

Tuesday morning breakfast at "The Lodge"

The "Tuesday morning" breakfast began on a Wednesday in the early 1980s when Reg Urschler, his neighbor George Rybar and his Airman roommate Jimmie Reinhardt would meet for breakfast at the Golden Horseshoe Lounge, then across from the base library. When the health department closed them down they moved...as it turned out very temporarily...to the Hillside Cafe across from the current location, The Lodge.

The "Wednesday" breakfast became the "Thursday" breakfast until they discovered they couldn't eat a large breakfast at The Lodge and then the \$5 steak, salad and baked potato lunch at the then existing downtown Bellevue VFW Hall.

When Nebraska State Highway Patrolman Charlie Charter, one of the "regulars".... could not make the Thursday morning breakfast, they changed it to Tuesday and the current venue where 55th Vets convene today. "Ed", the Lodge's original owner and former NAVY Veteran was still alive. Today his children, young Eddie and Carol run the place.

Dick Hedge started accompanying Reg sometime after he retired in 1985, then Jim Maloney in 1989 and the rest of the gang as we know today. State patrolman Charlie Charter transferred to the "Governor's Detail" and then retired from the NE State Patrol.

Many "expat" 55th'ers know about the gathering and drop in when in the area - always a pleasant surprise - Danny Curzon, Bill Bellew, Charlie McBride, Joe Gyulavics, et al. Several including Jimmie Reinhardt, Fritz Hyde, Dick Hedge, Harry Tull, Arlan Howe, Joe Gyulavics, and Robb Hoover no longer have the option. After her brother Eddie passed away, Carol continued to run the restaurant until in the Spring of 2019 a massive flood hit the area (and much of Offutt AFB as well) and among the losses was another restaurant along the Base Lake Road called "Catfish Lake". The owner of 'Catfish Lake' made an offer to Carol to buy the 'Lodge'. Carol accepted the offer and retired and the Lodge became "Catfish Lake at the Lodge". In the time the Lodge closed for renovation, and since the new restaurant was only to open for lunch and dinner, the Retired Old Men Eating Out or "Romeos" moved their Tuesday morning gatherings to the Hy-Vee Supermarket restaurant in Shadow Lake Shopping Center in Papillion where they continue to gather every Tuesday mornings. Anywhere from ten to twenty 55th Veterans arrive about 7AM to have breakfast and of course, discuss all the world's great issues of the day.
