



THE GRASS ROOTS



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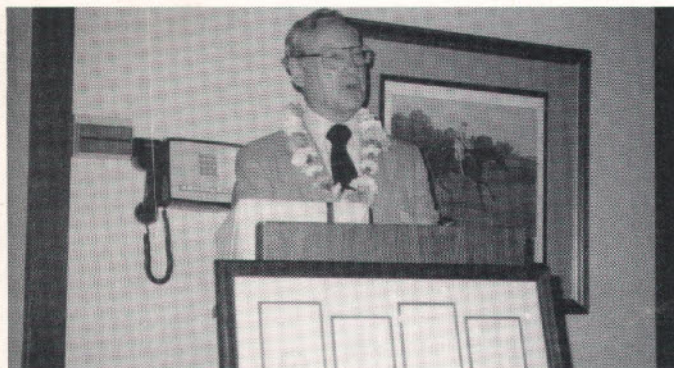
September/October 1986 Issue

JIM LOVE HONORED AT RETIREMENT

The retirement of Professor James R. Love from the faculty at the University of Wisconsin—Madison was noted with a surprise party held in his honor on May 18, 1986. Nearly one hundred former turf students, spouses and friends from the turfgrass industry gathered at the Nakoma Golf Club in Madison to pay tribute to Jim's 25 years of service to the turfgrass industry and 35 years in the Department of Soil Science. He retired on July 15.



A rare sight for any student of Jim Love's — the professor wringing his hands at a loss for words!



But he found a podium, quickly recovered and thanked everyone for the trip, the evening and the memories.

Plans for honoring Dr. Love were started at the GCSAA Conference in Washington, D.C. in early 1985 at a meeting of the UW—Madison Turfgrass Alumni Club. Bob

Erdahl, Randy Smith and Monroe Miller assumed responsibility of organizing the event and contacting alumni. Class chairmen volunteered to help. The response, needless to say, was overwhelming. Because of Jim's expressed desire not to have his retirement noted in any way, secrecy was essential. Despite widespread knowledge of plans among his colleagues, friends and former students, he was indeed surprised. That fact alone



Bob Erdahl and Randy Smith welcomed Jim and Nancy upon their arrival at Nakoma for the surprise retirement party.

made it a special night.

The evening was planned to cover all details. Dr. Love assumed he was going to Nakoma to dine with Peter Miller and his wife, who were in town to pick their daughter up at the end of the semester. Instead, he entered the Club to warm and sustained applause from the gathered crowd, including many who had travelled hundreds and hundreds of miles from a number of other states.

Leo Walsh was there and offered remarks as a part of the program. A long time colleague of Jim's in the Soil Science Department, Dr. Walsh noted that although he knew Jim was not "turned on" by the long and effusive speeches common at one's retirement, it was appropriate that a person of such commitment deserved comment. Walsh expressed disbelief that Jim was retiring — he seems far too young and still in the prime of life. "I have always felt," Walsh said, "that the appropriate question to ask at the time of one's retirement is 'has one's con-

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tribution made a difference?' In Jim Love's case, the answer is an unequivocal yes. You have touched the lives of more students in a very positive way than any one else I know. In fact, "Love's advisees" have to be among the most vocal cheerleaders we have for any individual and any department on our campus."

Dr. Champ Tanner and his wife Katie were in attendance. Dr. Tanner, currently chairman of the Soil Science Department, was Jim's masters degree major professor. He recounted some of the humorous things in Jim's years in the Department and told of the world's largest liming study undertaken by Love many years ago. He spoke with deep respect for Jim's unselfish commitment to teaching, a trait not very common in a major university noted for its research capabilities.

Mike Lee was a part of the program and expressed thoughts felt by many students over the years. Mike's remarks are included elsewhere in this journal.

Peter Miller, in Madison from the Columbus, Ohio area, gave a presentation of slides taken decades ago at places ranging from the 1967 GCSAA Conference which Jim attended with several of his students to scenes from many of Wisconsin's golf courses.

Following cocktails, dinner, a toast, introductions and remarks came the highlight of the evening. Jim was given a matted and framed version of the program for the evening. He and his lovely wife Nancy then had Hawaiian leis placed about them as they were given a two-week vacation in the paradise of Hawaii!

It was a magical night, one that his former students and friends won't forget and hopefully one that Jim and Nancy will remember for a long time, too.



Steve Ludwikoski provided music for the evening on Nakoma's baby grand piano, . .



which was enjoyed by everyone, including Katie Tanner and Leo Walsh.



Jim was given a framed copy of the program.

One of Jim's first turf students was Peter Miller, formerly Golf Course Superintendent at Nakoma and Firestone Country Clubs. Pete took honors for the oldest former student in attendance!



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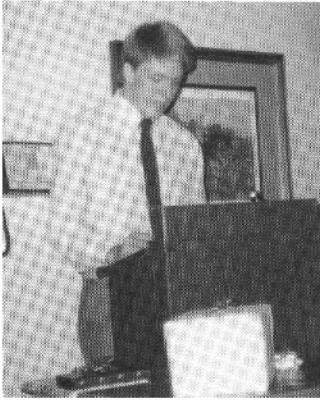


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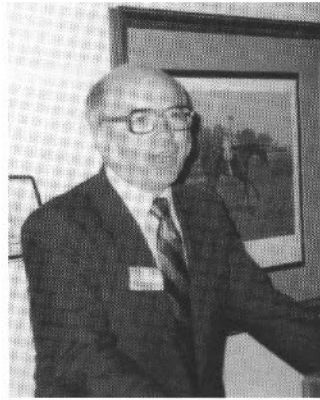
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Mike Lee,



Dr. Leo Walsh,



and Dr. Champ Tanner were speakers on the program.

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