Industry loses irrigation 'revolutionary'

EDWIN J. HUNTER
1918-1998

SAN DIEGO — Irrigation pioneer and entrepreneur Edwin J. Hunter died here peacefully on January 23. He was 80 years old. The announcement was made by Richard E. Hunter, chief executive officer of Hunter Industries.

Hunter, an inventor and businessman, was the founder of Hunter Industries, one of the world's leading manufacturers of irrigation equipment for turf and landscape. He had been retired from the company for three years.

Well-known throughout the landscape industry, Mr. Hunter held more than 150 U.S. patents for turf and landscape irrigation products, many still applicable today. His career in manufacturing and the development of landscape irrigation products spanned nearly 50 years.

In the early 1950's, Mr. Hunter launched the Moist-O-Matic Co. in Riverside, where he pioneered the use of thermoplastics in the manufacture of irrigation equipment. He developed multi-station hydraulic controllers and valves, along with a line of plastic pop-up sprinklers with geared rotors.

Many of these products were revolutionary at the time, and are still the industry standard today.

Hunter “retired” in 1981 and founded Hunter Industries in San Marcos. Joined by his sons, Paul and Richard Hunter, and daughter, Ann Hunter Welborn, Mr. Hunter built the new business from a small family enterprise into an international manufacturer of sprinklers, valves and controllers with more than $100 million in annual sales.

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Raymond F. Loving Jr., a fellow of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, died Jan. 5. He was 71. During his career, Loving designed many courses, including Waters Edge in Penhook, Va.; Winters Run in Bell Air, Md.; Foundry in Midlothian, Va.; Lake Monticello in Palmyra, Va.; and Bluegrass Country Club in Ruckersville, Va.

An excellent golfer, “Buddy” Loving was trained in golf course architecture by his father and grandfather. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia and went on to earn an additional degree from Phillips College. Loving also took courses in landscape architecture, turfgrass science and financial management at Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

In 1946, he began working for the golf course design and construction company his father and grandfather established. For a period in the late 1950s, Loving served as a partner in a company that handled original designs and constructed layouts by other designers, called Golf America. In the mid-1970s, Mr. Loving resumed a solo practice in golf course architecture.

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