



## “SPREADING THE BREEZE”

By Rod Johnson and Mike Semler

“Spreading the Breeze,” a new name for the back cover of the “Grass Roots” with two new reporters. We have consented to take the reigns from **Bill Roberts**. We’ll combine abundant energy with some slightly offbeat reporting methods to bring you what’s new in the WGCSA. We’ll be in touch, so stay near the phone and keep an eye over your shoulder. When it comes to “Spreading the Breeze” there are no sacred cows.

From our Capital city of Madison, Editor **Monroe Miller** has enthusiastically endorsed us as new reporters and promised to limit his editing to an occasional four letter word which might slip through our typewriters. By the way, this isn’t to say that **Monroe** devotes a large amount of his time to our outstanding newsletter, but reliable sources have informed us that **Monroe** has taken a liking to parking in an area reserved for employees only at Kramer Printing (place where the “Grass Roots” is printed).

Can you believe the weather? September — wet and cold — so what, October is always a nice month. October — more cold and more rain. Oh well, there’s always a couple of nice days in early November. Ha Ha! November 9th, snow. After that more rain and then the big snow at Thanksgiving. What happened to Indian Summer? Maybe this year we’ll have an extended January thaw!

### SELECTED NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

**Jeff Bottensek**, Stevens Point C.C.

I am going to make sure I enjoy the snow! There is so much of it anyway, I can’t do anything but enjoy it.

**Michael Handrich**, Ville du Parc C.C.

I am going to spend less time watching the grass grow, and spend more time watching my daughter grow.

**Don Peterson**, Waupaca C.C.

I am going to try to get more involved in the Wisconsin GCSA.

**Dewey Laak**, Kettle Moraine Golf Club

I am going to resolve not to make a resolution because I never keep them anyway.

**Gary Mulvihill**, Kenosha C.C.

I am going to try to take things less seriously, to back off a little bit and spread more of the work load on to my employees so I can get more involved in the Wisconsin GCSA and see more of my peer group.

**Patrick Norton**, Cherokee C.C.

My resolution is very simple and should hopefully stifle my critics (Johnson and Keinert).

I resolve to stay where I am, in my current course position, for a very long, long time.

I am getting tired of hearing the question “Where are you moving to next year?” Maybe by publicly resolving to “stay put,” people can catch up with me and, “GEE!” even find out my current address and phone number.

**Tom Schaller**, Northbrook C.C.

I am going to try to be a better person, and try to stop smoking.

Hopefully, not everyone is having the same problems with budget proposals as **Jerry Kershasky** of Westmoor C.C. He has this little quip to add, “A budget ‘Board’ approved is worth the two that you propose.” Better luck in the future Jerry.

According to reports heard by the “Spreading the Breeze” staff, a few of our fellow Superintendents went hunting in Wyoming. Included in the group was **Steve Schmidt** of Butte Des Morts Golf Club. This was Steve’s first hunting trip west and, understandably, he was in some awe by the beautiful country. Unfortunately, it snowed while the group was there, Steve got lost and ended up walking around in circles. No doubt the snow was the confusing factor here. For Steve’s enlightening experience, he will be awarded a one year membership in the Daniel Boone Club of America. (Did this really happen twice Steve?)

**With a new year upon us let’s look back 10 years ago in the WGCSA with some “Famous Quotes from Years Gone By” — excerpts from 1976 “Grass Roots.”**

Then President of WGCSA, **Al Vrana** in his monthly messages to the membership, reminded members of the Bicentennial Year ahead. **Vrana** suggested the use of the colors Red, White, and Blue on the golf course in “76”, to promote the proper atmosphere of this big year.

A first for the WGCSA was announced in that an application for membership was received from a woman. **Janet Brown**, assistant to **Irv Johnson** of Buttes Des Morts, was accepted for membership. President **Vrana** said, “There may be more of this coming in the future. This is something we will have to become accustomed to.”

Editor **Danny Quast** in an editorial section, asked that all WGCSA members consider joining the National (GCSAA). “Wisconsin presently has 42 National members and that is too small of a percentage. The WGCSA has the potential to be one of the stronger chapters in the national picture. Wisconsin is a **sleeping giant** who can step in and help our professional futures.”

**Jim Latham** also addressed the member-

ship in professional associations, particularly GCSAA. The same old question of, “What’s in it for me?”, was addressed. **Latham** cited professional apathy on the side of non-member superintendents. **Latham** stated, “The state of the art is high. Wages are good. Budgets are acceptable. Maybe we have gone as far as we can go. Therefore, there is no challenge, no improvement possible, and we can sit on our butts and take it easy.” NOW WAIT JUST A BICENTENNIAL MINUTE, PLEASE!

**What will 1986 bring? Here are a few predictions from the WGCSA Inquirer Swamie. Hang on until fall and see how the Great Soothsayer did.**

The 1986 GCSAA Conference and Show to be held in San Francisco will be attended by a record number of GCSAA members. The convention will come off without incident or earthquake.

**Bill Roberts** will be successful in his bid for GCSAA Directorship.

The “**Grass Roots**” will deservedly receive another GCSAA award at the opening session. Not the kind of prediction that would cause an earthquake!

Some bad news, the spring of 1986 will show a record year for winter associated turf losses. Snow mold, ice damage, desiccation, and direct low temperature will all be causations. Good News, WGCSA members are perfectly capable of dealing with these catastrophies and rise to the occasion, rejuvenating their courses in a time frame able to please all golfers.

1986 monthly meetings will continue to be well attended. A pre-payment policy will be invoked but will be well accepted after some initial grumbles. **Bill Sell**, **Dick Even-son**, and **Gary Monfre**, will have off years on the links, getting shut-out in the prize departments.

The WGCSA membership list will continue to swell. Continued new member recruitment activity will yield dividends beyond initial expectations.

In the fall of 1986, possibly during a highly visible golf tournament, our Governor will set aside one day by proclaiming it “Green Golf Course Day.” The proclamation will honor those great men of the state who are responsible for the excellent playing conditions on Wisconsin’s Golf Courses.

In closing we wish the best to everyone in the New Year. Be ready for future contact when we continue to “Spread the Breeze.”

