

Animal Science Emeritus Notes—Lavon Sumption December 2014

I may be 85 but--I can jump higher, sing better, play far better golf—than I could 84 years ago! 19 years ago this month, I “graduated” from UNL to begin my Third Trimester--trailing Peggy to Arizona to her new job location. We lived in Goodyear for 8 years, 2 blocks from Palm Valley Golf Course. 5 of us became the Fairway Warriors—a retired public school teacher “Shanty Irish” McCoy and 3 Air Force retirees---could always field at least a 3-some sometimes all 5. In 1996, I logged 230 days golfing. It was a great release from “administrivia” when too many of us who had been in the same positions long enough to delude ourselves into believing we owned the job! It takes some effort to re-direct/re-invent.

After a year’s respite, it was time to start earning green fees. Thus began “mini-careers”. I considered animal breeding consulting but it would have meant major retooling and--my former clients either had a new consultant, an appropriately educated son/daughter, were merged out of business or---dead! I did a few weeks of industrial scouting for Team Fishel (company Peg still works for—utility construction—fiber-optic cable, gas, electric—20 states) –securing new offices, yards, permits.

For a year I was a part time airport van driver from the 3 Sun Cities—afternoons were available for golf because the “day” began at 3AM.

While serving on both church and library boards, I set up the necessities of legal and promotional materials for endowments and raised funds, some installment funds that are still forthcoming.

For 4 years, I worked as a Ranger/Starter at Goodyear’s Estrella Mountain Golf Course designed by Jack Nicklaus Jr—provided we rangers low cost access to many high ticket courses—played 176 courses in AZ.

During our last 5 years in Arizona, I started teaching again, first as a high school sub (more ed for me than the students). The last 3 years I was an Adjunct Prof also at Estrella Mtn. Community College, teaching biology to pre-nursing students.

When Peggy was promoted to Columbus, OH headquarters as internal auditor, I did most of my interview online from AZ--- to teach biology at Columbus State Community College. I taught all 10 of our OH years—first with face-to-face classes—then online for the final 3 years. OH golf courses played—152.

Peggy started working from home in our last year in OH, then moved her worksite to NE. Family drew us back here in 2013 for our “Last Hurrah”—moved just a few weeks after my mother died at age 101. Peggy has 2 sons Josh & Joe & 3 grandchildren in NE. I have John, Gloria and 2 grand daughters in Alberta, daughters Chris & Elizabeth in Seattle, Robin and 2 grands in Portland, OR. I’ve been in touch with most of my Lincoln-based former UNL colleagues that are still on the upper side of the grass. After a full season off, it’s time to start teaching again. And I’m ready to take my seminar “Squeezing the Juice Out of Life’s Third Trimester” (pre-retirement planning) on the road. Our Christmas present from the OH part of our 3-couple Birthday Club just arrived-- a dozen bottles of red wine from 4 different countries—talk about good cheer!

The Nebraska Golf Quest is now updated after playing 29 “new” courses (built since 1995) to 226—the grand total is now 825 (and counting) including golfing in 50 states and 9 countries.

Travel? Most of it occurred when it was less hassle and safer. Having lived in 2 countries and visited 21 others, it’s less no novelty now. Peg and I spent a long week in Scotland in 1996—visited historic sites and yours truly golfed St. Andrews Old and New courses plus 2 at Turnberry. At that time, I promised to reciprocate by taking Peg to Tuscany, Vienna, Munich and Paris—haven’t got that done yet—better hurry.

Health? We got a decent draw in the genetic lottery---a few minor bumps in the road typical of the turning calendar but not enough for an organ recital.

Our reports can be shorter after this first one!

Lavon Sumption
7820 Lake St.
Lincoln, NE 6850
ljsumption@msn.com
402-480-5805
