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ASSOCIATES' CORNER

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND GROWTH

by JOHN R. HOPKO
Turfgrass Specialist
Northrup King Company

Northrup King Company celebrated its 100th Anniversary in January of 1984. Two young men, Jessie E. Northrup and Charles P. Broslan, started a small seed store in the autumn of 1884. On November 4, 1896 a new company was formed when Preston King joined Mr. Northrup. This established the name Northrup King replacing the name of "Polar Seeds".

In 1916 after several years of considerable growth, the present plant and international headquarters was constructed at 15th Avenue and Jackson Street Northeast. This plant still serves as the center of distribution.

The company employs over 2,000 people and markets seeds in over 60 countries.

Turf research began with trial grounds established in 1948 at the Eden Prairie Research Station. In 1953 Howard Kaerwer was given the responsibility of Manager, Research-Service Department. His efforts along with others produced many of the improved varieties that we have used and continue to use today.

During the 1960's N.K. released NK100. This was the first improved turf-type perennial ryegrass made available to market.

In 1972 NK200 was released followed by several improved varieties of bluegrass, ryegrass and fescue.

continued on Page 13
1974 saw the beginning of what was to become Northrup King's Professional Turfgrass Products Division.

Larry Vetter came on board in 1977 with N.K. and it is largely his efforts that started the department we now know as Medalist Turf Products rolling.

Although few in numbers, we in Medalist have tried to offer a quality product, professional expertise and information when needed along with ongoing support for the M.G.C.S.A.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you in the Association who continue to support our efforts along with the efforts of an excellent group of distributors in the state who continue to service you with Medalist Turf Products.

CUSHMAN ADDS NEW LINE

SNS Motor Imports, Inc. is pleased to announce the appointment of its new Sanfu TPV600 dealer, Cushman Motor Company, Inc. in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Sanfu TPV600 vehicle is an off road personnel and utility vehicle being distributed throughout the United States with golf course maintenance being one of its primary usages. Mr. Jerry Commers of Cushman Motor Company, Inc. has indicated a great confidence in Minnesota golf course applications due to the vehicle's superb quality and performance, utilizing such standard features as a 27 h.p. water cooled engine mounted over the rear wheels and turf tires. Options such as a cab top, doors and heater further enhance its all weather capabilities.

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