

# Remembering Leo Feser

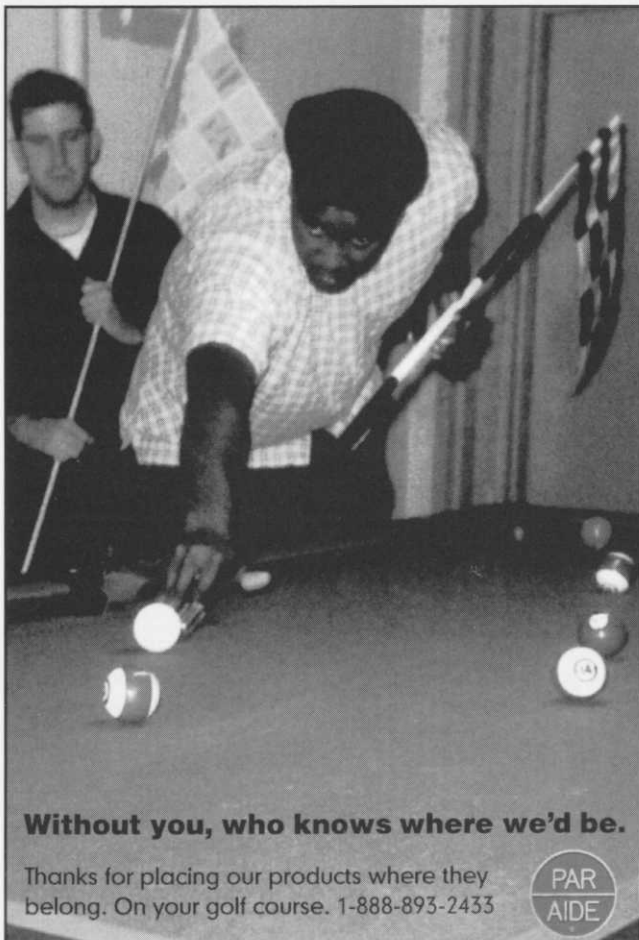
By JACK KOLB

Leo Feser was born in the village of Orono in 1899 from immigrant German parents – He contracted polio as a very young boy (age 8) and was unable to walk for much of his young life. A neighbor boy and school chum, Albert Crosby, would borrow his dad's horse and buggy to pick up his buddy Leo Feser and "cruise" the Lake Minnetonka area. Albert Crosby's family were part-of and became Washburn Crosby Company which abbreviated became WCCO or the Radio and Television WCCO. Also, they were the founders of General Mills. Leo Feser by his own strong will and therapy (by Dr. Abbot of Abbot hospital) was able to walk with the use of a cane and became quite mobile. Leo graduated from High School and

decided to take some agricultural courses at the University of Minnesota Agriculture School. This was a technical college similar to those of today majoring in agricultural courses.

In the meantime – the young lady that he (Leo) courted eventually became his wife. And she had an interesting background. Her ancestry arose from a Swiss-Southern gentleman by the name of Charles Ice who originally had settled in Kentucky. He moved to Indiana in order to join the Union forces during the Civil War. When the Civil War was at an end he moved back to Kentucky but found that he was an unpopular figure because he had fought on the "wrong side." Mr. Ice decided to move as far away from the South as it was possible

to travel. Thus, he wound up on a hilly farm adjacent to and part of what is now Woodhill Country Club. His land (Mr. Ice's) eventually was bought by and became known as Dunwoody Farms. The Ice's eldest son, also named Charles, became the village blacksmith of Wayzata and later moved his trade to Excelsior. Leo Feser in the meantime bought a small plot of land in Orono which had been platted-out for homes. Since there was a World War raging (WW I) the plots weren't selling too well and when Leo Feser would finish paying for his plot he would take options on other plots, and with money loaned by his friend Albert Crosby, eventually owned quite a large piece of real-estate in Orono.



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