



Answers to turf questions

by Fred V. Grau

Of this and that

Response to the idea of a museum for antique turfgrass tools has been heart-warming. One man said, "I used to work for John Morley. We have an attic full of old tools. Where shall I send them?" Quickly I said, "Don't send anything just now! Write me a letter listing the items that you would want to donate to a national museum." If enough people send me a list of items there will be the chance to start estimating the floor space needed for display. We do not yet have a national committee or a location—only a fertile idea that seems to have appeal.

We wish publicly to congratulate the golf professionals for their master stroke in securing the services of a real pro in his own right, Joseph C. Dey, Jr. Joe stands tall wherever he goes, and wherever he goes, the game of golf flourishes. We are delighted that he has accepted a position on the Honorary Board of Directors of "The H.B. Musser Turfgrass Fellowship" about which there will be publicity in the very near future.

The thirst for information seems to be unquenchable. Records again were broken at the Penn State Conference. (My Viet Nam trip eliminated me from the National and the Virginia meetings—sorry!) Fewer letters with questions reach me these days, but I am able to

pick up excellent discussions at conferences, particularly with turfgrass students. They are fresh and eager and they want to know! Thanks to efforts by our current turfgrass leaders they are getting answers. We need more studies on the development of superior "fool-proof" grasses for turf. But this takes money. Hopefully the Musser project will speed the release of better grasses for better turf.

Q.—We have large areas of zoysia and bermudagrass on our course. Last fall we let it grow up for winter protection (and to save mowing costs). Someone suggested that we get rid of the excess grass by burning. Will that hurt the stand?

(Virginia)

A.—If burning is done while the soil still is moist and cool and while the grass still is dormant or semi-dormant, no harm will result. Actually, the grass will turn green much sooner. The black residue draws heat from the sun and allows the soil to warm more quickly. Damage might occur if the new growth is well advanced. Then it may be better to remove the dead material mechanically. Oh yes, you really should advise your fire department in case there is a regulation.

Q.—At our course we are considering the purchase of a mist blower for applying materials to our greens. What is your opinion?

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