But I also hope that we will be tolerant men. That we can appreciate the good and variety of people in this world. That none of us will show our stupidity of judging people by the race they belong to, or the country and culture they came from. I hope we will be tolerant of other peoples' opinions. That we will not condemn persons because they hold views different from our own. By all means let's cling to our convictions and act on them decisively. But always keep a corner of our minds free to allow for the possibility that we may be wrong.

And finally, I hope we will be courageous men. I'm not speaking of "punching some one in the nose" when we are wronged. That's not courage, but childishness. I'm speaking of courage to place principle above reputation. I know I may not always agree with our actions and beliefs. But secretly I have to admire a person for the courage to stand publicly as a lonely minority for what he believes to be right.

Life has its ups and downs. There may be times when we may misunderstand each other. There may be times when we may get angry with each other. And there may be times which will try our fellowship. But I hope underneath it all will be a deep, abiding, and mutual interest able to grow through any crisis we may be faced with in the Midwest.

Ed Wollenberg, President

JAMES L. HOLMES JOINS AGRI-SYSTEMS

James L. Holmes, Mid-continent director of the USGA Green Section until March 1, 1969, has joined Agri-Systems of Texas, Inc., Bryan, Texas. He is once again associated with Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, his former boss with the Green Section for 12 years. Agri-Systems was formed and designed to be active in all phases of golf course design, construction, reconstruction, consultation and irrigation. The company is prepared and staffed to perform any phase of golf course building or golf turf endeavor. As well as Holmes, the technical staff includes Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, known throughout the world as a leading turf scientist, Herman R. Johnson, a Texas A&M University graduate, a former golf course superintendent and an irrigation authority. E. Earl Merrill, Jr., member of the American Institute of Architects and John R. Darrah, member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects are associated.

Turf grasses will be another adjunct to the comprehensive activities of Agri-Systems. Various type stolons, primarily of improved and selected bermudagrasses and Zoysia will be available. Sod, of selected varieties, is being grown. Agri-Systems hopes to become active in improved-strain selection work, in the future.

A soil testing laboratory has already turned out hundreds of physical soil analyses which specify a soil mix for greens. These specified soil mixtures are designed to most effectively control soil compaction-moisture-air relationships for culture of putting green turf. The laboratory also is equipped to do other soil and atmosphere testing, which encompases contamination and pollution.

The entire staff of Agri-Systems will be active throughout North America, and any other part of the world, where their knowledge, and activity can be put to productive use.

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SEVENTIES

By Dave P. Lage
Golf Markets Manager
AstroTurf Recreational Surfaces

A new age of technology has now arrived for the golf course superintendent. Recent years have seen an increase in the technology available to golf course superintendents through state universities and extension programs as well as state, regional, and national golf course superintendents associations. At one time less than 5% of the superintendents in the U.S. had any formal college education. This percentage has greatly increased during the past 10 years and many superintendents, old and young alike, now are taking advantage of university sponsored "short courses" and degree programs in turf. In the future, courses of this type will have to include the selection and use of "artificial turf." The golf course superintendent of the 1970's will have to be an expert in two fields — natural turf and artificial turf.

AstroTurf® is the only nylon turf with proven golf course performance available on the market today. Its existance is due to recognition by Monsanto of the basic need of many of today's golf courses. Tee areas which were built too small for today's volume of traffic as well as par threes, practice tees, shaded or poorly drained tees are "naturals" for AstroTurf. Reseeding or resodding problem tee areas are expensive both from the material cost and labor cost standpoints. This is worsened by the lack of responsible labor available to the superintendent. In fact many superintendents, especially those near metropolitan areas, claim that help of this type is nearly extinct.

AstroTurf is available in two forms for golf course use — AstroTurf tees and AstroTurf greens.

AstroTurf tees provide a uniform playing surface which is virtually maintenance free and resistant to weather, fungus and insects, etc. Even under extreme high levels of traffic the product retains its original beauty. Tests conducted by an independent engineering firm, interested in using AstroTurf on a golf course of their design, proved the durability of the product. A machine designed to continuously swing the head of a 7 iron in excess of 90 mph (the average speed of a golfer) hit the AstroTurf in one spot 170,000 times at the end of which time it was still not necessary to replace the AstroTurf. AstroTurf tees are easy to install. Golf course superintendents find that Monsanto's AstroTurf tee system is as easy as building a sandbox — in fact, that's what you actually do. Build a sandbox, fill it with sand and stretch the material over the top — tacking to the sandbox with a nailer strip.

Applications of AstroTurf tees are on short iron holes, par 3, practice tees, small tee areas, shaded tees, driving ranges, locker rooms and any high traffic tee area on a golf course.

Indeed the era of synthetics is upon us. Land is becoming more expensive and less available. People have more leisure time and money and golf is receiving the lion's share of both. Synthetic turf can be an important tool in the superintendents bag, and the "superintendent of the Seventies" will make applications of AstroTurf in areas that we at Monsanto have not yet thought of.