

the golf shop and on the golf course. This had to influence the affection for golf courses he carries today. I think it is this connection Palmer has with my profession that makes him so special to me. Unlike so many other golf professionals who conjure up hatred for the golf course in order that they may "beat" it, Palmer has never lost his deep affection for them. He has put his knowledge of the game together with his love for golf courses and designed some of the world's greatest layouts. It was also great to learn, in 1983 from Arnold himself, that his father was a long time member of the GCSAA. One of Arnold's brothers, Jerry, is a Golf Course Superintendent at Latrobe Country Club. And Arnie didn't hurt us when he did the series of ads for Pennzoil using the Toro tractor on the golf course.

The GCSAA has done many many great things over the dozen or so years that I have been a member, but none of those comes even close to the stroke of genius they showed when they selected Arnold Palmer as the first recipient of the OLD TOM MORRIS AWARD. He was the perfect choice, the same one I would have made. And when Bob Hope received the 1984 award in Las Vegas, Palmer was there to observe the proceedings. What a guy! It is a wonderful feeling to know that he has respect for us and our profession.

Not only has he been kind to our profession, he has been great for

the game of golf and has probably done more for it than any other man. He is able not only to capture great respect for his game abilities, but also for his warmth, honesty and kindness. I think no one in golf ever has or ever will match this man for his charisma, his personality or his verve. His playing style is courageous and he approaches tough spots with bravado. He probably is the most determinedly aggressive player the game has known and he has an absolutely transparent desire to win. But he is also the ultimate sportsman — not a cryer or a complainer. This past summer he missed qualifying for what would have been his 32nd consecutive U.S. Open. The USGA has a requirement that he qualify, even though he is a past winner. Did he object? Nope. His only comment was, "I missed. I had every opportunity to make it. I feel that if you can't play, you shouldn't play." A great man with a great attitude.

Reporters like him — he always gives them the time they need and will talk with them, good round or bad, win or lose. And the reason "Arnie's Army" became such a big thing on the Pro Tour was that this man always has (and still does, as I can personally attest) signed autographs during a round of golf, almost no matter what.

The image of Arnie on the golf course is legend too. The sight of him tugging at his glove, hitching his trousers up, flicking his

cigarette into the rough, walking up to the ball and hitting it quickly and powerfully has thrilled millions of people, none more than me. And I always appreciated the way he tastefully dressed, avoiding the "distracting" clothes some golf pros like to wear. He always exudes class.

I am fairly serious in my hero worshipping. I have seen Arnold play golf three times. And believe me, there is nothing like standing so close to him that you can actually hear him ask his caddie for a club, to be so close that you are sprinkled by bits of sod after he has drilled a shot with his patented controlled lunge. I never had the chance, nor does anyone ever get the opportunity, to stand behind the umpire when Joe Adcock hit a home run! I have gotten Arnie's autograph on five different occasions, once even asking him to sign a can of Pennzoil for me, which he happily did. I collect books by him and about him. Several pictures of the man hang in my office. And next year, during our annual trip out East, Cheryl and I plan on making a side trip to Latrobe, his hometown in Pennsylvania, and visit the golf course where this marvelous man started his unparalleled career in golf.

He is a great man — greater than great and bigger than life. If you are looking for a hero, you'll never do any better than bestowing that honor on Arnold Palmer.

Monroe S. Miller
President

An Editorial

LOOKING BACK — WHAT VALUE IS HERITAGE?

We've all experienced the great anticipation that fills everyone at a family reunion when three or four, and sometimes even five generations congregate for a really good time. When the picnic and games are over and when the youngest of the kids have quieted down, the parents and grandparents and great-grandparents gather together visit and reminisce. Usually the sad times and dark moments are set aside and all conversations are happy and joyful. Family ties

are renewed. This is a part of "our past" that we cherish, a segment of "our heritage" that we treasure.

There are other times when our past conjures up other pleasant memories which are enjoyable and even soothing, too. In our more thoughtful moments we review our errors and recognize that mistakes are also important in shaping us. This is all part of our past, and things learned over generations have been as important in molding us as is the present.

And so it is, I feel, with our corporate past and with our professional past. Our corporate past, as a community or a state or a nation or an association, is celebrated on patriotic holidays and special observations. We make note of the birthdays of

tant and inspiring documents and books of years gone by. And, we keep in our minds those undying concepts that make this country great. We must recall these things so that they won't ever be lost. Our professional heritage is important to us for these same reasons.

We need to look at our predecessors and learn of the problems they struggled with. We need to study the solutions they derived for such problems. It is interesting to read that some of the same chaotic situations that existed on golf courses 50 years ago are still with us, and it is equally interesting to find how our professional forebearers dealt with those situations in their time. These presences of our past are practical and pragmatic.

I feel that once in awhile we need to look to our past for some inspiration. In my own case, I have become fascinated with my predecessor of years ago — John S. Bone. John was a prolific writer, offering intelligent thoughts on problems of the times that were published in local and national journals. He was an organizer and founder of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association and served four terms as president. This proves, in my mind, that the presence and an awareness of the past can be an inspiration and a challenge, too.

Perhaps the grand prize won from history is perspective — that high point or crest in time from which we can look back to measure our progress and look forward with optimism. Without perspective, it seems to me that our past becomes a broken record of steps forward and back, forward and back, endlessly repeating the same mistakes and telling the same tale time and time again.

And I feel there is nothing wrong in confessing that, for me at least, “looking back” has opened the pages to a fascinating story, one not known to me previously and one that has been enjoyable to read. It has almost been a fun experience.

My sincere hope is that others in the WGCSA have some interest in “from whence we came.” It was my belief in this thought that worked as a catalyst for me in putting together some heritage material for the GRASSROOTS, and **not** my own selfish interest as editor.

It is only natural that I would end up attempting this; it is consistent with my personality. I have, for as long as I can remember, had an interest in the past. I like old things. I enjoy historical novels and biographies. I love to visit historical sites and museums. I like old pickup trucks and old tractors and old radios more than new ones. I've enjoyed playing a part in my Club's activities in reestablishing the local Indian heritage of our

property through the “Historic Places” program of the National Park Service. First time visitors to my office are somewhat intrigued by the many framed old golf course pictures that cover the walls, by the old golf clubs on display and by the old tools that were found in golf course maintenance shops 75 years ago. My library includes several priceless (to me, at least) books on golf course management published in the early 1900's. I am completely devoted to the Golf Foundation of Wisconsin, for a lot of good reasons but especially because we need a home for a library and museum as a place to preserve our golf heritage in Wisconsin.

This trip back in time consumed a goodly portion of whatever spare hours I've had in the past few months. But it was a fruitful trip and worth every minute spent and every effort expended. I have a new sense of the men who preceded me in this profession and I have acquired a heightened respect for them and how they confronted and dealt with the problems and issues of their day. I feel more strongly than ever that we are involved in a very noble endeavor and are to be envied for the good we do on this earth and in this society. My affection for the WGCSA is deeper than before and my dedication is much greater now that I recognize the examples set by its founders.

It was not a lonely trip, either. I had a lot of help. Credit and thanks are extended to Dr. Jim Love for the use of his archives and other resources. Emily Wixson, a researcher at the Steenbock Library on the UW—Madison campus, was so gracious and helpful that I'm still humbled by her interest in this project. Janet Seagel, Librarian and Museum Curator for the USGA in Far Hills, New Jersey, took time from her busy schedule to trace back any number of pages and to send them to me — materials that were not part of the University's collection. And the interest and contributions of Bill Sell, Charlie Shiley and Walt Stepanik were invaluable. Without these people, this attempt would have

ended in futility.

Please do not expect this brief history to be all inclusive. It is only a thumbnail sketch of the early formative years of our Association, coupled with bits and pieces of our more recent past. It frustrates me that it is incomplete, but at least it is a start. I know it contains omissions and I fear the errors that there might be. They are innocent mistakes, however; and, if they are noticed, they need to be corrected and included in the written record.

My hope is that you will at least find it enjoyable reading. Anything beyond that is all “profit.” Maybe we'll gain more access, for example, to old records, minutes and publications from the WGCSA. I firmly believe that you will experience a real pride in the men that preceded us in this organization and in this profession.

Read on.

Monroe S. Miller, Editor
THE GRASSROOTS

In Memoriam — Harry H. Hanson

Harry H. Hanson, a charter member of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, passed away on September 20, 1984 in a Madison hospital after a long illness. He was 87 years old.

Harry spent all of his working years on Wisconsin and Illinois golf courses. He started in our profession working for his father, who was the Greenkeeper at La Crosse Country Club. Among the golf courses managed by Harry are Maple Bluff Country Club, Sun Prairie Country Club and Blackhawk Country Club. He also built golf courses in Illinois and in Chilton, Wisconsin.

He was a AA member of the WGCSA and a AA member of the GCSAA. He held a 50 year pin from the GCSAA and traveled to the Sylvania Country Club in Toledo, Ohio to participate in the GCSAA 50th Anniversary celebration.

Our deepest sympathies to Harry's family.
