

Watching Your Tees & Q's

by Steve Batten and Bud White
United States Golf Association—Green Section
Southeastern Region



MONTY MONCRIEF RETIRES

As of June 30, 1982, James B. (Monty) Moncrief, Director of the USGA Green Section, Southeastern Region, will officially retire. For more than 25 years, Monty through the Green Section, has served over 100 golf courses in Florida. Monty always said he was in the "information sharing business" as he talked about growing turfgrass with his colleagues.

During this time, he was responsible for bringing the first Tifdwarf bermudagrass plug to Dr. Glen Burton in 1961 for field evaluation. Since then, he has continued bringing plugs of natural mutations from golf courses to Tifton, Georgia, hoping to help further improve the section of fine bladed bermudagrasses.

Monty is a member of the American Society of Agronomy and is a certified profession agronomist. He has always supported superintendents association efforts, which is reflected by his membership in 13 of these organizations. Monty has consulted in 19 states and 6 countries outside the U.S. He has just received the A.W. Crain Diamond Award, the highest turfgrass award given in Texas. Other honors include the indoctrination into the Oklahoma Turfgrass Research Foundation Hall of Fame Award in 1977.

When asked what he will do after retirement, Monty said he's going to join the big league and play all those golf courses he visited. That should keep him busy for the next 25 years. If you see Monty playing golf, be sure to remind him of a few simple rules he often spoke of. That is, play the course as you find it, and the ball where it lies.

Monty will remain very active in the Green Section and the turf industry after his retirement. He is part of the new USGA Turfgrass Research Foundation Committee which will fund hundreds of thousands of dollars for turf research over the next years. He will also frequent superintendent association meetings and accept speaking engagements.

Monty Moncrief may get a chance to catch his breath, but he will never retire...we won't let him! ■

Charles "Bud" White, Southeastern Senior Agronomist, will become the Southeastern Regional Director for the USGA following Monty's (semi-) retirement. The office will still be housed on the University of Georgia campus in Athens, Georgia. Since last fall's football season, Bud is the only Clemson grad allowed near the University of Georgia campus.

NEW USGA OFFICE IN FLORIDA

The Southeastern Region of the Green Section now has a new sub-regional office in Florida. This office will be headed by Steve Batten and located in Lake Worth. Steve joined the USGA on February 16, 1982—25 years to the day after Monty began his USGA career. Steve is originally from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and has a BS and MS in agronomy from Oklahoma State University. During the past four years he has been the research associate for Dr. James Beard at Texas A&M University.

The new office in Florida is the product of over ten years of promotion by Monty Moncrief. Florida has over 30% of the total USGA Green Section Membership in the Southeastern Region alone, and boasts of more than 700 golf courses. The new sub-regional office is unique in being one of only two sub-regional offices in the United States. This means that Florida golf course superintendents can take advantage of having local USGA benefits.

Both Bud and Steve are looking forward to sharing their information and talents with the Florida golf course superintendents. ■



Mr. & Mrs. Monty Moncrief