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Silver Anniversary Edition



TURTLE IMMORTALITY

**Q-BALL ASTOUNDS WITH
ANOTHER VICTORY.**

**THOMPSON BREAKS THROUGH
FOR THE TEMPLETON CUP.**

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By Chuck Dumbass, Publisher.

Dimpled Orb Digest © 2015.



Q-Ball claimed his third Turtle in four years.

SOUTHERN PINES, North Carolina (DOD). – *In* its Silver Anniversary year, the Golf Trip has been changed forever, as Mark “Q-Ball” Kimmet has claimed his third Turtle in four years. After staking himself to an insurmountable seven point lead in Saturday’s third round of the Southern Pines Invitational, Kimmet coasted home to victory on Sunday at the Mid Pines course in Southern Pines. Normally Mid Pines is where Turtle dreams go to die on Sundays. That could have been the case again in 2015, as Kimmet plodded to a final round of eighteen points. In most years a minus three on the final Day would dash Turtle hopes. This year was different, however, as the nearest competitor, Dan “The Man” Moore, could get only to within five of the winner. Having claimed the elusive Reptile for the third time in a four-year span, Q-Ball finds himself on atop the Mount Rushmore of Golf Trip greats. Tracy “Tiger” Thompson finished a strong third, firing a 28-point plus-four final round, two shots shy of Moore. In so doing, Thompson faced down Greg “Stone Cold” Goddard by one in the Templeton Cup chase. Tiger can now etch his name on that piece of hardware for the first time in his career.





Preparations for the festivities.



The Orbettes.

The festivities of the Golf Trip's Silver Anniversary had begun earlier in the week in Knoxville, Tennessee. Special accoutrements were planned for the momentous occasion. The Orbettes--Karen Cain, Donna Watson (subbing for an AWOL Tronda O'Brien), Angie Rossini, and Tina Zeits—came through with an outstanding array of food and beverages. The atmosphere was further enhanced by their efforts at adorning the venue with 25th Anniversary commemorative memorabilia. The players were truly touched and grateful for the thoughtfulness put forth by the ladies, and they can't wait to see what the Orbettes come up with for the Golf Trip's 50th Anniversary celebration.



The Orbettes did an outstanding job adorning the venue.

In addition to being the Silver Anniversary, this year marked perhaps the start of a generational transition, as two of the Golf Trip's charter members teamed up with their sons for this year's event. Abe "The Ghost" Wood was tabbed to replace Nathan "The Assassin" Nash as partner to Michael "The Chairman" Wood. The Chairman has long spoken of finding a successor to handle Calcutta duties. Speculation was high whether the fruit of The Chairman's loins would handle some Calcutta action as an apprentice. The Ghost's beginning quota of 24 suggested that he might contend for both the Turtle and Templeton Cup in his first Invitational.



The Chairman



The Ghost



The Logumeister



The Senator

Carlton “The Gipper” Logue (so named due to affection for the 40th President) was added as Greg “The Loguemeister” Logue’s partner. The Gipper (later dubbed “The Senator”) stood in for the Loguemeister’s usual compadre, Michael “The Hoser” Moser, who was a late scratch. In his first Invitational appearance, The Gipper was an unknown quantity who had shown raw talent on occasions. Loguemeister was coming in with hopes of rebounding in 2015, after a back injury had forced him to withdraw from the 2014 Invitational.

Mike “Grizzly Adams” King won the Invitational last year while in Knoxville after a stunning special Saturday round. Seeking to defend that crown, King came in to the 2015 Turtle Hunt still committed to his Grizzly Adams look that may have helped him track down the Turtle in 2014. King’s partner, Richard “The Envy” Matlock, was still searching for the spark that only a few short years ago made him the envy of the golfing world.



Grizzly Adams



The Envy



Cool Breeze



Q-Ball

Q-Ball’s attempt to claim a third consecutive Turtle had fallen abysmally short in 2014. He may have been hampered by the early departure of his partner, Randy “Cool Breeze” Gibson, who withdrew after only one day to attend the birth of a grandchild. Whatever the reason for the poor showing, Q-Ball’s initial points were again manageable for a legitimate run at another Turtle. Gibson showed early form in his only round last year, and came in to 2015 positioned to contend for his first career Turtle.

Stone Cold Goddard was looking to defend his claim on the Templeton Cup. Always dangerous, Stone Cold seemed poised to contend for the Turtle Slam as well. Goddard’s partner, Toby “Hoss Cartwright” Hyke, still had a quota hovering near the Mendoza Line despite a couple of Relative Value Factor scores in 2014. Hoss’s points looked right to make a move on the Turtle, even though he had not played since the previous November.



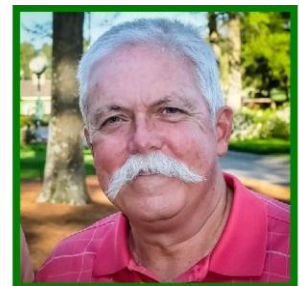
Stone Cold



Hoss Cartwright



Depot Stove



Wilford Brimley

Making a return trip was Danny “Depot Stove” Pressley after a year off in marital rehab. He returned looking to wrest the Templeton Cup back from Goddard. The Stove also remained a threat to claim the Turtle Slam. Pressley rejoined Dennis “Wilford Brimley” McClane, who looked to bounce back after a quiet 2014.

Tracy “Tiger” Thompson had claimed Moving Day last year with the highest single Day plus points. He looked ready to build on that to vie for the Turtle Slam. His partner, Jon “Hairball” Lawler came in hoping to parlay a nice RVF performance in 2014 into a Turtle victory this year.



Tiger Thompson



Hairball Lawler



The Total Package



Dan The Man

After narrowly missing the Turtle and the Templeton Cup in 2014, the fire still burned for Norm “The Total Package” Templeton. He looked to contend for the Turtle Slam, but would gladly opt for the Cup over the Turtle. Norm’s partner, Dan “The Man” Moore, came in below the Mendoza line after a dreadful 2014. “Nowhere to go but up” may be true in some circumstances, but not necessarily Turtle hunting.

With the field set for the historic 25th Anniversary Trip, The Chairman presided over the first Calcutta, without the aid of the Ghost, who could not attend due to class schedules. Also absent was The Gipper, who was still ensconced with his legislative duties in the Pennsylvania state senate. The Gipper’s Player Profile portrait prompted The Chairman to remark that his moniker should be “The Senator.” Thus proclaimed by The Chairman, The Gipper became The Senator. Q-Ball expressed an unnatural admiration for The Senator’s hair, and requested that it be photoshopped onto his (Q-Ball’s) dome.



Q-Ball admired the Senator's mane.

Perhaps anticipating the historic events about to unfold, the players bid briskly in the opening Calcutta. Depot Stove’s return generated much excitement, as he appeared ready to go after his rehab stint. The bidders expected a continuation of The Stove’s impressive 2013 performance, when only a minus-six collapse on the final Day yielded the Turtle to Kimmet. Even with that last Day score, The Stove had claimed the Templeton Cup for the third year in row by a wide margin.

With an opening Day PPM of over five, Moore also drew high bids, eventually going to his partner, The Package, after a lengthy bidding contest. Tiger Thompson also drew high bidding interest. He came in with a PPM of two, and was reported to be in mid-season form. Newcomers The Senator and The Ghost drew mild interest as unknown quantities. Hoss Cartwright’s Mendoza Line Quota and middle of the road PPM did not persuade the bidders.



The Logue contingent had a great day at Mountain Glen.

With the opening festivities concluded, the players packed up and headed for Southern Pines. Logue, Templeton, and Moore stopped on Wednesday for a detour and frolic on the Mountain Glen Golf Club in Newland, North Carolina. The threesome enjoyed beautiful blue skies and a chill in the air on the elevated mountain course still in the early throes of spring. They then headed for an overnight stay in Greensboro, where they met up with The Senator making the sojourn from Harrisburg, PA.

The tournament began on Thursday afternoon at the Pine Needles course. Moore immediately served notice that he intended to cross the Mendoza Line with a fair level of momentum. With an opening round 18 points, Moore jumped to the early lead at a healthy plus nine. Not to be outdone, and perhaps tasting the fame another Turtle would bring, Kimmet kept pace. With his quota back to a modest level, Kimmet eased into second at plus seven with 22 points. In a mild surprise, Richard “The Envy” Matlock posted an opening round score of 16. Typically Matlock favors the Mid Pines course, but he found his game at Pine Needles on Day One. His plus six was good enough for third place on the first Day Leaderboard. Another surprise came in the form of Hoss Cartwright’s round. He was able to knock off enough rust to card a plus five and grab fourth overall.



King receives the Turtle from Q-Ball.



The new guys stayed close to the Chairman.

That evening the players repaired to the Ross Lodge for the second Calcutta of the week. Before the ceremony began, Q-Ball made a special presentation of the Turtle to King. King had been in Knoxville at the end of the 2014 Invitational, so was unable to receive the award directly from the prior champion, Kimmet. Q-Ball made it a point to award the Turtle to Grizzly Adams with special emphasis so that King would feel truly deserving of the honor.

After those pleasantries concluded, Chairman Wood made a point to magnanimously welcome The Senator and The Ghost to their first of such occasions. After witnessing the unconventional Turtle award ceremony, the young newcomers stayed nervously close to The Chairman, and watched somewhat in amazement as Wood worked his magic. Teammates Templeton, whose points adjusted down by two after Day One, and Moore, who still seemed to have some upward range, received the high bids. Not far behind were The Stove, also down two, and Q-Ball, up two with potential, seemingly reflecting the same philosophy.



The Chairman holding forth.



Dinner in the Cellar.



Loguemeister uttered a few words.

Following the Calcutta, the players headed over to the Mid Pines Wine Cellar for the commemorative 25th Anniversary Dinner. The Tournament Director had made special booking arrangements to reserve the Cellar for the occasion. The Cellar is reminiscent of a Scottish castle and redolent of the Birth of Golf. Both The Tournament Director and The Chairman uttered words of encouragement to the current players, and of praise to members of Golf Trips past--even the ones who are no longer missed. The close environs and atmospherics of the venue, and the ceremony therein, made for a memorable evening.

Friday's second round at Mid Pines saw no respite from Hoss and Q-Ball. Following his plus eight round on Thursday, Kimmet kept the pressure on the field with a stellar plus-six round to grab second in the Calcutta for the second Day in a row. Featuring a birdie and par on the two tough back nine par three's, Kimmet's card was good enough to vault him into a tie at the top of the Leaderboard at plus 13. Hoss Cartwright kept pace, though, firing a fantastic 20-point round. His plus eight catapulted him into a tie with Q-Ball for the overall lead, and claimed the Calcutta pot for the Day. Hoss proved once again to be the best by-the-pound bargain in the Calcutta.



Hoss claimed Day Two.

The Loguemeister managed a nice plus four round to take third in the Calcutta and move to sixth on the Leaderboard. Moore settled into third overall with a so-so plus-one round. But for Moore any plus round on Mid Pines is considered a moral victory. Lawler had a nice showing at plus three, as did Cool Breeze at plus two. No one else got above plus one for the Day, with Chairman Wood bringing up the rear with a melancholy minus seven.

That evening's Moving Day Calcutta seemed to mirror Day One, with Moore and Depot Stove again garnering the most interest. This time the roles were reversed, as Moore got the nod on the notion that The Mendoza Line still needed further crossing. On the flip side, The Stove was coming off a minus three for Day Two, suggesting his point adjustment would yield high returns. Goddard also received high Calcutta interest for the same reason. After two seconds in a row, Kimmet drew mild scrutiny from the field and was eventually sold to his partner. Nobody paid much attention to the Loguemeister, who drew the evening's low bid.

Later at dinner, the group first encountered their server for the rest of the weekend--Rosie the Riveter. Rosie proved to be quite the character, introducing herself to Hoss Cartwright by humming the Bonanza theme. Rosie provided outstanding service and was careful to note The Senator's food allergies.



Day Three saw rain.

The surprise mover on Saturday was the Loguemeister. He claimed the Calcutta pot with a 24 point, plus-nine round. All but forgotten in the bidding the night before, Logue came up big and moved into fourth on the Leaderboard. But even with the strong showing, Logue still found himself ten back of Q-Ball. Hoss Cartwright lost ground on Kimmet as well. With an even point round, Hyke dropped back into third place, eight points back. Barring a major collapse by Q-Ball, the tournament looked to be his.

Meanwhile back in Knoxville, the Orbettes happened upon a chance encounter with the Erstwhile Sweetheart of the Golf Trip, Robin Wilhoit. You may recall some years back when Depot Stove claimed that he had arranged for Ms. Wilhoit to attend the first Calcutta ceremony and serve as the honorary starter for the Invitational. Depot even presented what he claimed were autographed photos of Ms. Wilhoit as evidence of her commitment. The Stove's promises never materialized amid speculation that he made the whole thing up.

Moving Day dawned overcast, with the threat of rain that eventually appeared. Saturday at Pine Needles is usually the Day that challengers make a move on the leaders. Q-Ball turned the tables on the field this year, by adding to a lead that looked insurmountable by the end of the Day. Coming in second for the third Day in a row, Kimmet posted a massive 27 point, plus-eight round, to all but put the tournament away. Moore tried to keep pace but his fourth place Calcutta finish at plus four left him in second overall, seven shots behind the leader.



Loguemeister dominated on Moving Day.

When the Orbettes encountered her, Ms. Wilhoit was serving as the Master of Ceremonies for the Juvenile Diabetes Walk for the Cure, in which the Orbettes were participants. They managed to requisition Ms. Wilhoit long enough to tweet a picture of their ensemble holding a sign saying “I♥the Golf Trip.” When asked if she knew what the Golf Trip is, Ms. Wilhoit confessed that she did not. If Ms. Wilhoit knows Depot Stove, she wouldn’t admit it, leading to the growing skepticism about The Stove’s original claims.



Some of the Orbettes and the Erstwhile Sweetheart.

The players spent the balance of the rainy Saturday afternoon in various repasts. Brimley painted mustaches on his golf balls. Everyone has their predilections. The afternoon included a quick trip to Pinehurst for drinks in the lounge. There The Senator and the Loguemeister paid homage to the Payne Stewart statue before heading back to Pine Needles for cigars on the deck.



Brimley adds panache to the ball.



Payne Stewart statue.



Cigars on the deck.

Perhaps feeling a bit guilty for his recent domination of the Turtle, Q-Ball presented to all the other players tokens of his esteem to commemorate the 25th Golf Trip Anniversary. Most of the players received framed prints of the iconic Golf Trip photograph that has adorned the cover of this publication on more than one occasion.



Norm finally got a trophy.



Loguemeister attired in his lamp clothes.

The Tournament Director, Calcutta Chairman, and the author received customized three-panel Shade-A-Delic® lamps, including photos of themselves in action. The players were all appreciative of Kimmet’s gesture, despite the ass-whipping he was currently administering to the

rest of the field. The Loguemeister was even willing to temporarily suspend his general disdain for the “everyone gets a trophy” creeping soccer mentality. Hilarity ensued when it was discovered that Logue was at that moment wearing the same clothing as appears in a photo on his lamp. Some Golf Trip traditions never change, including Logue’s taste in haberdashery.

The evening’s Calcutta was imbued with the growing realization that Q-Ball was about to claim his third Turtle in four years. Depot Stove remained the Calcutta favorite, as the crowd still waited for a breakout performance that never arrived. The Stove was followed closely by Kimmet, notorious for strong final Day performances on Mid Pines. The rest of the event was rather flat, as despite his best efforts, the Calcutta Chairman could not coax the same level of excitement for the final Day as he had in prior years. The spectre of an anticlimactic final round’s Turtle Hunt seemed to quiet the crowd.



On the other hand, the battle for the Templeton Cup still had life. One point separated leader Tiger Thompson from defending champion Stone Cold Goddard. In a huge surprise, just one point further back, was Q-Ball, looking to claim a Turtle Slam for the ages. The Total Package still had hope in fourth place. But being six back, with three other players to climb over, it looked like Norm would have to wait another year for the Cup. Depot Stove languished in fifth, and looked to be out of the Cup chase. A week that had begun with high hopes of reclaiming the Templeton Cup appeared to be ending in disappointment for The Stove.

At dinner, the players once again encountered Rosie the Riveter, who helped Thompson needle the Calcutta Chairman about his dauber. When The Senator reminded Rosie of their conversation the previous evening regarding his dinner order, she replied “Oh, you’re the \$#*thead with the food allergies.” After nearly choking on his cocktail, the always proper Loguemeister made sure to correct her, stating “Madam, that is **Senator** \$#*thead you are speaking to.” Despite the slight *faux pas*, Logues and Rosie parted ways fast friends.



Rosie the Riveter with the Senator.

The players began the anticlimactic final Day of the Turtle Hunt with the leaders, Kimmet and Moore, in the final group. Despite pugilistic appearances, it did not shape up to be much of a contest. With Moore seven back, it would take a major effort on his part, coupled with a Greg- Norman-caliber collapse by Kimmet, to change the nearly inevitable outcome. And that was how it played out. Neither participant acquitted himself with much distinction.



Mano-a-mano never materialized.



Gibson nearly holed out.



Three birdies on 15.

The highlights of their round were the near hole-in-one for Gibson on the second hole, and the short par-five fifteenth, where Kimmet, Moore, and Templeton all snaked in 30-foot birdie putts. Kimmet ambled home with 18 points, finishing at minus three on the Day.

Normally a minus-three final Day performance would doom a Turtle Hunt. But with such a large cushion, Q-Ball had little to fear. Moore gained a couple of points with a minus one, but still finished five behind the Champion. Hoss and the Loguemeister, the third and fourth placeholders at the start of the Day, both lost ground to Kimmet, each coming in at minus four.

The Championship never in doubt, the drama of the Day came in the chase for the Templeton Cup. With two points separating the top three candidates, it shaped up to be a dramatic shootout. Kimmet's ultimate 18 points left him out of contention, so it boiled down to a battle between Tiger Thompson and Stone Cold Goddard.



Q-Ball's winning form.



Stone Cold couldn't catch Tiger.



Thompson claimed his first Cup.

Thompson had started the Day one up on the defending Cupholder, and by the turn had gained a point. Thompson increased his lead to three on the tenth hole after Goddard's bogey. Tiger lost one with a bogey on 12. Goddard gained another with a birdie on 14, but returned it with a bogey on 16. Both players bogied 17, so Tiger found himself two up heading to the last hole. Goddard knew he likely would need a birdie to retain the Cup. He managed a par to Thompson's bogey, drawing only one shot closer.

In the end, both players, along with Templeton, came in at plus four on the Day to tie for the Calcutta win. With that result, it ended like it started, with Thompson up by one on Stone Cold. Thompson had thus claimed his first Templeton Cup, avoiding a collapse like the one he had in 2009 that handed the first competitive Cup to Goddard. Thompson's win ended the six-year monopoly on the Templeton Cup enjoyed by Stone Cold and Depot Stove.

As for Q-Ball, the immensity of his accomplishment had not set in by the Awards ceremony. He was at first humble, as King re-awarded the Turtle in a manner befitting the gravitas of the occasion. It was only later that the hubris became evident, when Kimmet floated the idea that the Turtle be nicknamed “Q Jr.” Without question, claiming the Turtle for the third time in four years ensures Q-Ball a spot amongst the all time greats of the Golf Trip. But the Turtle is timeless. No one player, no matter how great, can possess its essence. The Turtle will be hunted by future generations, after monuments to the greats of today have crumbled, for as long as Golf is played.



King returns the favor at the Awards Ceremony.



Mark "Q-Ball" Kimmet and Tracy "Tiger" Thompson, 2015 Champions.



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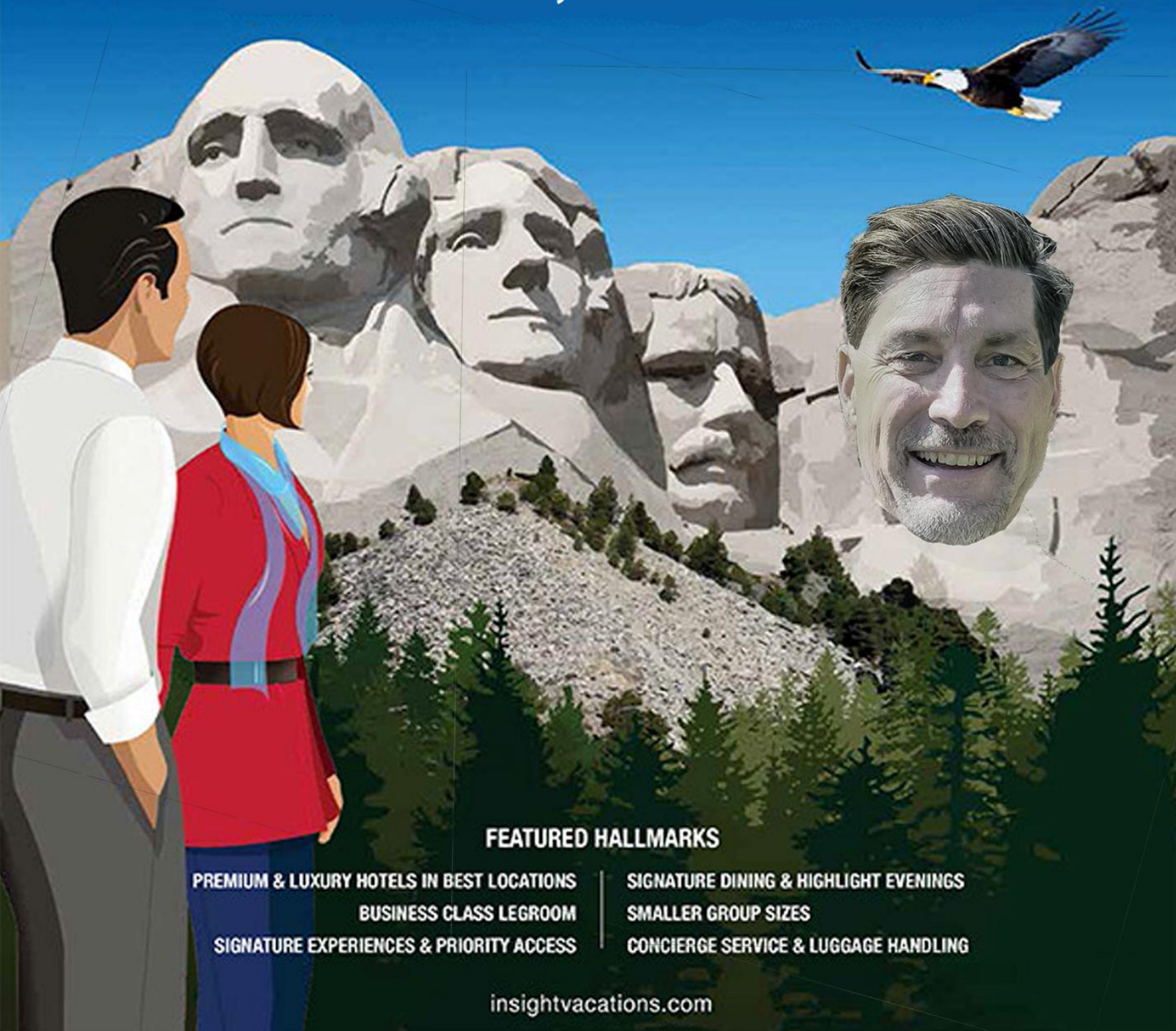
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