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**“Hail, Hail, The Gang’s All Here”**

by  
Tom Holbrook

Had a great time this past Friday... got in 9 holes at Glenview and then back for Happy Hour at the Waterfront Inn in Sumter Landing. The crew seems to be getting larger each time we play. In the crew this time, besides me, were John, Manny, Tom M., Don, Dan, Vinny, Kent, Mike, Ken, Ed, Ron and a new kid on the block, Lee. Lee just moved to Winifred after buying his house from dearly departed Bob, who was mentioned in this article two weeks ago. Lee and his wife moved from the village of Ashland and said he and his wife Pat had wanted to get into our neighborhood for months after hearing what a wild and crazy bunch we were. Welcome to the neighborhood Lee, only next time remember a person would be better received if he would not beat the guys you played with the first time out.

We have a fun time at the Waterfront Inn... Karen, Debbie and newly initiated Bobbie are the best wait staff we’ve ever encountered and do their best to keep the group fully stocked on liquid refreshment and the obligatory pretzels. We usually have an informal straw poll each time we meet, as well, to find out who feels how about what in the Villages, the State, the Country and the World. The poll is very scientific and, because our group is a true cross section of America, we’re very insightful as well. There are 3 men from Ohio, 3 from Wisconsin, 1 from California/Las Vegas, 1 from Iowa, 1 from Massachusetts, 3 from New York and 1 from West Virginia... and each man is confident his opinions is the correct one.

We discuss just about every problem or challenge that a person could face and are very open with our feelings and suggestions on how to address those challenges. Seeing how this column is not given to political prose I cannot report on the specifics of the poll but I will tell you this... one area of interest was so lively that it sparked two uninvited votes from our bar manager Karen and a naturalized citizen, James, from Costa Rica who happened to be blatantly listening to our conversation. Interesting to know, however, that the results of our polls on many of the subjects in question are in keeping with the national polls’ splits among voters. No surprise, we’re not just chop liver you know.

We did find out something about one of our regulars during our discussions... One of our favorite people who is always there to help anyone at anytime with anything they need began a conversation having to do with cleaning the mold from beneath the bottom rail of the lanai, where water collects. This person, oh let’s call him ‘Ed’, is always full of information guaranteed to cure the ills that are bothering you in any area of your house, garage or house. We are constantly amazed at his wealth of knowledge and seek him out when there’s a question. “How does one man come up with so much knowledge,” we constantly ask ourselves? Well, we might have found the answer... during his conversation on mold ‘Ed’ slipped up and said, “I know it might sound crazy, but ‘Hints From Heloise’ said it will work every time

and I've found she's never been wrong yet." "Oh no Ed... Yoicks and Gadzooks! Say it ain't so Ed!!!! Don't let your source for all your knowledge be a woman...is nothing sacred anymore?"

Us guys got to talking about another subject last night around a table of food and drink, after a neighborhood golf scramble. While the ladies were inside around the dining room table laughing and doing things that women do together, 9 of us guys were on the lanai trying to solve all the world's problems.

One of those problems is Line Dancing because it is so strenuous and very taxing on the legs. It was a consensus that many of us didn't participate because of the damage it could do to our bodies. One of our group volunteered that he doesn't do it because he was tired of having the ladies who really get involved in this exercise seem to get very up tight when he is trying to dance with them. Suddenly he finds himself turning in the wrong direction heading straight at 'em head on, like a salmon going upstream. He said, "You should see the looks on their faces... ready to kill. The look in their eyes, thinking, 'What's your problem dummy... you can't even do the Electric Slide? Everyone knows the Electric Slide!!!' ... no more for me he said."

See you next week and be careful out there.

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