



McGuire's Resort: “We'll Take Care of You!”

By Kelly Hill
Managing Editor

CADILLAC - A landmark stands on the west side of US-131, between Grand Rapids and Cadillac. It has stood there, visible to northbound drivers, for more than a generation.

The landmark is an old barn, little different than thousands of other Michigan barns. This barn,

though, stands just to the west of the primary artery between the state's second-largest city and countless destinations “Up North.”

What distinguishes this old barn, and what has made it a landmark, is the advertisement painted on its south side. The barn-turned-billboard hails one of those “Up

North” destinations. It lets travelers know they are approaching Cadillac, which is the home of McGuire's Resort.

Opened in 1949 as a drive-in restaurant, McGuire's Resort now includes 27 holes of golf, 123 hotel rooms, dining and banquet facilities for 175 guests, convention and

Photo above: McGuire's Resort, Hole No. 5

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meeting facilities for a similar number and seven kilometers of groomed cross-country skiing trails, three of which are lighted.

“McGuire’s is a family resort,” said head golf professional Phil Himes, who recently joined the McGuire’s staff after serving as the head pro at Eldorado Golf Course in Cadillac. “People come back here because they are treated like family. We have groups that have been coming here every year for 30 years.”

Himes, who was born and raised in Southern California, moved to San Francisco in 1988 work for Marriott at the Chardonnay Golf Club in Napa. In 1997, he transferred to Marriott’s Lincolnshire Resort in Chicago, where he served as the head golf

pro until August of 2001. He moved to Michigan in 2002 and three years later accepted a position at Eldorado.

“There is more snow here, but it is not as cold as it was in Chicago,” Himes said. Himes and his wife, Becky, welcome the snow in Cadillac as they own the White Thunder Kennel, out of which Becky Himes races some of their 42 sled dogs.

“Some golf pros go south for the winter, but not me,” Phil Himes said. “I go further north. We race in the U.P and Minnesota and all over.”

McGuire’s Resort in Cadillac features the Evergreen Golf Club: the 18-hole Spruce course and the 9-hole Norway. According to

Himes, approximately 9,000 rounds are played each year on the Northway while 13,500 rounds are played on the Spruce.

The resort offers a two-night package with unlimited golf. According to Himes, golfers often check in and play 18 on Thursday. They will then play 36 on Friday and play another 18 before checking out on Saturday.

While the expressway portion of US-131 used to end just south of McGuire’s, it now ends north of Cadillac. Himes said, though, that McGuire’s Resort has not been affected by the expressway extension.

“This is a hidden little gem,” he said. **MG**



Photo courtesy of McGuire's Resort

McGuire’s Resort, Hole No. 13