Dean Martin without his bourbon. Panic set. The music blaring inside the cart ceased. He searched his bag, no luck. He demanded Creature, his cart partner, backtrack the way they came down No.1, still no luck. All hope was lost. For 17 holes he was miserable and miserable to be around. Poor Creature. His prayers to St. Anthony

proved effective because lo and behold, after 5 cranky hours, there was his phone lodged deep in the pocket of his rain gear. Pags huge gasp of relief sent a wind gale so strong the gust was reported on the 6:00 news. All is well that ends well except Creatures patience and Pags pride

THE ALMIGHTY BOOTHA – I reached out to Shannon Boothe last month to get a read on his health and Geneva intentions. To my disappointment, circumstances will more than likely keep him away this year. Trouble booking suitable flights and their subsequent costs play a major role. He resides in Utah only 15 miles from Arizona and flight patterns to Cleveland or Columbus look like the scribble in a Ryan Day playbook. Fortunately, Boothe feels good for a 71 year old man. Sure, he has some aches and pains, who doesn't at that age. The worst is a bulging disc in his back but shots every three months and tequila every hour remedies that discomfort. After 30 years of open road racing he finally retired. He was well known behind the wheel on the Baja trail wearing his Ohio State helmet with as many Buckeye leaves as Justin Fields and more wins than a Justin Fields Chicago Bears team. With the pressure and stress of racing a thing of the past, Shannon is more relaxed if you call vacationing in a Covered Wagon relaxing. He says these Conestoga Wagons sleep two and has running water and nearly as many amenities as Pera's. That stuff may be suitable for Shannon, Gil Favor, and Rowdy Yates but I still prefer a Holiday Inn. A suggestion to hook up a team of horses and travel to Geneva in one of these Covered Wagons was immediately dismissed by a man who made a career driving over 100 MPH on the Bonneville Salt Flats. He promised to start now to make plans for the 2023 Geneva Open.

EARLY COMMITMENTS – The season turned to golf. I suppose most of us played a round or two by now. If the golf bug runs through your veins then it is time to commit to this year's Geneva Open. These next two months will fly by like a Jon Rahm tee shot. Zippiddy-do-dah and we will be gathered on the first tee at Chardon Lakes. If not organized that scene can be chaotic. None of us like stress especially the Commissioner. The different committees have been established to help alleviate this pressure and the heavy burden associated with poor preparation. Entries need be received by the 4th of July. Even that date scurries the Geneva Committees to finalize their jobs. The Pairings, Handicap, and Scramble Committees need to know the field before they can finish. All Committees appreciate the early registration. If things run smooth, then our gathering on the first tee will be jovial for the 50 enthusiastic golfers. There will be beer and wine aplenty and the philosophical words of Ben Franklin will reign true. "Wine is constant proof God loves us and loves to see us happy."