BRIEFS

CENTURY RAIN, BANKS SUPPLY MERGE

Two of Florida's largest irrigation suppliers, Century Rain Aid and the irrigation division of Banks Supply have merged their Florida operations, creating a network of 10 branches across the west coast of Florida. The newly merged Banks outlets, now called Century Rain Aid (Banks Irrigation Division). Century operates 22 branches in seven states, supplying irrigation equipment, pumps, landscape lighting, fountains, and drainage products to the golf market.

NAME CHANGE FOR BLOCK SYSTEMS

MINNEAPOLIS — Block Systems, Inc., created the addition of the Conus, Windsor Stone, Arttech and Sahara Stone retaining wall systems, has officially changed its name to Anchor Wall Systems, Inc.

In addition, American Masonry Products, the current Minneapolis office, has merged with Anchor Wall Systems, thus joining the corporate headquarters. The merger means a comprehensive base of services offered to Anchor's customers nationwide. National divisions will include licensing, commercial, DIY/retail, specifying, research and development, and marketing.

WHEELER JOINS ROOTSINC

Bruce Wheeler has been hired as the western region sales manager for ROOTSInc, a division of LISA Product Corporation. Wheeler is responsible for the distribution and sales of the company's ROOTS, ironROOTS and NorburN brand products in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Idaho and New Mexico. Wheeler comes to LISA from the Carrier Company in Palm Springs, where he spent two years servicing the desert golf and landscape markets. He's a licensed pest control adviser and qualified applicator.

PARKWAY ADDS CONSAN LINE

PARKWAY Research Corporation has announced the addition of the Consan product line to its operations. Acquired by PARKWAY in November of 1991, the Consan line includes Triple Action 20, the triple quaternary amine formula, EPA-approved for greenhouse disinfecting applications and for direct application to ornamental plants, grasses and trees. For more information on Houston-based PARKWAY Research Corporation and the complete Consan product line, call 1-800-256-3668.

Toro puts safety tips on video

MINNEAPOLIS — The Toro Company and the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company have developed the nation's first comprehensive operator safety education program for the commercial turf maintenance industry.

Specifically designed for golf course employees, the three-pronged program — video, audio and written — responds to the significant number of injuries related to turf maintenance activities. In 1989, for example, more than 75,000 turf maintenance-related accident victims were admitted to hospital emergency rooms.

In addition to human injury, the economic loss can be devastating, said Mike Billings, vice president of the St. Paul Fire and Marine's Risk Management Services Division. More than 25 percent of workers' compensation claims by golf course maintenance employees are mower related, said Billings, who noted this results in an average cost of $3,600 per claim.

“We're addressing the need for an easy-to-understand yet thorough safety program that stresses how critical it is to routinely follow safety measures when operating turf equipment,” said Billings.

Added Jim Seibert, senior attorney for Toro: “The ultimate goal for both companies is to see a drop in the number of accidents associated with cutting equipment. We want to correct the 'It-can't-happen-to-me' attitude.”

The Turf Maintenance Equipment Safety Education Program addresses 28 different safety areas related to commercial cutting equipment. Covered are procedures to follow before and during operation, as well as when merely working around operating equipment.

The information is delivered in a simple-language, multiple-format style which incorporates a video tape, audio tape, written government grant backs AgriDyne on pyrethrin study

SALT LAKE CITY — The United States Department of Commerce has approved a $1.2 million grant for AgriDyne Technologies Inc. to research an innovative new process for developing pyrethrin, a botanical insecticide.

AgriDyne will match the Advanced Technology Program grant, spending more than $3 million over the next three years to formulate a method to increase domestic pyrethrin supplies.

Pyrethrin, an insecticide found in chrysanthemum, is believed to kill insects on contact, have low toxicity for mammals, and degrade shortly after application. It is not known to produce harmful residues.

Utah-based AgriDyne proposes to use genetic engineering to develop a way to produce large amounts of the pyrethrin product normally generated in the flower. This intermediate product—which would then be converted to yield an almost unlimited supply of pyrethrin—is also important in the manufacturing of synthetic pyrethroids.

"Being selected... represents outside confirmation of our pyrethrin technology." — Eric Hale, AgriDyne president

EPA considering emission controls for maintenance equipment — mowers included

The Environmental Protection Agency could recommend emission control regulations for construction equipment this September and smaller motorized golf course maintenance equipment next spring, according to an EPA official.

The federal agency will decide by September whether to propose regulations for tractors and bulldozers, according to Michael Scott, public liaison officer for golf course issues. No such regulations presently exist. The EPA is testing equipment at its Ann Arbor, Mich., facility to determine if such regulations are necessary. If the agency believes they are, the EPA will invite public comments 60 days before making any final recommendations, Scott said.

Manufacturers could be greatly

Continued on page 47

Continued on page 46

GOLFCOURSE NEWS
SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Deere Lawn & Grounds Division at home in N.C.

RALEIGH, N.C. — The complete Lawn & Grounds Care Division of John Deere — established in 1991 as a separate operating division of the company — is now operating from its new division offices in Raleigh, N.C.

The Lawn & Grounds Care Sales Branch had been operating out of Raleigh for more than a year. However, the entire division moved to North Carolina effective June 1, with Jeffrey Gredivg as general manager of division administration. The branch office works with the dealer network. The new Division Administration office coordinates activities of sales branches and Lawn & Grounds Care Division factories. It also provides such support services as product development, marketing, public relations, sales and administration.

“We've located the Division office in Raleigh because this city is centrally located for close support of our major markets,” Gredivg explained. “We'll more effectively focus our efforts to take full advantage of sales and marketing opportunities. We're encouraged by our growth in the lawn and turf equipment industry and expect to build on a solid foundation through the 1990s and into the next century.”

The Lawn & Grounds Care Division can now be reached at this number: 919-954-6420.

TOCA elects '92-'93 officers; awards $1,000 scholarship

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Bob Tracinski, public relations manager for John Deere, was elected president of the Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association at the group's recent meeting here.

Also elected to the TOCA executive board were Vice President Dale F. Keller Jr., of Public Relations Management Inc.; Secretary/Treasurer Jose Milan of Ciba-Geigy Turf and Ornamental Products; and Directors Bruce Shank of Adams Publishing Corp. and Julie DeYoung of Fleishman-Hillard, Inc. Jerry Roche of Advanstar Communications will continue to serve on the board as past president.

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Michele M. Thomas of Shawnee Hills was awarded a $1,000 scholarship by the Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association at the group's recent meeting here. Thomas is a horticulture major at Ohio State University.

Funding for the scholarship was made possible through donations by GIE Publishing and Advanstar Communications.

“One of TOCA's purposes is to encourage people to be considerate of the green industry journalism as a career,” said TOCA President Bob Tracinski of John Deere. “Our scholarship fund is an excellent way to fulfill that goal.”

Two additional scholarship sponsors — Johnson Hill Press and Adams Communications Co. — will allow TOCA to offer two $1,000 awards in 1993.

Jacobsen teams with Mile High

RACINE, Wis. — Jacobsen Textron has announced an agreement with Mile High Turf Equipment, Inc. to distribute the company's professional turf care equipment in Colorado. Mile High is located at 1901-C Leroy Drive in Northglenn. The phone number is 303-280-2272.

In other news at Jacobsen, John Busuttil has been named field service specialist. Busuttil will provide technical support and product training for Jacobsen distributors in the midwestern United States, plus Manitoba and Quebec.

EPA emissions

Continued from page 44

affected by any new regulations, Scott said. New laws could also affect golf course superintendents if EPA determines existing vehicles need retrofitting with pollution control devices. Scott said any new regulations would likely involve only new vehicles, however.

Research on smaller equipment — including golf cars, mowers and trimming equipment — should be complete by December, Scott said.

If emission control regulations are again deemed necessary, a public comment period would follow. That means regulations could be in place for smaller, motorized equipment next spring, Scott explained.

GOLF COURSE NEWS