



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



Grand Express Trolley

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. ■

F.G.: When did you become the Crowfoot Open Secretary?

Vilma: When Larry became chairman of the committee, I'd take his phone calls at home. Helping him little by little just got me involved. The committee asked me to come aboard and help them handle everything and to help keep things organized. It's grown from there. I've been the secretary for six years now.

Larry teases me about knowing everyone in town. I've lived in the Orlando area all my life. And I know a lot of people here. It got so funny because for a while when Larry would mention something like needing a printer for brochures, I'd say, 'I went to school with someone that's a printer.' Whenever he mentioned needing to get something done, I'd know someone that could help. One time when Arnold Palmer was in town advertising for Toro, Larry came home and informed me he was going to have lunch with Arnold and Ken Melrose, the President of Toro. I said to Larry, 'I went to school with Ken Melrose!' Larry quipped back at me, 'No way, this guy is up there in Minneapolis! Now I'm tired of hearing that.' So I pulled out my old high school year book and showed him Ken's picture. Then I said, 'When you have lunch with Ken Melrose, ask him if he knows me!' When Larry came home, he laughed and said to me, 'You did it again! Ken did go to school with you!'

I did get to see Ken at the Bay Hill Classic in the Toro tent. We had a good time talking about old friends and remembering our school days.

F.G.: Do you spend a lot of time getting everything organized?

Vilma: Yes, it takes time to get it all together. The committee has the hardest job making the contacts and raising the funds needed. I'm on the phone a lot and I do a lot of running errands and picking up things.

This has been great for me. Most of the work is done in the Summer. That's when I have time to get a majority of it accomplished. I'm a Remedial Math Teacher at St. Johns Vianney Catholic

School. It's a private school. My job is to bring students up to grade level, like a tutor. The school is affiliated with the church Larry and I were married in twenty-one years ago.

Besides taking up my time it also takes up space in our garage! That's where everything is stored. The sponsor boards, the big crow and things we use each year. After ten years Larry bought me a new car (he likes to drive the wheels off of them before he buys a new one). My beautiful new car sits in the driveway because there is no room for it in the garage!

Our whole family is involved with the Crowfoot Open. Our two sons and daughter help us. I guess you could call it a family affair.

F.G.: We noticed your son taking pictures during the tournament.

Vilma: Our oldest son Larry is very interested in photography and takes pictures for us. He is a senior in high school and has been a yearbook photographer for three years.

His high school, Dr. Phillips High, did a motion picture. This is a first for any high school. They wrote, produced and directed a movie. The people from Universal Studios volunteered a man to come to the school and train a student on operating the big movie camera. Our Larry was the student picked for the training. Now he is an assistant camera man and helps film commercials with them. He is going to continue studying this on through college. We are thrilled with this opportunity that came his way.

F.G.: How do you like working with a committee of seven men?

Vilma: This committee of guys are the nicest people to work with. They are all low-key and easy going. They are all fine gentlemen. We all work as a team getting it together.

F.G.: Your husband Larry has been with the Disney organization for a long time.

Vilma: Larry is going on his 18th year at Disney. Those first years were rough. he dug holes and planted trees along the boulevard where all the hotels are. He helped build the golf course and worked his way to the top.

When we celebrate his 20th year with Disney, we get free health insurance for life. Isn't that a great benefit!

Vilma Kamphaus does all the running and piecing things together that the committee members don't have the time to do. She mentioned many times during our talk, "The guys on the committee have the hardest job to do. I help fill in the spaces like all secretaries do."

We thanked Vilma for the interview. It's rare you hear of someone that is born, raised, married and still lives in the same town in Florida! Vilma is truly a Southern Bell. She is a genuinely warm and gracious lady.

There are a lot of feet that move the Crowfoot Open counting Vilma's, the committee members and everyone else involved. You can compare it to running a race. At then end of the race, they are all winners. They gave us a superb 1988 Crowfoot Open. That was their ultimate goal. ■



1988 Crowfoot Committee members: (seated) Vilma Kamphaus; (l to r) Gary Morgan, Tom Alex, Steve Wright, Joe Ondo, Larry Kamphaus, Jim Ellison, Bob Williams.