The Feet That Move the Crow

by GEORGE and CHARLOTTE JONES
Wellington Golf Club

When we walked inside the pretty Grand Cypress Golf Club, we came upon a lady sitting behind the table that had all the prizes for the Browfoot Open. We introduced ourselves and found the lady to be Vilma Kamphaus, the Crowfoot Open’s Secretary. She was waiting for the tournament to end and share in the excitement of giving out the prizes to the winners. After talking to her for a few moments, we thought she was so interesting, that we asked if she wouldn’t mind being interviewed for the magazine. At first she wanted us to talk to the executive committee members. She thought they might have a lot more to tell us. We explained we would like to have a little input from behind the scenes of the Crowfoot Open. Vilma and her husband Larry have worked on the Crowfoot Open for many years. Larry is the Committee Chairman.

The first question we asked Vilma was: How did you get personally involved with the Crowfoot Open?

Vilma: I was volunteered quite a few years ago to help stuff envelopes with the towels and handouts that were given to each one in the tournament. I thought the towels could have been a little better quality than they were. I mentioned having a friend that did monogramming and asked the committee if I could look into getting a classier towel to monogram. I got the OK to call my friend and got prices for the next year. They turned out beautiful. The same friend also found some promotional things and we were able to give out some nice gifts with the Crowfoot logo on them.

Trolley

Clang, clang, clang went the trolley. Ding, ding, ding went its bell as it crossed streets and cart paths on a scenic seven mile round-trip track at the Grand Cypress Resort in Orlando, Florida. This is one of the modes of transportation we took while we were there for the Crowfoot Open.

When we stepped inside the trolley, it gave us a feeling of turn-of-the-century transportation in the early nineteen hundreds.

We discovered the eighty year old trollies were purchased by Grand Cypress in 1983 from Brussels, Belgium. They were restored with attention to detail inside and out by Belgian craftsmen. Some of the traditional European designs are its tulip bulb lighting, leather hanging straps, light oak paneling, and cane seats. It runs electrically by overhead wire and pole slide.

The trollies have an interesting history. They were used in Brussels for more than six decades. During World War I they collected and distributed laundry, transported food and served as ambulances.

It’s quite unique for guests at Grand Cypress to climb aboard the trolley for a leisurely ride to their destination on the property. Conductors in authentic style uniforms are helpful and courteous. They talk fondly of the trolley they operate.

For a few moments we held the memory of a bygone era. It all added grace and elegance that’s ideally suited to the quality of lifestyle at Grand Cypress Resort.