

12/25/07

**“Merry Christmas” (Revised)**

by  
**Tom Holbrook**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!** May this day be celebrated as the representative day of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and know that today Santa Claus himself is kneeling to honor the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Hopefully all of us will take the good will that is generated by the significance of this day and spread it amongst our family, friends and everyone with whom we come into contact throughout the coming year.

Judy and I are spending this day with our daughter and son-in-law in Orlando who have three children, ages 2, 6 and 9, so we won't be able to take advantage of the free golf at The Villages' Championship courses. Please allow me to gush once more about this place in which we live and give thanks to Big Guy above who placed us here in our waning years. Who would've thunk it... that we would be blessed to be able to spend these going out years in such a fabulous environment? And, by living here I firmly believe because this community offers so many amenities for its residents to avail themselves of we are adding additional years to the time we will spend on this earth.

Although I won't be playing golf today I did play last week and was pleased to meet with and play with some new friends. Dennis C. of Winifred, and Joe L., of Santiago, were two new golfing buddies who teamed with Dennis B. of Winifred and me at Hacienda Hills. We also met Elmer and his lovely wife Peggy from Ohio who were playing on a different nine than we. What an absolutely gorgeous day it was for golf... although it didn't help my game any. I'm convinced if my game is to improve I must start playing more than just once a week and get serious about getting my handicap down.

In addition to my three golf partners we welcomed to our neighborhood Ron & Toni who live in Winifred... super nice people and looking forward to getting to know them better. Dennis C. has lived in The Villages for 5 years and hails from Wisconsin. He and his wife Natalie still make the trek home during the summer, however, and will do so as long as their family wants them to. Dennis B. and Joe L. were both from Michigan but had never met until we played together. On the 4<sup>th</sup> hole of the Palms nine we saw some strange looking ducks in the fairway and I asked what kind of ducks they were. One of the guys said they were Canadian Geese and I stupidly asked how they could tell. He said just listen to them for a minute. Sure enough as I listened to them closely I could hear them clearly sounding, “Quack-eh, Quack-eh, Quack-eh.”

Between now and next week my life will be filled with watching all the different Bowl games and eagerly awaiting our friends who went north to visit their kids for the holidays. Neighbors here

have become such an important part of our lives they are truly missed when they take off to one place or another. Of course all of us have our favorite college teams for which we'll be rooting during the games. Our neighborhood has a variety of schools that will be in Bowl games but it seems that Ohio State, Florida, and my team West Virginia are the teams we will be rooting for most. It's not really about watching football so much as it is having an excuse to get together with people you love and pig out on food and drink.

Of course, next week will bring us into a brand new year, 2008, and we'll be talking about what to look forward to during that 12 month period. Until then I've got a couple of pretty decent jokes to pass on to you which were passed on to me.... "A group of chess enthusiasts checked into the new Waterfront Inn last week and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour of this bragging, the manager came out of the office and asked them to leave. "But why?" they asked, as they went out the door. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer." (Ouch)

But this next one is so bad it's great... "Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little which made him rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. All this together made him...(are you ready for this...) A super calloused, fragile mystic, vexed by halitosis!"

Sorry, but there is a writer's strike you know.... Merry Christmas and see you next week!

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