

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.
