

BRIEFS



CLAYTON PROMOTED AT SANDOZ

DES PLAINES, Ill. — Sandoz Agro, Inc. has named Gary Clayton business manager, turf and ornamental products, within the company's Specialty Business Unit. Clayton was most recently business manager for the company's mosquito control and ornamentals products. Clayton's experience includes positions as VP of operations for Perma-Green; director of technical services for the Professional Lawn Care Association of America; turf and ornamental market manager for PBI Gordon; and turf distributor sales representative for Pro Turf Specialties.

SEARIGHT TO MANAGE SRO-DALLAS

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Seed Research of Oregon, Inc. has appointed Pat Searight area manager for the Dallas, Texas, operation.



Pat Searight

He will be responsible for sales of Seed Research's cool- and warm-season grass seed program in Central Texas. Searight has a bachelor's degree in agronomy with a turfgrass management specialty from Texas A&M. Prior to joining Seed Research, he was an instructor with Texas State Technical College and formerly held several golf course superintendent positions.

DUFFY MOVES UP AT GOULDS PUMPS

SENECA FALL, N.Y. — Richard C. Duffy of the Water Technologies Group at Goulds Pumps, Inc., has been named staff vice president-corporate development reporting to Thomas C. McDermott, president and chief executive officer. Duffy began his 24-year career in the pump industry with Morris Machine Works of Baldwinsville, N.Y., later acquired by Goulds in 1981. In 1984, he held the position of marketing manager for the Texas Division, in Lubbock, then a similar post for the G&L commercial business at the Water Systems Division here.

EPA OKs HIGHER RATES FOR ALAMO

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Environmental Protection Agency has registered new, higher rates for Alamo fungicide for applications through pressurized injection equipment. For preventative treatments, six milliliters of Alamo should be used. The new label also recommends a 10-milliliter rate for curative treatments. Alamo is Ciba Turf & Ornamental's tool for control of oak wilt and Dutch elm disease.

Decision to Pennington; feds pay up

By MARK LESLIE

MADISON, Ga. — A struggle that dragged on for six years has come to a close, with the U.S. Treasury reimbursing Pennington Enterprises, Inc. \$250,000 for losses stemming from a government blunder.

"Vindication was uppermost in my mind. We were not at fault," said the seed company's president, Brooks (Sonny) Pennington. "The real sad part is that we taxpayers paid all those government lawyers for six years and then had to pay \$250,000 because of one man's mistake."

The snafu Pennington referred to involved U.S. Department of Agriculture inspectors allowing 2 million pounds of weed-infected Argentine tall fescue grass seed into the country on Nov. 17, 1988. Unknown to Pennington and six other American companies, the shipment contained a noxious weed, serrated tussock. By the time the USDA demanded the

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Packaging prices continue to rise

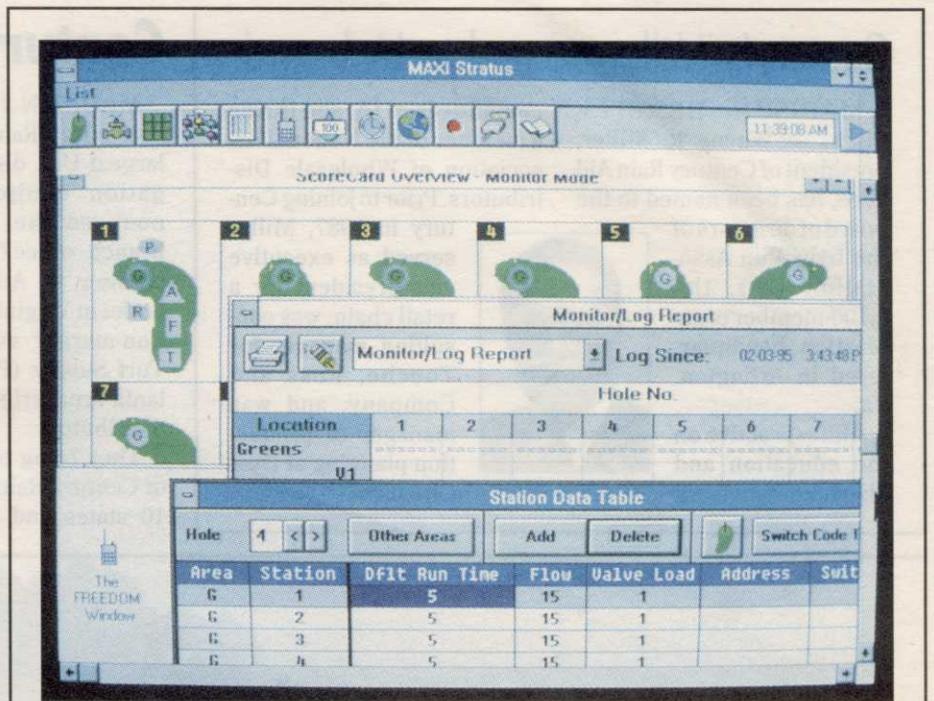
By LYNN GROOMS

If you have purchased multiwall bags or polyethylene film recently, you have noticed some dramatic price increases. And, it's not over yet, according to sources in the packaging business.

Harley Sasse of Greif Bros. in Rosemount, Minn., reports that major paper manufacturers have announced another price increase of \$50/ton. Sasse noted that seed bag prices have already increased 20 percent over last year.

Given the current high demand for paper, including liner-board used to make fiber drums and corrugated box packing, not to mention the near capacity production situation for manufacturers, Sasse

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NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Rain Bird's Golf Division has unveiled Maxi for Windows computer-based irrigation control system. Designed to run on Microsoft Windows operating software, Maxi for Windows provides superintendents with a system that is versatile, easy to use and competitively priced. With Maxi for Windows the super can manage all irrigation applications without extensive training, via the Maxi Quick Start initialization and start-up program, which also helps the superintendent build an initial irrigation program. Because the system operates on the Windows program, it can simultaneously manage up to 50 irrigation schedules, generate spreadsheets, compile government-required reports, conduct word-processing functions and plan future irrigation needs. For more information, call Rain Bird at 818-543-3589. For more new products, see page 66.

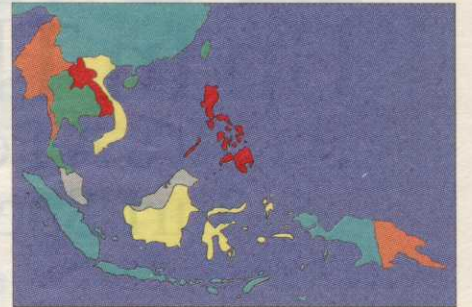
GCSAA bags Asian exhibit sales duties

By HAL PHILLIPS

SINGAPORE — In keeping with the "America First" campaign it initiated some 18 months ago, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has severed the exhibit sales portion of its relationship with Golf Asia, the industry trade show held here annually.

The superintendents association's former partners in Golf Asia — Singapore-based Connex Private Ltd. and Cleveland, Ohio-based International Management Group (IMG) — will continue to manage the trade show. IMG's Chris Roderick reported that 60 to 70 percent of this year's exhibitors have already reserved booth space for Golf Asia '96.

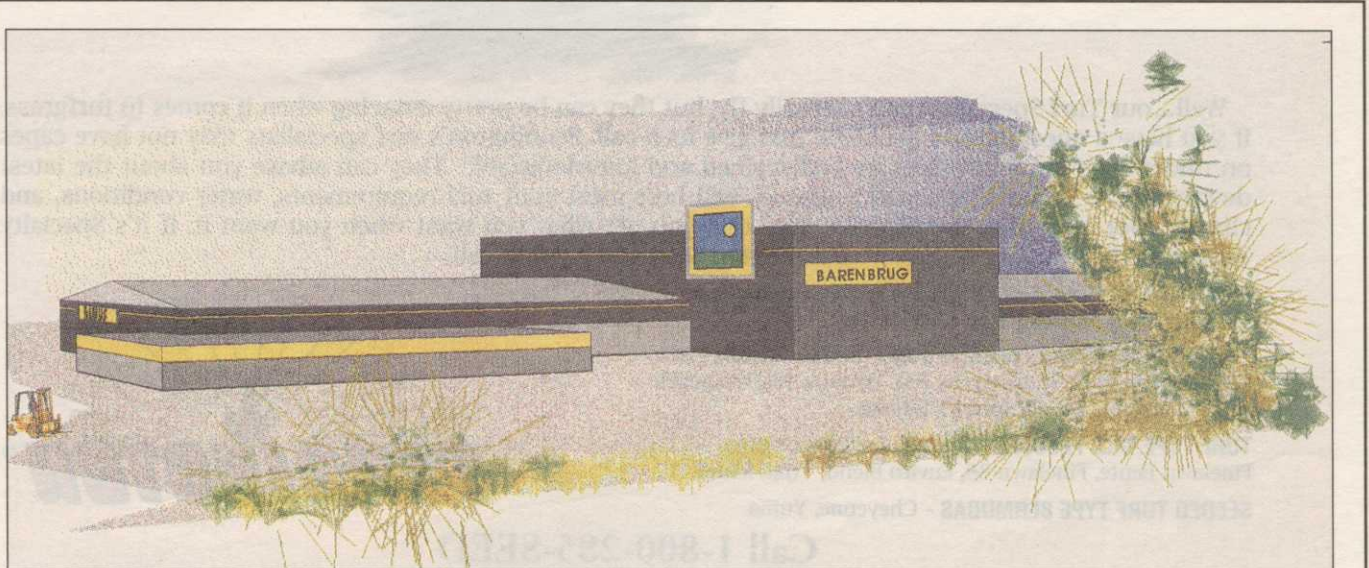
The superintendents association will, however, continue to conduct Golf Asia's education sessions, said GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Steve Mona, who added that his organization broke even financially on Golf Asia '95, held March 23-26. "We won't sell space at all next year,"



Mona explained. "It's really pretty simple: We're going to concentrate on some specific mandates. We want to apply ourselves to those goals. Our involvement on the exhibit side of an international show doesn't meet that mandate."

"There are no hard feelings between us and IMG. We've been discussing this for some time. We will have our own booth there [Golf Asia '96]. We will be present, run the education sessions and man the booth. We're going to concentrate on pro-

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A NEW HOME FOR BARENBRUG USA

TANGENT, Ore. — Barenbrug USA has entered the first stage of construction on its new facility. Located on approximately 12 acres of land just south of the Highway 34 overpass on 99W here, the finished product will eventually accommodate more than 100,000 square feet of production, warehouse, shipping and office space. As you can see, the exterior design will incorporate the worldwide Barenbrug colors and logo. Completion of the entire project is projected in about 18 months. In other Barenbrug news, Michael Thomas has been chosen to fill the position of field representative.

Acquisitions allow Best Sand to expand processing capability

CHARDON, Ohio — Fairmount Minerals continues to broaden its impact in the sand market with the purchase of the processing facilities of Southern Silica in Richmondale, Ohio. The acquisition enhances the sand-processing capabilities of the southern Ohio division of Best Sand Corp., a subsidiary of Fairmount here. The company plans to relocate part of the recently acquired equipment to its Walker Ridge quarry site and operate the Richmondale facility in conjunction with its nearby Deaver, Ohio, plant, purchased last fall from Schrader Sand and Gravel. Ted Johnson, who was

previously based at the company's Technisand subsidiary in Bridgman, Mich., has been named manager of the southern Ohio operation.

According to William E. Conway, chairman and CEO at Fairmount, the company can now better meet the needs of metal alloy, foundry, turf and other customers in southern Ohio and surrounding states by providing a greater volume of high-purity quartz pebbles and silica sand.

Harmony adds fertilizer-grade biosolids to product line

CHESAPEAKE, Va. — Harmony Products recently expanded its product line to include biosolids (mechanically dried sewage sludge), in addition to its poultry manure-based products for the professional turf industry. This announcement follows Harmony's signing of a master license agreement and a marketing agreement with New England Fertilizer Company (NEFCO) of Quincy, Mass.

"The processing of sludge and the quality of the resulting products has improved greatly," said Mark Nuzum, president of the Harmony's plant products division.

"With these new biosolid products, there is

no dust, odor or high heavy metal content that was once a concern with this category of products."

Harmony Products, which has manufactured professional organic products here since 1991, will market biosolids from NEFCO's sludge management facility in Quincy. This facility, which is one of the largest such facilities in the world, produces an environmentally safe product termed "fertilizer-grade biosolids." Harmony will market the 4-2-0 biosolids product and will also develop upgraded analysis fertilizers through the use of its patented Bridge product technology.

Pennington suit

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companies destroy the seed, the seed had been distributed. Pennington had blended the fescue with other seeds and, around Feb. 1, 1989, shipped 200,000 pounds in three-pound bags as lawn seed to 1,600 K Mart stores nationwide.

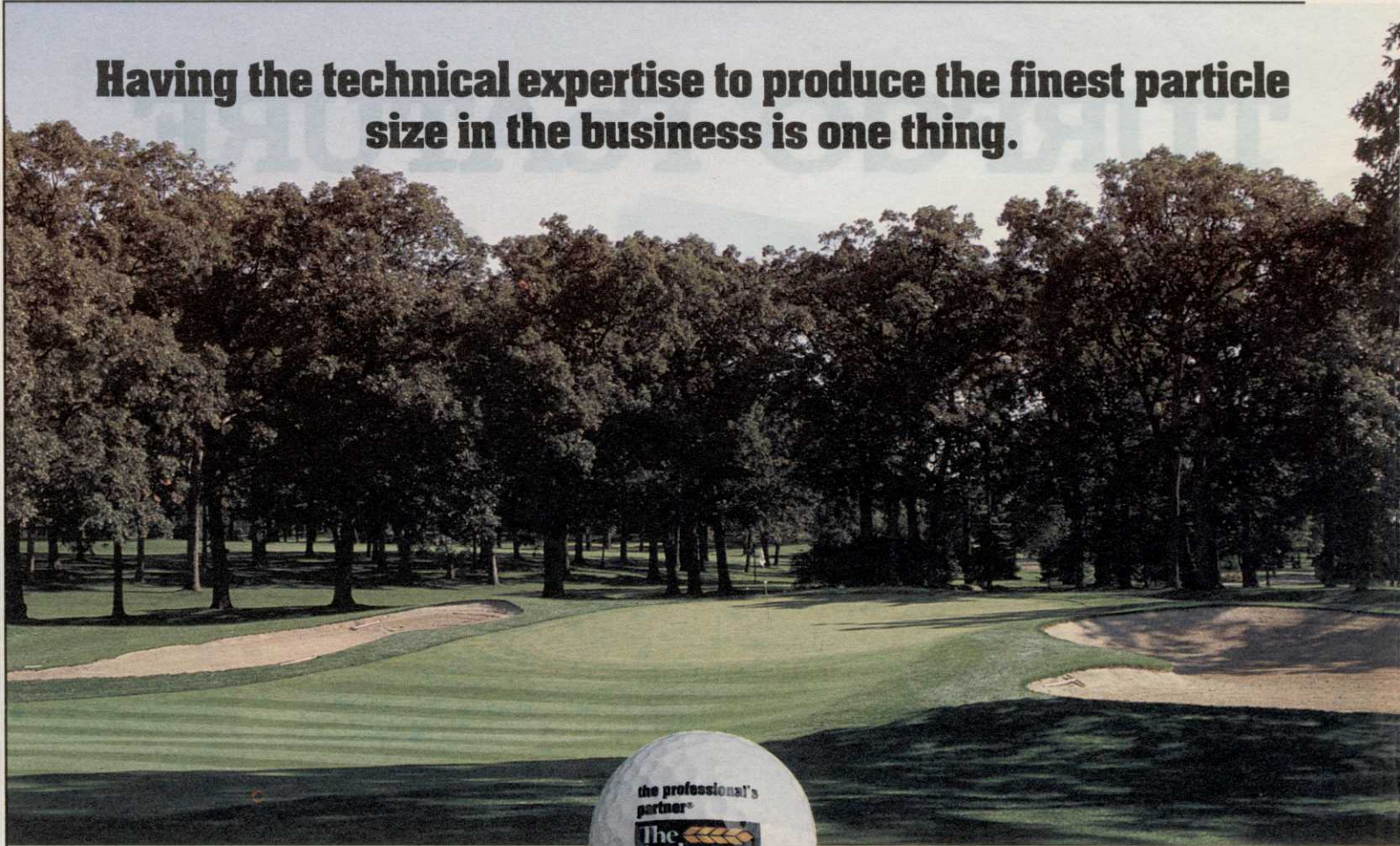
Pennington said the seed companies imported the seed in good faith, trusted the government inspection and did not intend to introduce serrated tussock to agriculture, where it is toxic to animals. He pointed out that courts agreed the USDA exceeded its power by demanding the recall. Section 12 of the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974 states: "The provisions of this act shall not apply to shipments of seed subject to the Federal Seed Act (FSA)," and serrated tussock was never listed under the FSA.

Pennington sued in district court in Washington, D.C., in 1989, winning the case and also the government's appeal in an Oct. 13, 1993, decision from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the district of Columbia Circuit. It took another 15 months to get the \$250,000 check.

Pennington reported a loss of \$200,000, an amount exceeded by the total losses of the other companies. Losing but deciding not to sue were Olson-Fennell Seeds, Seaboard Seed Co. of Bristol, Ill., Normac, Inc. of Tangent, Ore., Allied Seed Cooperative of Nampa, Idaho, Gateway Seed Co. of St. Louis, and Hanceford Seed Co. of Sommerset, Ky.

Despite the lengthy court entanglement and the \$167,000 attorney's fee, Pennington said the battle was worth it. "The law was very clear — even to a layman — as to what authority the government should and should not have and that they clearly overstepped their authority," he said. "I knew I did not stand to win a lot of money. But I felt I had been wronged and needed vindication. And when the government agreed to pay me \$250,000 ... I felt I had been vindicated."

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