

News

'No-gas' inventor dies fraud charges stand

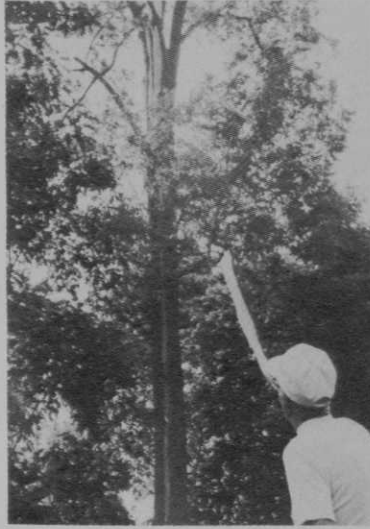
Rory Johnson, Elgin, president of Magnatron Inc., and an Elgin, Illinois inventor who had reportedly constructed an engine which required no gas and ran 100,000 miles fueled by deuterium and gallium creating a fusion reaction, died April 8 of this year in California. The Illinois Attorney Generals Office had upheld a Subpeona Enforcement lawsuit and two counts of fraud against Johnson and Magnatron.

According to William Oberhardt, Assistant Attorney General in the Chicago Branch of the Consumer Protection Division, Johnson first began leaking news, anonymously, of his engine in 1977. In 1978, he began promoting it publicly, Magnatron was incorporated and Johnson had convinced several investors to invest \$25,000 apiece. When the Attorney Generals Office learned of the investments, they request documents from Johnson backing up his claims. Johnson refused and the first lawsuit was brought in June of 1978. It was a temporary restraining order and as Johnson continued to refuse to substantiate his claims, the Attorney Generals Office issued a permanent injunction prohibiting him from promoting the engine and selling any investments to the general public. Johnson could still seek investors from the commercial segment. The injunction was appealed all the way to the Illinois Supreme Court and was upheld.

One count of fraud charged Johnson with misrepresentation of his own personal achievements and technical capabilities. He claimed to be a graduate of M.I.T. and Darmstadt, both of which denied his claims when contacted by the Illinois Attorney Generals Office. Johnson also claimed to have worked in research and development at Westinghouse, NASA, Motorola and others, and in fact, did, but as a lath operator or related functions.

The other count of fraud was misrepresentation of the engine. Johnson absolutely refused to produce the documents which would substantiate his claims and canceled several demonstrations with the Department of Energy and others to actually demonstrate the engine. The engine was never seen actually operating a vehicle and it is questionable whether the demonstration reported in the October, 1979 issue of this

magazine, involved the engine running under its own power. The Illinois Attorney Generals Office has an affidavit on file from Dr. Charles Baker, head of the fusion power program at the Argonne National Laboratory in Argonne, Illinois, stating that a fusion reaction such as that claimed by Johnson was impossible.



Disproving the old adage that lightning never strikes twice in the same place', the tree in the photo above was struck three times within 86 hours. The tree is on the Lyons Den Golf Course in Canal Fulton, Ohio.

Eckhoff award deadline is Oct. 31

Sponsored by the National Golf Foundation, the Harry C. Eckhoff Award honors excellence in publications and newsletters produced by golf-oriented publications. Deadline for submission is October 31, 1980.

Three categories have been established. They are club and course newsletters, state and district golf associations, PGA Sections and GCSAA regions, and all other regional golf publications. There is a maximum of one publication per entry which will be judged on on appearance, content and other criteria established by a panel chosen by the NGF. National magazines are excluded this year.

The winners will be announced in late 1980, according to Don Rossi, NGF Executive Director, and each category winner will receive an appropriate plaque along with national publicity. Colonel Eckhoff joined the National Golf Foundation following his retirement from the U.S. Air Force in 1957. The Award was created in 1979 to honor his continuous valued and outstanding service.

Entries should be mailed to the National Golf Foundation, 200 Castlewood Dr., North Palm Beach, FL 33408.



Bob DePencier, Director of Horticulture and Turf for Pinehurst Inc., speaks with Jim Brooks, National Sales Manager for GOLF BUSINESS, Vic Cedrone, Assistant Director, and two other Guests at the Carolinas Invitational.

Carolinas Invitational continues to grow

Over 430 people attended the fourth annual Superintendents Invitational for the Carolinas, held at Pinehurst CC, July 22. Host Bob DePencier, Director of Horticulture and Turf for Pinehurst Inc., said that the event has continued to grow in size each of the four years. This year, 71 teams entered the 'best ball of the foursome' tournament, played on Pinehurst's number two and number four courses. The winning teams, which included the

superintendent, professional and two club officials, were: first place, Camden CC, Camden, S.C., with a score of 56, Randy Allen is superintendent; second place, Rockhill CC, Rockhill, N.C., David Quick is superintendent; and third place, Tri-Lakes CC, Raleigh, N.C., Charles Coleman is superintendent.

After the tournament, participants and guests visited 25 supplier exhibits before the evening buffet banquet. Jim Latham, Manager of Product Sales, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, was the keynote speaker.

We wouldn't miss it.

Cushman Motor Sales, Inc., authorized dealer of Cushman and Ryan turf care equipment, will be at the **Southern California Turfgrass Show**, October 15 and 16.

Be sure to stop by our booth and discuss our lineup of fine turf care equipment. And let us show you how our service meets the needs of today's turf care professionals.

We think you'll like what you see.

CUSHMAN[®] RYAN[®]

Cushman Motor Sales, Inc.

14133 Arbor Place, P.O. Box 7650

Cerritos, California 90701

213/926-0729 714/527-4566

Booths 419 and 420

Southern California Turfgrass Show