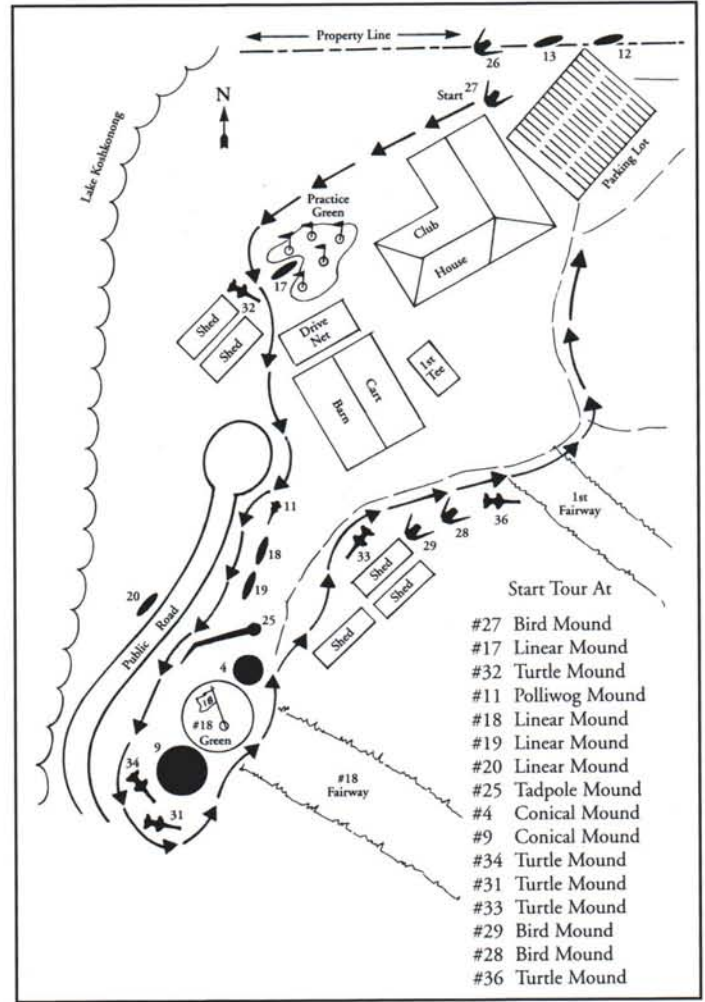


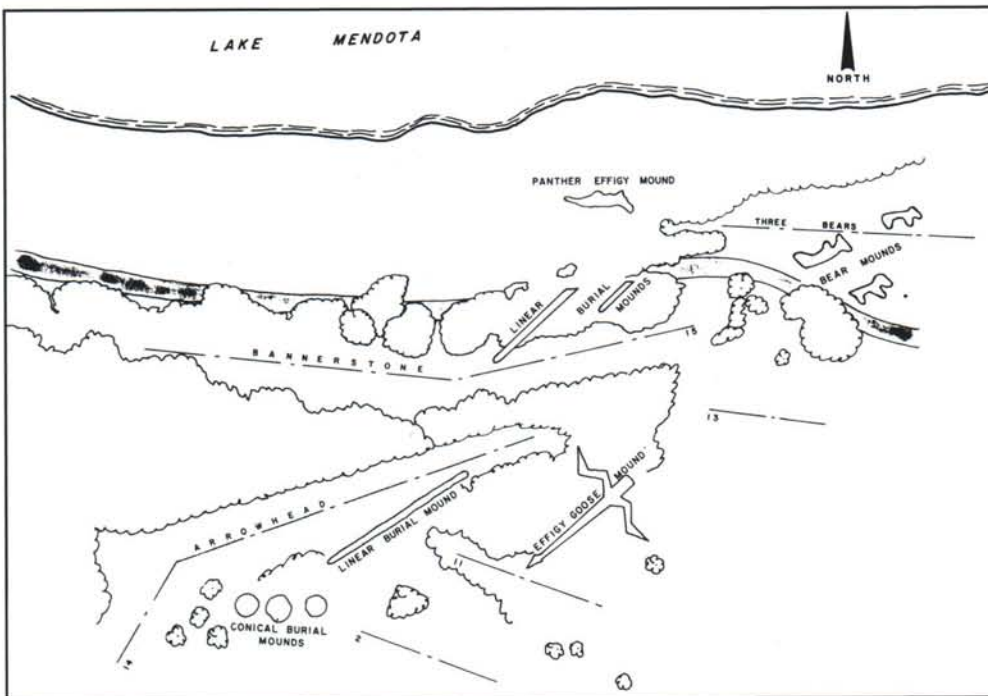
foot linear mound and two smaller effigy mounds.

One of the founders of my course, Blackhawk CC, was still alive in 1976 and decided to go through the exercise of getting our group of Indian mounds on the National Park Service List of Historic Places in America. It was part of our bicentennial celebration. The group includes two linear mounds, three conical mounds, a goose shaped mound, three bear effigy mounds and a panther shaped mound. When the course was built in 1920/1921, a hawk mound was graded out of the 11th fairway, so the project included a 1/2 scale reproduction of it in the clubhouse lawn area. We were assisted by an archeologist from the State Historical Society. The designation by the National Park Service was approved. The mounds are visited occasionally by groups - Boy Scouts, for example - and classes from area schools. Individuals are welcome to visit there, too.

I find them intriguing and can only imagine the work that went into their construction. We build land forms with machinery moving massive amounts of material in as short a time as possible. The predecessors to our properties built their more complicated and detailed land forms by moving small amounts of soil over longer periods of time in baskets and leather bags. Although not as grand as cathedrals and castles of similar times in overseas lands, these mounds are mute and impressive relics in their own way. They are reminders of earlier life on this soil. I know I speak for Al Jansen and Mike Kactro when I say it is a solemn responsibility and yet a pleasure to preserve these mounds intact for the education and enlightenment of generations to come.



Shown above is a map of the self-guided tour of effigy and burial mounds located at Koshkonong Mounds Country Club.



Map showing location of different indian mounds at Blackhawk Country Club national historical site.

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# Nature Roars; Wisconsin Superintendents Suffer



By **Monroe S. Miller**, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

Severe weather and lots of moisture marked the months of May and June in Wisconsin. Eastern Wisconsin was hit by a storm featuring wind and rain and hail around May 12th. Southern Wisconsin was hammered by a whopper of a storm with hail and rain and wind on May 18th. The hail was the size of golf balls and turned our course and others in Dane county into a winterlike wonderland. It didn't last long - the hail ended after 15 minutes and melted in a few hours. Moisture before the hail had softened greens and it was scary to see them after the ice melted - they left ballmarks. We rolled them first and after the second mowing it was difficult to detect any damage at all.

Urban areas receiving hail were covered with shredded leaves, damaged trees and dented cars. The rain that was part of the storm brought six and more inches of rain in some places in southern Wisconsin.

More storms hit the state on May 31st, driving

Madison's May total to 9.53 inches. That was enough rain to establish a new record. The old record was 9.35 inches of precip in May of 1933. We probably set a record for the tonnage of sand put back in place in the sand bunkers of Wisconsin golf courses!

It wasn't just the rain the storms brought that caused trouble. Wind, flooding, and lightning raised havoc on our courses. WGCSA members were clearing fairways and roughs of everything from carp to cornstalks. Chainsaws were chewing through downed limbs and trees. And the wind not only dropped tress and branches, it caused power outages and shoreline damage. We will have plenty to do to restore the shore at our Lake Mendota pump station.

The little Vernon county village of Victory had nearly ten inches of rain for May 30th and 31st. Baraboo had nearly seven inches, Platteville recorded about six and a half inches, and a bunch of other towns and cities

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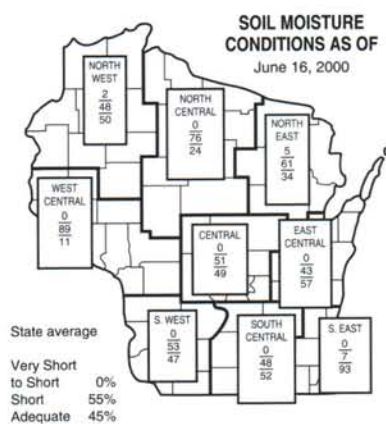
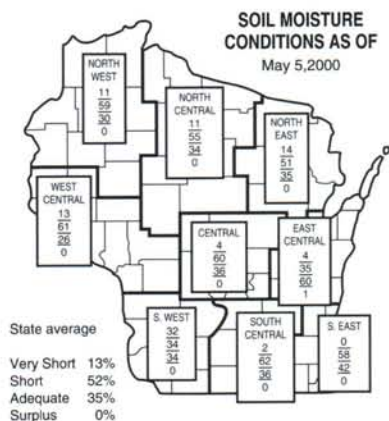
were at five inches of rain. We basically got two months of rain in two days. Year-to-date totals were twice the normal amount expected. At its worst, Lake Mendota was 31.5 inches above its maximum summer height, breaking the 1933 record of 25.5 inches. Currents in rivers and streams were running at 10 to 20 times their typical volume.

The financial impact is tremendous and expressed in cleanup and repair costs as well as lost revenue for green fees, bar sales and restaurant sales.

Mid-June saw more rain - two to three inches in our area, exacerbating our problems. Poor Walworth, Racine and Kenosha - their tallies ran into the four and five inch range. A week later? More rain. Enough rain, in fact, for the Feds to declare some of Wisconsin's counties official disaster areas. Somehow I doubt any of us will reap any relief from that program.

Sad about the whole deal is the forecast from a few months ago - a drought for 2000. It may get dry over the next months of 2000, but surface waters and aquifers are surely recharged now.

The facts tell the story and are illustrated by the information from the folks at the Wisconsin Ag Stats Service.



Speaking of facts, here are some from a report of the National Climatic Data Center. The spring of 2000

was the hottest on record for the U.S. Meteorological spring - March through May - averaged 55.5 degrees F. over the U.S., 0.4 degrees warmer than the previous record set in 1910.

The report also said we experienced the hottest January - May in 106 years of record keeping. Both numbers will stir anew the debate about global warming and whether or not mankind can influence it.

In our region - East North Central - the average temp this spring was 47.4 degrees, a dramatic 4.1 degrees above the average temperature of 43.3 degrees.

Globally, land and ocean surface temperatures were also warmer than normal, tying 1990 as the second warmest spring on record.

It is pretty unusual for every state in the U.S. to have above normal temperatures like this past spring. That has to be a clue to something.

Frankly, I have been aggravated by the lack of competition among distributors who call on me when it comes to certain products - they all charge exactly the same price. There is bristling when the words "price fixing" are brought into the conversation. They call it "agency pricing."

I made a few inquiries about agency pricing or an agency program (as it is also called). It differs from a distributor program in that when the distributor buys product from a manufacturer or a formulator, the distributor is free to resell those products to end users like you and me at any price or on any terms that the distributor decides on.

In an agency program, the manufacturer sells the product directly to the end users. The distributor does not buy and never owns those products. So the manufacturer sets the price. The distributor acts as an "agent" for the manufacturer, soliciting business for the manufacturer, delivering the product for it and performing any other required services (product complaints, for example).

Regardless of how many "agents" a manufacturer may have, the price remains the same everywhere with every agent because the deal is between you and the manufacturer. The distributor does not input on the price.

Now, is that clear?

I guess I will remember the 2000 US Open primarily as the time that Robert Trent Jones passed away. He died Wednesday night, June 14, the eve of the Open. Had he lived six more days, he would have reached 94 years.

Mr. Jones suffered a stroke a year ago and had been in declining health since then. In his career, during which he became known as the "father of modern architecture," Jones created or rebuilt over 400 golf courses in 34 countries. Two of the are in Wisconsin - The Springs in Spring Green and the Madeline Island Golf Course in La Pointe. I believe he also did some remodeling at Milwaukee CC.



Most golf course superintendents have a memory or two of Robert Trent Jones. I have two special ones. He was a speaker at our Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium a number of years ago and I was able to chat with him, mainly about architects who were at their prime when he was in his younger years - Ross, Tillinghast, etc. The other occasion was at a luncheon during the GCSAA conference in Orlando time before last. He was more than happy to autograph some books for me and to, again, talk about America's pioneers of golf course architecture. Those are great moments to remember.

Jones' courses have served host to 79 national championships, including 20 US Opens and 12 PGA championships.

Anybody who saw the tribute to Payne Stewart before the 2000 US Open had to be touched. Stewart was a two-time US Open champ who was killed in a plane crash last fall.

Two groups of players responded to the command "ready, aim, fire" by hitting golf balls into the Pacific Ocean from the jagged coastline at the 18th fairway at Pebble Beach. What a sight - a 21-tee shot salute. You'll never see it again.



A 21-tee shot salute to Payne Stewart at the US Open on Wednesday, June 14, 2000.

The Badgers play a regular season football game in August; it seems impossible, doesn't it? It should be an exciting season in Camp Randall. The Badgers are ranked by some "experts" as the third best football team in the country, behind Nebraska and Florida State. They have, by some accounts, the best defensive line and the best defensive secondary in the country. The team has some outstanding individual players and even though Ron Dayne is gone, there are some good ones coming up to take his place.

The anticipation of a new football season may help make the tough summer months of July and August pass more quickly. I hope these months find your course in excellent shape and you in good spirits. 🌿

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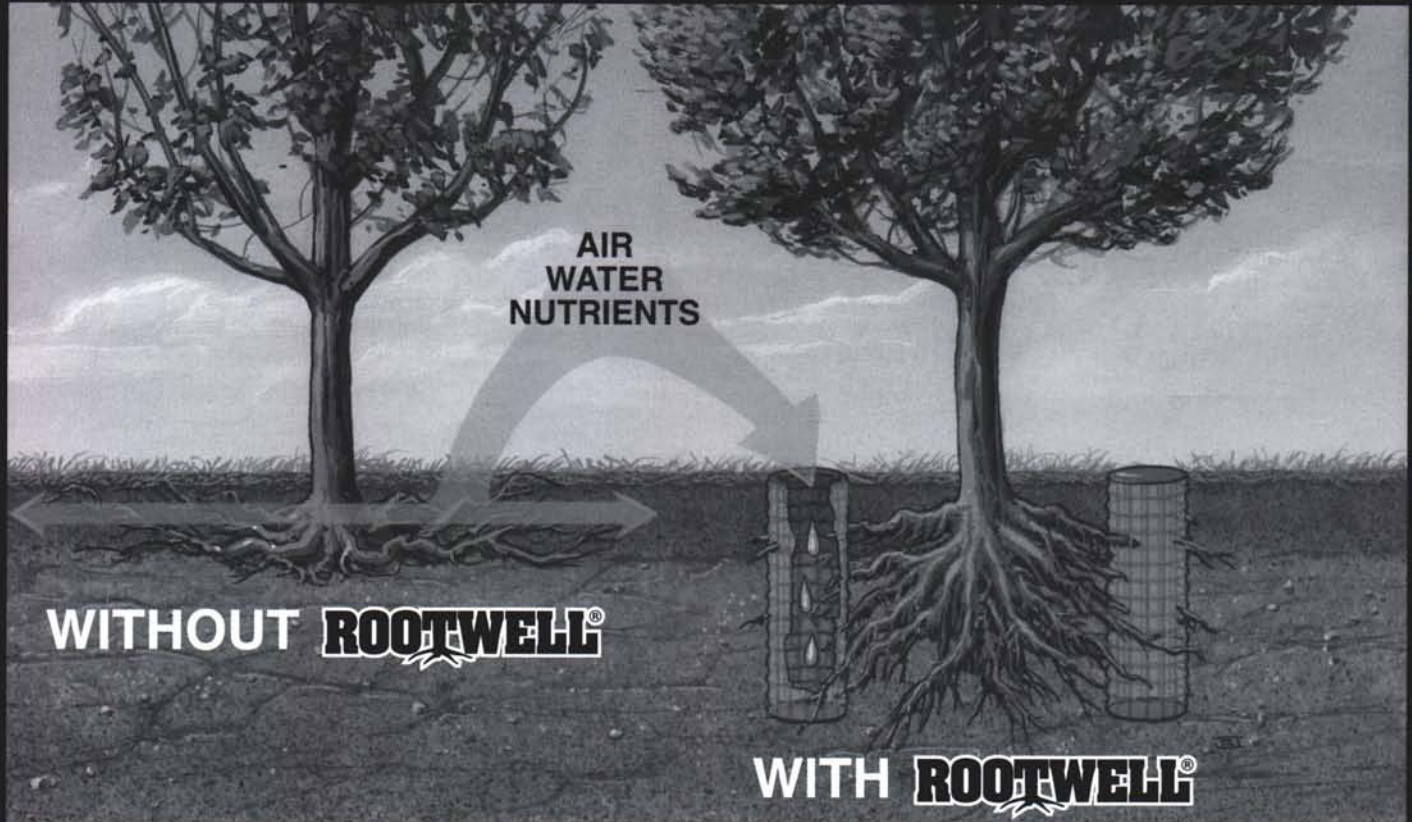
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# Touched By a Friend

By **Bruce Worzella**, Golf Course Superintendent, West Bend Country Club

Now that a year has passed since the tragedy of a very close fellow superintendent, but more so a very dear friend, I have found the courage to write an article that was asked of me eight months ago. When you lose someone that had a lot of influence on what you do today, it takes time to prepare yourself to try to reminisce and dedicate a tribute to a person who touched you for over thirty years.

April 22, 1999, Dave Murgatroyd lost his life like so many others, driving his vehicle to a certain destination, and not even thinking of what could happen. Unfortunately for Dave, his life ended here on earth. Now, Gloria, Ann, Crystal and Mary, their lives are filled with sorrow and wonderful memories.

So many friends have so many memories. To you Dave, I know you can hear me. And to his family, relatives, friends, and all the people he has touched, I give you a few words of what he meant to fellow employees and acquaintances.

## **Fondest memories from Joe Deschler:**

Pat and I attended many national turf conferences with Dave and Gloria and have had some really great times. His last GCSAA conference in Orlando, Dave and Gloria, Greg and Lynn Kallenberg, and Pat and I spent the entire week together. We toured the equipment show each day and attended various functions each night and we all had such a great time. Dave told me that it was the best time ever at a convention. Gloria and Dave have been our golf partners for the past few years at the Superintendents' Dinner Dance and we enjoyed this tremendously. Dave was always kidding around and having a good time. He would say, "Hey Joe", in the middle of my back swing and then laugh the rest of the day because I took about a 12-pound divot and missed the ball.

We will also miss the many visits to our home and evenings out for dinner. Dave and I go back so far that I think dirt was still called "dirt". We will miss him as a great friend and customer as will Dennis Robinson, Greg Kallenberg, Grant and John Mortimer, and everyone else at Horst Distributing.

Dave's death has changed our lives forever. We have lost a true and great friend and will miss him tremendously. We also hope that Gloria will continue to be part of our lives and attend the various golf course functions with us.

## **Kind words from Dale Marach:**

In a person's life you are lucky if you meet one person

with honesty and genuineness that David had. I feel lucky to have worked with him and counted him as a friend. He was always proud of his family and enjoyed talking about them.

David had an attitude about enjoying life that was amazing. He worked hard and played just as hard. When I left the Ridges, after working with him for seven years, he always had time to answer a question or listen to how my golf course was coming. I know for a fact that I was not the only former employee who felt his concern for us or his pleasure in seeing our golf courses. I have never met a man who could maintain a golf course with so little and still produce a challenging course. If I had never met Dave or he had never given me that first job, I would never have found the profession I am in today. He never tried to motivate us to go into the golf business, but he showed us how to have fun doing a job that you love. He may never have gone to college, but he was a great teacher.

I am grateful for having the privilege of working with him. There are many people that have worked at the Ridges and with David who are better people because of him.

## **A real influence from Jeff Ruesch:**

The first time I met David Murgatroyd, his father employed me as a rock and stick picker when they were building the back nine at the Ridges. I had managed to get an old gray Willis Jeep and trailer stuck on what is now fourteen fairway. A fifteen-year-old kid walks up to David doing some backhoe work and tries to explain to him that he just buried a Jeep and trailer with a ton of rocks on it. (For those who knew David, you can appreciate what his reaction was.) Little did I know what an influence that man on that backhoe would have on me the 28 years I knew him.

In the months since his tragic death, I can find very few things that I do on the golf course that do not remind me of him. In those days as a teenager at the Ridges, we built bridges, roads, shops, clubhouses, and a golf course. Back then, if it needed to get done, you just did it. The things you learned, the fun you had, and the great stories that came from those experiences, were true gifts. The greatest gift of them all was having the friendship of a man like David Murgatroyd.

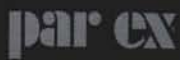
## **A long and very close friendship from Jeff Bottensek:**

David Murgatroyd was my friend for over 30 years. I

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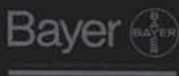
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met David when I started working at the Ridges during the summer while I was going to high school. David and I spent a lot of time together at stockcar races, working on cars, playing golf and boating. Over the many years, we spent a lot of time just talking about grass and going to various meetings together. David was a very good and special friend and I will miss him very much.

#### **My buddy and mentor from Jim "Uno" Wunrow:**

Meeting Dave Murgatroyd has been nothing short of a memorable experience in my life. Dave has always taught me from a kid to a man, to be the best you can be.

I was Dave's assistant for many years before flocking my wings as a superintendent. Dave also gave me the nickname "Uno" that I proudly hold today. Dave and I always has time for one another because our relationship went far beyond the golf course industry; we were just GREAT BUDDIES.

Dave was always there to listen to anything that was bothering you and always had a position on the subject, maybe not the answer you wanted, but he was always truthful in his responses. Like so many people, I also have very fond memories of the years with Dave. One in particular comes to mind; Dave and I stopped at a local A & W on the way to Stevens Point. They were running a special two root beer floats for \$1.50. I told Dave I would buy, so we stopped. When we got our floats, I gave Dave a \$10 bill and he told the carhop to keep the change and received a big "Thank you sir". And I received a big laugh from Dave. We always laughed together when we passed by an A & W and he would say, "let's stop and I would say no because it is too expensive." Dave was a kid at heart a lot of time.

There were times that kidding was not in Dave's vocabulary. Everybody who has ever worked for Dave can relate to this, but I feel those times were Dave's way of really trying to get his point across. I am a better person going through the good and not so good times with Dave.

Dave and I always talked openly to one another about Dave's retirement and my future. He always said when he retired as superintendent it would be good if I took his job, then he could work for me on the crew. Well Dave, I am here and you might not be here physically, but your presence will always be here and in my heart. I am very honored to sit behind your desk.

#### **Neighbor, family friend, fellow professional, caring person; Bruce Worzella:**

At the young age of thirteen, I started my first real job at Ridges working for David's father. While getting to work, I had to travel past Dave and Gloria's house because they were our neighbors. Because we were neighbors, I got to know Dave in his many different adventures. We snowmobiled together when old Wisconsin winters produced real snow cover. We worked

on automobiles, trucks and even spent many hours trying to keep a friend's stock car together. Even though I really did not work directly for David, I always knew there was a friend just next door.

David's pride and joy back in the 60's was his Pontiac GTO. I remember he had a couple of them and he made sure they ran to peak performance. But what a friend, when you are just 16, and your neighbor says would you like to borrow my car tonight. At that point in my life, I acquired lot of respect and trust for a person that would treat me with the same feelings.

Even after when I left the Ridges and moved into adulthood, got married, had a family, moved away, David and Gloria were always true friends. They always made a point to say, "when you are in town, make sure you call or let's get together."

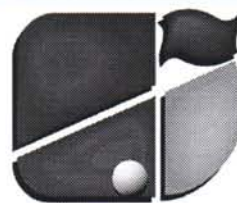
Boating on the Mississippi was another love of David's, and there was not a time that when I saw or talked to him that he wanted to get together and go boating. He always made a point to tell me "Bruce, you got to start taking some time off and enjoy life a little more."

Finally, what probably will be in my heart and thoughts of Dave is when I held my first WGCSA monthly meeting in April 1980 here at West Bend Country Club. Dave came to me after the meeting and said, "I watched you grow up, and am very proud of all you have accomplished."

Dave had an important part of my accomplishments and growing up.

Here was just a grain of sand in a golf course bunker of great memories from people David Murgatroyd touched in his wonderful living life. He lived life to the fullest, loved his family dearly, and always was a friend. A memorial golf tournament was just held in his honor this past June 12, and a tribute to him was constructed at the Ridges. He might be gone from this earth, but he will never be forgotten.

Gloria, Ann, Crystal, and Mary, may your sorrows be shallow and your great memories endless. ♣



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