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Dedication

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Dedication

It was in 1955 that I first visited North Dakota at the invitation of my dear friend, Judge Charles Vogel of Fargo. While I was there, we played a little golf and I had the pleasure of meeting Ross Tisdale.

Ross was a champion golfer in my book and quickly took us for our usual cleaning. In fact, he had cut his professorial "eye teeth" while he was "moonlighting" on a mowing machine on a local Grand Forks golf course. In those days, the going wage for law professors was so paltry that many of them were obliged to take on several jobs. Ross, however, required only the one at the country club. He not only cut the grass on the fairways, but he also "took" the golfers on the greens. He started the old dictum: "Drive for show but putt for dough."

Ross Tisdale had come to the Law School when it had only a handful of students. Indeed, when I returned in 1967 for his 30 year celebration, he told me that he had seen the time when some classes only had three or four students in attendance. I know, though, that he taught them with the same enthusiasm as he would a class of fifty. He knew what the future held for the Law School and he never lost a day — even with three or four students — to do best that which lies clearly at hand. That is all there is to greatness.

Benjamin Franklin remarked from his death bed that he would rather have it said that "he lived usefully, than that he died rich." This we can say about Ross Tisdale. And we can add about his life and death the soothing words of Edward Hazen Parker:

Life's race well run,
Life's work well done,
Life's victory won.
Now, cometh rest.



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