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or even an old picture. I even thought about how I could enlist the help of someone with infrared equipment.

As each spring turned to summer, my need to verify what those dooryard lilacs told me faded. But each succeeding spring, renewed and even heightened interest returned.

One summer day about five years ago, out of the blue, I received a visit from a very nice couple from Illinois—the Harvey Bauers. Harvey was recently retired and had the time to search for and revisit scenes from his past.

And Blackhawk Country Club was an important part of his family history. You see, his father, John Henry Herman Bauer, was the greenkeeper for the first six years of the course's existence. He had, in fact, done much of the building of the golf course.

That day was magic for me. I learned score of things about the place where I had invested so much time. His clear memory of so many things filled in gaps of my information. Before he left I got his address, gave him a scorecard and a copy of each of the booklets written about the Indian mounds on the golf course.

Later, I mailed him a copy of the November/December 1984 issue of *THE GRASS ROOTS*. That one was the special heritage issue. It carried stories

about the founding of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association in 1930. The cover picture and a picture on page 9 showed those attending the 1930 University of Wisconsin Turfgrass Management Short Course.

Harvey called not long after that, excitedly. He and his wife had discovered, while reading *THE GRASS ROOTS*, his father in the picture on page 9. I quickly checked. Sure enough. Third from the left was John Bauer, then from Prairie View, Illinois and formerly from Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, Wisconsin.

In a subsequent summer Harvey returned with his older sisters Maida and Phyllis and his older brother Gerry. We walked the golf course and visited many of the places where this family had played when they were children. We stood where the farm house was in those days, and where the dooryard lilacs remain today.

Finally, the missing piece was in place and confirmed what the lilacs had told me over a decade earlier. My questions about who had lived there, where they went and what adventures they had experienced were answered as we stood in the grassed over area of the old farm house, next to the dooryard lilacs. Their memories were as sweet and lovely as the faithful lilacs

are when in bloom.

The aroma of the lilacs in my shopyard evoke memories of my rural childhood and Memorial Day parades. It reminds me of high school graduation and Sunday School at our Methodist Church. Nowadays lilacs remind me of the Bauer family and their time on our golf course, too.

The fragrance and blossoms and even the leaves of the lilac have inspired many lines of literature and poetry. Alfred Noyes of Old England wrote that if you "go down to Kew in lilac time you shall wander hand in hand in love." Amy Lowell sang of the lilacs in New England.

Walt Whitman reflected on the nostalgia-provoking fragrance of lilacs in "When Lilacs in the Dooryard Bloomed". In the verses of this poem he was mourning the death of Lincoln. His message was that the promise of the lilac was whether or not we are here to smell or see them, they will surely come back again.

I shall, soon, put some lilac roots of my own into this golf course ground, leaving a bit of immortality to bloom when May comes for a hundred years hence.

What better mark than some beautiful lilacs could you hope to leave on a piece of this earth?

## Voigt Honored at Retirement

By Randy Smith

On March 15th, approximately 150 persons surprised Woody and Betty Voigt with a party honoring Woody's retirement. His career included 21 years of service to the Ozaukee County Parks System and 13 years on a course in Fort Wayne.

Those attending the occasion at The Smith Brothers Fish Shanty Restaurant in Port Washington included two of the Voigt children, Lori and Ron and their families, relatives and friends associated with the Ozaukee County Park System. Also there were people from the Lions Club, the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association.

By late summer, the Voigts plan to move to a little warmer climate—Arkansas—where they will be neighbors to some other familiar people from Wisconsin, Al and Marge Vrana.



Retirement Celebration for Woody and Betty Voigt

I'll bet there will be a few rounds of golf played there too!

Best of wishes to a fine couple and may they enjoy many great years in a well deserved retirement. And please remember to visit your friends in Wisconsin once in awhile!

### Otterbine Names Reinders Irrigation Division 1990 Service Center of the Year

Otterbine Barebo Incorporated, the Emmaus, Pennsylvania based manufacturer of vertical surface spray and asperating horizontal aerators, has named the Irrigation Division of Reinders Brothers Incorporated their 1990 Service Center of the year.

"We're quite gratified to receive this award," said Pat Matthews, Service Coordinator for Reinders Irrigation Division. "It's good to see the manufacturers we represent recognize our customer-first attitude."