



TWO WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

By Monroe S. Miller

It seems lately that everybody on the faculty in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the UW-Madison is retiring. Some of us fear we'll know no one on campus before long. The real cause, I suspect, for people like me feeling downcast about faculty retirements is these events mark the end of an era that included our years on campus, years when we were happy-go-lucky college students. Retirements are reminders to those my age that we are smack in the middle of middle age.

I simply cannot believe that Professor Edward Hasselkus and Professor Marsh Finner are leaving their positions on the CALS faculty. Both men have been influential in the golf course industry during their careers.

There are similarities between the two. Both are Wisconsin natives and were raised on family farms—Marsh in western Wisconsin and Ed in southeastern Wisconsin. Both received all of their education at the UW-Madison and have spent the entirety of their academic careers at their alma mater.

They are two of the most civil, pleasant and entirely friendly men you'll ever meet in any walk of life.

And in their field of study, their reputations among colleagues are sterling. I am better for having known each of them.

Common ground they shared on the Madison campus was a love of teaching, not always a plentiful commodity at a research institution like Madison. Dr. Hasselkus was one of the three best instructors I had while I was a student. He was demanding and had high expectations of his students. But his enthusiasm for landscape plants was an inspiration. I'll be forever grateful to all I learned from him. My feelings about Ed Hasselkus are shared by all I know who have been his students, which includes all the WGCSA members who are Madison alums. Thousands of students in agricultural engineering feel the same way about Marsh Finner.

These men have received prestigious awards far too numerous to note here. Suffice to say they are highly respected among their professional peers.

Hasselkus may be known by more WGCSA members than Finner; Marsh's extensive help to our industry is probably known by far too few. Let

me use these lines to tell you what Kussow, Koval, Worf, Newman, Harrison, Miller and some others know about Marsh.

Since 1983 he has been the Director of the UW-Madison Agricultural Research Stations. He was a strong partner and supporter of the O.J. NOER TURFGRASS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FACILITY. The facility has been in his charge during its entire existence and the manager works for him. His help was invaluable in getting the station up and running. His concern since then has been tremendous—keeping the manager's position filled, helping add 20 acres, constant upgrading of equipment and services, and more. And he has done it with no fanfare, only satisfaction in knowing he was helping one of Wisconsin's premier agricultural industries. We owe him a debt of gratitude.

During the reflection that naturally goes on during retirements like these, the ultimate question I ask is "did each of these men make a difference?"

The answer, for both, is a resounding YES. Their positions will be filled, but they'll never be replaced. ♣

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