



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Refresh Yourself and Build Bridges That Make Life Worth Living

By James Bade

March sure came in like a lion, and I was gone for the big melt down towards the middle of the month. I was in the desert southwest, in a city I never heard of until in-laws became a part of my life. Lake Havasu City is on the western border of Arizona with California just on the other side of the Colorado River. Havasu is actually the home of the London Bridge, the real bridge from London, England. A fellow name McCullough, from chainsaw fame and friend of turf growers, founded the city, bought the bridge and brought it over piece by piece. It is kind of amazing what one will think of doing in life.

Havasu is the home of the most 5th wheels and diesels I have ever seen. And talk about muscle-boats, they sell jet fuel to power these things for \$5.00/gallon at most gas stations; talk about an expensive hobby. There are some serious toys in that town and fuel is no object. If I had to guess, Havasu has a population of 50,000 doubling to 100,000 during snowbird season. It would be an interesting town to see in the heat of the summer.

As big as this world is at times, it is a small world as well. Barry Provo and Dave Krupp were boarding the same plane to play some golf. When we landed in Bull Head City/Laughlin airport we got out right on the tarmac. And why not, it doesn't rain out there and it is rarely cold by Minnesota standards. We had a good laugh at the luggage claim. They trucked the luggage over maybe 50 yards and threw it on a non-revolving platform 30 feet long by four feet wide. It looked more like feeding time for cattle than the arrival of a flight. By the way, the city of Laughlin was founded by Mr. Laughlin of Minnesota and is a destination for those who like to gamble.

There is a very nice golf course in Havasu called The Refuge. The Lee Hornig that some of you might know from Minnesota, was the original golf course superintendent. Lee went from the Land of 10,000 Lakes, where most everything is green, to a place where the only thing green is a golf course; from a place where wind blown snow was a concern to where blowing sand on your greens, tees and fairways is your problem. My hat goes off to Lee for taking on such a challenge. For me, Havasu is a nice place to visit.

The flight out of Bull Head City was just as memorable. There were two gates and one plane. I knew the luggage was getting on the right plane and I had a 50:50 chance of finding the right gate. Once again we went right out on to the tarmac. When boarding I felt like turning around and waving to our family like the President boards Air Force One. I know it is an airport where I would feel comfortable being the air traffic controller. It is one of those places everyone should experience just once.

Why this story? For a week I was able to be with my family, sit by a pool in the warm weather with no agenda for the day. I was able to be still and take in the shadows of the mountains as the sun set over the horizon leaving an incredible silhouette. I was able to marvel at the heavens in the dark night sky. The trip was my way of getting my roots down before the stress of a new season (Psalm 1: 8) where we put in long hours away from the family. The McCullough story ends on a sad note by the taking of his own life. My hope is that you spend time refreshing yourself and that you build bridges that make life worth living. I hope you and your club have a wonderful year ahead. - James

HOLE NOTES (ISSN 108-27994) is published monthly except bi-monthly November/December, January/February for \$2 an issue or \$20 per year by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association, 700 Twelve Oaks Center Dr., Suite 706, Wayzata, MN 55391. Scott Turtinen, publisher. Periodicals postage paid at Wayzata, MN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to HOLE NOTES, P. O. BOX 617, WAYZATA, MN 55391.

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HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
of the MGCSA

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