

The origin of Penncross bent may not be apparent to many turfgrass managers. When I was Director of the Green Section at Beltsville I helped to test the parents of Penncross bent under stress. Penncross was the first seeded bent ever to produce uniform putting turf. The savings to golf courses have been tremendous. Professor Musser made "an investment in the future". Basically we want the people who have benefited from Musser's work to know and to understand that we, who have created the Musser Foundation, want to help people help themselves. The Turfgrass Research Fellowship Fund that we are building will help to insure the continuance of the excellent work for which Professor Musser was renowned.

The Fellowship Grants will be made on the basis of need and merit. Problems of the most pressing importance will be funded. The research institutions selected may be anywhere but only qualified research facilities will be chosen. The research work that we will finance will be of the highest type.

Our work is non-competitive with other groups in the field (Noer, GCSAA, USGA). We operate on the graduate level through Fellowships. The granting of scholarships is left to others since these are one-time gifts to students who may or may not stay in the turfgrass field. One who spends five years in intensive research study will be less likely to stray from turf.

We ask only sympathetic media exposure to help others understand our unbiased unselfish position. No one in MITF is paid. Since Professor Musser died I have helped to guide the progress of the Foundation for more than ten (10) years with no compensation - only meagre office expenses. Several other directors have been with me the entire time. The money from directors pockets have helped to build our Fellowship Fund. Ads will appear soon which will recognize the many who have contributed. Everyone who benefits or profits from turf should have the chance to help us build the FUND so that their names too, will live in eternity.

THE MUSSER FOUNDATION

A Brief Review

Penncross bent is known and used world wide. It is the product of Burt Musser's genius and dedication. It was one of his "investments in the future". Playing conditions on golf courses have been improved greatly by the use of Penncross bent, the first seeded bent to produce uniform playing surfaces.

Pennlawn fescue has improved millions of lawns and is favored in mixtures with bluegrass for producing quality sod. It, too, was developed under Professor Musser's guiding hand.

The book "Turf Management" was written by Professor Musser under the sponsorship of the U.S. Golf Association. What a boon it has been to golf course superintendents!

Golf course superintendents who studied at Penn State under this pioneer teacher are scattered 'round the world. What a wonderful way to make an "investment in the future" because now they are teaching others.

Among the graduate students who earned (and I mean earned) their Ph.D. degrees at Penn State under this "task master" are:

Dr. James R. Watson, v.p. Toro Co.; 2nd v.p. MITF
Dr. Joseph M. Duich, Prof. Turfgrass Science, PSU;
secretary, MITF (incorporator)
Dr. John C. Harper II, Extension Agronomist, Penn State

These men are leaders - a credit to the profession. The turfgrass industry has been enriched by their activities. We honor the memory of this pioneer in turf by establishing a Turfgrass Research Fellowship Fund in

the Musser Foundation which will perpetually assist deserving graduate students to achieve their degrees and to take their place among the leaders in the turfgrass industry. Some of our current scientists are facing retirement. We must provide for their replacement. These are the men who brought this Living Memorial into being as INCORPORATORS:

Dr. J. M. Duich
Mr. E. R. Steiniger
Mr. Warren A. Bidwell
Mr. Albert W. Wilson II
Dr. Fred V. Grau

Many others have been supportive. The Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council gave it a start when Don Krigger, then president of PTC in 1968, named Grau to head the organizing committee which included names well known in the turf industry: Hallowell, Harper, Mascaro, Miller, Shuman, Sirianni, Stolpe, Steiniger, Tenos, Watson, Wilcox and Wilson. These contributors started the Fellowship Fund with money out of their pockets (total \$475.00):

Philadelphia Toro Co.
Frank I. Shuman
Fred V. Grau
Dr. J. M. Duich
GCSA of N. California

They believed in the future.

Professor Howard Burton Musser initiated turf work at Penn State in 1927. The first turf conference came in 1929. He died in 1968. He was active in organizing the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council in 1955. His work with bluegrasses laid the foundation for Pennstar Kentucky bluegrass. In weed control work he successfully blended chemicals with fertilizers.

The Musser Foundation is one of three non-profit groups which accept contributions and raise funds in other ways in order to perform needed research and to improve the quality of turf and turfgrass management. The Noer Foundation operates independently and does not conflict with Musser Foundation goals and objectives. The third group is the newly-formed American Council for Turfgrass (ACT), a group designed to correlate activities and to provide a unified voice for turf in the nation.

The Musser Foundation has grown slowly partly because many have misunderstood its function. MITF raises money in several ways, all tax-exempt:

- 1) Free-will contributions
- 2) Unitrusts which provide lifetime income (planned giving)
- 3) Memorial giving - funds instead of flowers to yield income forever to help students of turf.
- 4) Turfgrass Benefit Tournaments. There have been twelve of these: 5 in Ohio; 4 in Oregon; 3 in Delaware. One is planned for the Mid-Atlantic region June 12, 1979 at Indian Spring C.C., Silver Spring, MD. This is a painless way to raise money by having fun.
- 5) Turfgrass Research Fellowships named for the donor, \$1,000 each. This approach is designed to let those who profit through sales & services to share with a tax-exempt foundation that will put the money to work for turfgrass improvement across the board. It includes manufacturers, distributors, dealers, seed producers, sod growers, landscape contractors, golf course architects, lawn care companies and others. Actually no one is excluded. Two such fellowships now exist in the names of individuals, Fred V. Grau and Bob Dunning; and one in the name of a seed-growing firm, the Penncross Bentgrass Association.

Dr. Fred V. Grau