

- Bob Ellarson -

It was the fall, October of 1956, when I first met Robert S. Ellarson, wildlife Education Specialist U. of Wisconsin Madison. I had been employed at the cons Dept for two months, and to get acquainted with Wisconsin, wis cons ed programs, and to really find out, in a hurry, I was formed out or assigned to the best available person to teach a novice or green recruit.

Al Jorgensen - Iny Sembre & Roy Skindfelt made this decision for Bob Ellarson & me. Both of us were new kids on our jobs. Yes, you guessed it. Since Bob had replaced "Ranger Mac" or William McNeil Sr, as Education Specialist at U-W ext, we went to Ephraim woods at Wis Dells. The state H-H camp was in the process of being developed as a summer camp, and Ranger Mac (prof Emeritus) was the caretaker. It was an eye-opener for me. I was dressed in my field uniform, my left-over army boots, left over khakis, and a green army fatigue jacket. Bob, of course used his traditional Red wing boots, <sup>red</sup> plaid shirt.

Bob as I recall, was driving a red chevvy station wagon, that was his main vehicle for business, hunting & dog hauling.

Ranger Mars opening words were: "what are you young whippersnappers doing here?" Followed by a finger pointing - "who are you?" Bob patiently introduced us & I was indoctrinated <sup>the parking area</sup> to the H-H camp, its programs & Mission for Education. We quickly agreed schools could use this seasonal facility in April & May - Sept & Oct. when not being used by H-H Members. - We also visited schools, school camps, county H-H facilities. Bob was an excellent mentor for me also. & that was only the first week of many years of cooperative ventures.

~~The~~ ENRCSA, Natural Res council of state agencies was another organization we and fellow educators from OPL, Utah State college system, Dept of Trans, Resource Development Dept, Water pollution committee that met monthly. Now defunct, this council was geared to cooperatively develop cons ed programs, materials, teachers workshops & jointly publish these findings. It was an excellent approach, because, (in my observation) it was one that was sorta based on mutual distrust. All agencies showed up to prevent any one group getting a leg up, or to hog the results (at least take credit for the happenings. Being junior

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in our respective Depts, often Bob had to represent the college in the Deans absence or extenuation. I recall Dean Baldwin, Levoigt, Angus Rothwell & other top adm would give orders to write down "who said what." I will understand now, why this council is history, but we had fun. You folk know these comments can be made now, because few if any of the top adm are around to refute them. Besides they're mostly true.

### State cons. curriculum committee.

This committee was formed during the dust bowl years. Little rain, poor crops and lots of wind-driven soil. an exchange program, zeeis sent its soil to Mich, Ohio New York & Nebraska & the Dakotas sent its soil to Minn & Wis. Dept of pub Inst operated this committee & we actually did some good. Tied in with teacher Ed, curriculum & visual aids, Bibliography, a number of school teachers, County teacher colleges, St college system, UW system / school & U-W Est, USOA & the WCO. Bob was usually the anchor or chair of the wildlife Fisheries units or chapters, which tied in with ~~the~~ <sup>his</sup> Radio program, the wonderful World of Nature. all of us actually made a difference Bob was way ahead of stocking people, firmly & adamantly insisted upon habitat

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requirements. He patiently explained the needs of these baby birds, food cover, or a <sup>safe</sup> place to sleep, a <sup>safe</sup> place to eat hot foods, a place to hide & place to play. Bob was an excellent teacher. Bob always felt we should meet in places where we could visit, see & touch the message or plan we were developing. I miss his wisdom. Trees For Tomorrow, again as our biological awareness watch-dog, Bob as an advisor along with Fred Trunk & Ted Peterson & Foster, pushed for a well-rounded program. Iota embraced the paper mills & power companies (which by the way were financial supporters of trees for tomorrow) by suggesting tours include logging operations, paper mill discharges both air & water. would lean back in his chair, with a deep chuckle & observe squirming & embraced company representatives. after a few sessions Bob Ellanson was not as active. I believe the reason given was "the notice of the meeting was lost in the mail", we still shared rides to those meetings. These gentle, yet printed observations did have an effect upon all of us. Thank you Bob.

Teachers Workshops - Inservice training, Regional workshops and 4 <sup>state</sup> <sup>wide</sup> <sup>cons</sup> <sup>educator</sup> meetings. Bob was always involved, often a group leader in the outdoor classroom

setting. Many of these were held at the District School Forest, Madison, Waupun, Eau Claire, Merrill, Manitowish, Eau Claire are a few that I recall. Bob was an avid supporter of hunter safety, learning to use firearms as a tool of Wildlife Management. Non-hunting species were as vital and critical as the huntable species. I recall his explanation of "English" house sparrow management at a early morning bird hike at Green Lake. Amundson Baptist assembly grounds. Discourage nesting areas, open holes in logs etc. What if that doesn't work? In his typical good natured & gentle manner he stated - "Learn to Love them". Really don't know if he actually said that, but heck I do, cause I was with him.

### Bob as a person

Bob Elarson enjoyed a good story and heaven knows he always had a reply to most any situation. Gee, I wish I could have him reinforce our dear Biologist and my personal recommendations on today's deer - Buck-doe (ostensibly we are enjoying a friendship) enduring today. He'd say, "shoot them". Be sensible, address the problem & that's the solution.

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on one of our joint ventures we took a side trip to Murill Wis. Why, you ask? to pick up some wool at the Murill Woolen Mills. He picked up a couple bags of wool scraps or trimmings, to sew & draid wool rugs. Jean, you must remember those activities. This mother & this is a Quote from her.

See Bob or Robert, "I wish you could get a good job so you <sup>or Jean</sup> would not have to make rag rugs." "Then you could buy some real store-bought carpet."

one time in the early fall, we stopped at our family farm - just east of here - near Sunset Lake - town of New Hope. Why? Because the world series were on & Bob & Dad spent an hour or so watching one of the games. I mention this because not every one is (in my egotistical opinion) worthy of sharing my most valuable & personal experiences with my family - Mom & Dad - also shared Bob's mother's job concerns. when I retired from DNR 7 yrs ago, Dad stated, now you can get a real job, a worthy one.

Hunting - Some of the best times, though not many of them were spent hunting. Bob was a methodical, efficient hunter. When we shot some Quail in March 40 years ago, he recited the history, needs & demise of

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quail due to changing land uses. He loved dogs, hunting dogs & Leon & Bob were inductive to a number of puppies. I saved many papers & he used them for puppy training. Bob related to me the year he spent in one of the western states, during the depression years of the 30's, working sparse gold fields with his uncle. His job was of course to supply the camp with meat. Elk mostly as I recall.

The last dozen years or so, our jobs changed. He had sound students, assignments as a barium committee & a sundry of Univ assignments. I also was caught up in the great paper shuffle of a state hierarchy.

Bob has left us a great legacy. He provided sound solid leadership. He shared his thoughts, ideals and mission in life. Ecologically conscious, concern for others and a better world for all.

Bob Ellanson was my friend - and yours  
Thank you.