

(Continued from page 21)

6) *Pete Reif*. Few golf pros were more important to a course than Pete Reif at The Springs. Yet, as of last spring, Reif was unemployed. Those managing the course decided to make a change for change's sake. Bad move.

The Springs has always operated on a shoestring, but it overcame the trauma associated with that because of Reif. He is the antithesis of those new Lawsonia employees. Always caring, always friendly, Reif was a major reason why golfers kept coming back to the place that had a mobile home for a clubhouse.

The mobile home has been replaced by a beautiful clubhouse as The Springs is trying to have a first-class look. You can build all the beautiful buildings you want, but they'll never be anything special if the people don't operate them in a first-class manner.

That old mobile home pro shop was more of a first-class operation with Reif running it than any of those new buildings will be without him. I hope the new owner hires him back.

7) *Whoops*. Following my wonderful round at Crystal Downs, I drove up the Michigan shoreline with my buddy, John Berman, to Traverse City to check out the Grand Traverse Resort. After spending 15 minutes there we decided to head south toward Grand Rapids, where we were supposed to play the following day.

I checked the map and then pulled out across a busy, four-lane highway. I didn't see a white Taurus station wagon barreling toward my Toyota Celica. Before the driver could barely touch her brakes she plowed into my door.

As a precaution I was taken to a Traverse City hospital. My buddy John and the four people in the other car weren't badly hurt, either. That was amazing since the collision occurred when the other car was traveling around 50 mph.

Strapped to a stretcher inside the ambulance, my first thought was, "They weren't kidding when they said seat belts save lives."

My second thought was, "I hope my clubs are OK."

My third thought was, "Gee, I'm glad I did this after I played Crystal Downs."

8) *A refreshing outlook*. It was a beautiful, late-summer day when my buddy, Scott Schwendeman and I were teamed on the back 9 at Odana Hills with two gentlemen, both of whom are over 70 years old. One of them had been pronounced dead-on-

arrival at a local hospital a few months earlier after an aneurysm reached his aorta. The miracles of medicine saved him, however, and on the day he played with me he shot a 3-under par 33. His friend shot a 35.

Throughout the round they were laughing and telling stories, enjoying every minute of it. They had already walked 18 holes and were thinking

about walking 9 more.

The man who had nearly died a few months later and, according to his friend, was still not entirely out of the woods, pulled me aside one time and explained why he was so happy.

He said, quite simply, "Forget I'm playing well, life is too short not to enjoy a beautiful day like this."

*Amen.* 🙏

## Editorial



# HUGO and ROSSI— *They're Both Right On This One*

By Monroe S. Miller

Frank Rossi's trip to our fall business meeting was a good idea. He met some more of our members, had an opportunity to discuss his vision of the turfgrass management program at Wisconsin for the next couple of years, and presented an outline of a number of research projects he has in mind.

He also came up with a good idea. After listening to conversation about how to improve attendance at the autumn business meeting, he stood up and basically asked, "why don't you hold this meeting immediately after the Symposium?"

Sometimes it takes an outsider to come up with the obvious.

The arguments in favor of such an idea are persuasive. It would eliminate a trip for most of us, a trip that comes when time is precious and we are busy getting Wisconsin golf courses ready for winter.

The Symposium is a huge draw. It is difficult to imagine most WGCSA members wouldn't stay around for another hour to attend the meeting.

This new idea of Rossi's eliminates a lot of planning on the part of the board—no additional arrangements for a meeting room or meals would have to be made.

And I've got to believe that our busi-

ness meeting attendance would be greater this way, even if some members did not stay for it. That's the whole idea in a nutshell.

The WGCSA board has wrestled with participation problems at this meeting for as long as I have been a member. In fact, I presided over a meeting one year that had only a dozen people in the audience. It was a grim scene.

We all understand the problems with the timing. Then in some years, bad weather and attending road problems has dictated who could even get there. Rossi's idea solves that, as well.

I believe the officers and board should let Rossi's suggestion be an incitement to action. A new idea like this shouldn't be dreaded or painful—a lot of the purpose of a governing body is to make sure the best ideas have a chance to prevail.

Ideas won't keep; something needs to be done about them. My recommendation is that when the board plans the 1993 Association calendar, the fall business meeting is scheduled to convene immediately after the Symposium concludes.

Victor Hugo, nearly a century and a half ago, wrote about "an idea whose time has come." I think Professor Rossi's idea is one of those. 🙏

**DON'T  
FORGET**

**The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association  
Winter Conference and Trade Show**

January 12 & 13, 1993 • Oconomowoc, Wisconsin