

More than a bunch of **GOLFERS**  
 Twelve men *with twelve years together*

Article and photos by NICOLE MARINO

**W**hat does it take to make each person realize his or her true life purpose, and how does one live his or her life to the fullest? Is it the people they've shared life with, or is it the legacy and traditions they pass on? Well, I went out to meet just the group that would give me that answer: a group of men in their seventies and eighties who formed what they now call the Monday Golf Club. They have met weekly to play golf for the past twelve years. If these guys didn't know the answer, I'm not sure who would.



*Danny's zest for life inspired him to share a poem:*

"A snowy egret extends his elegant neck to a turquoise sky.

Chattering ducks groom their feathers beneath a glistening waterfall.

A jack-rabbit darts behind a live California oak tree as a majestic eagle flies by."

*and a prayer:*

The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

~ Psalm 90



**B**eing an old soul I enjoy the company of the older generation, but the energy that filled the room was like none other I had felt before. In the course of seventy-plus years of life so much can be accomplished and so many stories told. For many of us the age of eighty can seem, well... old. I embrace what could be the youngest, most vibrant seventy-plus-year-olds I'd ever met. These men are clearly young in spirit, mind and health.

I feel like I am on a movie set amongst witty and deeply sentimental characters from an old classic movie from the 1920s. There is an obvious bond among these men as they chatter and give each other playful jabs in a fun, loving way, each with his own vivacious personality and happy banter. One of the members says, "A good drive on the eighteenth hole has stopped many a golfer from giving up the game." Another remarks, "The Law of Golf Physics states that it is easier to get up at 6:00 a.m. to play golf than at 10:00 a.m. to mow the lawn."

**"Live your life and forget your age"**

*a Monday Golf Club motto*

They reminisce about the support they've provided to one another over the years. "We've seen it all in twelve years—death, births, mishaps, golf errors. Through it we've all shared many laughs." Many said, "The group keeps us young." Several shared stories about how they had depended on each other at one time or another. One of them said, "I know if I call up any one of these guys they'll be there for me." They had been through so much after twelve years they each knew so much about one another's life. One of them piped up, "Any one of us would be there if one of us needed anything at all."

When I tell them I find it amazing they hung on to the group as long as they had, they begin thanking each other by shaking hands and handing out hugs, in the mock realization that my visit

finally made them realize the longevity and strength of their bond.

It all began in October 1997 when Dr. Dae-hyun "Danny" Chung, a retired earth physicist who lives in Napa, and nuclear scientist Rolf Moe of Santa Rosa, a retired chemical engineer from the Silicon Valley IT industries, met for the first time and played a challenging game of golf at what is now a part of Eagle Vines Golf Club. What started out as two players became four, and soon the four became twenty-two players by 1999. These players got organized under the name of Tres Montes Golf Club, which recognizes the three mountains Mt. St. Helena of Napa, Mt. Tamalpais of Marin, and Mt. Diablo of Contra Costa Counties. As the years and some members had passed on or moved on, the Tres Montes G.C. closed. Many of the remaining Tres Montes formed the San Francisco Bay Area Monday Golf Club (Monday G.C.).

Dr. Chung retired in 1996 from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and University of California after twenty-five years

*Opposite page, left to right; Dr. Dae Chung, of Napa, Bill Coll, Keith Wenquist, Bill Lucid, Bill Warnke, Jack Doran (President), Bob Nielsen, Tim Reyes. Missing members: John Henderson, Rod Larratt, Jim O'Sullivan, Pete Wynne.*

*This page, top, left: John Henderson, Bob Nielsen. Bottom left: Jack Doran, Pete Wynne, Bill Lucid, Bill Warnke. Right: Dr. Dae "Danny" Chung.*

one of "2000 Outstanding Scientists of the 20th Century" in honor of an outstanding contribution in the field of Earth Physics and nuclear non-proliferation and world peace. He was featured in *Who's Who in the World* back in 2000. The Wine & Business section of the *St. Helena Star* featured a multi-page write up on him in both 2003 and 2008, recognizing Danny for his importation of wine to his birthplace of South Korea.

Of the twelve golfers Danny is the only one who resides in Napa. The other men live in different parts of the Bay Area. It's dedication that each

Police Department. John Henderson and Jim O'Sullivan were also born and schooled in the Bay Area, and are original members of Tres Montes G.C. as well. So is Tim Reyes of Corte Madera, who is noted by the club as the "low-handi" (lowest handicapped) golfer and a role model.

The loyal members of the Monday G.C. take in the sights and the sounds around them as they amble to the next tee in their seventy-plus years of friendship in harmony with nature. This is the Monday G.C.'s style of life, and these twelve members today returned, as they do each

drives up to fifty miles away to meet for golf on a weekly basis. With over 900 combined years invested in their careers, twelve years of consecutive weekly golf meeting, and many barrels of laughs, they each share a multitude of professionalism, dedication, and passion for life.

The Monday G.C. president, Jack Doran, is a retired sheriff of thirty-four years. Rod Larrett, Keith Wenquist and Jack Doran were members the original Tres Montes G.C. All grew up and went to school together in San Francisco, and have been friends for more than seventy years. Keith Wenquist is a distinguished member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (Local 6) of San Francisco, retired in 1996. Robert Nielsen, a former business executive of Montgomery Wards, Major Lines of California, just retired in 2010.

Accuracy-minded golfers Pete Wynne, Bill Lucid, Bob Nielsen, Bill Coll and Bill Warnke all grew up together and schooled in San Francisco. Bill Warnke served in the U.S. Army and retired in 1997 after thirty-one years in the San Francisco

Monday, to the fountain of their youth. As they walked along, Danny murmured a paraphrase of Samuel Ullman, "Youth is a state of one's mind and it is indeed a matter of will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotion; and it is the freshness of the deep springs of life."

(This article is dedicated to Ralph from Arizona. Ralph, one of the first founding members of the original Tres Montes G.C., who moved to Arizona a few years ago and just recently suffered a stroke. The men of the Monday Golf Club remember Ralph each week as they continue to play the game he loved so much.)

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