



by Fred V. Grau

## ANSWERS TO TURF QUESTIONS

### Still hope for real grass

Something quite unusual happened at the 1970 Penn State Turfgrass Conference. Dr. Joseph Duich, leader of turfgrass research and resident teaching, was handed a check for \$1,800 during post-banquet ceremonies. Money for continuing research and teaching in itself is not unusual. The significant fact is that the money came from 55 turfgrass winter course students who had finished their course work and have become golf course superintendents in 16 states and Canada during the past 11 years.

Frank Dobie, Sharon Club, Akron, Ohio, and Tom Burrowes, The Playboy Club, Lake Geneva, Wis., took the lead in soliciting funds from fellow graduates. "We wanted to show our appreciation for the great start we were given in turfgrass work," they said. Also, "We hope to make this an annual contribution."

Here, then, is the new breed of golf course superintendent. They have a fresh, forward outlook, bridging the gap between the "old-timers" who had no chance at a formal education and the new generation who think for themselves. These young men accept their responsibilities as a challenge, not a chore. True, the job gets tougher

every year and mistakes will be made, but the same mistakes very likely will not be made a third time. These alert thinking young men will figure out a way to do the job better—not try to find an easy way out.

In their course work these men were not given all the answers. They were taught to evaluate problems for discovering the answers. We believe that with a continuing program like the one started by Dobie and Burrowes, turf students in the field in commanding positions will help to motivate further those who soon will be on the firing line. If each graduate elects to make a substantial annual contribution, the benefits would be incalculable. The turfgrass world would then have greater assurance that qualified superintendents and turfgrass managers would carry on the work of giving everyone beautiful real grass for everyone's benefit and enjoyment.

*Q.—We were planning to attend the Turfgrass Field Day at Penn State last fall and also participate in the dedication of the Joseph Valentine Turfgrass Research Center. Both were canceled rather abruptly. Are there any plans for the future for dedicating the Valentine Memorial?*

*(New Jersey)*

*A.—At the most recent meeting of the Valentine Memorial committee (Steiniger, Duich, Mascaro, Shuman, Miller, Grau) at Pine Valley GC on November 7th, it was decided to plan the Memorial Exercises and Dedication for Wednesday to Thursday, June 24 to 25, 1970. There will be an abbreviated Spring Turfgrass Field Day also. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Those who cannot attend may receive a souvenir Valentine Memorial program by requesting one from Valentine Memorial, Box 324, State College, Pennsylvania 16801. Contributions are not being actively solicited, but will be accepted.* □

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