Kessen pipe-puller laying pipe. Puller works from a starter slit trench and pulls pipe through soil without trenching. On some jobs, puller can cut pipe placement time in half when compared to trenching.

Landscape Industry Has Changed In Last Generation

Allen Kessen, grandson of Anthony Kessen who founded the A. Kessen & Sons landscaping firm at Denver, Colo., and now a principal in the firm, points up the great changes in the industry during the past generation.

When the Kessen business was started in the '30s, Kessen says, "there were no large developers in home building. There were no industrial parks, few golf courses, sprinkler systems were practically unheard of, municipal work was done by government agencies. When the industry grew, we had to grow. Today, big builders require a landscape contractor who can provide the complete line of services; they require someone large enough and established enough to handle the whole job."

The Kessen firm, now doing $2 million in business yearly, has just completed two athletic fields for the U.S. Air Force Academy. Work included cuts and fill, irrigation systems, top soil and 1.3 million square feet of sodding.

Nationwide alumni of the winter course in turfgrass management at Penn State University have presented a second annual turfgrass research grant of $1,500 to the department of agronomy. Dr. James L. Starling, left, department head at Penn State, receives the check from Frank Dobie of Sharon Center, Ohio, alumni chairman.