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GCSAA Award Honors Hans Schmeisser Memory

Three Distinguished Service Awards were presented at the 52nd International Turfgrass Conference and Show by the GCSAA. This is our profession's highest honor. The awards were given to Dr. Ralph Engel, research professor in Turfgrass management at Rutgers University; Geoffrey Cornish, golf course architect of more than 170 courses; and Hans Schmeisser, Florida golf course superintendent for over 50 years. He died October 26, 1980, age 88.

The nomination of Schmeisser was a joint movement of South Florida and the Palm Beach chapters. He was the superintendent of Forest Hills Golf Course, West Palm Beach. Even at his advanced age he was still very active in both his local chapters.

To review Schmeisser's career is a journey back into Florida golfing history. Born and educated in his native Germany, he trained in horticulture, after serving in World War I. Upon moving here he worked with Baron Collier to landscape Everglades City. The year was 1929. Several years later he built a resort golf course there. Remember this was 50 years ago! At the time there was less than a dozen courses in the entire state. During the years from 1948 through 1980 he was involved with design, building or rebuilding of over 25 courses with many famous architects. He had been a turf consultant for many clubs throughout the south. People that knew him will remember his high professional standards which are guidelines for all of us today. He was always experimenting with new ideas, grasses, and equipment. He used 2,4-D in experiments six years before it was marketed. In 1951 he was the first to use hybrid turf Bermuda on a golf course. Ray Jensen, noted past president of Southern Turf Nursery, credits Schmeisser with the invention of the fairway sprig planter. Jensen says, "In 1957 he invited us to plant a par three golf course in Lakeland. He had designed the course. This job opened up the opportunity to spread vegetative hybrids to the far corners of the world. Prior to the Lakeland experience our method of planting sprigs was by hand or with a one row tobacco planter. When I told him I had doubts about getting that much grass into the ground, he said not to worry, he would show me how to get it done. When we arrived on the scene, Schmeisser introduced me to the first straight disc planter. When we finished the job, he told me to go home and build my own machine". Dr. Glenn Burton, 1958 Distinguished Service Award recipient said, "I can think of no one who would have a better total record than his." Tom Mascaro, 1976 Distinguished Service Award recipient, said, "I took my first greens aerator to Schmeisser because he would immediately tell me if it was good or not." Jor Konwinski, FTGA president, says. "The integrity, success and professionalism of the golf course superintendents way of life is a result of men like Hans Schmeisser." Bill Wagner, state association president, said, "Pioneers in exploration are often remembered by a body of water or a

land mass; pioneers in science are made famous thru a medicine or chemical; pioneers in space will always be recognized for their daring exploits; but pioneers in a slow developing industry such as ours are most often forgotten. As gradual improvements unfold and cultivate the evolution of a profession which starts out as a relatively obscure job and builds into a position of endless responsibility." ■



Otto Schmeisser accepts award for father Hans.

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TWENTY MINUTES IN THE LIFE OF A GREENS CHAIRMAN

By MELVIN WEINSTEIN
Greens Committee Chairman
Banyan Golf Club

(The following is a fictional account and any resemblance to Banyan Golf Club Members is purely coincidental)

As I opened my car door in the parking lot of the club, a car pulled in right beside me. "Hey, Mel," Bill yelled, "I must tell you the greens are much too fast. You'll have to do something." "O.K.," I muttered, still half asleep. Al jumped out of the car. "Mel," he started, "those greens are much too slow, you've got to get them down," "I'll take care of it," I retorted.

By the time I reached the circle, Eddie accosted me. "Mel, those tee placements yesterday were much too easy. What are we playing, an executive course?" "I'll take care of it," I said. Two steps later, Dave came over. "Mel, those tee placements yesterday were too far back, have a little pity on the older members." "Play the golds," I retorted.

As I approached the walkway, Alan came to me. "Mel," he said, "I've got something very important to tell you. The fairways are cut much too low, can't get a three wood underneath the ball." "I'll take care of it." But Herb, right beside him said, "Mel, those fairways are much too high, the ball doesn't roll at all." "Don't worry," I said, "I'll take care of it."

Halfway down to the pro shop, Gerry came up. "Mel, those pin placements were terrible yesterday, I couldn't make a straight putt. Who are those idiots putting in the cups!" "I'll look into it," I said. Harry, right beside him said, "Don't listen, I thought they were too easy, what are we playing, a Pitch and Putt course." I shook my head.

Two steps into the pro shop, George grabbed my arm. "Mel, the trap sand is horrible. It's so soft my club goes right underneath, you better buy better sand." "I'll take care of it, George," I said. As I turned around, Max tapped my shoulder. "Mel, that lousy sand you're using is too hard. I can't blast out of the traps." "I'll take care of it," I said.

I signed for my golf cart and turned around, looking forward to my trip to the locker room. "Mel," a booming voice beckoned, "those fairways are too narrow. Couldn't hit a fairway all day. You'll have to widen them." "Sure," I said. I was almost out of the shop, when Harold said, "Mel, those fairways are too wide, all you have to do is flail away and not worry. I wish you'd bring them in." "Don't worry," I said.

I managed to reach the locker room safely. As I opened my

locker, Lester arrived and spoke, "Mel, I've got to tell you, those greens are much too hard. The ball bounces and I can't hold them." "Need more top dressing," I muttered. As I pulled my shoes out, Nat spoke, "Those greens are too soft, can't get any run, the ball just holds up. Isn't there anything you can do?" "Too much top dressing," I answered.

One shoe was on when Stan came up. "Mel, the flowers are horrible. I like last years better." "I'll change them," was my answer. Twenty seconds later as I put on the other shoe, Tom said, "Mel, I love the new flowers. I'm glad you got rid of that mess we had last year." "I'm thrilled," I said.

As I got up to leave, Art grabbed my arm. "Mel, we're spending too much time cutting grass. You've got to get rid of the grass around the pond edges. Can't find a ball. Don't you know." "I'll start tomorrow," I said. Lee then approached. "Why are you wasting money around the ponds. A bad shot shouldn't be rewarded, and besides, if you cut it good, I won't be able to find any balls." "You're right," I said.

I looked at the exit door. Maybe I could get to the first tee in a round about way.

As I approached the tee, Steve yelled, "Where have you been! I've got to tell you about the lips on the traps. We must have higher lips. My opponent yesterday putted out three times, closer to the pin. Lips are very important." "Absolutely," I said. As I reached for my driver, Burt came up. "Mel, those lips are too high in the traps, they're totally unfair. Can't get a decent trap shot." "I'll eliminate them tomorrow," I said, as I limped to the tee.

I hit the ball nicely down the fairway. My partner said, "Beautiful swing." My opponent said, "How could you hit the ball with such a lousy swing?"

Oh well, I could hardly wait for lunch, which is traditionally suggestion time.

Editors Note: Mel Weinstein is well grounded in the art of Greenkeeping. He holds the unique position of wearing two hats. Mel is Greens Committee Chairman of Banyan Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida and Spring Valley Country Club in Boston, Massachusetts. Because of his close relationship with golf course superintendents, Mr. Weinstein will be writing more articles for future issues of the Florida Green. ■

JOHN P. HAYDEN CANDIDATE FOR GCSAA BOARD

John P. Hayden, CGCS, the superintendent at San Jose Country Club, is Florida's nominee to the executive board of The Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America and he's ready to apply his experience and expertise to that position.

"I feel strongly that the GCSAA has come a long way, but it has yet to realize its full potential," says Hayden, a 53-year-old father of four. "I see tremendous opportunities for advancement in the area of membership — we'll have solid clout if we can get more clubs represented.



George Sparks, Greens Chairman, San Jose Country Club.

"We must do a better job with our public relations, promoting not only the superintendent and his importance to the game, but promotion of the game itself."

Hayden's career appears to make him uniquely qualified to help guide the national organization. He has worked in the family business, managed a golf course and worked at some of the nation's most prestigious clubs.

A Navy veteran, he entered his family's hardware business in Cassopolis, Michigan, and ran the farm machinery division for eight years. During this time he also ran for — and was elected to — the local school board and the voters found his work worthy enough to send him back nine years.

Then golf lured him; he had the chance to lease a Cassopolis club and things worked well. So well, in fact, that the owners wouldn't renew the lease in 1968 after Hayden had run the club for 10 years. Business was good, so why split the profits with someone else?

"My family and I decided to see what Florida was all about," says Hayden. "We had vacationed there and liked it. An opportunity arose and we took the jump."

Where he jumped was to Coral Springs, a subdivision west of Fort Lauderdale then under construction. He took over the superintendent's job in mid-1970, five months before a PGA Tour event was scheduled, and compliments flowed after the tournament.

The club changed hands in 1971 and Hayden moved on, this time to Jackie Gleason's Inverrary Club just down the road. There he supervised three courses and got the main track ready for the club's inaugural PGA event.



Eddie Snipes, Assistant Superintendent, San Jose Country Club.

By this time, he was recognized as a person who knew how to get a course ready for a major tournament. In 1972, he made another move: he became superintendent at the Augusta National Golf Club, home of the Masters. That was the same year George Fazio was hired by the club to make some changes on the course, and the two worked together to make things click.

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And now private industry winked in his direction. Southern Turf Nurseries in Tifton, Georgia, came calling and off he went as a construction superintendent in their golf course construction division. Among his credits with Southern is the Holly Tree Golf Club in Greenville, South Carolina, where he worked with architect George Cobb.

But he missed Florida, and once again opportunity came calling. And this time it was in Jacksonville.

Jacksonville Beach is a suburb of Jacksonville and had a city-owned course which wasn't reaching its potential. The city fathers were looking for a new management team and Hayden's name came up. Out went the proverbial offer which couldn't be refused, and he took over as superintendent.

Success? A moribund operation suddenly became a hot number, and play was soon over 50,000 rounds a year.

"Betty and I loved it," he said, "and we decided that we weren't going to leave Jacksonville. We loved the beach and the people. The job was good and we really didn't see making another move."

Wrong.

But it wasn't much of a move as far as miles are concerned, just across town to the plush San Jose Country Club. He



Nick Clark, Pro, San Jose Country Club.

took over as superintendent in 1977 and added the responsibilities of assistant chairman of course preparation for the Tournament Players Championship, then at Sawgrass and now at The Players Club.

His association with GCSAA goes back to 1972 and he's been actively involved since then. He's worked hard to strengthen his local chapter — The North Florida — and has served a term in every elective position, including two years as president. He's presently the chapter's External Vice President and sits on the board of the state organization.

He's a Certified Golf Course Superintendent and says he wants to work in strengthening this program as well.

"The program needs to be constantly upgraded," says Hayden. "We need to give the club industry the assurance that they are getting a true professional when they hire a CGCS."

And he's on the board of directors of the Florida Turfgrass Association, serving as chairman of membership, education and golf tournament committees, and being a member of the finance and conference/show committees.

"Betty says sometimes she thinks I'm married to my profession instead of her," says Hayden with a smile, "but I tell her that I'm just making sure my profession is a great one."

She understands — in fact, she's the North Florida chapter's gofer, handling such mundane chores as putting out monthly mailings and making sure the dues are coming in.

And that isn't all the family involvement — son Jeff is superintendent at Turkey Creek Golf and Racquet Club in Gainesville and soon will step up to the chapter presidency.



Jeff Hayden (son), Supt. Turkey Creek Golf and Racquet Club, Gainesville, Florida.

Daughter Janice and her husband Gregg now operate the very same club, Diamond Lake, where John first became interested in golf. His two grandsons, Kary and Colin, and his granddaughter, Holly, help run the operation.

What will he bring to the GCSAA board?

"Experience, that's my strong point," he says. "I guess I've done a little of everything in my profession. Most of all, I really enjoy it. It's fun, and it's satisfying."

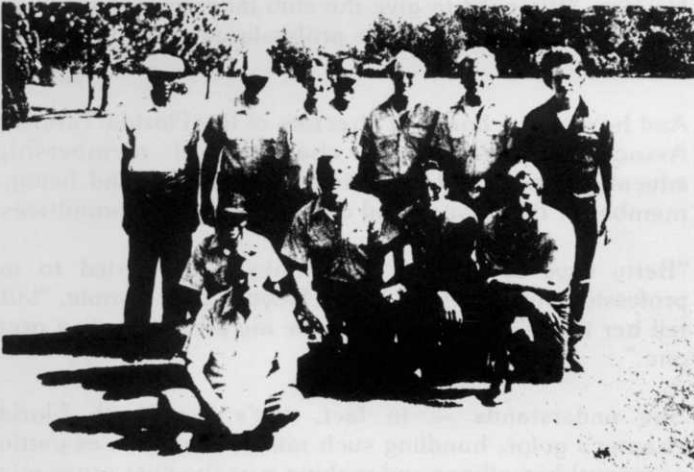
"Our profession is a complex one. And it gets more complex all the time. We have a serious water problem, for instance. Shouldn't superintendents get educated about the problem? We need to build funds for research, to impress our members that we have to keep up with the times."

Hayden sees the coming years as a big challenge.

"We'll have the usual pressure to maintain profitability, but we better take a long look and make sure we survive," he says. "I am optimistic that the answers to our problem are there, but our industry must take much more aggressive actions to find them."

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Grounds crew at San Jose Country Club.

"GCSAA offers the golf industry a powerful tool to work with to find these answers. I'm committed to work towards making GCSAA fulfill its potential." ■

STRAIGHT SHOTS

Death and taxes may always be with us but death doesn't get any worse.

No matter what happens there's always somebody who knew it would.

If you think nobody cares if you are alive, try missing a couple of car payments.

Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret.

Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon him and to let him know that you trust him.



West Coast Buccaneers



By REED LeFEBVRE
Pines & Palms Management Corp.

When you speak of taking care of greens top dressing rates among the top priorities. But along with everything else, the cost of performing this necessary function has gone way up! Supers who have top dressed with a top-dress mix, on a regular basis, are having a hard time justifying the cost of this material.

Our costs for equipment, labor, and materials have far out-paced our income, consequently we have to find newer and more economical ways of accomplishing the same ends. One way many are now using is the substituting of regular white or trap sand for top-dressing. With its cost at about half of what a mix would run, it seems to be the logical answer. There are those circumstances when you have to use a mix, either for the organics, or to have amendments such as charcoal etc. in an easy to apply form. Conversations I have had with Superintendents who use one or both, found the majority felt very good about the results of straight sand as a top-dressing.

John Luper at Countryside Country Club prefers a mix but uses sand in his top-dressing every three weeks program. He used top-dressing along with light verticuting, and has been on this program for three years.

At Clearwater Country Club, Joe Clay uses an 80/20 mix when he top-dresses lightly each month.

Sugar Mill Woods where Richard Mann is Superintendent, was using builders sand but found it to be a little too fine. Now he is using a 90/10 mix just when aerifying.



Lee Todd at Dunedin Country Club uses a 90/10 mix four times a year. He uses the 90/10 very lightly. Lee likes to use his core processor for top-dressing material when he aerates.

At Plant City Golf and Country Club we have been using trap sand with good results. The only drawback are the occasional pea sized chunks in the sand. We are planning to screen our sand or perhaps look into D.O.T. spec sand which I understand is pretty well screened when you get it. We are now using a vicon spreader to top-dress, and as long as there are small rocks in the mix we have to drag it in to remove them, where we had no chunks, dragging was unnecessary, as about five minutes of irrigation settles the sand right down in. ■

FLORIDA GOLF TEAM REPEATS AS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

One of the most difficult things to do in any sport, at any level of competition, is for a defending champion to successfully retain the title. The Florida GCSA golf team did just that as they again won the GCSAA national team championship. Since the two day event was held at Disney World, Orlando, we were also the tournament host.

It was the third straight tournament in which a team from Florida came away with top honors. The 1980 champs were the Florida West Coast chapter. This year's foursome won their place on the team in three regional qualifying tournaments, and their names will be engraved on an antique silver trophy donated by the Scottish Golf Greenskeepers Association in 1972. The chapter championship, in which teams combine their three best scores, have been a GCSAA tradition since 1946. The winning team consisted of Bill Whitaker, CGCS, Palm Beach chapter; Ron Hill, CGCS, North Florida chapter; Fred Klauk, Palm Beach chapter; and Dan Meyers, CGCS, West Coast chapter.

Bill Whitaker was the first day tournament leader as his 71 paced the team to a six-stroke lead. The second day scores of Ron Hill and Fred Klauk with 74's and Dan Meyers 76 enabled the team to win by eight strokes over runnerup

Carolina GCSA. The third place honors went to the local Central Florida chapter. Their team consisted of Joe Ondo, Dennis Parker, and Jim Ellison who fired a 71 on the closing day.

In the net handicap division Palm Beach chapter placed second. They lost to the New Jersey GCSA because the Palm Beachers had to give away 52 strokes per day! The Palm Beach team consisted of Kevin Downing, Jack Cunningham, Mark Henderson, and Jim Watson.

Individual honors were won by Mike Apodaca, Horizon Country Club, Belen, New Mexico. His great second round of 69 left the runnerup six strokes back, and our own Ron Hill seven off the pace. Apodaca, who had been among the top finishers in the past four GCSAA tournaments, finally claimed the top prize, a silver replica of the U.S. Open Championship Cup donated in 1954 by the USGA.

Next year the tournament will be held in North Carolina during February. We will be back to defend our two consecutive titles. But if the 14th club in the bag needs to be a snow shovel we may not be the pretournament favorite.

(Continued on Page 58)



Fred Klauk fired a solid 74 on the final day.



Dan Meyers carded a pair of 76's to aid team.



Lefty Bill Whitaker posted a first day 71 for medalist honors.



Ron Hill carded 74-74, placing him third in a field of 270 players.



Individual tourney winner Mike Apodaca coasted to victory with final round 69.



Ron Hill drew the attention of GCSAA headquarter staffers Diana Green and Larry Goldsmith.



Jim Ellison had the hottest putter on the final day. His 71 paced the Central Florida chapter to third place.



Fred Klauk used high finish and so did the team!

Training Assistants Demands Skill

Developing an assistant is one of the challenging jobs an administrator can have. When the trainee takes over a top-level position he probably will adhere to the good business practices learned on the job.

Developing an assistant is hard work, requiring careful attention to details and explanations while yielding an enormous amount of confidence in and responsibility to the trainee. Here are a few items that may help in attempting to develop an assistant:

GIVE HIM THE FACTS: Only by being informed about his responsibilities and authorities can an assistant get a clear picture of what he is to do and how he should do it. A job description should be developed to give a trainee some guidelines. Personally introduce the assistant to those with whom he will be working.

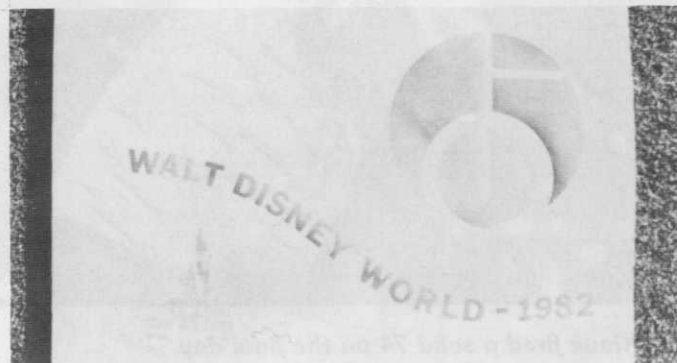
SMOOTH HIS PATH: Request employees who work with your assistant to cooperate with him. Inform everyone of the duties he will be performing — then impress upon him the importance of earning the respect and confidence of these employees.

SHARE KNOWLEDGE: You must keep the assistant informed of your plans, your progress and your reasons for making each move. If you expect him to do a good job, you must share your knowledge with your assistant. Warm him of problem areas and see that he learns the ins and outs of working for you. Neglecting to provide background information keeps the assistant in the dark and prevents him from performing to the best of his ability as well as makes him look bad in the eyes of those with whom he must work.

ADD RESPONSIBILITY GRADUALLY: Let the assistant get a feel for his job. Then gradually give him additional small doses of responsibility. By working in this fashion he will gradually absorb additional knowledge and pick up those qualities that make a manager competent.

HOLD A LOOSE REIN: An assistant who is constantly being checked on gets the feeling he is not trusted and this retards his growth as a manager. Let loose and give your assistant a free rein — let him make decisions and learn by his mistakes. You don't want a trainee to lose his initiative; but keeping him under your finger can snuff out any spark or flame of initiative.

Reprinted in part from *A Patch of Green*.



Special flags say it all.



Two time individual champ Dan Meyers will be ready in the future.



Goosegrass

by Steve Batten
U.S.G.A. Green Section

Goosegrass (*Elusine indica*) can be found throughout the United States with the exception of the mountainous regions and northern plains. Persisting on compacted soils, it is most often visible of areas on heavy traffic, such as along foot paths, and golf cart trails. Due to it's prostrate growth habit, goosegrass will tolerate closely mowed putting green heights, and can be most difficult of control under these low mowing conditions.

An annual grass reproduced by seeds, a single mature plant can product between 20,000 to 50,000 seeds on 3 to 7 fingerlike racemes per spike. Seeds germinate when daily average soil temperatures at or near the surface are 65 to 67 degrees F. This means that goosegrass can germinate throughout the summer growing season, and starts in February in Florida. In South Florida, goosegrass often acts like a perennial, and is present year round.

Long seasonal growth means that herbicide control of goosegrass needs critical timing, for best results. Pre-emergence herbicide controls used at present need either a long residual during a single application, or two safely applied applications between early and late spring. Some herbicides used at present for goosegrass control are benefin (Balan), oxidiazon (Ronstar), or a combination of oxidiazon plus bensulide (Betasan).

Post emergence control of goosegrass with MSMA plus metribuzin (Sencor) or Asulam (Asulox) is usually applied in late spring/early summer. Often mature plants are difficult to control and have to be spot treated by hand with a non-selective herbicide such as glyphosate (Roundup). Because goosegrass has a fibrous root system, one control often used is to cut out the crown of the plant with a sharp tool. New herbicides are being evaluated constantly for safer, more selective control. ■

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