

Warning! Golf may lead to dancing!

Getting to Know You

A monthly feature about the people in your
On Top of the World community

by John Koning

There should be a warning sign at the first tee box of the 18-hole On Top of the World Golf Course that reads: "Caution! Participation in this game may lead to romance and dancing."

That's because there are at least two residents in our community who have fallen victim to the golf romance bug.

John Maloof and Ada Culbertson were brought together by golf, which led to romance, ultimately culminating in dancing.

For those of us who grew up in an era when our parents warned us off of dancing for fear of where it would lead, it's ironic isn't it?

Here is how it all transpired.

Ada moved to OTOW after the passing of her husband, whom she had met years ago when she was a paralegal and he was her boss in Westwood-Cheviot, Ohio. The marriage ended her paychecks abruptly, but, before you shed a tear of sympathy for Ada, read on.

The building that housed their legal practice was in the heart of an historical area of town. When the property next door came available, Ada suggested to her husband that he should buy it to alleviate their parking woes. He refused, so Ada bought the property and others nearby.

Over the next 20 years, Ada transformed the neighborhood from an aging eye sore, with a sketchy clientele, into a trendy destination.

Ada filled the roles of landlord, restaurateur and chief visionary.

John comes to us from Lawrence, Mass., once the hub of the American textile industry.

He joined the Navy in 1954 and served his country for the next 20 years in various exotic locales. He finished his career as a master chief petty officer.

During two of those Navy years, John chased and taunted every tropical storm that mother nature threw our way as a Navy hurricane hunter.

Once, he lived every man's dream

of flying faster than the speed of sound in a North American RA-5C Vigilante.

After retirement, John moved to OTOW for a little R&R. That's when golf, romance and Ada caught up with him.

When Ada's OTOW golf foursome learned that John was in need of some friendship and support, they made an inventive personnel change and replaced one of their members with John for a round.

Ada and John bonded immediately and chatted throughout their entire round of golf.

The only improvement Ada would have liked was to beat John's golf score on that day.

John might have done better on the scoresheet, but, when he tried his best romantic approach shot, he landed deep in the rough.

"I don't date," Ada replied pragmatically.

John was not easily dissuaded. He taunted Mother Nature once again when he learned of an enormous beehive in the air conditioner cavity of Ada's unit. Ten bee stings later, John eradicated the bees and captured the fair maiden's heart.

Now that John has Ada's undivided attention, he has introduced her to square dancing and round dancing.

The two golf addicts have discovered another creative outlet for their energy and enthusiasm. They want to provide a place for OTOW residents to enjoy the company of like-minded people in an informal setting, while learning to square dance.

How will this take place?

Well, it's a work in progress, but the expertise is there. John has been square dancing since 1963. What John and Ada really want is your participation if you're so inclined, either with a partner or without.

If you are interested in music, square dancing and good clean fun, you can call John and Ada at 727-796-5024 or email them at jmalooof@tam-pabay.rr.com.



Ada Culbertson and John Maloof



visit otowclearwaterinfo.com, click Rec Center and Amenities and look for the Box Office link. Bookmark the home page when you get there.