Casting the Movie

After a long day completing the bird injury determination, everybody was ready to celebrate with a couple of beers. After a while, they began to joke, and their humor naturally turned to the people in their midst on the Green Bay damage assessment. Somehow, they decided that somebody should make a movie about the Green Bay case, and they started wondering how to cast it. Soon, they were identifying movie characters for every real person in the entire assessment, which they found hilarious. Two were so apropos that they continued to recall and laugh about it for decades. First, Bruce Baker was the ill-fated, Machiavellian, genius, Vizzini, played by Shawn Wallace in The Princess Bride, and not only from the too-obvious physical similarities between Baker and Wallace. Allen and his comrades easily envisioned Baker lecturing Fish and Wildlife with glee:

"...You've beaten my giant, which means you're exceptionally strong, so you could've put the poison in your own goblet, trusting on your strength to save you, so I can clearly not choose the wine in front of you. But, you've also bested my Spaniard, which means you must have studied, and in studying you must have learned that man is mortal, so you would have put the poison as far from yourself as possible, so I can clearly not choose the wine in front of me..."

"...You only think I guessed wrong! That's what's so funny! I switched glasses when your back was turned! Ha ha! You fool! You fell victim to one of the classic blunders - the most famous of which is "never get involved in a land war in Asia" - but only slightly less well-known is this: "Never go in against a Sicilian when death is on the line"! Ha ha ha ha ha ha! Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha! Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha...[Falls dead.]"

Second, Bill Hartwig's assistant was the irrepressible idea man, Bill Blazejowski, played by Michael Keaton in Night Shift. Again, a vision emerged, this time of the assistant talking into a cassette recorder during Green Bay meetings with the attorneys:

"...Wanna know why I carry this tape recorder? To tape things. See, I'm an idea man Chuck, I get ideas all day long. I can't control them. I can't even fight 'em..."

"...What if you mix the mayonnaise in the can, WITH the tunafish? Or... hold it! Chuck! I got it! Take LIVE tunafish, and FEED 'em mayonnaise! Oh this is great..."

Most of the time, the team was deadly serious, but Allen cherished the memories of teamwork and camaraderie as much as the substance of his work. He talked with colleagues occasionally, even after retiring from consulting, and they all still reminisced about their accomplishments together, as well as their struggles, and of course the humorous adventures that they sometimes shared.