

Sports

Old Town man has large collection of logo golf balls

By Glenn Herrick

Long time Old Town resident Bernard (Bernie) Lucas, Sr. has an unusual interest that is related to his sports passion, golf. Lucas collects logo golf balls, and over the past 22 years, he has built his logo collection to more than 4,000 balls.

A logo golf ball is a regular playing golf ball with a special imprinted name or message on one side or multiple sides of the ball. Companies or organizations will often have logo golf balls made up for some particular occasion or purpose, generally for marketing purposes. Logo balls can be given out by companies or sold as a memento of a particular place, company, or event. Some players may use logo ball for general play, but others may choose to save them as a memento.

Bernie Lucas was born and brought up in Orono and attended St. Mary's School. He recalls starting to play golf when he was around 16 years old. Over the years, he has been a member of various local golf clubs including Hermon Meadow, Pine Hill (Orington), the Penobscot Valley Country Club (Orono), and the Hidden Meadows Golf Course in Old Town.

Even though Lucas is quiet and shy about his golf abilities, his various accomplishments on the golf course are quite impressive.

"One of my biggest accomplishments in golf was that I was the runner-up Club Champion at Penobscot Valley in 1954," said Lucas.

Most golfers can play an entire lifetime without making a hole in one, but Lucas has the pleasant distinction of having made two holes in one in his golf playing career.

"I made a hole in one on the fourteenth hole at Penobscot Valley and also the third hole at Hermon Meadows," said Lucas. "Part of the story about hole number 14 at Penobscot Valley was pretty funny. That particular green had just recently been rebuilt, and the day I played was the first week that the new green was open. The green was being watered quite heavily, and when I hit my shot, the grass was very wet. My shot made a huge splash when it hit the green and went right in for the hole in one."

In recent years, Lucas has been playing at Hidden Meadows in West Old Town with many family members and friends. Bernie and his brother Choppy Lucas, from Bradley, have been faithful members of the Tuesday morning Seniors League at Hidden Meadows.

Even though Lucas has been playing golf all of his adult years, he found, following his retirement from the University of Maine where he was the Building Events Coordinator, that he was playing golf much more often. As he started playing more after retirement, he realized that he was finding more and more golf balls that other players had lost and that some of them were logo golf balls.

"After I retired, I somehow just started collecting the specialized logo golf balls," said Lucas. "I found some and bought a few, but very few. Once the word got around that I was collecting the logo balls, friends and family started giving me logo balls that they may have found themselves. Additionally, some folks would buy them for me if they were



Old Town golfer, Bernie Lucas, with some of his logo golf ball collection.

away in other parts of the country."

As Lucas' logo ball collection increased in size, he used several display cases to display them, but as the collection grew, some of the balls sadly ended up in boxes due to space issues.

"At first, I kept them in one room in the house, but eventually, over the years, the collection got bigger and bigger and sort of took over that room," added Lucas. "So finally, about three years ago, I decided to move the whole collection to the garage."

Lucas put up the display cases in the garage that he previously had in the house, but he still needed more display room. So recently, he built his own large wooden display rack in an attempt to get more of his collection out of boxes. His new rack has several long narrow rows and now holds more than 1,000 of his logo golf balls.

"I'm making progress, but I still have some of my logo balls in boxes," said Lucas. "I guess my long range goal is to build another rack of my own and hopefully someday get all the balls out of boxes and on display."

Some of Lucas' favorite logo balls are the various Disney character balls and also the Hershey Chocolate Company ball set. Logo balls often come in threes and in a specialized commemorative sleeve that hold the balls.

"Another one of my favorite series of logo balls is the 'Three Stooges' logo balls," added Lucas.

Over the years, Lucas has enjoyed other interests beyond golf that have included gardening and a love for dogs. In recent years, he had to give up planting his large background garden, but there was a time when his garden supplied many friends and neighbors with a variety of homegrown items.

Lucas' two sons both live locally. One of his favorite pastimes is taking care of Bernie, Jr.'s yellow lab Katy while Bernie Jr. and his wife are at work. Bernie's other son, David, lives in Orono. David and his wife travel quite a bit for business and will often bring back a logo golf ball or two from the locations where they visit.

FRIENDS OF OLD TOWN HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Would like to thank the following sponsors for making our 12th Annual Golf Scramble a huge success!

Hidden Meadows Golf Course Acme Pizza & Wing Company Milligan's Landing Embroidery

Global Storage
Sullivan's Automotive Service, Inc.
Matrix Power Services, Inc.
Housing Authority of the City of Old Town
Crescent Lumber & Building Supplies
Northeast Restoration & Remodeling
LeVasseur Management
Street's Landscape & Lawn Care
John Colannino, ERA Dawson.Bradford
S.F. Madden, Inc.
Craig Miller Building Contractors
Thornton Construction, Inc.
R H Foster-Milford
Thomas Distributors
Short Fuse Fireworks
TPC-n-Smore, LLC Campfire Rings
James W. Sewall Company

The Maine Smoke Shop
General Rental Center
Burby & Bates
Jackson Plumbing & Heating
Coca Cola Bottling Company
Huber Resources Corporation
Governor's Restaurant
Tim Horton's
NES
RL Enterprises
Birmingham's Family Mkt.
Multi Management Group
LaBree's Bakery
Sunbelt Rentals
I 95 Towing
Townsquare Media

We would also like to thank the many businesses and individuals that donated prizes to support our event.