***President’s Message February, 2021***

***‘Racquetball Cemetery’***

***NMRacquetball.com New Mexico Racquetball Facebook***

**Have you ever wondered what happened to a host of athletic-racquet-sporting clubs? Having been a part of this industry for some fifty years, I shall take license to share some history. My earlier years in California trigger names like Supreme Courts in Hayward, Center Courts in Los Angeles, Atlas Health Club in San Diego, and Sports Connection in Santa Monica. Perhaps the most intriguing passing was the Sporting Club in Las Vegas, Nevada. This renowned tournament venue transitioned to a brothel in its second life. Following are many of the venues in the New Mexico territory which have passed away in their own manner, along with some words from their tombstones:**

***Academy Court Club (ACC); Albuquerque—A true court club and a place of ‘worship’. Passed in 1992.***

***Club International; Santa Fe—From Jerry Apodaca to Tom Young, to Mike Glickman; it had a good run.***

***Colonial Park CC; Clovis—a great cross-trainer for the golfing set; replaced by the Community College.***

***Del Norte Fitness Center; Hobbs—Originally a Tom Young venture; then NMJC; now demolished.***

***Olympic Club; Los Lunas—Believe it or not, the Village had a club with 2 courts for over 25 years.***

***Racquetball Center; Taos—At the Tennis Ranch; a fun mix of party & play. Spa opened, it closed.***

***Rio Grande Sporting Club; Albq.—A players’ club with a great hot tub. Passed 1 month after the ACC.***

***Royal Spa; Farmington—Huge facility, probably too big for the community. The Rec Center survived!***

***San Juan College; Farmington—Had two courts before the Royal was constructed.***

***Sierra Swim & Racquet Club; Ruidoso—With fine dining, disco, & pool. Tanked economy took it down.***

***Spa; Santa Fe—Difficult to make a profit when the owner played ball at Club International.***

***Spa and Court Club; Roswell—Ambled along for years; passed in 2020. Had 6 of Roswell’s 14 courts.***

***Sports Club, Durango—Roy’s dream with 12 courts has dwindled to zero. Perennial ‘gong show’.***

***TCA; Albuquerque—Tennis & swimming still there; machines transformed the squash & rball courts.***

***Tom Young’s AC; Albuquerque—National ICON full of memories. Slow death from owners’ brouhaha.***

***Ultimate Courts; El Paso—Blessed with the Peck brothers and a long line of great border players.***

***UNM---Johnson Center reconstruction pulled courts. Largest facility in NM is now void. A TRAGEDY!***

***Z Club; Tucumcari—Turnkey club emphasizing handball; named Z because ‘not good enough to be a Y’.***

**It is critical to mention that many venues and their courts are still vital and living the ‘good life’. Among them are: El Gancho (Santa Fe), Midtown and sister clubs (Albuquerque), PLPOA (Pagosa Springs), Rec Center (Durango), Westside YMCA (El Paso), and Zach’s Club (Lubbock). Let us continue to support all of the available facilities, especially during these difficult and fragile times.**

***MORE…***

 ***WSRC Raffle—Part I drawing was held the 25th of January.***

 ***Grand Prize Winner: Wally Keefer from California ($500).***

 ***Part II will be April 25th (will Zoom the action).***

 ***Part III will be at the 36th IRF World Seniors banquet Sept. 4th.***

 ***Funding— As a 501C3 organization, we are encouraged by any and all***

 ***contributions from the field. We accept payments through our***

 ***Venmo Account Gary Mazaroff @NMRacquetball.***

 ***Raffle Ticket info.—contact Raaj Mohan at: mcraaj@gmail.com***

 ***On the horizon—In-house events at NMSW; Durango Rec Center; & Pagosa Lakes.***

 ***Cover your face—NM Sports & Wellness, per the dictates of the Department of Health,***

 ***no longer allows for face shields during exercise. Face masks only!***

***Quote of the month***

***‘If Rome had invented golf, Nero would have been on the links when it burned’***

 ***Dr William Hazeltine***

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