

MAAGCS Honorary Member

L. W. "Brownie" Brown

By Ken Ingram

The MAAGCS lost a great friend and one of our Honorary Members on March 4th with the passing of L.W. Brown, or "Brownie" to everyone who knew him. He was 87 years old. I find myself writing about another one of our members from Tom Brokaw's Greatest Generation and it's very awkward. I'm not half the man that these guys were, they went to war as teenagers, came home to work and build the worlds greatest economy, raised families and never seemed to ask anything in return. (Brownie would damned sure tell you about it all though.) Brownie was a native of Missouri. He met George Cornell in the Army Air Corp in WWII. He moved to Maryland after the war in 1947 to work with George Cornell and John Connolly with the G.L. Cornell Company. Superintendent's from that era told me Brownie would give you the shirt off his back to help you out. The staff at G.L. Cornell was so well thought of by the MAAGCS that at one time four men, George Cornell, John Connolly, L.W. Brown, and Ken Baker were all Honorary Members.

Back in the late 1940's and through the 1950's the MAAGCS December meeting was hosted by the G.L. Cornell Company and Superintendents were treated like kings. This is a portion of our minutes from December 1949:

"Approximately 100 members and guests of this association were the guests of the G.L. Cornell Co. in Bethesda and were served a delicious steak and oyster dinner. A regular meeting was scheduled for this time but President McRae decided not to call a meeting to order because there was no important business to be transacted. Also, the refreshments served before dinner put those present in the proper frame of mind for conversation- a meeting was almost impossible! Mr. Cornell, as usual did a fine job as host and Brownie made sure that each man present was served a juicy steak cooked on the charcoal grille exactly as ordered. L.R. Shields, Secretary."

These December get-togethers grew too large for the confines of the G.L. Cornell Company and evolved into parties at the GCSAA National Conferences but the hospitality never changed and Brownie was always there. He retired in 1984.

Brownie was married for 65 years. He had three daughters and a son Bill who we all know at the G.L. Cornell Co. today. If you weren't lucky enough to have met Brownie, Bill has the act down pretty well. He stops whatever he's doing, great handshake, quick with a joke, the smile never leaves his face, and he finds the information or part you need no matter what it takes.

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