
NOER HAD STRONG TIES TO UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN — MADISON

The University of Wisconsin had special meaning to O. J. Noer. It was his alma mater and throughout his career away from the UW he maintained an interest in Wisconsin's land grant college.

He earned his undergraduate degree from the UW Department of Soil Science. And had it not been for one small detail — the actual writing of a thesis — he would have been granted a Ph.D. in Soils as well. All required course work was under his belt. Necessary research work for a Ph.D. was completed. But he never was able to find the time to take care of the last item — presentation of a written thesis for approval. Obviously this small detail did not stand in the way, nor was it necessary, for a truly outstanding and successful career.

The first UW—Madison school for "Greenkeepers" featured as a speaker — O. J. Noer. That was in February of 1930. When the UW program was reinstituted in March of 1961 — a three day con-



ference for turf managers held on campus — one of the program participants was none other than O. J. Noer. In fact, the paper he presented at that 1961 conference is reprinted in this issue of the GRASSROOTS.

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The Noer Foundation was founded in 1959 and the first grant for research was made in 1960. It was O. J.'s expressed desire that this first grant be made to his alma mater, the University of Wisconsin, and to a staff member of his "home" department, Soil Science. Dr. James R. Love was the recipient of the first award. The influence this grant had on the Soils Department is history. It sparked Jim's interest in turfgrass and was the catalyst that started one of the finest and most successful turf educational programs in America. And Love's work, a study of nutrient deficiency symptoms of various turfgrasses, is one of the classic studies

centered around turfgrasses.

One other small note that reinforces Noer's interest in the Soil Science Department. During one of his trips abroad to Scotland he gathered a soil sample from the 18th green at St. Andrews. He gave the sample to Dr. Love and it will soon be on display in the Soil Science Building as part of an exhibit of soils of the world!

The accompanying photograph, courtesy of Jim Love, shows the presentation of the first Noer Foundation award. C. O. Borgmeier, Secretary-Treasurer of the Noer Foundation, is seated on the right and is presenting a check for \$1,000 to Dr. L. E. Engelbert, Chairman of the Soils Department in 1960. Standing, left to right, are Charlie Wilson, Dr. Jim Love, O. J., and O. O. Clapper, a director of the Noer Foundation at that time.

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Noer, like so many others in the Wisconsin golf course industry, was proud to be a "W" man.

