**Golf Again?**

Back in 1984, when Chris started working at Litton, now Northrop-Grumman, she started playing golf with some co-workers who wanted some company for golf as a form of exercise. She went with friends to a local short course and seemed to be having a good time. Louis wanted nothing to do with that sport. Why would you want to ruin a perfectly good day in a park chasing a small ball with implements poorly suited for the task? Besides, I have no interest in walking around or using my hands on some sort of club. The friction will cause blisters. Chris kept saying that she was having a good time and that I should join her, even by going with her in a golf cart around the course. My reply was “Nonsense!”.

I eventually acceded to Chris’ request and started to play some golf with her. I found that I could help my foot problem by just taking off my shoes and using wet socks (there are lots of water hazards for that purpose) to play in. I found that golf gloves helped reduce friction on my hands, but I could not last long at the practice range hitting balls. I could not even get through one bucket of balls without my hands hurting. Oh, well, Chris was happy to have my company. We started playing at Elkins Ranch in Fillmore. That is a nice golf course in the foothills with some elevation changes. The mature trees provide shade so there are places to hide out from the sun to avoid sunburn. It is also right next to an orange grove and the blossom odor in the spring is quite pleasant. We got used to the ups and downs of the course and where to try to hit the ball. To make the play simpler, we both used the closest tee locations to the hole, typically yellow. In the Spring, the fairways are full of small white flowers, so orange colored golf balls are more visible. Even with our somewhat revised rules, our scores remained the same, about double par, but a little less on some Par 3 holes. We are careful to let better players play through on longer holes to avoid holding up the play on the course. We also avoid playing with other people as they seem to want to play ahead or stick to the official golf rules. So, while Tiger Woods was winning the Master’s Golf Tournament in 2019, we were out at Elkins Ranch playing golf. The weather was beautiful, the flowers were in bloom, and there were very few people on the course. I suppose it was a pleasant day to be out there looking at the flowers. Even the trip on the way there was good as the burned over areas from the fire last year are bright yellow with wild mustard grass and yellow black-eyed susans that look like daisies.