

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE ASSOCIATES

DAN MILLER TAKES A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

The ever changing world is not going to bypass the turf industry. The changes in store are going to be quite dramatic and occur more rapidly than anyone of us might venture to guess.

It's hardly any soothsayer talk to know that mowing may eventually be done by lazer beam - though up to now, the one man necessary to push, one to carry power unit and the all important one with fire extinguisher - doesn't sound too practical as yet.

On the other hand, remote control mowing seems to be making considerable headway. With today's computer technology a mowing program is set up and you watch your greens and fairways get clipped from your air conditioned clubhouse room.

And there's more than a hint of new grass strains with amazingly slow growth patterns, maybe cutting the number of mowings in half. A new family of growth retardants is in the offing controlling the speed of growth or limiting height.

We're all going to have to exercise a bit of patience with these developments, but they're definitely on the way. Some things are considerably closer. There is a definite trend toward lightweight fairway mowing equipment - hydraulically or electrically powered reels and these are going to come with specific clip frequency control rather than MPH or RPM. This sort of thing is way beyond the drawing board right now.

The tendency toward one prime power source and many attachments has already made its appearance but you can expect this to make extreme advancement and refinements in the next few years. The advantages of this are quite obvious to all of us.

This list could go on and on. It will be a changing turf industry. There is no question about that and we're all going to

fit into it. The results of change, obviously, have to be better greens and fairways with less effort and we'll all accept these objectives and watch carefully as the future brings these changes in turf management.

ASSOCIATE'S CORNER

by RICHARD P. BERSCHEIT
P & H WAREHOUSE SALES INC.

P & H Warehouse Sales Inc. was formed in 1970 as a plastic pipe and fitting distributor for Cresline Plastics in Minneapolis. The following year, 1971, we acquired the master turf distributorship for Rain Bird Irrigation Equipment in Minnesota and South Dakota which is the area we service. Since that time our efforts have focused on designing systems and selling and servicing equipment in the turf irrigation market in our area. This includes golf courses, contractors, municipalities and schools.

We are located at 9865 10th Ave. North, Plymouth, MN. At this location we stock a complete line of Rain Bird and Hunter sprinkler equipment. We also have access to Weather-Tec, Skinner, Thompson and Champion equipment. We stock all related accessories that are required to install or service a turf sprinkler system. We also do in-house controller repair at our facility.

I personally joined the company in 1971 doing irrigation design part-time while attending school for landscape architecture and design. I graduated in 1973 and became involved full-time in the turf irrigation industry. Since that time I've seen numerous changes in our industry. I guess that's what makes our industry so exciting and challenging.

As we move into the future with all the new sophisticated equipment that is available, our goal remains the same: "To design, sell and service competitive and efficient turf sprinkler systems that will provide the consumer with the expected end result - lush, healthy turf". I look forward to servicing you in the future.