

GOLFNOTES

July 2023



Katie (Hagen) Droz

KATIE, MORE-THAN-O.K. LADY, FROM OK STATEY

Sister, Wife, Mother, Daughter, Granddaughter, Homesteader, Educator, Artist, Hypnotherapist, Violinist, and Cheerleader

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GolfNotes

Editor, Publisher, and Chief
Writer

Allan Grim

Assistant Editor and Writer
Martin Povser,

*although some believe he is
the same person as Allan
Grim*



Notes from the bench on No. 6 Tee

Home is where the heart is. No, home is where the hardy belch is. Okay, there's a heart there too, but it now has a pacemaker.

Titleist rep says that as long as the ball has no scuff, defacement, or paint loss larger than a dime, the ball is okay to use and will continue to go as far and as straight. NOW you tell me. How many good balls have I discarded?

Life is a smorgasbord of delights and too many people are eating Saltines and drinking Kool-Aid. Reach for the good stuff; there's plenty if you look.

Which came first, the cow or the milker? If the cow came before

the milker, how did the cow get milked? And if the milker came first, how was he able to eat his cereal at breakfast?

Who invented the letter W? First, it's two V's, not U's. Second, why would you create a letter that is merely another letter doubled? Couldn't they come up with just one more unrelated design? And this is the only letter of 26 with more than one syllable. Can you believe three?

When you have an important item or object in your home and you are putting it aside for the moment, always put it in a **readily observable** or available spot. How many of them have you spent your life wondering "Where in bloody bleep did I put it?"

Never seal an envelope until you are ready to walk it to the mailbox. Waiting will obviate the need for taking “Oh, no!” or that vulgar other one from your catalogue of sudden bursts. Okay, maybe you want to be sure the flap will stay glued to the body. Take a few moments to wait for that before you walk.

When Mussolini heard that the Italian peasants were starving and demanded bread, he responded by exclaiming, “Let them eat pizza!”

I’m getting tired of watching WWII documentaries. The same countries win each time. At least the bad guys never win. I still don’t know how a guy like Hitler rose to the top. Of course, I could say the same about Trump and Biden.



The new MLB rule to shorten the time of extra-inning games is bad. Poor imagination. I can't believe they installed it. You shouldn't be allowed to have a runner on second base that you didn't earn there yourself. Instead, I would do nothing for the 10th and 11th innings. Then if no one won after 11 innings, give them each four outs in the 12th, then five outs in the 13th, and so on.

You could compile a list of the twenty-five best songs ever and easily include twenty from Christmas.

Letter to the Editor

Allan Grim
Editor of GolfNotes

I enjoyed reading your article about the “law of averages” in your April 2023 issue. It triggered in my memory a remark you had made in a round of golf at Locust Valley in the 1990’s. It was my all-time favorite reaction anyone has ever made on a golf course. I was playing with your brother George and you when, after many a torrid shank, you declared, “Whatever happened to the law of averages!”

Greg Leibensperger
Emmaus, Pa.

Get to know Katherine Anne “Katie”(Hagen) Droz in 80 Completion Questions

*You really didn't
know her—until now*

Katherine Anne (Hagen) Droz is the oldest Granddaughter of James and Diane Grim and Great Granddaughter of Allan K. and Ruth S. Grim, *[parents of Allan Grim, Jr., who is Publisher of GolfNotes]*. Her mother and father are Julie Wilson (Grim) and Todd Hagen. She is the oldest of the six Hagen girls. She was born in Oklahoma City, OK on November 22, 1989 and raised in Stillwater, OK.

Growing up in a big Catholic family in a university town, there were



Above, Katie with new husband John Droz at Under the Big Sky Music Festival in Montana, 2021.

many opportunities to join networks of people with a wide variety of interests. Katie played the violin, took dance, and played soccer. In later grades she joined the cheerleading team and became cheer captain her senior year of high school. She participated in orchestral groups such as the Young Artists' Orchestra and her school symphony won awards in a

contest at Carnegie Hall in NYC.

Katie has been an artist her whole life. As a child she developed a love for drawing as a means of self-expression, and today she continues to create art both for herself and others. She graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2012 with her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Studio Art and received several scholarships and awards for her work. Her work has been featured at both the Philbrook Art Museum in Tulsa and Oklahoma Museum of Art in Oklahoma City. In 2017 she began teaching middle



From a few years ago, John's daughter Mallory, now 18, in the middle, with Katie's Fiona, left, and Neilah, right

school art in Oklahoma City Public schools, where she taught for three years until the pandemic in 2020. When Katie graduated from college in 2012, she married Kyle Guthrie and they had their first child Fiona Rose Guthrie. Shortly after they

moved to Michigan so Kyle could pursue a degree in Plastics Engineering from Ferris State University in Big Rapids, MI. Their

second daughter Neilah Marie Guthrie was born in 2014. Katie and Kyle divorced in 2016 and she moved back to Oklahoma City with her two girls.

In 2018 she met her now husband, John Droz through a mutual friend. He was living in Tulsa, OK (the



John's son Cooper, 14, holding Katie's Fiona, 11, and Neilah, 9.



other big city) and they dated “long distance” until eloping in the Fall of 2020. Katie gained two bonus kids in the marriage, Mallory



(18) and Cooper (14). The family moved to the country outside of Tulsa and began building a little homestead.

Katie stopped teaching middle school art to run the farm and briefly homeschool the children post-quarantine. They planted a



big garden and grow their own vegetables, fruits, and berries. Chickens, ducks, geese, goats, sheep, rabbits, and pigs are where they like

to source their meat when they can. The home’s water needs are provided by their own well and they like to make homemade natural household products (soaps, detergents, medicines, etc.) whenever possible.



2022 brought many wonderful changes. In February, John opened his own business: Route 66 Engineering and Land Planning, a civil engineering firm. Then in July they welcomed a new baby, Lois Diane Droz (*Prior page. Guess which photo.*) Since moving to the country, Katie has pursued different



interests besides homesteading. In 2020 she studied and became certified in Quantum Healing Hypnosis Technique, a form of relaxation therapy and guidance. This technique induces a deep state of relaxation to allow you to work with your higher self. Doing so enables you to answer questions and alleviate your physical and emotional discomforts. It also heals the body and



Left, Katie, age 8, playing violin with Aunt Orena in the Capon Springs Talent Show in 1997. Above, Katie as a freshman rugby teammate at OSU. She says she pursued as “cathartic” and to realize her desire to be part of a team sport. Below, Katie enjoying some time out at a Gabe Woottoon music concert after the birth of Lois in 2022.



mind through suggestions and guidance. Katie's gentle demeanor and loving energy provide a safe and calm space to delve deep into life's problems. Although

she is unsure about the future, at 33 years old, she is very happy right here and now. ●

Completion Questions Interview of Katie



1. My biggest regret has been....

Cheerleading instead of other team sports. I really think I could have been a wonderful athlete if I hadn't devoted all my school years to Cheer. However, I do not think it is too late to be a great athlete! (*Katie far left, right hand on hip*)

2. If I had the chance, I would....

Travel way more. Since starting the homestead and having Lois it has been really difficult to get away! If you know any great farm hands, let me know....

3. Please tell me why there are so many....

People living unconsciously. I know everyone is on their own journey to enlightenment. We can't all be conscious at the same time.... And by "conscious" I mean awareness of being a human on this planet connected to every other human on this planet with infinite possibilities of positive or negative ripples generated by every choice we make. When people live unconsciously, they are completely self-absorbed and have no regard for the way they behave in the world affects the entirety of our experience together. I suppose I find it hard to understand how someone can be so disconnected from all that is.

4. You may not know this about me but....

I am certified to practice Hypnotherapy. I began my interest in the subject whilst pregnant with my second baby. I was preparing for natural childbirth and trained myself in Hypnobirthing via Youtube. Years later the interest re-surfaced and I took some online classes and became certified to practice Hypnotherapy. It is more of a helpful hobby at this point, as I have no business plan or incorporation, but I enjoy having the skill to help others if ever need be.

5. My most valuable antique or collectible is....

Likely my Hebrew mother-of-pearl inlaid violin that survived the Holocaust... It was a gift from my husband John for my 33rd birthday. He bought it from a violinist friend of ours. I have almost no documentation of the validity of this claim. However, the instrument itself seems to tell you it is true when you hold and play it.

6. I could care less if....

The Kardashians do anything, ever.

7. I can't believe I actually....

Used to doubt myself. I have grown so much from the unsure-of-myself person that I was throughout my young life.

8. A fateful decision I made was....

I turned down an opportunity in college for an Internship in Brooklyn, NY at the ULAE



(Universal Limited Art Editions) Print Studio. My professor said I was a shoo-in, but I had no confidence in myself at the time and I was afraid to go



live in New York City all alone. Instead, I stayed at Oklahoma State **(On prior page, right, Whitehurst Hall at OSU, Stillwater, Oklahoma)** and finished out my degree without the experience.

9. I'm really embarrassed that I know so little about....

How to create digital art and use photoshop. I am extremely old school when it comes to making art and I find it a handicap when asked to create commission pieces. **(One of Katie's**

paintings here, right, with False Turkeytail Mushrooms on a tree. See her also painting it on prior page 6.)



10. Sometimes I get the feeling that....

I have lived many different lifetimes on this planet.

11. I look back at my life and....

I am so proud of my accomplishments, adventures, and struggles I have experienced.

12. From time to time it's good to...

Get into nature by yourself and tune in. Trail walking is one of the best ways to unwind the tangles of the mind. On the trail you have nothing to do except walk and breathe and let the eyes take in the almost unfathomable detail of the creation around you. Let the forest take your troubles and leave a better. **(Left, Young Katie posing on a hiking trail in the woods of Arkansas)**



13. Sometimes I just want....

The house to clean itself.

14.I love it when....

My house is clean and tasks are done and I can relax/process my thoughts.



15.I really miss....

New Mexico. I've traveled there three times and I feel a calling to its desert spaces. I

understand why they call it "the land of enchantment." It is truly a magical place. I cannot wait to visit again and

hike/collect rocks from the vibrantly colored mesas.



16.A comedian I really enjoy is....

John Mulaney. No contest. He began his career in mainstream comedy by writing for SNL and since then has produced at least four stand up specials and numerous other comedic works. Check him out for guaranteed laughs.

17.In high school my best subject

was....English, but I liked....Art the most.

I loved both of them the most :) I also enjoyed playing violin in the Orchestra.

18.I once made a complete fool of myself when I...was about seven or

eight years old I Wanted to look cool for the Vienna Boys Choir who was performing at the Western Heritage Museum (back then we called it the Cowboy Hall of Fame). **[Museum shown here, right, today]** We had been eating a little brunch and I was munching on a cranberry muffin. I decided to wistfully walk out the glass door and stand there looking



ponderous as they dined close by. Unfortunately, when I walked out the door with my muffin I locked myself outside. We still laugh about it to this day.

19. I would really like to learn....

How to take wool and make thread. Then how to weave it into fabric! I am also interested in learning to play fiddle-style (bluegrass) violin.

20. A word or phrase I would rather people not use is....

“Don’t tell me about the birth, just show me the baby This has always bothered me because it drips with male ignorance and exclusion of the importance of the birth process. Excluding everything the mother must go through to produce the end product (beautiful baby for everyone to enjoy) Yes, I know using the phrase isn’t LITERALLY talking about birth, but every time I hear this come out of a man’s mouth I want to slap someone. I also find it a super rude way to tell someone to “get to the point”. Am I long-winded and extra sensitive to this topic? Yes, yes I am. Know your audience and don’t say that around me unless you want me to lose respect for you.”

21. You would never believe me if I told you....

I have five kids and a farm. *(Husband John Droz holding Lois and tending to flock on the farm)*

22. I’ve never really understood why....

People care so little about their health. I mean, really.

23. Ask me to get up in front of a group of people to present something and I....

Will die a little inside at first, due to a lifetime of performance anxiety....

However, I will quickly remember that I successfully taught



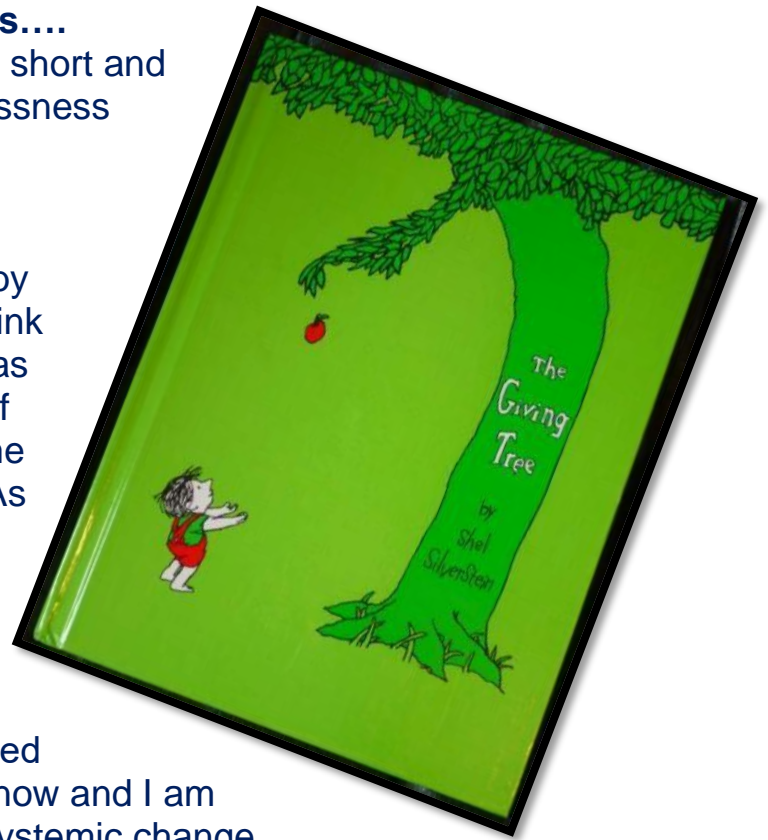
middle schoolers for three years in the inner city of OKC and summon my inner showman and be just fine.

24. I can't believe I used to.... Wake up every day at 5 am in high school to straighten my naturally curly hair.

25. I don't understand people who....
Aren't enchanted by the moon and stars.

26. A book everyone should read is....
The Giving Tree. Such a short and simple example of selflessness and love.

27. My political views are....
Non-partisan and issue by issue. I am inclined to think that the political sphere as we know it is in a state of flux and within our lifetime will be unrecognizable. As the younger generation says, "I'm here for it!" The world is changing and so much of the old systems need to change too. Things haven't worked smoothly for some time now and I am ready to see deep and systemic change.



28. A place in the world I would really like to visit is.... Greece. The history, the food, the culture, the architecture, and the beaches.

29. I'd like to go back in history and....
See what human society was like before the great global flood of the time of Noah.

30. I believe I have a special knack for...

Getting people to open up around me. Ever since I was little I felt a calling to be a healer of sorts. Back then I always thought I would go into counseling, because of how people would consistently tell me their life stories, problems, joys, and fears without prompting. Like they could feel I was a safe space.

31. I can never stop smiling when...

I am around babies. They are magical. *(Katie as a young mother in Michigan with Fiona, left, and Neilah, right)*



32. Someone who really makes me laugh is....

My mom or any of my sisters!! *(From left, all six Hagen*

sisters: Ann-Marie, Kim, Jill, Jenni, Christi, and Katie)

33. One quality I look for in others is....

Open-mindedness. I am bored by those who are happy to settle on simple explanations and never wonder what else is out there. Also, kindness and empathy. If we don't connect with others, what is the point?

34. I just can't bring myself to....

Wear the pleated pants from the 90s that have come back in style. Woof.

35. One technique I've used to fall asleep is....

Guided breathing and meditations. All for free and found on Youtube.

36. One eating habit I'd like to get rid of is.... Being a messy eater.

37. I'm really proud that....

I have overcome a lot of adversity in my young adult life. Through my own choices I picked partners that were not healthy or ready to settle down and created a lot of struggle when adding children to the mix. I am very proud that I have raised two beautiful girls largely on my own, found success as an educator, and now run a small farm and homestead which allows me the freedom to continue exploring who I am and my unique contribution to this planet at this time.

38.I'm really bugged by people that.... Don't use their turn signals and zoom through traffic.

39.Not many people know that I'm good at....

Trivia. I have often thought of myself as a sort of human encyclopedia for random facts... and in my past experience as a pretty girl, people don't usually assume you are smart, so that has been interesting.

40.When I see another woman, I'm usually drawn first to....Her body language. Body type aside, how she carries herself says so much about a person.

41.What I recall most about my wedding day is

The beautiful fall leaves in Arkansas as John and I ran away to elope during the pandemic. The hope of having a big wedding faded as Covid kept surging so we skipped over to Eureka Springs for the weekend and tied the knot. The simplicity was beautiful and so intimate. I will never forget it.

42.I'm really not good at....

Wrapping gifts and cooking rice.



43. My advice to a young high school graduate going to college is....

Say YES to new opportunities, even if they seem terrifying. The potential for growth and evolution during the college years is immense, also try not to get tied down in relationships.

44. I have a great collection of...

Rocks! I love hiking and cannot resist the urge to look for great rocks along the trail. I have rocks from many different places around the country!

45. I am happiest when

I am with my sisters. The laughter we share is so healing and always fills my cup. I am so lucky to have been born into this

family. *(Left, five of the six*

Hagen sisters at Jill's 2022 wedding. From left, Katie, Christi, Jill, Jenni, Kim.) Anne-Marie was elsewhere at the time.



46. I can be myself when

I am with my sisters.

47. When I go outside and look up at the stars on a clear evening

I locate known constellations, planets, and where the moon is hanging. I also am constantly looking for UFOs.

48. I have this strong urge to

Tell everyone about breathwork and ice baths (cold exposure) in the Wim Hof style. Discovering this has changed my life and everyone can benefit from it! Youtube has numerous videos where you can get educated on both of these subjects.

49. My view of clothes and fashion is....

Comfort and utility over beauty and sexiness. I admire the classic way French women dress by keeping it simple, not emblazoning labels on every article of clothing, and pairing interchangeable items with well-fitting jeans. However, my current aesthetic is postpartum homesteading wife in summertime, which consists of a lot of athletic shorts and T-shirts.

50. The best movie I ever saw was....



The Royal Tenenbaums. I love the acting, the sets, the comedy and the tragedy. Plus the soundtrack is incredible.

51. If you put me in the kitchen I will....

Clean it and likely find the coffee.

52. When I'm alone, I like to....

Take my time. I am happiest when there is no rush or pressure to be anywhere in particular.

53. As I grow older, I don't....

Want to lose touch with the experience of the young. It all matters on the journey and being a young human is so difficult. I always want to be a source of support to the young ones.

54. The two most beautiful words are....

“Welcome home.”

55. There is no doubt....

Love wins.

56. I'm in love with....

Stained glass. I have a friend who makes it and I am going to ask her to teach me.

57. My first car was....

An eggplant-colored Saturn (can't remember the year) with the automatic seatbelts. The car was a gift from my Aunt Orena, who procured it from one of her clients. I loved the car and treasured it because I didn't get a car until I was in college. Unfortunately, it was totaled in a wreck on Husband Street by the Oklahoma State University campus.

58. I will never forget the day when....

I met my husband John. We met through a mutual friend. I was so taken by his smile, athletic build, and fun personality. The rest is history :)

59. My overall health is....

Exceptionally good! I am 33, given birth three times, work on my farm, eat well, and keep my toxic load as low as possible. I am always working on caretaking my mental health so as to care for my family. I have a genetic heart defect that I didn't know about until a year ago, but I haven't let it hinder living life to the fullest and enjoying it all.



60. The food I will never give up is....

Likely cheese!

61. Okay, I'm coming out of the closet to tell you....

I am certified to practice Hypnosis Therapy.

62. The one thing I will never regret is....

Being real. Who cares

about anything else?

63. One thing that would make me calmer is....

More meditation in my life. Time for quiet reflection to process my thoughts and experiences. My soul craves it but my ego runs from it.

64. Let me say this about my mother....

She was the most fun mom and now Grandma. She is a damn good cook and taught me to be the same, just as her mother taught her. She has the most beautiful child-like wonder for life and nature and has a gift for connecting with children. *(Mom Julie here with Katie. Julie, with six girls as her children, has eight brothers and sisters herself.)*



65. I don't know why I constantly....

Second guess myself. I am still trying to figure out why I struggle to tell that negative inner feedback loop to SHUT UP.

66. One trauma in my life I will never forget is....

Being in 6th grade and at school on 9/11. Life as we know it changed for good and to witness such a confusing horror at a young age was an experience that never left my heart.

67. I wish I had been there when....

My grandpa wore a purple muumuu to play in a Capon golf tournament. Priceless.

68. When I was in college I enjoyed this kind of music....



Dubstep music had just emerged, with its heavy bass drops and robotic sounding phrasing. The college-aged populace was HOOKED and concerts were hypnotic. I remember feeling as if the audience was one organism moving to the music, really quite an extraordinary experience. **Now**

I listen to.... mostly Americana and folk music, laced with the Indie genre I've always loved. Things really do calm down as you age, and the ears prefer to be less assaulted by intense sounds.

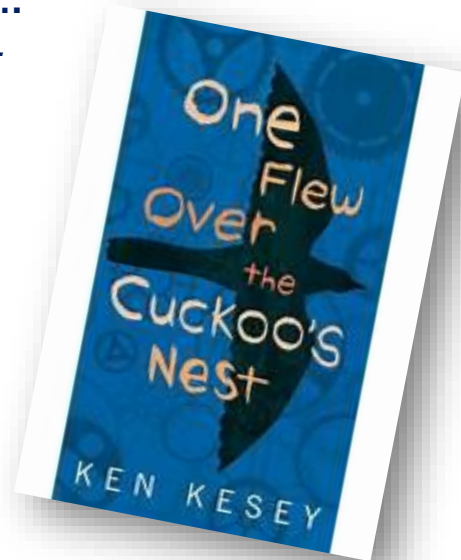


69. For a delicious dessert serve me....

Tiramisu. I have always loved coffee-flavored treats.

70. A book that really got me thinking was....

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. The book was my introduction to Ken Kesey, whom I would later learn more about in my exploration of psychedelics. I have always been intrigued by the human brain and mental health, and the treatment of such throughout history. The story was an interesting account of the definition of "normal" and just how powerful the mind can be.



71. My mom says that when I was young I....



Was very obedient but also incredibly stubborn and slightly rebellious. (**Mom Julie here with her first child, young Katie, in Grim family photo**) There is a famous story about me locking myself in a room at my grandmother’s house around the age of 3 and refusing to come out saying “I will NOT, DAMNSIT!”

72. My handwriting is....

An extension of my being. I have always enjoyed working on my handwriting and due to the familial interest I have paid attention to it throughout the years. I have always been asked to write things for people. Once I addressed all of the invitations and name cards for a friend’s wedding with over 200 guests.

73. I wish today there were more...

Positive role models for young people. Seems to me like there is a real shortage and I am concerned.

74. To me classical music is.... Foundational and pure.

75. A big do-over in my life I would like to have is....

Taking more care to create incredible art in college with the resources provided. I worked so hard to take care of myself financially that I think my energy for creation was somewhat used up by that and also wanting to have fun. I don’t believe in regrets and do-overs, per se, but I do wish I had been a bit more dedicated. I would have made



more drawings, paintings, and worked on incorporating digital art into my portfolio. Hey, I still have time to hit my peak as an artist so I am not too upset. ***(Prior page, one of Katie's paintings. The lady in the painting is Jackie Darlene, who commissioned Katie to create artwork for her most recent single "Anywhere with You.")***

76.To me my faith....

Is ever-evolving. From staunch Catholic upbringing came an intense and long period of questioning and exploring, and I believe I have finally landed in a place where I feel more comfortable with being a more spiritual person than say a religious person. I do not think myself so wise as to know the answers to the mysteries of the universe for certain, and my imagination is so active that I truly believe anything is possible.

77.One aspect of life I've never really understood is....

The rat race. Why are we so happy to sign up for the mundane and clock punching life that leaves us devoid of freedom and creativity. Humans becoming sedentary, agrarian, and then industrial has really done a number on us as creatures of this earth.

78. After a few alcoholic drinks I....

Get a headache!



79.This is what you should know about Oklahoma:

Oklahoma is a truly diverse and interesting melting pot! ***(Oklahoma City at night, home of Katie's Grandparents and some other family members)***

Home to the nicest people in the country (second only to Kentucky) and loaded with creative and academic talent. Extremely affordable to live in OK, and although the climate is extreme, it is an incredibly beautiful place with a unique and varied biosystem. Keep that under your hat. We don't want California to hear about it.



80. What I especially remember about my Grandpa Jim from my early years is....we would drive from where we lived in Stillwater, OK up to



Oklahoma City just about every single Saturday for violin lessons. This was when I was around the age of 5 up to probably 11 or 12. We would have our lesson in OKC (which was about an hour away) and then spend the rest of the day with my grandparents, Jim and Diane Grim. I have so many memories of my Grandpa Grim (*Here left is*

***Grandfather Jim Grim, then age 47, at Capon Springs Resort, West Virginia, in 1985*) taking us all over the city to see all manner of exhibits and sights. We spent a lot of time at the OKC zoo, the science museum and other museums, the annual air show at**

Tinker Air Force base, hot air balloon shows, the State fair, and even to witness surgeries he was assisting with as the anesthesiologist. When the bombing happened at the federal building he drove us out to see the rubble and destruction.

[Right, Alfred Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City blown up by extremists

Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols in April 1995.] I was only 5 years old at the time, but I still have a vivid memory of what that looked like.

I feel so lucky to have had a Grandpa with such a drive to get out and go see and do things! He was always asking us questions and riddles and would carefully ponder our answers even as small children, which always made me feel like my opinion mattered. He was a rule bender as well, which always made for a nail biter of a time! We would just be following Grandpa past the "Do not enter" or "Off limits" signs and hoping we wouldn't get caught and kicked out of wherever! He has always been a bit of a rebel in my memory. After our adventures we would head back home where Grandma would have delicious food and hugs waiting for us at the big house in Edgemere Park [in Oklahoma City]. What a rich childhood I had because of my grandparents. ***(Below, Katie playing ping-pong with Grandma Diane at Capon Springs, circa 1996)***



Radical TV pundits are killing the King's English with bad words and gestures



In the decades of early TV we got our news from newspapers and weekly magazines, and the nightly national and local news on commercial TV. Cable was a crawling baby. Political views came mostly from print, but only as fast as we could read them. Opinions were in the roomy center of the spectrum. Left and right advocates existed outside, but few were invited into the Parties. Although William Buckley (*Shown here below right*) was heard and read, we didn't embrace him. Civil rights backers and anti-Vietnam War protesters marched, and the media featured them. Despite

opening our minds and warming our hearts, they didn't transform us. We even elected Richard Nixon.

Today cable TV dominates the airwaves and our lives. Despite opinion journalism thriving in print and on the internet, most of us receive it passively on TV. For a few decades, cable has become a hefty source of commentary, most of it a glut of the radical left and right. They lock their beliefs in steamer trunks and toss the keys. Because the gap between them widens, intolerance for their political opponents grows. This scorn incites shrill emotions, triggering rowdy skirmishes with constant drama. We enjoy them too much, boosting their ratings and our anxiety. Their upsetting conduct has wreaked on us offensive words and gestures. Distressing is that we have copied them, degrading us further.



What is offensive? Aroused by emotion and views they detest, these TV fanatics speak too fast and raise the pitch of their voice. Since emotion demands prompt action, they grab and serve junk-food verbiage, often stolen from each other: informal, coarse words, bloated with slang and its lengthy clichés, (*He should put on his big-boy pants. He can walk and chew gum at the same time. I can't*

wrap my head around that.), and formerly vulgar words, (They and we used to say simply “I’m upset” or “This is bad.” You **know** what we both say now.) Even their prepared teleprompters have become heaving dumpsters of verbal trash. Where are those healthy, glistening words from school vocab tests, SAT prep, Readers’ Digest Word-Power quizzes, higher ed essays, and polished works? When I hear one, (*banal, stalwart, terse, sully, lament*) it’s a cherry bomb of delight, with wafting smoke of nostalgia. I’m not pleading for the King’s English. I just want the TV types and us out of the wretched moat and closer to the castle.

Hostile partisans interrupt their political opponents. Hosts used to threaten to cut their mike. No more. The host interrupts their guests too. Those interrupted used to counter with, “May I speak?” Now they don’t even bother. When it’s their turn to listen, they interrupt.



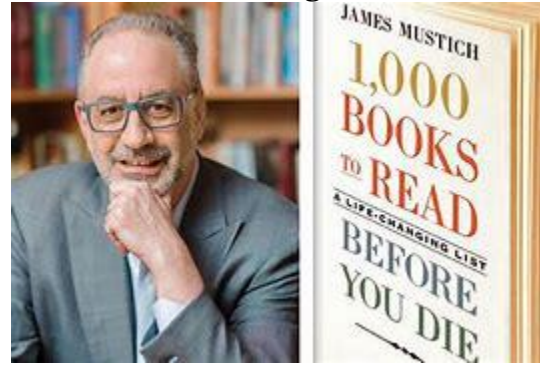
Some irksome word weeds have overrun their discourse. Two are the words “Well” and “So” as lead words for a pundit to answer a media question or offer a viewpoint. They give the speaker a moment to think before speaking. They’ve evolved to convey that the speaker must be a serious intellect. Two pairs are “sort of” and “kind of” that some will sneak into their remarks. They show only that they are smart enough to find grey where others will see only black and white. Adding these feckless words to their scourge of slang (*threw him under the bus, the elephant in the room, drinking the Kool-Aid*), has infected us with more surplus speech. Since we’ve adopted them, like plastic containers, they’re everywhere and will never disappear.

Two more words we’ve acquired are “You know.” It’s slipped into too many sentences as a grating verbal tic by those who can’t convey a cogent point. Recently, in a TV interview, even veteran *New York Times* columnist Maureen Dowd (**Shown here left**) flecked her answers with them. You want to say, “No, I don’t know.” after each one. Another irritant is the word-question “Right?” It leaps over the tongues of mostly young speakers as a blip in their torrent of feeble words, imploring the TV listener to confirm they agree with their statements. It makes you yearn for a commercial break.

Partisan politicians have gone below their yapping mouths to aid their vocal expression—their hands and arms. They flail them constantly and wildly as if they’re leading an orchestra in an overture. The insecure speaker is the main culprit. This desperate gesturing says, “My words betray my argument. Please focus on my flapping hands to convince you.” They seem about to grab your lapel

or, even worse, your neck to ensure it. Now they have us flailing too. We've become too good at it because we often lose our search for the right words.

Young people use their hands most often. I recall a woman host interviewing another woman, both likely in their late 20's, on an alleged intellectual program on CSpan 2 Book TV. Raising her left hand with one finger pointing at the author, she thrust it forward constantly as if to accuse her of speaking. In another interview sat



James Mustich, the author of a volume called *1,000 Books to Read Before You Die*. Although he was elderly and well-read, he belied it. **(Mustich shown here above right)** He held his left hand up and out toward his interviewer, snapping his fingers till the end. Was he trying to cast a spell on him? Keep him awake? The effect was to keep you awake with a spell of nausea.



Yes, some speakers raise their busy hands to emphasize their points, especially in front of a crowd. They will chop at the air like an Atlanta Braves fan, pleading with attendees to concur with their declarations. Bernie Sanders has grumbled the same beliefs for years. He could present them in his sleep standing on his head. Still, he must

hack the air with his right hand, even on TV, sitting, with only a host. When Trump is interviewed, he raises both hands flat, side-by-side, pointing them ahead, shaping the air as if he's showing you how slim is knowledge is.



In recent years, radical TV pundits' shoddy vocal expressions have worsened. We and their moderate cohorts are copying them more too. I long for the grey sages from older times, who tendered modest opinions, soberly and slowly, and rested their hands. They served us healthy words, not lazy, crude and wordy slang clichés. *(That is the definition of insanity... You fill in the rest. We used to say, That is nonsense.)* Vulgarity was confined to places like bars and locker rooms.

Aspire to excellence. Slow down, think before you speak, don't interrupt, keep your hands to yourself, and speak with healthy words. Okay, if you plop a "healthy" word in your sentence, you may begin with "Well." ●

Allan's Lists



THE TEN MOST ENDURING LINES EVER SPOKEN UNDER THAT FAMILY ROOF

- 1. Because I said so. That's why.**
- 2. The dog ate my homework.**
- 3. Does this dress make me look fat?**
- 4. Wait till your father comes home.**
- 5. You're grounded.**
- 6. I have a headache.**
- 7. What part of "NO." don't you understand?**
- 8. You're home early.**
- 9. Did I stutter?**
- 10. Can I do it till I need glasses?**

-RIP-

Public golf courses in Southeastern Pennsylvania that have closed since 2000



know much about those areas and confined my courses to mostly all those I've played. There are over 80 I listed.

Another arbitrary decision was the year from which to start the list. I chose 2000, a nice round number that didn't go back too far. Most of the openings and closings in the last half century have occurred since then. I was also going to provide the reason for each course closing. In most cases the simple reason is that they sold the land for a marvelous sum to a buyer who would build a housing

When I began this introduction and the list following, I was sure there were more golf courses closing than opening in recent decades. When I compiled my list here, I realized how wrong I was. I also may have missed a few. After all, my list is arbitrary for what is Southeastern Pennsylvania. I listed all the current courses in that area in *GolfNotes* issue of October 2021. I showed their locations by county and then rated them into four categories: Mansions Colonials, Ranchers, and Condos. You can review that issue on my website GrimHandwritingAnalyst.com under menu item MY GOLFNOTES ISSUES. You may disagree with my choices. Lancaster and Lebanon Counties got little attention and should have gotten more, I admit. I don't

Indian Creek in Emmaus as a golf course



Indian Creek as a housing development known as The Fields at Indian Creek



development on it. That is the basic incentive reason.

What was more intriguing for me was why the owners decided to stop operating the land as a golf course, knowing that a likely buyer would not continue that use. I imagine some were not good business operators and couldn't sustain it with a profit. We all know that golf had a bump when Tiger emerged in the 1990's, more ladies are now playing, and the pandemic

allowed people to play outdoors at a distance. But golf has been in a slow decline otherwise: time to play, kids and parents having more options, cost, difficulty to perfect, etc. I doubt many owners searched for a buyer or manager who would continue it as a golf course. Others likely sold the land because the active and primary owner died, or something happened that they couldn't continue with it as a golf course.

1. **Woodland Hills**, Hellertown 1965-2009
2. **Pleasant Hills**, Fleetwood 1949-2019 Par 66 with six par 3's
3. **Limekiln**, Ambler 1936-2019

*Originally opened as Oak Park Golf Club with 18 holes, then in late 1980's became 27 holes. Owned for the last many years by Phillies pitchers Curt Simmons and Robin Roberts. Simmons had a home on the course and a presence at the clubhouse. **Below left is its now-former 10th hole and below right is what the land has become.***



4. **Locust Valley**, Coopersburg 1954-2020. *A country club for many years before becoming public.*

5. **Perry**, Shoemakersville 1970-2020

6. **Center Square**, Norristown 1962-2018

7. **Indian Creek**,

Emmaus 1986-2010

8. **Center Valley**, Center Valley 1991-2011

9. **Upper Perk**, Pennsburg 1967-2006

10. **Woodbridge**, Maxatawny 2008-2014



11. **Tumblebrook**, Coopersburg Nine holes. 2030-2019

12. **Valley Forge**, King of Prussia 1928-2005

13. **Village Greens**, Sinking Springs 1969-2021

Sixteen holes were par 3's with total par of 54

14. **Warrington**, Warrington (Google gag)

15. **Woods**, Norristown Pitch and Putt

16. **Farview Greens**, Hamburg 1998-2007

17. **Island Green**, Northeast Phila. 2001-2013

18. **Gilbertsville**, Gilbertsville 1967-2022

Opened as 18 holes, then expanded to 27 holes in 1997.

19. **Horsham Valley**, Ambler

Opened in 1957 and holes added over the years to become 18 holes but par 66.

New Courses opened since 2000



1. **Lederach**, Harleysville

2. **Worcester**, Skippack Nine holes

1. **Heritage Creek**, Jamison Nine holes

2. **Makefield Highlands, Yardley**, (*Par 3 14th Hole shown left*)

3. **Turtle Creek**, Limerick

4. **Macoby Run**, Green Lane/Red Hill

- 5. **Bella Vista,**
Gilbertsville
- 6. **Golden Oaks,**
Fleetwood
- 7. **Five Ponds,**
Warminster

- 11. **Wyncote,** Oxford
- 12. **Glen Mills,** Glen
Mills

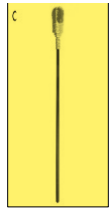
- 13. **Riverview,** Easton
- 14. **Linfield National,** Linfield
- 15. **Raven’s Claw,** Pottstown
- 16. **Olde Homestead,** New Tripoli
- 17. **Broad Run,** West Chester
- 18. **Hideaway Hills,** Kunkletown
- 19. **Iron Valley,** Lebanon
- 20. **Sawmill,** Easton
- 21. **Morgan Hill,** Easton



Top right is Lederach’s Par 4 No. 9 hole. Above right is an aerial view of Morgan Hill. Left here is par 4 No. 8 hole at Bella Vista.

More slang clichés to ban from our discourse

Time to give The King more respect



I started a list of these in the June 2022 issue of *GolfNotes*. I easily listed 37 of them. You can find this issue on my website GrimHandwritingAnalyst.com under menu item My GolfNotes issues.

Below is the additions to that list.

These are the phrases used by the TV talking heads that reveal how lazy and uncultivated our supposedly refined and articulate electronic journalists are today. I expand on this in an essay appearing elsewhere in this issue. I had sent it to *The Morning Call*, the only local daily newspaper for the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania. Was it not good enough, or they liked it but make some changes? I never heard back. It was published less than a week later with one trivial change.

It's stunning how often you hear these haggard, sloppy phrases used by these puny pundits. One of them will utter a new phrase and soon it is borrowed by other commentators.

They don't acknowledge they intend to keep it or thank them for a clever phrase. Like a beach ball, it then gets batted around the electronic media and even print. Although I deplore the professional thievery, I'm more



upset with the phrases themselves. I believe in frugal journalism. Use as few words as possible. The words are mostly immature and uncreative, combos of informal, often crude slang.

They could choose fewer and better words, those closer to proper English spoken and written. I don't insist on the King's English, but something further from the peasant-level speech spewed on TV. One dire result is that we, the actual peasants,



adopt these same abysmal phrases to coarsen our society even more. Here are the additions to my list of June 2022. They are so common now that "they stand out like a sore thumb" (which is one that started maybe when there were many kings in castles).

Thirteen additional slang clichés that should be tossed into the heaving dumpster of verbal trash



1. *They're picking only the low-hanging fruit.*
2. *That's above my pay grade.*

3. *The election will feature these issues writ large.*



4. *He's punching above his weight.*
5. *That's a big nothing burger.*
6. *I don't want to get too far into the weeds with this, but...*
7. *That's not the hill he wants to die on.*



8. *Last time I checked...*
9. *This may be inside baseball, but...*
10. *That raises a huge red flag.*

11. *It makes my head want to explode.*

12. *That's just a dog whistle for...*

13. *He's playing the race card.*



More Cupolas to add to my list

These first appeared in *GolfNotes* of February 2021. These are word tropes crafted from the word metaphor I created from those structures centered on the roofs of buildings, especially public ones. These mini-erectations are called cupolas (cyu´pe las). Buildings are everywhere; cupolas appear only here and there and only on the roofs of buildings, including houses. Thus, this trope is a phrase with at least one common word and one word seen only with that common word.

1. **Pomp and circumstance**
2. **Casts or casted a pall**
3. **Dead reckoning**
4. **Plying his trade**

(Okay, plying her with alcohol also exists. Its meaning is slightly different. The “trade” one is “carrying on”; The “alcohol” one is “supplying forcefully.”)

5. **Plighting my troth**

(Actually two rare words linked to weddings. Can I count “my” as the common word? “Plighting” here is cited only as a verb, which means pledging.)

6. **Wrath of God** *(I also acknowledge but don’t count *The Grapes of Wrath*, the novel by John Steinbeck.)*
7. **Vim and vigor**
8. **Hale and hardy**
9. **Savory repast**
10. **Swaddling clothes**



A few more 180's—A word when you change a letter or so, it creates the opposite word

1. Engage—enrage
2. Cheer—jeer
3. Cat—Rat?




Fifteen words no one can define or explain without serious pauses

I would use these heavy words as an intelligence or achievement test to see how the person tries to explain them. I don't expect clear and comprehensive responses. You could use these words and their subjects as a basis for a liberal arts education in college. Maybe hold their sheepskin until they can show a broad understanding. There would have to be a time limit for the test. Otherwise, most people would take forever with pregnant pauses that could well last till there is a baby of an answer. Some would abort and give up. One way to administer the test is to give the person each word separately and orally, then have them write down their responses, with a time limit for each. I'm interested to find everyone's quick answer to the meaning for them.

What is fascinating is that these words are heard or read commonly by most people, except for entropy and maybe rhetoric. Everyone is familiar in use with most of them. When asked what they are, they will rush to utter something. But as they ponder them further and deeper, they realize their obscurity may elude them. For me the hardest one is the first one. It calls for an opinion that I struggle to render. We can all muster quick, superficial responses. Digging into their ultimate meaning is their confounding aspect. Maybe you could say that about all of these words. You could create a party game with them for intellectuals, or, should I just say, college-educated people. They will realize what college actually gave them. Of course, we also learn in places other than school, but we must pursue knowledge voluntarily. It takes time and effort. If we relied solely on college, our knowledge would be dreadful. Today the focus is on college as training school, not preparation for life.

For every school course the instructor-teacher should tell you what the subject is about and why it is important to learn it. That should be stated the first day, in the middle of classes, and at the end of the course. How many of your teachers did the first one? I hope the instructor didn't say only, "So that you are a more-educated person." That tells you nothing, except how ignorant they are. Also, all subjects have more than one reason to learn them. You should try defining these heady words privately and see how informed you are about these important aspects of life. Should you be vaulted to the head of the class or left somewhere in the back?



What is your quick definition?

1. Forgiveness
2. Communism or Fascism
3. Entropy
4. Imagination
5. Neurosis
6. Scientific Method
7. Rhetoric
8. Philosophy/Religion
9. Facts vs. Opinion
10. Constitution/Democracy
11. Physics
12. Artificial Intelligence
13. Atom
14. Art
15. Music

OBSCENE

One word everyone can define that the US Supreme Court could not. But don't make me say what that definition is. I just said you already know it and it's embarrassing. It happens to all of us unless your body parts and your imagination aren't working. Okay, maybe that was too much information. Anyway, send your definition to the Supreme Court so they can know how to rule if another case comes before them with that word as a critical issue.



Home No. 1 below as it looks today. The land to the right of the driveway had been a tennis court for the prior owners. Although we moved to College Hill in 1944 to take care of our Grandfather Grim, our father promised our mother, who adored this English Tudor dwelling, to return when his father passed on. When he died in 1949, there were now four boys in our family and this home had only two bedrooms. Still, he had kept the home. Mother was resigned to stay at six-bedroomed College Hill. He then sold Highland Avenue in 1949 and bought a gas station on Main Street. Mother kept it for over a half century. In 1972 widowed Mother sold her College Hill home with all of us gone and moved to a rancher at 332 Highland Avenue, just a bit down and across the street from the home above.

In case you were wondering—

All twelve places Allan Grim has lived

1. 321 Highland Avenue, Kutztown, Pa. 1941-1944
 2. College Hill, RD 3, Kutztown, Pa. 1944-1959
 3. Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa. 1959-1963
 4. The Pennington School, Pennington, New Jersey 1963
 5. Northeastern York School District, Mount Wolf, Pa. 1963-64
 6. Indiana University School of Law, Bloomington, Indiana 1965-1968
 7. College Hill, Kutztown again, after law school 1968-1971
 8. Part time tenant at dwelling in Mohnton, Pa. 1969-1971
 9. Quakertown West Apartments, Quakertown, Pa. 1971-72
 10. 619 Shadywood Drive, Perkasio, Pa. 1972-1988
 11. 17 Narothyn Road, Sellersville, Pa. 1988-2019
 12. 6645 Blue Heather Court, Legacy Oaks at Lehigh Valley, Macungie, Lower Macungie Township, Pa. 2019-
-

The ten most annoying uses of language by TV pundits

Most are too long and snobby

1. Using **whomever** when they think their grammar is polished just because they're adding an *m* where none should be, because they don't understand the proper usage between whoever and whomever.
 2. Using the pronoun **I** as an object of preposition. It should be **me**. Example: "It's the best move for her and I." No- "...for her and **me**." Better yet, say, "...for both of us. Maybe even better: Say, "...for us."
 3. Using **while** as a synonym for "although," "While" actually means "during the time that or, more simply, "when." Example: "While I disagree with you, I see your point." No- "While I watch TV, I will often exercise." Correct.
 4. Using **pushback** as a general term to convey that someone is opposing a viewpoint. This is lame and unfocused. If you are responding, are you counterattacking, defending, actually refuting theirs, or merely stating your position? Be specific and use a verb of action. "He countered that view with specific facts that decimated it."
 5. Using **exacerbate** as a verb to mean "make things worse." It's too long and it emits snobbery. Just say what we used to: "worsen," "inflame," or "impair."
 6. Using **metastasize** for something that has moved or spread elsewhere. Another snob word and probably borrowed from cancer. It may be medically proper. Besides its arrogance, it's too long. It can be replaced by "transferred," "moved," or "spread."
 7. Using **nefarious** as an all-purpose term to describe some wrongdoing or bad motive. It's also too long and snobby. Instead, use a word that specifically describes the level of misconduct, from faux pas and civil harm, to immoral and unethical conduct, and through petty to, finally, heinous crime.
 8. Using **disingenuous** as an all-purpose word to characterize someone asserting purposefully untrue facts. You could say fake, insincere, deceitful, or devious, all with fewer syllables.
 9. Using **ton** as a generic term for a large quantity of certain items, like, "There are a ton of people who would like to vote but can't get to the polls." A ton is a weight, and only a measure of numerical quantity for weight. Old and dismal.
 10. Using **slew** for a large quantity of anything, like people or reasons. This one is also so shopworn and uncreative. How about some variety with batch, flock, heap, lot, mountain, peck, pile, stack, or wad. I do give "ton" and "slew" credit for shortness and modesty rather than snobbery.
-

LOCAL GOLFER BREAKS WORLD RECORD

Loses two clubs separately in one round

**Breaks record of one, held by him
and several million
other golfers**



*Allan's account of four
astonishing events in his round
at Mainland Golf Course*



was late for our tee time at Mainland Golf Course on May 17, 2023. I came down Route 29 off Route 100 from Macungie and faced a major Detour off Route 63, which would have taken me to less than a mile from the course below Harleysville. I had to take Route 663 all the way to Route 73 at Gilbertsville. I called my partner Pat Buckley (his daughter is married to my son) and told him I'd be late. He paid my green fee and went to the first tee. When he explained the situation, the starter said he would have to tee off without delay and I could meet Pat on the course. When I arrived, the staff knew about me and were ready for me. They had a motor cart for me, and, as I got my items into the cart and my golf shoes on, he loaded my clubs on the cart. He whisked me from the parking lot, zipped past the golfers lined up to tee off, and then raced aside the first fairway to the second tee. There Pat awaited me, having already finished the First Hole.

I thanked the cart guy and slipped him a tip and he was on his way back to the clubhouse. Pat had a bogey 5 on the long par 4 First Hole, or so he said. He said he wrote down a 5 for me too. I

responded that I would like to play the first hole when we're done. Since there would likely be tee time players then too, I realized we would have to negotiate our way through them.

We went through our round and, in our match, I was well ahead of Pat, buttressed with a birdie 3 on the par 4 18th

When we got to No. 1 tee, it was crowded with golfers and a starter was still there after four plus hours. Although it was hard getting his attention, I found out that it was the same starter as when Pat teed off. He knew about my lateness issue and was gracious about my plight. He allowed

18th green and clubhouse and restaurant at Mainland



Hole. Although I knew I had shot a good round, I wasn't sure of the total. I focused on going to play the First Hole to complete the round and didn't add up the score yet. I didn't want to accept a 5 on this long par 4 without earning it. I acknowledge that it wouldn't have made a difference in the outcome of our usual bloody but civil matches. But I record every total score I've shot since 1979 and I try on every individual shot. And I had paid for eighteen holes.

us to tee off after the groups playing the First Hole were out of range. Even Pat teed off again, as a swarm of golfers watched us. We heard no grumbling they might have been harboring against us or the starter.

Wrecking No. 1

I rushed but smacked a good drive and then followed with a 4-hybrid that landed in the dry front but rolled just over the back of the green. When I arrived, I saw that it was in a bank

of rough, leaving me with a delicate flop shot to a middle flag, the green sloping down toward its front. With my 56-degree sand wedge, I was too cautious and the ball flew only a few feet, still in the thickness. I tried again and repeated the result, realizing too late that I failed to finish the stroke with at least a small follow through out of the rough. The next flew on, but still ten feet

What's interesting, if not dismaying, is that I didn't realize I could do it when I teed off No. 1 after playing seventeen holes. I wonder how nervous I would have been, and those other thoughts that spring to mind on the verge of that special moment.

The second reason you have such detail is now more to the point. Something else significant occurred that

I called Mainland and asked if anyone had turned in a Callaway 52-degree wedge. The young man I talked to said he would have to check and get back to me, but he was tied up for the moment. I never heard back from him that day. Late in the day I called and asked if "Doug" was there. The young man said he was a "Doug" but that they had two of them. He checked around and said no club was found like mine. However, they will tag it and I gave my name and phone number if it ever gets turned in.

No way does a golfer lost two

The next day I went to hit practice balls at the Club and reached for my 56-degree sand wedge. It was also missing. Unbelievable. The last time I used it at Mainland was when I dumped the two flop shots behind the green on No. 1 to finish the round. I didn't bother calling Mainland. I thought of waiting until I made a trip there when I was headed to Pat Buckley's for a Memorial Day gathering in a few days. I also informed Pat and my son Douglas about the situation. Both graciously said that they would check in at Mainland. Pat lives nearby in Hatfield. Doug would go there from Gilbertsville on the



Green from behind on No. 1 Hole at Mainland

short of the hole. I missed my putt. A triple-bogey 7 for that last-First Hole.

Why did I present you with my shots and score at that last hole of my round? Isn't this piece about lost golf clubs? Because, if I had parred the First Hole, I would have shot an 82, which happens to be my age. That is an epic feat for any old golfer.

day. I didn't realize it till the next day when I went to my bag to hit practice shots at Brookside Country Club. My 52-degree pitching wedge was missing. I recalled my round and easily pinpointed the last time I used it— in front of the 14th green, where I skulled it over the back of the green, putting from there with the wedge still with me.

way to the family get-together.

I finally decided to stop by Mainland on the way to Buckleys. I wanted to conclude this. I know my clubs, and some courses are tough on picking up left-behind clubs. They are wary that a golfer will go there and pick a club they need with scant ID and find a similar one, saving the replacement cost. I wasn't sure what Mainland would do.

On the way to Buckleys' barbecue on May 29, I stopped in and went to the main desk at the Pro Shop and on duty was the pro for the club. He couldn't have been more accommodating. I did provide my clubs' specs and he checked a few clubs standing behind him. They are the recent turn-ins. None was mine. However, they also have a lost-and-found barrel that all courses have with all the clubs left there over the years. It was in their maintenance barn several steps up from the Pro Shop. The pro said tell them up there he said it was okay for me to go in and check for my clubs.

I spied a teen-age boy and a girl, who were handling golf carts and other duties.

They showed me the barrel and were very helpful in my quest to retrieve my two lost clubs. In fact, the boy said just take one if you don't find them. I didn't see my clubs in the barrel. I saw a lot of old clubs, mostly irons and, of them, mostly wedges. They tend to be left around the greens when you grab them and your putter because your bag or your golf cart may be far from your ball and its likely journey to the hole. I wouldn't just take some other golfer's club, but some appeared to be there so long that I could have, and no harm done. They must have been abandoned, you surmise.

Waiting for that cheerful phone call

It is now well over a month since I left the clubs at Mainland. No calls from the course. You figure some golfer

must have picked them up and put them in their bag. Maybe they forgot they had them when they finished and took them home with them. Or maybe they saw how good my Callaway Jaws wedges were and decided to keep them. Most clubs we forget to pick up after holing out on a green are found by the next group behind you and they simply yell out to you and ask if you left a certain club or are missing a club. With shame you go back and retrieve it from them. Hopefully, you haven't been holding them up too much during the round. In fact, my partner-competitor Pat had left a club behind around the 17th green at our last round before Mainland and missed it at the 18th green. He was able to regain it promptly. He accosted the group behind us himself as they approached the green. They had it and were

No. 1 Hole at Mainland from fairway



glad to hand it over to him. That's typical.

How and why I lost two clubs in one round is a mystery and a concern for me. I have been playing golf for 65 years or so and can only recall one time where I lost a club. It was in the late 1960's and an 8-iron at then Twin Lakes above Allentown. I think I have left just a few clubs behind since then but got them back from my partners or, in rare times, the group behind us soon after. That happens occasionally for every golfer. Clubs tend to be left behind when you must take more than one with you when you're unsure which one to use on your next stroke and where you need to go far from your golf cart to reach your ball. You typically approach your ball with only one club, focusing on your shot. Then you get upset often when

your shot doesn't go well or exult when it does. You are lost in that moment. These lost-club situations also mostly occur away from the green, where other golfers are not close by to notice you have left a club. The club is also less easy to see when it's not on the green and is more likely hidden in the rough.

I have considered why I happened to lose clubs on two separate holes in the same round. Initially what's astounding is that no golfers behind us contacted me about my leaving them behind. That is unusual. The sand wedge I left on the First Hole is more justified since I finished there and immediately drove back to the clubhouse before they reached the green I had just left. Where I left it at the green, I don't recall, but I thought I

had placed it on the green somewhere between the hole and our cart, which I always try to do. I think it's a good idea to place it on the green rather than off the edge. It is more easily seen by anyone as you leave after putting out. I can't believe I didn't do that here. Also, it's important to put the club between the hole and your cart so you or the other golfers will have to walk toward it if it is also their cart. In both cases only Pat Buckley and I were playing. Thus, the typical foursome did not exist where two more sets of eyes are there to limit the chance of leaving a club behind.

Are we talking senility here?

Beyond why I missed two clubs separately is the question of my age and forgetfulness. I have experienced it regularly off the golf course. Perhaps it happened here, but I doubt it. I do rely on properly placing my other clubs when putting and have been good at remembering to pick them up or at least being able to see them on the way off the green when my mind is set that I have only my putter to worry about. I have forgotten some clubs often, but Pat has



No. 14 Hole at Mainland from the fairway

noticed them and saved me from a red face to groups behind us, and a redder face if you believe that group thinks you're playing too slowly.

Pat and I played PineCrest Golf Club **(Drone view here right)** on May 30. I had an approach of

about 60 yards to the Third Green. Pat's ball had gone over the back of the green, disappearing down a bank. He elected to leave where my ball was, left of the green, and drive the cart toward the next tee on the right and go look for his ball to pitch it back on. I wasn't sure what club to hit for my approach to the green. I grabbed two wedges and my putter. My next stroke landed short and in front of the green. I put my two wedges down next to the ball, electing to use my putter because it was on mini-drought short grass in front.

When I was waiting to tee off on the next hole, a guy who was playing by himself directly behind us approached us to show us two clubs he just found at the green.

Thus, I had left, not one, but two, of my clubs behind me during the very next round I



played after losing two clubs separately in that prior round. You make the call. Under that circumstance, was it understandable? Or combined with the recent circumstances, am I senile or worse?

Four astonishing events converge

What's finally amazing is how four circumstances merged at one time: One, a golfer losing a club on the 14th Hole. Okay, not a rare occurrence, although it was for me. I had not lost one for at least a half century of much golf. But losing another one five holes later? Very rare. Thirdly or maybe Fourthly too, if you want to count each club, was neither club being turned into the clubhouse. And unrelated, and thus Fourthly, or Fifthly, depending how you're now counting, the same golfer was close to shooting his age and did not actually realize it.

One other issue is raised by my loss. When does a golfer decide to replace his two lost clubs? After all, they are the third and fourth most important clubs in the bag. I am an avid golfer, playing once a week. I also run to my country club, only two minutes away, a

few times a week just to hit balls. My round at Mainland was on May 17. If left-behind clubs are not turned in to the clubhouse the same day, what are the chances the golfer will ever see them again? 90%? How long do I wait?

I decided to buy new ones on May 17, only five days. I am eight minutes from Dick's Sporting Goods in Trexlerstown and they had the latest version of my lost Callaway wedges. The two clubs are always workhorses. Although I had bought them only in the early spring of 2021, mine were battered by a chronic hacker. I use the 56-degree sand wedge not only in the sand of bunkers but the long grass of the aptly-named area called "rough" near and far from the green. My egregious loss of these clubs is tempered by the fact that it may have been time to put these puppies down. ●